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Letter From The Editor

ON THE COVER we have a picture of a Sri Lanka peasant. He is today the most neglected person in this island. The farming community (including racketeers who "become" farmers on MPs chits to obtain loans) owed in 1979, over Rs. 1,000 million or Rs. 1 bill'on to two State banks. This year these overdue and unpaid loans are likely to climb to greater heights. These loans can and will never be recovered. Ultimately they will be written off. What it means is that a government that has made a fetish of removing subsidies from basic commodities, public utilities and welfare services has been compelled to subsidise the farming community to the tune of Rs. 500 million to 1000 million every year. Refusal to grant loans to farmers who have not paid their old loans will only further restrict agricultural production in food crops. This problem of unrecovered and unrecoverable peasant debt is not peculiar to Sri Lanka alone. In Tamil Nadu, in the last budget, the Government had to write off Rs 42 crores of co-operative loans to "small farmers" — farmers owning five acres and less. The Finance Minister had also announced that "takkavi" loans amounting to Rs. 16 crores extended to agriculturists for various development purposes would be written off. This brought the total of relief to farmers to Rs. 58 crores. One crore is a hundred lakhs, that is ten million and the amount waived is Rs. 580 million Indian rupees which is equivalent to about Rs. 1,160 million Sri Lankan rupees. This relief to Tamil Nadu farmers was hailed in all quarters as a "bold decision" in view of the "present plight" of agriculturists though it would seriously affect the financial position of the state. Experts in India have stated that the farmers have suffered setbacks because the prices that agricultural produce fetched had not kept up with the inflation that had increased the prices of agricultural inputs and other commodities and services the farmers had to buy in order to live and to keep up production. India has been sensitive to the needs of farmers and over the last fifteen years—from the time Indira Gandhi took over the reins of government in 1966—agricultural production has steadily improved and today India is not only self-sufficient in food but is also in a position to export many food crops. The situation in Sri Lanka is very different. Food production (except, miraculously, paddy) has shown a steady decline in recent years. We are still going down the slope at a furious pace. Learned theses are produced by bureaucrats and technocrats writing from their arm-chairs in air conditioned ivory towers offering stupid and unconvincing explanations for the decrease in production of subsidiary food crops (to them the decrease is no decrease but a blessing in disguise), preaching sermons on the virtues of the new plans set in motion coupled with the price incentives (through floor prices) and then predicting that the millennium in agricultural planting was round the corner. The latest of these Messiahs is a bureaucrat, whose profound thoughts found centre-page prominence in the *Ceylon Daily News* on July 10, 1980. We shall deal with the merits and demerits of the outpourings of this bureaucrat in due course.

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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Whither Sri Lanka?

Colombo, July 26,

IN SRI LANKA we are still obsessed with our little parochial problems without realising that many of the ills that have beset this country stem from happenings in the great big world outside. For one thing, military expenditure on a global scale in 1979 had attained the astronomical figure of one million dollars per minute which is four times of what it was at the time of the Korean war.

According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) the turnover in the armaments trade is more than six times higher than what it was in 1950-59; that there exists on the surface of the earth more than 60,000 nuclear arms, the equivalent of four tonnes of explosives per head. In this situation, what many do not realise is that the world is slowly slipping into war. The French Institute of Public Opinion (IFOP) poll published recently showed that 28 percent of French people feel that the risks of world war are "very strong" and 47 per cent consider it to be "fair". The Chinese remain faithful to the theory of the inevitability of world war—they say that one has never seen an arms race that has not led in the final analysis to an armed conflict. Many ongoing wars still continue in Africa, Central America, West Asia, Central Asia, Indo-China and even in the remote areas of the Pacific.

A commentator, Andre Fontaine, in the French paper *Le Monde* recently raised some interesting queries: "How many problems are getting accumulated without solutions being found for any of them? How many people find a situation found unacceptable by them, and no other way out except terrorism? How many powers which for the sole pleasure of staying in power, are prepared to resort to anything—to corruption as well as to torture and killing? The economic evolution does not encourage optimism either. Hunger already kills 15 million persons every year, of whom five million are children. The four and a half billion human beings of 1980 by the end of the century will be about six billions—or more. How to feed them? The debt burden

of the developing nations has doubled compared to 1976 to touch a figure of \$ 325 billion. Some of them, like Brazil and Peru, already dedicate more than one third of their export incomes for paying foreign debts. In the industrialised world, despite the proximity of elections, as in Japan, West Germany, United States and France, nobody dares herald brighter days to come: each month witnesses the aggravation of inflation curves, unemployment and commercial deficit. In the East also, there is general retardation of growth. And all the indications point to a decrease in the world production of hydrocarbons, whereas the alternative sources of energy are far from being able to fill the gap....."

After discussing the pros and cons for the outbreak of a nuclear war he went on to say: ".....In any case it is difficult to imagine that either the USSR or US after having amassed over 30 years and at heavy costs the megatons and the means to direct them to the enemy camps, would let themselves be vanquished without having used them." After pointing out that "the only sure means of preventing a nuclear war is just simply to prevent any war", Andre Fontaine went on to say: "The way things are going, one cannot prevent it except by resigning oneself to some form of capitulation or other, without attacking face to face the factors that render it possible, if not probable. The first of such factors is a fantastic gap between the wealth of some and the poverty of others. Either, one may arrive at negotiating between the nations a re-distribution of the resources and the investments which would enable the world to become 'liveable', to borrow the formula of Father Cosmaoer, the law of the jungle shall lead them once again to cataclysm. Shall ideologies, nationalisms, more or less sacred selfishness, fanaticisms of all kinds continue to mask any longer the evident fact that we are condemned to save ourselves together if we do not wish to perish together."

In these troubled times in Sri Lanka, it has become more than necessary to think of the problems of the world and mankind that impinge even on this island and act in a manner that might lead to beneficial results—and not behave like complacent political ostriches and close our eyes to facts.

There are certain matters staring this country and the world in their face: economic growth has slowed down on a global scale. Both the developing and developed countries seemed doomed to go through a continued period of slower growth and it will be no better for the Soviet Union and other centrally planned economies of Western Europe during 1980, according to a UN global survey. At the heart of the economic ills of the world, according to the survey, is the rise in oil prices from \$ 13 a barrel to \$ 30 and the inflationary and recessionary trends resulting from such increase in the United States, the biggest oil consumer. The survey stresses that the current economy calls for a fresh attempt at international economic co-ordination on questions of critical importance to all groups of countries.

Mr. Jean Ripert, U.N. Under-Secretary General for International Co-operation, according to a *PTI* report, said the unfortunate fallout of the current economic disorder, were severe especially on non-oil exporting developing countries. This would lead to a more decided slowdown in their economic activity. Their external payments position would be severely strained. Mr. Ripert, said the need for an international dialogue on economic co-operation could not be overstated in the present context "under the present circumstances international co-operation must clearly include both the oil-exporting and non-oil-exporting developing countries." Further, the survey in a prospective analysis of the world economic situation in the next five years—1980 to 1985—says that the outlook ahead" is also generally expected to be gloomy. Inflation rates are likely to remain high in the years ahead. Another factor working towards sustained inflation is the continuing trend towards decelerated labour productivity growth in most of the developed market economies", the survey says.

Moreover, according to an AP news comment, the International Monetary Fund has reported that rising oil prices have worsened inflation in industrialised countries and have aggravated trade deficits in the industrialised and developing worlds. A report titled "World Economic Outlook" prepared by the IMF staff, notes a general pattern of slow growth of output, with a threat of recessionary tendencies in the industrialised world, a sharp

slump in the growth of the volume of world trade and a sudden and major worsening of the distribution of balances of trade and commercial transactions among the major groups of countries."

We cannot do better than conclude this note than by citing in extenso an article by Ranil Senanayake in the *Sun* on June 5, 1980, entitled "Conservation or Consumerism": "The important questions that modern development theory pose are, which definition of development? Should development be measured as a rise in consumerism or should it be measured as the degree of conservation through public awareness? If these questions are approached objectively it would seem that conservation or the intelligent use of resources endows a nation with a greater degree of independence. Resources are limited, whether it be oil, gold or tin. Some are renewable, i.e., hydro-electric energy but this is limited at a maximum rate of supply. A situation where demand exceeds supply leads to economic instability. A rapid increase in the price of the item can be expected. The price of electricity in Sri Lanka makes an interesting example. The figure shows the average selling price per unit in cts./Kwts. The rise in the cost of power has been slow until the end of 1977; by the end of 1978 the increase was over 90 per cent of 1977 price. These prices are based on hydro-electric power. When the power demands exceed the hydro potential, then thermal power is used. This source is unfortunately tied to the price of oil or coal. Thus a 'fuel adjustment charge' has to be made. This makes the price of a unit vary from 81 cents to Rs. 1.88. The fuel adjustment charge will increase with every increase in the price of oil. Today about 48 percent of our electricity is generated using oil based thermal power. Any solution to our "energy crisis" with the use of increased thermal power will mean a rise in the price of energy. This in turn will be reflected in an increase in the cost of living.

"There is a further problem of meeting the needs of this new level of demand. If thermal power is used (oil, etc.) our national power budget becomes inexorably linked with the global price of conventional power and we are tied even closer to global inflation

trends. Such a process would certainly weaken any independence that a sovereign nation has. The 'ostrich syndrome' or burying one's head in the sand when a problem arises will not help us as a nation. Ignoring mistakes will not make them go away. The 1980 report of the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) stresses the need for energy conservation. It also stresses the need to build up alternate energy supplies to coal and oil. The report calls for "balanced development" to ensure a stable future for the world. To the development with consumerism is to invite the disease of conspicuous consumerism. Thorsten Verblen, an economist analyses that it is conspicuous consumerism that has led to the present high standard of living in the Western world. He also notes that by this process 'man will be driven to even higher levels of consumption with no real increase in contentment'. He further notes that with the modern habits of consumption, 'more is continually needed not necessarily because of the real satisfaction it brings, but because without, one will have less than his neighbours and that, under the canon of conspicuous consumerism is a fact too horrible to contemplate.

This view is confirmed by recent visitors to Sri Lanka. Frank Govers, a Dutch designer is an example; he said, 'Sri Lankans buy clothes because they need it. We, in Europe, buy it because it is high fashion.' Thus the chasers of 'high fashion' are victims to the ills of conspicuous consumerism. The parallels to the increased consumption of power are evident; the price a nation pays for this is not small. "Despite the pressures of the irresponsible industrialists, the Robber Barons and their ilk, the government is now taking a critical look at the effects of these negative values in our land. The Prime Minister has stated that 'it is time to go back to traditional values'.

When one considers that our traditional values were based on a concept of non desire, the anti-thesis of consumerism, the depth and the import of this statement becomes clear. The Minister of Lands has recognized the enormous value of the conservation of our air, water land, and has begun massive reforestation programmes and conservation programmes. With the promised use of TV to educate the rural public in science education, the people will soon have the conceptual tools with which

to grasp the value of conservation in maintaining our national independence. This despite the machinations of the profiteers, the concept of development as being equated with consumerism may change to the more sane idea of 'balanced development' where conservation is encouraged and admired."

We must be thankful for small mercies.

o o o

FILM FOCUS

Red Roses

I have had occasion in this column, to hand a bouquet to the quality of the Tamil productions that come off the directorial prowess of Bharati Raja, particularly in the context of the bold themes he handled on life sized situations, that confronted people in their day to day living. Hypocrisy was anathema in the choice of his stories, and I attribute the success of his film *Niram Maratha Pookal* in Sri Lanka to these elevated standards that he projected convincingly on the silver screen—yet success has been heady wine to him at the peak of his career and a nodding intoxication drove him too far to produce the film *Sivappu Rojakkal* (Red Roses), that crashed headlong to rape the moral tabernacles that were well established in religious India.

Without commenting further, I would like to reproduce a prize-winning letter that appeared in an India weekly, with due apologies to its editor and the writer concerned. Of course I expect the State Film Corporation to keep this film off our shores with the added expectation that our Producer Directors would not be tempted to prostitute their talents, when at the crest of a popularity wave to glorify sex, with money in mind. The letter under reference with the editor's comments reads as follows: "Are we straining at gnats and letting go camels? We balk at kissing but allow unmitigated sex and violence in our films. These twin factors cause more havoc and demoralisation than anything else. Producers, in search of cheap thrills and excitement, vie with one another to produce lurid, sexy films with novel twists and turns to heighten the effect. A Tamil film

entitled "RED ROSES" has a macabre character as the hero, who marries several beautiful, eligible girls only to murder them and bury them in the backyard. The household cat laps up the blood, leaving no tell-tale signs. He cherishes the red roses, which spring up on these graves! The picture is running to packed houses. This is a gross abuse of a popular medium, which could be effectively utilised to elevate the thinking of the general public. Young minds are fertile ground, where ideas good and bad can take root easily. Exposure to sexy, violent films corrupt their minds and those less disciplined and with less strength of character succumb to temptations. Juvenile delinquency is on the increase, as also crime and sex assaults. Recently there was a spate of bank robberies everywhere and the felons are reported to have taken their cues from films which clearly depicted the modus operandi employed by the bank robbers. Producers will be doing a signal service to the nation by producing clean, good films based on solid moral values or with plenty of fun and humour, which will act as a tonic to tired, fagged out minds." EDITOR'S COMMENT: "One sometimes wonders if film-makers are taking leave of their senses. There is talent, there are enough resources, there is a wealth of good story material. And yet, what we see on the screen most of the time is atrocious rot. Alas, the real film-makers are very very few. The rest are get-rich-quick businessmen who really have no business tampering with such a sensitive and potent medium."

DANDU MONARA (The Flying Chariot) Sinhalese: A neat and compact film that runs for just 90 minutes, but compresses within that time the best that Sinhala cinema could be proud of. It is directed by the up and coming W jaya Dharmasiri of 'Duhulu Malak' fame, while the cameraman Sumitha Amarasinghe travels with him to capture with vivid realism, the thin poverty line, which when breached could play havoc with the domestic bliss of simple rural folk. In this film, the purchase of a bicycle even as a necessity, not only empties the meagre residue that is contained in tills, but also interferes catastrophically with their humble wedded lives. The story weaves in and around the happiness of a technical hand. Jinapala (Joe Abeywickrema) and his pretty wife Anula (Malini Fonseka), that hits rock bottom as they sweat and slave to

pay up the monthly instalments for their only 'luxury'—the two wheeler. The events are narrated by their son Bindu, who with sweet innocence relates the cruel slings and arrows that converged eventually to separate his parents as they reached breaking point financially. Anula gets back to her mother (very convincingly portrayed by Chandra Ka'uarachchi), while Jinapala breaks down to hug the bottle and tries every trick in the book to get his wife back to his hearth and home. Joe Abeywickrema who is by far one of our best natural actors and Malini Fonseka who slips into her role, quite away from that in the film **Raktha** without much effort, gather and deliver the message that this versatile director has had in mind. The hand to mouth existence that prevails amidst rural poverty, trembling so much between the cup and the lip all the time, to be given the coup de grace by indebtedness, has seldom been surfaced effectively as in this film. It provides so much food for thought for the inflationary times we live in. I was not surprised that this fine effort in its brevity won a Soviet Peace Committee Diploma at the Moscow International Film Festival of 1979. It is a gem of a film that shines in its simplicity, and is a clear pointer that the cinematic talent at our disposal is not being wasted, and swinging back into its own. It is family fare, and if you feel that it would not be recognised at awards time next year, I am prepared to accept that bet.

James N. Benedict

LETTER

GANJA

Sir,

I am not sure whether you have, in *Tribune* editorials, urged the "Government to make use of Ganja plant to make money", as made out in a reader's letter in the *Tribune* of May 31. Even if you had done that, I feel that to sponsor the cultivation of Ganja as a money-earner (1) for export or (2) for use by Sri Lankans (for pleasure) is different from its use by some as a drug of "vital medical importance."

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A natural (e.g. plant) product or a synthetic chemical compound is used as a "medicinal-product" i.e., a drug, only when it is known with certainty that it has a beneficial effect in human disease. It has to be proved beyond reasonable doubt that the chemical compound in question brings relief or cure in a specific disease; also, that it is equally good or better than an existing drug in that disease. This has not been demonstrated with respect to Ganja, as far as I know. If such a thing has been demonstrated I (and, I believe you) would be grateful for such information.

However, I hasten to clarify my opinion on this matter *vis-a-vis* the question of whether to lift the ban on the use of Ganja. I do not think that a ban on the use of Ganja can stop its use (as in the case of tobacco smoking, the use of alcohol, LSD etc.) But these practices in the society—namely the tobacco-smoking, alcohol etc.—should not be encouraged or sponsored because (1) they are definitely harmful to the individual and the society and (2) they do not have any beneficial effects on anyone. Thus, one finds it difficult to agree with the view that Ganja (or any other habit-forming drug) should be freely made available to people because it is less harmful than alcohol.

Ganja (or cannabis) is obtained from the plants *Cannabis sativa*, *cannabis indica* and *cannabis americana*. The crushed leaves and flowers of this plant are smoked—and then, specifically called ganja or marijuana. The resin extracted from the plant is ingested—and, then, called hashish.

Cannabis plant contains several compounds which affect human mind and behaviour. They are the following:— 1. Cannabinoids of which tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) is the best known. This has what is called psychotonic effect i.e., an undesirable effect on the human mind, thinking and behaviour. (2) Cannabidiol which inhibits the microsomal enzymes in the human liver. These are the enzymes which metabolise (meaning, here, alter chemically and render inactive) most of the drugs we take for various illnesses. If not for the activity of these enzymes, the drugs we take will remain in our body (in an active form) for very long periods of time—which would be unnecessary and even harmful. This will happen to a certain extent when the microsomal

enzymes are inhibited by heavy and long term use of cannabis. Therefore in a habitual cannabis-user, medicine given for various illnesses will have unduly excessive effects (overdosage) and unduly prolonged action—which is usually disadvantages.

Effects of intake of cannabis (ganja) when ingested or inhaled (smoked).

1. *Short-term immediate effects (acute intoxication):* Physical effects—reddening of eyes, raised blood pressure, raised heart-rate, inflamed throat, unsteadiness.

Psychological effects—here, there is much individual variations—feeling of elation; size of objects and distances appear distorted; time appears to move fast; increased suggestibility; impairment of memory and judgment; emotional upheaval; cannabis-users have reported that they receive and perceive a "flood of sensations."

2. *Repeated administration of cannabis will cause the following effects (in addition to those mentioned above) —illusions, hallucinations, anxiety, aggressiveness, sleep-disturbances.*

3. *Inhibition of microsomal enzymes (as described above) with consequent overdosage—effects and prolonged action of drugs taken for illnesses.*

4. *Unconfirmed reports have shown that there had been a reduction of brain-substance in heavy, long-term cannabis-users (Lancet, 2, 1240).*

5. *When given to pregnant animals, cannabis has been found to produce fatal deformities (i.e., deformities in the young ones they give birth to).*

6. *Smoke from Ganja cigarettes is known to produce cancer in some animals.*

7. *Dependence (or addiction): Cannabis is one of the substances which, when used over variable periods of time, generate an urge in the user to continue to take it.*

Due to this urge, a habitual user of cannabis is unable to discontinue its use. This is called dependence (old term—addiction). If a habitual user (an addict) discontinues using it, he feels miserable and unfit. This is called emotional dependence—because the addict is emotionally upset when the addicting-substance is withheld. Other common substances which cause dependence are ethyl alcohol (disconti-

uation by an addict causes a physical illness known as the withdrawal syndrome), tobacco smoke (discontinuation causes mental misery), heroin, amphetamines (e.g. "desedrin"), LSD, opium. Caffeine in tea and coffee also falls into this category. The danger of getting addicted to one of these substances is that there is a strong urge or a compulsion in the addict to continue using it and, if discontinued, he becomes physically or mentally ill.

So the addict continues to use it over long periods, perhaps for life. For a compound like caffeine (in tea, coffee), this does not matter because long term use does not significantly damage the health of the user. But for the others (including ganja) long-term use carries significant health risks.

Dr. B. G. Puncthewa

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EXPOSE

Racket In House Building

Should not the concept of the Consumer Protection Act, one of the progressive measure introduced by the present Government, be widened in application to give much needed protection to house builders? By house builders I mean not the contractors (tough men who hardly need tutoring in how to protect their interests) but the small folk who invest their life savings to get houses put up for themselves and their families. At present they run the risk of being cheated by unscrupulous entrepreneurs who promise to put up houses but often their schemes are plans to enrich themselves at the cost of impoverishing their clients. They make superficially attractive offers to build houses cheaply, but there have been a number of cases of clients being cheated of their money. The modus operandi of some of these slick entrepreneurs can be exposed from a case of which I have intimate knowledge and can vouch for the facts stated below.

When the client interviews the entrepreneur he is shown a prospectus which states that before any building can be done the client must pay a sum equivalent to 5½ per cent of the total cost of the proposed building. This payment is to meet the cost of "detailed engineering drawings, bills of quantities, specifications and procurement of materials and supervision of construction". If the construction is handed over to the entrepreneur, the client is told, it will be carried out on the basis of measure and pay based on the rates quoted in the bill of quantities submitted to the client who will also have to make a down payment of 35 per cent of the full cost of the house in advance at the time of entering into an agreement for the construction.

But what is the fate of the trusting client who is anxious to have a house even at a heavy cost?

Assuming the house (exclusive of the cost of the land) is to cost Rs. 100,000 the preliminary payment demanded of the client (5½%) will be Rs. 5,500. And what does he get in return for it? I will come to that later. Let us assume the client pays the Rs. 5,500. The entrepreneur takes the money and then is quick to demand the 35 per cent (Rs. 35,000 in this case) advance payment on the total cost to enable purchase of building materials "before prices rise still further." The client needs to be wary enough and demand first to see the draft Agreement before deciding to part with such a big sum of money. The entrepreneur's response is to supply a draft Agreement overwhelmingly loaded in his own favour and calculated to leave the client at his mercy. For example, in this case although the client was given a bill of quantities which showed that the cost of the building would be much higher than originally told to him, it was stated in the draft Agreement that he must make payment for materials and labour according to fluctuating market prices if they rose higher. The entrepreneur is protected against every possible contingency that could adversely affect him but the client must make all payments demanded promptly or have his house unbuilt or left unfinished. He has no claim even on the building materials supposed to be purchased out of his Rs.35,000 advanced and is at the mercy of the entrepre

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When the wise client realises what his plight would be and demands to have a more honest and equitable Agreement he is blatantly told that the entrepreneur's legal advisers advise against any changes. They have the impertinence to tell him to sign on the dotted line. The client who has any commonsense and self-respect rejects such a demeaning dictation. He replies "nothing doing" and asks that of the preliminary payment of Rs. 5,500 he made he be given a refund in respect of the services not rendered to him (i.e., "purchase of materials and site supervision"). He is in for a shock when he is told that the entrepreneur has arbitrarily decided to refund him only 1/2 percent (Rs. 500) of the Rs. 5,500 the client had paid and that out of this Rs. 500 a sum of Rs. 150 would be deducted because an employee of the entrepreneur had to twice visit the building site (a journey of a mere 8 miles) in order to inspect the site for preparation of the building plan. This is in spite of the fact that the client had been separately charged for "detailed engineering drawings" which is included under the item visits to the site! Thus he was offered a measly refund of Rs. 350 out of his Rs. 5,500 and told to find another person to build the house. On the client demanding to know the breakdown of the 5 1/2 per cent (Rs. 5,500) he had paid he was told that it was as follows: Cost of detailed engineering drawings 3 per cent (Rs. 3,000) the true cost would be far less than Rs. 1,000; the bill of quantities and specifications were valued at Rs. 1,000 (1 per cent) (again, an inflated figure); the cost of preparing approval drawings was stated to be 1 per cent (Rs. 1,000). In offering to refund a paltry sum of Rs. 350 the entrepreneur was hoping that the client, in order to save some more of the Rs. 5,000 he paid out, would take a risk and sign on the dotted line also make the 35 percent (Rs. 35,000 advance payment).

If the client gives in and takes a risk, what is his plight? His Rs. 35,000 plus the entirety of the Rs. 5,500 is in the clutches of the entrepreneur who, instead of building can delay performing his part under the Agreement with impunity and proceed to use the client's advanced sums of money on other business ventures, such as speculation by buying and selling land and house property. Multiply Rs.

35,000 plus the unexpected part of the Rs. 5,500 (say Rs. 3000) i.e., Rs. 38,000 by 100 (assuming there are 100 clients) and the entrepreneur has bagged a sum of Rs. 3,800,000 which if placed in fixed deposit in a bank would yield him annually an income of Rs. 760,000. The aggrieved parties could, of course, embark on legal action but would it not take long to contest and win the case? Meanwhile, the entrepreneur would have made a colossal fortunes.

When the Consumer Protection Act protects consumers against being cheated of a few cents should not protection also be afforded to people who have been lured into investing their hard-earned life savings in house construction but are in danger of having their blood sucked by those who crave to get rich quickly? Unless the public are protected in this matter the valiant efforts of the Hon'ble R. Premadasa, Prime Minister and Minister of Housing & Construction to get the population decently housed as one of the chief objectives of the Government will be frustrated. I appeal to him to take swift action so characteristic of him to check firmly the unscrupulous operators who cheat investors and so sabotage the national housing programme.

H. E. R. Abayasekera

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24.7.80

P.S. Copy to Hon'ble R. Premadasa, Prime Minister & Minister of Housing & Construction.

NEXT WEEK

- o SHAH'S DEATH
—Implications
 - o PESTICIDES
—Dangerous
 - o PALASTINE
—What Next?
-
-

PESTICIDES

New Magic Bullets—1

By Prof. A. C. J. Weerakoon

*Professor, Dept. of Biological Science,
Sri Jayawardenapura University and General
President, Sri Lanka Association for the
Advancement of Science.*

The greater part of this article was broadcast over the radio on 11.5.80 as one of a series of talks by different persons on the theme "The Expanding Mind." It will be published in the *Tribune* in four instalments.

Introduction: But first: What is a pest? Briefly, it is an animal or a plant species whose life activities have come into conflict with Man's interests, adversely affecting his health, his food or his industrial production. Characteristically a pest species is found in large numbers.

Early attempts at controlling pests: Man has been dealing with the problem of pests from time immemorial. It is probable that he domesticated the cat in order to control rats and mice which fed on the grain he had stored for his own use in his barns. An example of this sort of thing, nearer to our own time, is Man's controlling of the Citrus Scale Insect of California. This insect was accidentally introduced a few years earlier from Australia and had, by 1882, become such a pest of the Citrus orchards of California that the Citrus industry there was faced with collapse. At the suggestion of an entomologist, Riley, a search was made in Australia for natural enemies of the scale insect, and several parasites and predators were introduced from Australia into California in 1884. One of these, the Vedalia lady bird beetle, established itself and fed so voraciously on the scale insect that, within a year or two, it had reduced the scale insect population so much that it was no longer an important pest of Citrus in the USA—and this control the Vedalia beetle continued to maintain, unaided by Man, for the next 60 years or so: in fact, until the coming of modern pesticides at the end of the Second World War. And there is the

story of Malaria. Even before it was discovered in 1898 that the disease was transmitted by the bite of the mosquito whose eggs are laid on water and whose young stages live in water, the disease had gradually disappeared from Britain and from most of Europe as the land was opened up and marshes drained. Not consciously planned and achieved, this is, nonetheless, an excellent example of the environmental control of a pest—in this case by depriving it of its breeding sites. After the discovery of the role of mosquitoes, work was started in most of the malarial countries of the world, to study the life and habits of the particular mosquito species responsible for the transmission of the disease in each country, and to try to disrupt that life cycle so as to reduce the mosquito population and thus reduce the incidence of malaria. For example, environmental control by making breeding sites unsuitable with removal of necessary shade or with oiling the water surface, and so on, or biological control by the encouragement, even the breeding and introduction, of natural predators like larvivorous fish and so on. Gradually and steadily the incidence of malaria was being reduced all over the world. These successes were relatively undramatic, and needed much sustained hard work.

There are many more such examples, but these two should be enough to show how the pest problem was being tackled.

Discovery of the killing power of DDT: Then came DDT. An organic compound first synthesised in Germany in the late 19th century DDT was found, in the course of laboratory studies in Switzerland in 1939, to be a powerful poison against insects. In 1944 an epidemic of Typhus fever, a disease of man which is transmitted by body-lice, little insects very like the common head-lice, an epidemic of Typhus fever, broke out in the Italian city of Turin and in its neighbourhood, war-weary and under Allied Occupation. In an emergency campaign DDT was dusted over some 3 million people and almost immediately brought the epidemic to a dramatic end. Men grew widely enthusiastic about the immense killing power of this new insect killer. Pest controllers were quick to use it against other pests. Factories were set up

to manufacture DDT on a vast scale. A new and profitable industry began and grew rapidly.

The voice of the ecologists: Acutely conscious of the complexity and the delicacy of the relationships within the living environment, of the close knit interdependence, on the one hand, and of our vast ignorance of the actual details of these relationships, on the other, ecologists cautioned against hasty and indiscriminate use of such potent and broad-spectrum poisons. But there were fewer of us, ecologists, then, in the early 1950s than there are now, and, what is perhaps more important, ecology itself had not yet become the popular catch-word it is today. So these warnings of the ecologists went unheeded, often unheard. DDT was applied everywhere. More and more powerful organic pest-killers were synthesised, manufactured on an enormous scale, and used—Dieldrin, BHC and so many others. Incidentally, it is ironic to reflect that Parathion was first synthesised and manufactured by the Germans during World War II for use as a nerve gas against man, that it was not used during that conflict because both the Allied and the Axis Powers did their utmost to and succeeded in avoiding the horrors of poison-gas warfare, but that few people seem to object to its being spread around in our environment today, during peace-time, now that it is called a pesticide!

Widespread use of the new organic pesticides: To return to DDT. In California where, as we have seen, the Vedalia lady-bird beetle had for more than half a century very successfully kept the Scale Insect population of Citrus orchards down to such low levels that it caused no significant economic injury, the Citrus farmers were sold the idea that they should get rid of that scale insect completely with DDT. Accordingly they began to use it in 1946. Within a year or two the Citrus Scale was once more a major pest of the orchards! What had happened was this: DDT, like all these pesticides, is non-specific in its action. Broadcast into the environment it affects many other animals besides the target species aimed at; and it affects them to different extents depending on the species concerned. In this case the Vedalia lady-bird beetle proved to be much more vulnerable to DDT than the Scale insect which was the target aimed

at. As a result the beetle was killed off in large number and its prey, the Scale insect, multiplied exceedingly and the result was, what is now called a *Resurgence of an already controlled pest*. Fortunately, what had happened there was recognized very early and the DDT applications were stopped. Three years later the beetle populations recovered sufficiently to bring the Citrus Scale pest under control again.

There have been many similar failures with pesticides—most of them not so easily or so cheaply corrected. The case of the codling moth, for example, whose caterpillars attack apple orchards causing heavy losses. Soon after the success of DDT against lice in Italy in 1944, this pesticide was tried out against the codling moth in Britain's orchards. Initial results were dramatic. Within a few years the codling moth had receded to the status of a very minor pest in these orchards but its place as a major pest was taken by the red spider-mite, which had hitherto been present in these orchards but had been of little or no economic importance. What had happened in this case was that the pesticide, being non-specific and entering widely into a complex inter-related biological community had not only knocked out the codling moth (which was the target aimed at) but had also knocked out several predator species some of which had preyed on different developmental stages of the red spider-mite and kept that animal in check. Once these natural checks were removed the red-spider mite grew in numbers enormously and became a new major pest, one actually created by man who had blindly and blunderingly upset the ecological balance! This phenomenon is referred to today as the creation of an *Upset Pest*. Often, as in this case of the red spider-mite, it costs more to control the new pest than it had cost to control the pest which was replaced. In 1974 it cost the US industry US \$ 10 million per year to control the red spider-mite. These failures are not generally mentioned when we are told that, what with having to feed an "exploding population" of human beings, we cannot afford not to use these modern magic weapons against pests, the organic synthesis pesticides. Just as we are not told that in the USA after more than 20 years of the rapidly increasing use of these

modern synthesis pesticides average crop losses increased from about 11% in 1904 to about 13% in 1968!

(To be continued)

TOPICAL

Industrial Estates Versus Housing Estates

By Dr. M. L. M. Salgado, Ph.D. (Cantab),
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Since 1960, four Housing Estate complexes have developed on what were coconut estates in the Ratmalana-Moratuwa areas. The pioneer Scheme was the dissection of Ratmalana Estate, formerly owned by the late Sir Wilfred de Soysa, into a well-planned Housing Estate by dividing it into 20 perch and 40 perch blocks provided with broad roads and avenues and the necessary amenities.

Besides bungalows which were built in due course, a few factories also were established not far from the main Colomb-Galle PWD road. The first factory was established by a well known Biscuit Company not far from the Galle Road. Soon other factories were established, along the road to Attidiya, the first being a Shirt factory, followed by a large tractor-cum-garage workshop. And further away a large well tractor agency's sales Centre and workshop. There also sprang up a large textile factory as well as an aluminium goods factory. These factories were however all along the main PWD road and not interspersed among the residential bungalows. These were mostly by Indian entrepreneurs. As mentioned earlier there were no factories within the main Housing complex whose residents were not disturbed either by the din of factories working perennially on continuous 8-hour shifts, nor by the inevitable environmental pollution resulting from factory effluents and or disposal of debris.

SO THE HOUSING COMPLEX developed into reasonably planned GARDEN CITIES which was characteristically named SIRIMAL UYANA.

Further the large preponderant Buddhist population was also provided with an excellent well organised Buddhist temple, the Mallakaramaya, a beautiful haven of peace and religious harmony, which catered to the spiritual needs of the residents. There were however no other necessary recreational facilities, such as a Playground, Cinema, Theatre or Club very necessary for the needs of residents and the development of their social life and community feeling.

The second large Housing Estate was the Lady Catherine Housing estate, established by Mr. George Jayasuriya, son-in-law of the late Mr. R. E. S. de Soysa and who had inherited this extensive coconut estate, stretching from Moratuwa to Ratmalana on the demise of his wife who was a daughter of Mr. R. E. S. de Soysa. This estate was the hereditary property of the De Soysa family, and the residence of Mr. C. H. de Soysa whose family residence was the Walauwa situated on the Southern periphery of the Lady Catherine estate which was a flourishing coconut property before it was dissected into Building blocks.

The Lady Catherine housing estate consisting of well distributed 20 perch and 40 perch building blocks, was established in 1960/62 with broad 40 feet cross roads leading from the Borupola Road. Even these roads were owned by the owners of the building blocks, which formed a part of the block. The roads were metalled by the estate proprietor and charged to the owner of the building block, for which an extra charge of Rs. 750/- were made in the case of owners of 40 perches and Rs. 350/- in the case of 20 perch owners.

In the original Plan as advertised by the owner of the estate, provision had also been made for the civic and social amenities, such as a shopping centre, market and a playground to be constructed at the expense of the estate owner. This promise was never kept and once there was a demand for building blocks, even these areas earmarked for these purpose were also sold, quite contrary to the terms of the original agreement. The advertisement may not have any legal force, but it was a gentleman's agreement, it was a great disappointment to the realisation of the community and social hopes of the resident society.

THERE WAS SOON ESTABLISHED a WELFARE SOCIETY organised by the residents, most of whom were government servants on active service, most of whom could not take an active part, even in the Co-operative society. Fortunately there was soon established a Buddhist Temple at the sole expense of a Pioneering Buddhist Priest to cater to the spiritual needs of the residents most of whom were Buddhists, as well as to meet the religious needs of the poor residents of Borupona village living on the banks of the Borupona River, where the Ratmalana-Boru-pona road ends. There is also a well patronised Pattini Devale in the centre of one of the cross roads in the Housing Estate, which is well patronised at the weekly Poojas, and in a way meets to some extent the community needs of the residents of the Housing Estate.

By 1960 to 1963 or so most of the buildings came up at a time when building costs, both costs of materials and labour were very cheap compared to what it is today. Most of the residents are from the south and came into residence to meet their main need of adequate facilities for the education of their children in good schools in the neighbourhood such as St. Thomas' College and Prince of Wales College within the three-mile rule and also those who managed to get admission to Colombo schools as the housing estate was barely 8 miles from Colombo.

Mention should be made of the Housing Scheme of the Hindu Board which was established by the late Sir Kandiah Yaithianathan and which Board had also established the Colombo Hindu College on their land which was also originally a coconut-cum-rubber estate. Unfortunately, the Tamil residents who lived in the Hindu Board lands had a tragic fate during the communal disturbances of 1958, when this area suffered heavily at the hands of the Sinhala thugs, who destroyed by fire some of their houses and set fire to cars and even murdered some of the in-offensive Tamil house owners. Soon most of the Tamil residents sold most of their houses and remaining building blocks which were mostly purchased by the Sinhalese on very favourable terms.

It should also be mentioned that the Hindu Board Housing Project was provided

with excellent broad 50 feet roads, metalled and with road drains, built with concrete structures, to reduce the water logged conditions. On the contrary the other Housing estates in this area were not provided with adequate road drains which only accentuated the water logged conditions as surface drainage and release of storm waters were very slow as most of the road drains were never desilted. The lands of the Lady Catherine Housing Estate, opposite the Hindu Board complex were marshy, poorly drained, with the result that this area has become a veritable home of mosquitoes and not resident, whose lives are endangered by Filaria which is now endemic in this area. This main social and health menace has not been seen to by the Health authorities up to date.

Originally the area covered by the Lady Catherine Housing Estate was administered by the MAMPE/KESBAWA Village Committee and the Hindu Board Lands by another VC until in 1975, the Lady Catherine Housing estate came under the Administration of the Moratuwa UC, and the Hindu Board Lands went over to the Dehiwela-Mount Lavinia Municipality.

The 3rd Housing Estate was the Nelumpura Housing Complex financed by Mercantile Credit Ltd., and planned under the able guidance of Mr. N. U. Jayewardene. In this case the land was yet a portion of the Lady Catherine Estate, and situated entirely in Moratuwa under the jurisdiction of the Urban Council. Even the building of some of the Houses were financed by Mercantile Credit under a system of long term loans, repayable after a long period. Both electrically and water were supplied by a pipe borne supply by the Moratuwa UC and electricity too from the UC supplies, unlike in the case of the Lady Catherine Housing Estate which had no pipe borne water supply and each bungalow had its own well with water pumped by motors electrically worked. Unfortunately in the Nelumpura Scheme the roads were not metalled, and during rainy days these were almost impassable for cars or even for pedestrians.

(To be continued)

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To End The Arms Race—2

(An abridged version of the memorandum submitted by the delegation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the tenth special session of the UN General Assembly devoted to the problems of disarmament on May 26, 1978).

5. Ending the arms race requires the early and successful completion of the talks under way to this end at the bilateral regional and international levels. In a number of cases, the talks have identified ways which can lead to agreement, and a considerable, perhaps even the main, part of the work has already been accomplished. Final success can be achieved by multiplying these efforts and making them even more purposeful.

This is primarily true of the Soviet-United States talks on the limitation of strategic offensive arms, designed to limit the deployment of the most dangerous and destructive armaments, the use of which would be tantamount to unleashing a nuclear world war.

There is a real opportunity to bring the talks on the complete and general prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests to a prompt and successful conclusion. The peoples of the world have been awaiting this opportunity for the past 15 years, since the conclusion of the Treaty banning nuclear weapon tests in the atmosphere, in outer space and under water.

In order to clear the path towards constructive agreement on the complete and general prohibition of nuclear weapon tests, the Soviet Union, as is known, has recently taken a number of steps in the areas where the main difficulties were encountered. We have agreed to verification on a voluntary basis, to a moratorium on peaceful nuclear explosions, and to the entry into force of the Treaty even if initially only three of the five nuclear powers—the USSR, the United States of America and the United Kingdom—become Parties to it. We are in favour of the early completion of the drafting of the treaty and its signing.

Practical talks are also under way on the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons and on their destruction. But here progress has been extremely slow, and this state of affairs cannot be considered normal. Although certain difficulties have arisen in the course of the talks and consultations on the prohibition of chemical weapons, mainly in connexion with the problem of control, they are not insurmountable. The problem of control over the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons and their destruction can be solved on the basis of national means of verification supplemented by well-considered international procedures. For its part, the Soviet Union has made and will continue to make efforts to bring about the successful completion of the talks on the prohibition of chemical weapons. Similar efforts, however, are required on the part of the other participants in the talks.

An advanced stage has been reached in the preparation of an agreement banning another type of weapon of mass destruction—radiological weapons, that is to say, weapons which affect living organisms by radiation resulting from the non-explosive disintegration of radioactive material. The draft convention banning the development, production and use of radiological weapons has already been partly agreed between the participants in the talks. The Soviet Union considers that this work should be completed without unnecessary delay.

There is also a possibility of placing on a practical footing the solution of the question concerning the reduction of armed forces and conventional armaments. The Soviet Union has consistently and continuously favoured meaningful measures to this end. On various occasions, such measures have been the subject of exchanges of views, consultations and negotiations, both on a bilateral basis and at international forums. The time has now come to proceed from general discussions to actual work, to concrete talks, in accordance with the programme of practical measures which the Soviet Union is now submitting for the consideration of States Members of the United Nations.

It is high time to make headway in the negotiations on the reduction of armed forces and armaments in Central Europe. Here the

issue under discussion involves the reduction of military tension in an area where such tension is particularly high, and where the confrontation of the armies of the two military political alliances is especially dangerous.

Success in these negotiations would be an important contribution to the improvement of the overall international situation, and would serve as an example and a model for practical steps to reduce armed forces and armaments in other parts of Europe, as well as in other regions of the world.

Military detente on the European continent also requires other steps recently proposed by the socialist States—above all an undertaking by the States participating in the European Conference not to be the first to use nuclear weapons against each other. The purport and significance of this proposal are evident. Clearly its implementation would considerably facilitate an agreement on the reduction of armed forces and armaments in Central Europe. The proposal has been made, enough time has been allowed for its preliminary study, and it is time now to begin discussing it jointly at an appropriate international forum.

Progress is possible in the recently initiated Soviet-United State consultations on the Limitation of the International Trade in and Transfer of Conventional Armaments. This is an urgent problem which needs to be solved. This can be accomplished in the general context of international detente, the consolidation of international peace, the elimination of existing war danger points and the prevention of the emergence of new such danger points. This means that reasonable and precise political and international legal criteria should be formulated in order to determine in which situations and in regard to which recipients arms transfers are justified and permissible, and in which they must be prohibited or drastically limited. Such criteria should be based on the Charter of the United Nations, the definition of aggression, and the decisions of the United Nations concerning the granting of material and moral support to peoples fighting for their liberation from colonial and racist oppression.

Obviously, not only the USSR and the United States of America, but also other States that supply such arms, should take

part in solving the question of the limitation of international trade in and transfer of conventional armaments.

6. It is essential to strengthen those international treaties and agreements in force which are designed to limit the arms race and to ensure their universality and the participation in them of all States without exception.

A whole network of such treaties and agreements has been built up by now. It includes: the Treaty banning nuclear-weapon tests in the atmosphere, in outer space and under water; the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons; the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space; the Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor; the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin weapons and on Their Destruction; the Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques.

In view of the fact that there are 149 States Members of the United Nations, it is impossible to regard as normal a situation in which only 106 States are Parties to the Treaty Banning Nuclear-Weapon Tests in the three environments, 102 States to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, 73 States to the Convention banning bacteriological weapons, 65 States to the Treaty on the prohibition of the emplacement of weapons of mass destruction on the sea bed and the ocean floor, and about the same number of States to other treaties and agreements.

Why do one-third or even half of all States avoid participating in these important international treaties and agreements? Neither national interests nor the desire for more far-reaching measures in the field of disarmament, nor references to the fact that a given State does not have at its disposal the types of weapons which are limited or banned under these agreements, can be an obstacle to accession to them. At the same time, it is quite evident that universal participation, in these

reaties and agreements will enhance their effectiveness and political prestige.

7. There is apparently a broad measure of agreement that, in our age, economic development is inseparable from the solution of the problem of ending the arms race and bringing about disarmament.

The resources which would be released as a result of practical action by States to this end would constitute a very important source for the improvement of the well-being of countries and peoples, and would be a significant reserve for the expansion of development assistance. The more radical the appropriate measures, the deeper and farther they would reach, and the more additional material resources could be diverted towards those objectives.

There is also another approach which would make it possible, directly and immediately, even before important measures in the field of disarmament are carried out, to combine both aspects of the matter: the imposition of material limitations on the arms race and the release of certain additional resources for peaceful purposes. This approach is the reduction of military budgets.

The General Assembly has repeatedly expressed itself in favour of the implementation of that measure, and the use of part of the funds thus released to provide assistance to developing countries. The intention at that time was first of all to reduce the military budgets of the permanent members of the Security Council by the same percentage in the case of all the States concerned. That decision has not yet been implemented because certain States, including some permanent members of the Security Council, refuse to work towards reaching practical agreement. Invoking, *inter alia*, the argument that the military budgets of States are not comparable.

The Soviet Union, seeking to facilitate a solution to this question, is now proposing that States with a later economic and military potential including all the permanent members of the Security Council should agree on specific reduction in their own military budgets not in terms of percentage points but in absolute figures. Such agreement might cover, for instance, a period of three years, beginning with the budget of the next financial year.

At the same time, agreement could be reached on specific amounts which each State that reduced its military budget would allocate for increased aid to developing countries. In such a case, it would be desirable to set up machinery within the framework of the United Nations for the distribution of such funds among the states receiving aid.

* * *

In submitting the above ideas on practical ways of ending the arms race, for the consideration of this special session of the General Assembly, the Soviet Union believes that the steps proposed are a bare minimum. Without their implementation the arms race will not be halted.

At the same time, the steps proposed are substantial. Their implementation would actually mark a turning point in the entire course of international development; from the arms race and military tension to military detente, and a radical lessening of the threat of war.

Moreover, all these steps are feasible. All of them take into account the existing balance of forces and would result in no unilateral advantages of benefits whatsoever for anybody to the detriment of the security interests of others. On most of them, talks are already in progress and in many cases are nearing completion. With regard to other steps such talks could be started in the near future.

Willingness to move ahead decisively and political will are essential if the arms race is to be ended. The responsibility of each State for the present and the future of the peoples is so great that a State which failed to cooperate in meeting this historic challenge would be committing a crime against humanity.

Concluded

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MASS MEDIA

Manipulation Of Information

by Virgilio Calvo

Havana, June 29,

THE INTENSE manipulation of information carried out by Imperialism via news agencies, radio and TV stations, publications and films, may take different forms but all are aimed at imposing imperialist domination on as many people and countries as possible. The news media resorts to tricks like omission—which they try to justify by an alleged lack of space—or give big coverage to events which are of no importance to humanity as a whole, but are designed to call attention to a given event or person. There are many examples of these techniques, but the following is a good one: "Alexandria, Egypt, June 17 (AFP)—The deposed Shah of Iran is running a high fever as of a few days ago, but he seems to be recovering.....".

The language is designed to arouse sympathy for the "poor" deposed, exiled and will monarch. The image is one of a victim and not a criminal hated by his people for the many crimes committed during his bloody regime with the complicity of US Imperialism. The teletypes of capitalist news agencies are filled with items of that sort, they cover the pages of newspapers and magazines, appear in films and on TV or reach the most distant areas thanks to radio. This is part of the dirty work done by the modern-day scribes at the service of imperialism and international reaction, the very same people who under the cover of alleged press associations are constantly talking about freedom of information and its free flow. *Herald* which had 23 known CIA agents on its staff—or for *Forum World Features*, incorporated in the state of Delaware, which has been identified as belonging to the CIA.

In today's world, every news item provided by the mass media under capitalism has a sinister, tendentious or ill-intentioned objective. Even the most apparently banal reports have a premeditated aim, even if only to divert attention from really important issues, because, after all, who cares if the Shah has a fever? How many peoples are interested in knowing,

as a dispatch announced a few days ago, that a bottle of wine had been sold for the fabulous sum of 31,000 dollars? What's behind this "news" which is transmitted daily by capitalist news media?

Not many people are interested in the Shah's fever, but they are interested in having him sent back to Iran to be tried for his crimes. The fact that a bottle of wine is sold for enough money to feed five African or Latin American families for a year is an affront to the 400 million hungry people in the world today, who are completely ignored by the capitalist mass media.

This "news" is aimed at confusing people or diverting their attention from more important matters. It is outright diversionism. If the people in the Sahel region face death because of the long drought, if millions of hectares are devastated by locusts, depriving millions of human beings of the food they need to survive; if the inhabitants of an entire Asian nation starve to death for lack of food, none of this matters to the capitalist mass media.

They are more concerned about the Shah's fever or the price of a bottle of wine

This is the manipulation of information

—Prensa Latina

* * *

NGUYU—6

Providence

by Bwana Rafiki

Mr. Alagesan was, I believe, proprietor of *Tribune* when I first came into contact with it, and I must say I took to *Tribune* rather as a fish to water. Its format was wholly different from what it is now, and it cost only twenty-five cents, if my memory is right. From twenty five cents to three rupees is indicative of the way Ceylon has changed in the last eighteen years. I cannot remember how many years ago it was that he had an accident, and I seem to remember that his eyesight was always rather poor, but I have a vivid memory of him pouring over the Shamba articles that appeared some time ago,

pouring over them with someone to help him, looking for reference to cattle, for they were scattered. He had great courage and he always managed to be cheerful even if he was caught in what might have seemed at first sight a despondent mood. His death though sudden was by all accounts a happy one.

Esau gave away his birthright as the elder of twins to his brother Jacob for a mess of pottage as one translation of the Book of Genesis says, when he came in hungry from a hunt and felt like death because he was hungry, and his lack of pride was held against him. I did not want to follow Esau's example yesterday, but it was not hunger but convenience that drove me and it was a question of my signature being required. The patriarchs as they say, or rather are called, seemed to have had remarkably few children without practising birth control or having themselves sterilized and they were all loved by God as even Christ makes clear. I hold myself subject to correction, but when they had children by slave women, it was always at the instance of their wives who were unable to bear other children themselves at that time. Abraham had two children in all, Issac was the father of twins, and Jacob or Israel had ten sons.

A polite reply to a letter I had sent a Department which was in its turn a reply to a letter I had asked them to write, a purely formal letter for I had already indicated my assent to the request that this last letter made, for the letters had been supplemented by a number of telephone calls, precisely four, the third one being operative and the fourth seeking clarification, not merely averted but brought to a pleasant conclusion, for the time being, what might have been a situation which would have become longer drawn out than it was, and one of recrimination and a lot of unpleasantness. In short, the Government is going through with its investigative procedures seeking water for a village five or six miles away. I made one condition or request verbally which was accepted with alacrity, such delay as there was taking only the time it needed for the officer at the other end of the line to turn to another at his side to ascertain it would be done.

Providence is, if I remember correctly, spelt in the Concise Oxford Dictionary with

a capital P, and written like that as regards its meaning it obviously stands for God, almost a pseudonym for His name, but under a particular aspect, namely, that of His providential care for all the world, especially His providential care for human beings. Now as regards the world, God quite obviously has not done so badly since the world began, leading up to the fabulous buildings that we are promised opposite the Liberty Theatre near Colpetty Junction, the almost as fabulous, victory of the United National Party at the polls three years ago, so that the Janadhipathi was able to carry out certain reforms that he desired, and the prosperous appearance of the nation. A father looked at me incredulously, incredulous at the thickness of my head, numbskull that I was, that I should call it a happy coincidence that his son should return to the Island some days before his uncle's death. It was Providence!

It leads us in many ways. For instance two days to go for handing in a submission to a court and then finding out the operative date was a month not from the date the inquiries were concluded but from the day that the copy of the Proceedings came into our hands was one example, if I may cut a rather longer story short, for there was more to it than that. There is no doubt that we are asked to make an effort, and the effort is rewarded in proportion to our faith. Faith is not trust in things we know about for that is knowledge. Faith always bridges a gap, the unknowable. Someone of this island said there is a theology of sport, and it was a phrase I could not forget. Understanding what this is may be quite a different matter. Let a man work or starvels ano ther phrase, from a source that carries more authority. Whether work or sport, I think it is the heart that matters, the heart of the man doing either of these.

A former employee takes me to the Labour Tribunal. I go to Matara to consult an expert on a technical matter to do with the Inquiry. He is in Colombo. I met the man who is standing in for him at his station. He tells me about a visit by the famous Basque, Francis Xavier, to a well on the outskirts of Galle. This was in Portuguese times, and the well came to be known as St. Francis Xavier's well. The water is said to have miraculous properties, that is, it is said to act in a mira-

ulous way when used by people, particularly be healing skin infections. I empty a small bottle I always carry and use, containing holy water, using it whenever I am sleeping alone in a room, which is more often the case than not, for I have a disturbed sleep if I do not, and I fill this bottle up with water from the well. You can see the chain of circumstances, not one of them particularly favourable to me, leading up to something good that outweighed the lot when put in the balance at the other end of the scale.

SRI LANKA CHRONICLE

July 17-23

DIARY OF EVENTS IN SRI LANKA AND THE WORLD COMPILED FROM DAILY NEWSPAPERS PUBLISHED IN COLOMBO.

CDN—Ceylon Daily News; CDM—Ceylon Daily Mirror; CO—Ceylon Observer; ST—Sunday Time; SO—Sunday Observer; DM—D namina; LD—Lankad pa; VK—V rakes ri; ATH—Aththa; SM—Silum na; SLDP—Sri La kadi pa; JD—Janadina; SU—Sun; DV—Dava a; DP—D napathi; CM—Chinthamani; WK—Weekend; RR—Riviresa; DK—D nakara; EN—Eelanadu; IDPR—Information Dept. P.e.s Release.

THURSDAY, JULY 17: Government yesterday enforced the Public Security Act and declared a State of Emergency outlawing all strikes in the essential services; Cabinet spokesman, Minister of State, Anandatissa de Alwis yesterday said that persons who keep away from work will be deemed to have vacated their posts; they are also liable to be dismissed without compensation; Government also decided to empower Ministers to suppress some of the posts or recruit personnel from the Job Bank immediately; the Ministry of Education is at present recruiting about 70 minor staff for some posts. Close on US dollars 4 million are flowing into Sri Lanka each month from Sri Lankans employed in the Middle East an amalgamate of remittances figures from commercial and state banks revealed yesterday. A draft bill to create a post of ombudsman was approved by the

Cabinet yesterday. Heavy rains were reported in certain areas in the Castlereagh and Mousakelle reservoir catchment areas yesterday evening, after the three Thai experts carried out their cloud seeding operation over the two reservoirs. Spokesmen for many foreign banks said yesterday that they had not planned to pay interest on current accounts; the controversy on this issue had centred around only one or two banks, inquiries revealed—CDN. Law and order in the country will be maintained by the police, while the Army, Navy and the Air Force will assist the police in this task; all leave for the Armed services and the police have been cancelled. A statue of Sir John Kotelawela, a former Prime Minister, will be put up near the Cinnamon Gardens Police station shortly. The Colombo Chief Magistrate, Mr. D. B. Ellapola yesterday remanded a person produced before him by Inspector K. A. H. C. Gunawardena of the CID as an alleged threat to assassinate the Prime Minister, Mr. R. Premadasa—CDM. The Price Control Department has been ordered to raid private sector hoarders of fish and prosecute them as the price of fish in the country reached record levels—SU. Police and troops are now standing by to take position where ever needed as a contingency plan drawn to meet any threat to national security went into effect yesterday in the context of the opposition backed general strike call—CO. Striking workers have decided not to go back to work even though the government has declared emergency regulations; with the announcement of emergency by the SLBC, more trade unions have called their members to strike—JD. Employees of the Government Press launched a strike yesterday while employees of the Food Department, members of the clerical unions and employees of Local Government and Public Installations continued the strike despite the declaration of Emergency by the Government. More than 100,000 workers have now joined the General strike; a section of the public clerical staff and employees of the Local Government and Co-operative categories joined the strike this morning—ATH.

FRIDAY, JULY 18: Tight security measures were clamped down through-out the country yesterday as trade unions controlled by Opposition political parties prepared to go

ahead with their planned general strike in support of an immediate wage increase; the government, which promulgated a state of emergency under the Public Security Act and banned strikes in the essential services on Wednesday to meet the threat of a general strike, also cancelled all leave to public officers from today. The World Bank Development Committee's task force has initiated a US dollar 200 billion new Arab fund through which Sri Lanka, as one of the Most Seriously Affected (MSA) developing countries, would qualify for grants from the fund. The government has decided to be very stern with all those who defy the Essential Services Order promulgated on Wednesday night, government sources said. The transport of rice, flour and sugar to the outstations was moving uninterrupted and there should not be any shortages in these commodities in any of the districts, Food Commissioner P. M. Hassan said yesterday. Nurses belonging to the Public Service United Nurses' Association yesterday worked without the black bands, they wore on Wednesday to protest against the delay by the government to settle their demands; these nurses kept away from work on Tuesday on sick notes. There were as many as 25 acts of sabotage allegedly by striking railwaymen in the first nine days of the railway strike this month—CDN. The General Secretary of Rajya Seva Jatika Vurtheeya Samiti Samelanaya (State Services National Trade Union Federation) Mr. Douglas Abeydheera, in a Press release states that members of 53 trade unions and several other independent trade unions in the government sector have pledged that they would be prepared to perform any type of work to help the government to maintain its service. All nurses will receive Rs. 100 as shoe allowance before the end of August—CDM. The Ministry of Public Administration yesterday set out the guidelines for ministries to recruit personnel to replace those going out on strike. Police yesterday banned the Joint Trade Union Action Committee (JTUAC) rally; they informed officials of the committee that permission for their rally had been withdrawn. The decentralisation and restriction of the Government's massive islandwide construction effort has been recommended by an official committee amidst World Bank warnings that unrestricted construction activity could cause inflationary pressure on the eco-

nomy—SU. Employees of the Posts & Telecommunication department, six leading public sector trade unions and the private sector trade unions are expected to join the general strike from Monday—ATH. All services in the country will come to a standstill today when the private sector employees join the General strike; majority of workers in the CTB, Government Departments and Corporations, and Banks are now on strike. A number of trade union leaders have been taken into custody by the Government—JD.

SATURDAY, JULY 19: President J. R. Jayewardene, Prime Minister R. Premadasa and several Ministers yesterday addressed a mammoth crowd at Maliban Junction, Ratmalana to explain the folly of causing a stoppage of work which will hinder the development programs; this is the first time that a President or a Prime Minister of the country has gone out to meet the people to the heart of a trouble spot during an Emergency to explain to them the Government's position, one of the speakers told the rally. The general strike called by Opposition trade unions yesterday failed to disrupt any essential service because of the poor response from their membership, an official spokesman said. There were very few visible signs of strike action in Colombo city yesterday—no concentration of strikers at various spots and no placards. Reports from outstations indicate that work was not affected by the strike though a few had kept away from work; generally the situation was peaceful and no incidents reported—CDN. As far as he knew there was no strike on now; only some employees in the government and the corporation sector had left their service on their own free will; the President Mr. J. R. Jayewardene told a massive rally yesterday at Ratmalana; he was sorry to say it but these people need not come to work from Monday; they could leave their jobs and go but the government will go on. The President, Mr. J. R. Jayewardene yesterday ordered the Mayor of Colombo Mr. B. Sirisena Cooray to recruit new labour to replace those on strike in the Colombo Municipal Council—CDM. Government will soon introduce legal measures to prevent workers being misled by their political leaders, President J. R. Jayewardene announced yesterday. The Government yesterday imposed a press censorship; the Secre-

tary to the Ministry of State, Sarath Amunugama has been appointed Competent Authority under emergency regulations. The Army and the Air Force have decided on a general mobilisation and are calling up all reservists to report immediately to their units. Several ministries and other state institutions yesterday moved to recruit new personnel to replace groups that went on strike—SU. President Jayewardene speaking at the mass rally in Ratmalana stated that new laws will soon be introduced to prevent politicians from misleading the people—DP. The Government has announced censorship of newspapers; all opposition newspapers came out merely blank to protest against the Censorship.

SUNDAY, JULY 20: Assessing situation reports of the country-wide strike picture, the Prime Minister's office yesterday described the opposition-backed general strike bid as a damp squib that is already "fizzling out"; with all public utilities working smoothly; and the police enforcing the move-on bylaws preventing congregations of strikers who were mainly clerical employees, there was little indication to the man-on-the-street that any work stoppage was on. The CGR will begin recruiting new hands from tomorrow. A high powered tender board was set up by Government last week to consider bids for the supply of additional gas turbine capacity to augment the country's electricity supply projected to fall short of demand early next year—SO. According to informed sources, the Sansoni Commission has firmly rejected the contention of the TULF leadership that non-Violence based on Gandhian principles is their only means of achieving their objective—the creation of a separate State; Mr. M. C. Sansoni the former Chief Justice and the one-man Commission which probed the disturbance in August/September 1977, will submit his report to the President Mr. J. R. Jayewardene tomorrow. Those who have vacated their posts under the Emergency Regulation No. 41 need not attend office on Monday 21st as they are no longer in Government or Corporation employment; any employee however, who has good reason to explain his absence may send an excuse in writing to the Head of the Department in which he works—ST. Government will introduce legislation to normalise appointments to posts rendered vacant

by those joining the general strike attempt. Four former members of Parliament are likely to be charged for fraud shortly. CID detectives will move in this week to probe an alleged racket by one garment syndicate in channelling investment Promotion Zone textiles to the local market. Government has approved the setting up of a special unit in the National Housing Development Authority to undertake the construction of the 30,000 houses financed by the West German Friedrich Naumann Stiftung—WK. A Sri Lankan engineer has manufactured an electric bus from scrap. Minister of Industries etc., Mr. Cyril Mathew said yesterday that the government would consider a salary increase when the Minister of Finance returns from abroad—SM. The Minister of Trade has decided to reduce the prices of a large number of imported goods by 6%—RR.

MONDAY, JULY 21: President J. R. Jayewardene told a public meeting at Attanagalla yesterday that this government was not a weak and vacillating government but a government which will rule firmly and fairly according to the massive mandate given it by the people on July 21, 1977. Various Ministries and Government Departments were yesterday preparing to recruit new staff to replace those who have vacated their posts by joining the strike in the essential services which has been declared illegal; the Minister of Plan Implementation said it had received requests so far mainly for clerical staff from the Job Bank. Dr. Gamini C. Wijesekera, Secretary Ministry of Transport Boards, yesterday told CTB workers not to believe false rumours that were being circulated by interested parties that the CTB too would join the strike today. Emergency regulations were gazetted last night providing for restrictions on operations of Bank accounts held by trade unions or such other organisations or by office-bearers on behalf of such organisations or trade unions. Twenty houses constructed in each of the 168 electorates will be handed over to 3,360 families today. The railway has arranged to run extra trains today thus giving commuters more trains than last week, a spokesman for the Railway said yesterday. Police yesterday made an assessment of the general strike situation and said law and order had been well maintained throughout the country and that there were no major incidents—CDN. The

full deployment of the Armed services in all parts of the country commenced from midnight yesterday—CDM. The Government will never bend to intimidation and threats, President J. R. Jayewardene pledged last night. Private tea factory owners who face severe financial difficulties in their industry due to the rising cost of production, however, complain that government has not responded to their appeals for relief, and warn that they may have to close down. Permission for holding trade union rallies or political meetings during the period of the state of emergency will be granted only if the sponsors give an undertaking in writing that they would not violate emergency regulations; Government spokesman said yesterday—SU. The Job Bank will send about 6000 persons this morning to fill in vacancies created by strikers—DP. Large number of unemployed persons have queued up hoping to replace those who have vacated their posts—DM. President Jayewardene said yesterday that those who are recruited to replace the strikers will be permanent employees of the public sector—LD. The Job Bank has up to date filled 4000 vacancies of those who have vacated their posts—DV.

TUESDAY, JULY 22: The Sansoni Commission report on the racial disturbances of August and September 1977 states that the Tamil United Liberation Front's claim of a separate state would have to be a political one pursued on legal and constitutional lines. In a broadcast talk to the nation last night President J. R. Jayewardene said the government had decided to seize the funds of the striking trade unions and create a special fund to help the wives and children of those who had lost their jobs by participating in the illegal strike; he said he was very sorry that the wives and children of those misguided people were suffering as a result of the strikers losing their jobs; but there was no other action they could have taken, he said. Long queues of people seeking jobs began forming from early yesterday morning outside several ministries and departments as Government started recruiting new hands to replace those who had vacated their posts by joining the strike. The University of Colombo Teachers' Association yesterday decided to suspend trade union action and assist in the conducting of examinations—CDN. The Government's policies were attuned, not

to the giving of subsidies but for development which would lead to employment; if there is development, then those people employed as in developed nations, can meet the challenge, the challenge of the cost of living, so said President Jayewardene in a broadcast last night—CDM. The Sansoni Commission which investigated the communal disturbances of 1977 has warned that any attempt to set up a separate independent state in the country without the consent of the entire nation would inevitably result in civil war and bloodshed; Mr. Sansoni presented his report to the President yesterday; the report stated that the majority of the people of Sri Lanka were against division of the country; aggressive attitude of the Tamil United Liberation Front members and members of its youth movements during the 1977 election campaign alarmed and antagonised the Sinhalese, the report said. As large crowds of prospective job seekers queued up before several State institutions in the city and the provinces, contingents of the Army, Navy and the Air Force took up position to form one of the tightest ever security cordons in recent times yesterday—SU. President J. R. Jayewardene speaking at a public meeting in Maradana yesterday stated that the emergency would be lifted as soon as the strike ended—VK. The Food Commissioner is likely to be removed from his post and sent back to his earlier post in the Central Bank; this change will take place on the recommendation of the Committee which investigated the import and distribution of goods under his supervision—JD.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23: The Employers' Federation of Ceylon decided yesterday to come down hard on strikers; at an emergency General Council meeting, the Federation decided that all employees of its member firms who did not present themselves for work in consequence of a decision to strike will be deemed to have vacated their posts, Mr. E. S. Appadural, Secretary of the Employers' Federation of Ceylon said; the Federation will immediately direct all its members to commence recruitment to fill all such vacancies that would arise out of the implementation of its decision to consider strikers as having vacated their posts. A large number of employees who kept away from work last Friday

have requested that they be permitted to come back to work. The cigarette scarcity caused by the strike at the Ceylon Tobacco Company Ltd., is expected to end by tomorrow. The Ministry of Education is making elaborate arrangements for the forthcoming Commonwealth Education Ministers' Conference to be held at the BMICH from August 5 to 13. Police have set up a special commando unit, manned by sportsmen of the Police Department to handle any special situation that may arise from the strike—CDN. The government had till yesterday recruited 9,000 persons through the Job Bank to fill the vacancies created by the vacation of posts by strikers, according to Dr. Wickrema Weerasooriya, Secretary to the Ministry of Plan Implementation. The Universities have returned to normal with the majority of University Teachers Associations deciding to continue in their posts of Deans and Heads of Departments and the University Examinations that were disrupted will be held again—CDN. The Presidential Secretariat has issued to all banks the details of the trade unions whose bank accounts the government has decided to seize. Operation "Railtracks" was launched on Monday with units of the Police and Armed forces maintaining vigil along stretches of the country's rail network particularly between Colombo and Mirigama considered to be the most vulnerable to sabotage. Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa will head the new National Environment Authority to be established under the provisions of the proposed National Environment Act. Crime took a back seat during the past week as the state of Emergency clamped down throughout the country apparently deterred would be criminals, senior Police officials noted with satisfaction. The Colombo Municipal Fire Brigade will become fully operational with a freshly recruited cadre of fire fighters within the next few weeks; they will replace the 112 fire fighters who are deemed to have vacated posts under the emergency regulations after they struck work last week—SU. The Government is drawing up a scheme to pay compensation to farmers whose crops are destroyed by floods etc—DV. Strikers in the Private sector companies returned to work yesterday—DM.

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TALKS AGAIN

Salt Two And A Half

by William W. Wade

Washington, July 7,

The United States is seriously considering the latest Soviet response to a NATO proposal for talks seeking to limit Europe-based nuclear weapons. The arms control issue already has a considerable history. It comes with conditions and it deals with a complex range of national security interests within Europe and beyond. Federal German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt is the bearer of the Soviet plan, outlined by Leonid Brezhnev in their Moscow talks a week ago. Brezhnev first responded to a NATO offer to negotiate suggested negotiations on Europe-based nuclear weapons last October—but with a pre-condition NATO found unacceptable. The pre-condition was abandonment by NATO of its plans for new modernized missiles to be deployed beginning in 1983—a force designed to counter the latest Soviet SS-20 missiles already in place. Having dropped this pre-condition, Brezhnev has now introduced two further qualifications. One is that existing US medium-range nuclear weapons in Europe—what are called forward-based systems—included in the talks.

The second Brezhnev reservation is that any agreement reached on these European weapons will go into effect until the US-Soviet SALT II treaty signed last year is ratified. That ratification awaits approval of the treaty by a two-thirds majority of the US Senate—an American Constitutional requirement. The Senate vote has been delayed—and made exceedingly doubtful in this election year—largely because of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan and all it implies for East-West detente.

What makes the latest Soviet response worthy of serious consideration in a constructive spirit—the official phrase here in Washington—is that it conforms to previous expectations about future weapons negotiations until now SALT—the US-SOVIET strategic limitations talks—has been confined to strategic weapons. These are defined as those that

can reach from the Soviet Union to the United States and from the United States to the Soviet Union.

Early in the proceedings Moscow wanted to include US forward-based systems but American officials resisted on the grounds that these arms are for Western Europe's defense, not America's defense, serving as a counter to the large-scale Soviet forces poised in Eastern Europe. Now, however, it is the weapons balance in Europe itself that is being addressed—and obviously Soviet missiles, backfire bombers and other arms will have to be weighed against western defenses.

The complexities of such talks—which Chancellor Schmidt expects to last a long time—are enormous. The United States, which has kept its European allies well informed throughout the SALT process, expects to continue a close, co-operative relationship within NATO as it speaks for the alliance. The biggest obstacle now, however, is the strain on East-West relations posed by the Soviet Union's venture in Afghanistan—casting a visible blight on the spirit of accommodation necessary for such talks.

—VOA/USICA



VIETNAM

On Thai Border

London, July 11,

Recent reports that Vietnamese troops in Kampuchea have been making raids into Thailand appear to be less than the whole truth. Usually such reports have been based upon anonymous Thai military sources rather than eyewitness observation and they have been used as an excuse by the American Government to speed extra shipments of guns to the Thai military regime.

The Vietnamese version of events (to a large extent confirmed by eyewitnesses on the border) although available is rarely quoted. For a long time the Vietnamese have argued that the Thais have been channeling much of the Western aid money intended for refugees to the remains of the Pol Pot army who have

spent the last year licking their wounds on the Thai side of the border. This view was confirmed last week when it was announced that the Red Cross and the United Nations agencies would be phasing out their operations in Khmer Rouge territory along the Thai border.

The immediate cause of the Vietnamese incursion was the Thai decision to commence "voluntary repatriation" of refugees. According to the Vietnamese, this was simply a cover for assisting with the infiltration of Khmer Rouge soldiers into Kampuchea. The Vietnamese side of the story was given in a statement by the Foreign Ministry in Hanoi last week. The statement accused the Thais of shelling and rocketing Kampuchean territory from June 16 to June 20. Then on June 22 and 23, say the Vietnamese, "the Thai authorities sent Khmer reactionary groups to infiltrate Kampuchean territory and—supported by Thai artillery, infantry, tanks and airforce—opened fire on Kampuchean border guards."

An editorial in the official Vietnamese newspaper, *Nhan Dan*, on June 30 said: "Thailand itself has taken advantage of "humanitarian aid" as a lure to recruit Khmers living along the border into the Pol Pot forces and those of other reactionary groups. Most recently, under the pretext of "voluntary repatriation" Thailand helped to smuggle thousands of Pol Pot and Khmer Serai men, fed and armed on its territory, back to Kampuchea for sabotage activities. . . . In defence of the country and the population, the Kampuchean revolutionary armed forces have taken actions to repulse the reactionary forces."

Meanwhile the Vietnamese-backed Heng Samrin Government has been offering to negotiate with the Thais on the border situation, even though the Thai Government does not recognize the present Kampuchean Government. On June 6 and 13 the Kampuchean apparently agreed to meet the Thai Red Cross in Phnom Penh, Bangkok or on the border to settle the problem of repatriation of refugees in Thailand. According to a report by the Vietnamese Nws Agency, "the Kampuchean side does not consider the recognition of Kampuchea by Thailand as a condition for such

contacts." Unfortunately, the Thais seem to have rejected such suggestions, preferring instead to call for more American guns.

CHRIS MULLIN

—Tribune, UK.

JAMAICA

Lesson In Destabilisation

London, July 11,

If the British people were ever foolish enough to elect a Leftwing Labour Government the chances are that some foreign power—which shall remain nameless—would try to destabilise us. If so, who can doubt that the destabilisers would find firm allies in a large section of the British press? That is what happened in Chile under Salvador Allende where the main paper *Ed Mercurio* played an important role in softening up the Chilean people for what was to come.

And that is what is now happening in Jamaica where a newspaper called the *Daily Gleaner* appears to be playing a similar role in trying to undermine the socialist Government of Michael Manley and his People's National Party. The *Daily Gleaner*, you will not be surprised to hear, has just been presented with an award by the Columbia School of Journalism in America. According to the citation, the *Daily Gleaner* has "earned the wholehearted esteem of all who value freedom through its unbiased, fearless and comprehensive reporting and its high standards of journalism."

Here, from a column written by someone called John Hearne, is an example of the *Daily Gleaner's* high standards of journalism: ".... Now we have to recognise that terror and torture are part of a plan to keep the PNP in sole power forever and Michael Manley in power for the rest of his natural life. "Our Prime Minister knows about torture. He approves of it. He orders it. And he gets rid of any officer who makes a protest about it. You put Michael Manley and his crowd in. You can put them out by peaceful means. But you don't have much time."

Nowhere in Mr. Hearne's article does he offer any facts to support his point of view. Among other fearless pieces of journalism carried by the *Daily Gleaner* was an allegation that tourists due to come to Jamaica had cancelled their bookings because of a Michael Manley speech in Havana—a very damaging charge since tourism is one of the mainstays of the Jamaica economy. The president of the Tourist and Hotel Association denied that there had been any cancellations, the *Daily Gleaner* refused to name any sources for its report.

Another headline story in the *Daily Gleaner* alleged that the Cuban Ambassador to Jamaica was an intelligence officer and called for his expulsion. Last October *The Sunday Gleaner* reprinted from the London *Daily Telegraph* an article by Robert Moss which said that President Castro and his Soviet mentors wanted to instal a one-party socialist regime in Jamaica. It also said there were more than 5,000 Cuban civilian advisers and civilian technicians in Jamaica. According to the Jamaican government, however, there are 412 Cubans in Jamaica and they are mainly doctors, dentists, construction workers plus an embassy staff of 33.

It is not hard to see what all this is about. A general election is expected this year in Jamaica and the main opposition Jamaica Labour Party (do not be fooled by the name) is fiercely pro-American. The editor of the *Daily Gleaner* is Hector Wynter who, by complete coincidence, is a former chairman of the Jamaica Labour Party.

—CHRIS MULLIN, Tribune, UK.

OFFICIAL EXCHANGE RATES

Official Exchange Rates of Commercial Banks to their customers for Telegraphic Transfers fixed on Tuesday this week were as follows:—

CURRENCY	PER 100 UNITS	
	Buying Rate	Selling Rate
U.S. Dollar	Rs. 1604.50	Rs. 1607.50
Sterling Pound	Rs. 3786.00	Rs. 3792.00
Deutsche Mark	Rs. 911.10	Rs. 912.70
French Franc	Rs. 392.55	Rs. 393.25
Japanese Yen	Rs. 7.3175	Rs. 7.3325
Indian Rupees	Rs. 206.30	Rs. 206.70

Lanka Loses US Tea Market To China

Sri Lanka has lost out to yet another competitor in the world tea market losing out to China in the United States market this year, latest reports from overseas stated yesterday. Chairman of the Sri Lanka Tea Board Mr. Bertie Warusavitarana said this was pretty predictable with the strong propaganda thrust by the Chinese in the American market last year. This is said to have lasted over 10 months on a states-wide market penetration campaign.

The Chinese are reported to have sent a fifty-man delegation on this campaign according to unconfirmed reports reaching here. Mr. Warusavitarane said he had been at the

TEA EXPORT FIGURES

Sri Lanka exported 36 million kilos of tea to the U.S. in 1978. In 1979 the figure was 13.5 million kilos.

In the first 5 months of this year it was below 9 million kilos.

China's tea exports to the U.S. have risen from 4 million kilos in 1978 to 7.8 million kilos in 1979.

The total for the first 5 months of the year was 10.7 million kilos.

authorities for a long time on the question of infusing some dynamic global marketing strategies but bureaucratic decisions had proved a major constraint because, the marketing approach of some western countries was looked on with disfavour by our bureaucrats. We had to play the game according to the rules, particularly in the international markets, if we were to push ahead with our sales, he said. He intends asking the authorities for clearance to take a strong private sector trade team to the United States and Canada, by September/October this year in an attempt to penetrate those markets meaningfully during the international tea conference to be held in those countries in those months.

According to latest trade reports, China last year pushed in some 300 per cent more

than her 1977 exports to the U.S.A. tea market, pushing Sri Lanka into second place, with Kenya following a close third. During the first 5 months of this year China has exported 10.5 million kilograms as against 7 million kilograms during the same period last year. Her exports in 1979 grossed 7.8 million kilograms as against only 2.4 million kilograms in 1977. China's current year exports to the U.S. market are expected to top the 15 million kilogram mark, trade sources said.

Trade reports quoting the Statistical Bureau of China said China's production figures for the past thirty years according to statistics available were: 1949-4.5 million kilograms, 1952-9.1 million kilograms, 1978-260 million kilograms, 1979-290 million kilograms. Over a ten year period China has stepped up her exports by 150 per cent. Meanwhile, India has also stolen a march on Sri Lanka capturing the Sudanese market with some high powered propaganda work, trade sources said. India had also already sent a 15 man team to Canada and Australia, but Sri Lanka had still to wake up to reality and get something going fast in the competitive marketing field, the sources said.

—Ceylon Daily News, July 9, 1980.

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SOME THOUGHTS ON

The Village Re-Awakening Movement

The above undertaking is one of the best of its kind embarked upon in Sri Lanka since the regaining of our National Independence. The thanks of the present generation and successive future generations are due to the Government and in a special degree to His Excellency the President, Honourable J. R. Jayewardene and to the Honourable Prime Minister, Mr. R. Premadasa, and to others closely associated with and actively working in this very praise-worthy cause fraught with immeasurable benefit to the country. Lengthy and elaborate articles are required in this connection going into details. To avoid trespassing on the columns of your esteemed paper, may I be graciously allowed to make two humble submissions for the present

for consideration by all concerned and by the general public. They are as follows:—

(1) Religious and Moral Development: It is gratifying that the President and the Prime Minister have rightly stressed the need for Religious and Moral Development of the respective areas along with their material progress. It is trusted that continuing efforts would be initiated and maintained permanently for all times directed towards this objective. The dissemination of suitable religious literature free of cost to the public at State expense in the three languages used in Sri Lanka is one indispensable requirement. The following are examples of what is bound to prove highly beneficial:—

Prayer for Happiness

Let us live happily then,
Not hating those who hate us!
Among men who hate us
Let us dwell free from hatred!

—Dhammapada

Gems from Lord Buddha

1. By oneself evil is done; by oneself one suffers; by oneself evil is undone; by oneself one is purified. Purity and impurity belong to oneself, no one can purify another.

2. Before long, alas! this body will lie on the earth, despised— without understanding like a useless log; yet our thoughts will endure. They will be thought again, and will produce action. Good thoughts will produce good actions, and bad thoughts will produce bad actions.

3. The fool who knows his foolishness, is wise at least so far, But a fool who thinks himself wise, he is a fool indeed.

4. The fault of others is easily perceived, but that of oneself is difficult to perceive. A man winnows his neighbour's faults like chaff, but his own faults he hides, as a cheat hides the false disc from the gambler.

Sayings of Bhagawan Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa and Swami Vivekananda whose Jubilee Celebrations are forthcoming this year:—

1. Do not find fault with others etc.
2. Serve creatures in the consciousness that they are verily God Himself.
3. Karma Yoga is communion with God by means of work.

For Two Prayers:

"Do not find fault with anyone, not even with an insect, As you pray to God for devotion, so also pray that you may not find fault with anyone."

Bhagawan Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa

This is the gist of all worship—To be pure and to do good to others. He who has served and helped one poor man seeing Siva in him without thinking of his caste or creed or race or anything, with Him Siva is pleased.

Swami Vivekananda

Sayings from Holy Christian Scriptures:

1. Do unto others as you would be done by.
2. I have come to serve and not to be served.
3. He who is the servant of all is the greatest of them.
4. To err is human, to forgive is divine.
5. Blessed are the meek for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven God.
6. Blessed are those who expect nothing for they shall be disappointed.

Sayings from Islamic Sacred Literature:

1. From Allah we come, unto him we return
2. Poverty is one of my greatest assets.
3. Say:

Is the blind man equal to the seer, or is darkness equal to light? Or assign they unto Allah partners who created the like of His creation so that the creation (which they made and (His creation) seemed alike to them? Say: Allah is the Creator of all things, and He is the One, the Almighty, He (Allah) is the cleaver of the Day break And He hath appointed the night for stillness, and the Sun and the Moon for reckoning.

(2) Development of Urban Areas—Similar development of Cities, Town and so-called Urban Areas is also concurrently required. House to House propaganda and efforts are necessary both on the part of the State and the individual citizen.

This double-fold Scheme of full time work and full time workers is one of the paramount needs of our beloved country. A special Department of State fully equipped like any other department is an absolute necessity to achieve some of the noblest Ideals that could be imagined by the mind of man.

More submissions will be made later if circumstances permit.

S. Sivasubramaniam
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- (1) Co-founder & Honorary Secretary,
Council for National Unity and
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- (2) Co-founder & Honorary Secretary,
Buddhist-Hindu Brotherhood of
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105/2, Hultsdorf Street,
Colombo 12.
July 8, 1980



PAK - AFGHAN CRISIS

Zia's Junta In Difficulties

New Delhi, July 22,

The Pakistan Foreign Minister, Agha Shahi, has come and gone. In spite of expressions of goodwill no progress was made either in regard to finding a solution to the Afghan problem or in taking Indo-Pak relations a step nearer normalisation. A special Correspondent of the *Patriot* reviewed in the highlight of discussions as follows: "India has indicated to Pakistan that the presence of Soviet troops in Afghanistan cannot be viewed in isolation. It must be assessed in the context of overall developments in the region and the increasing presence of various powers in the Indian Ocean and the Gulf. This basic approach was conveyed by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to Pakistan Foreign Minister Agha Shahi when he met her. At the same time Mr. Shahi's assertion that Pakistan is of the view that the problem arising out of the Afghan situation can only be resolved by political means is considered a 'positive' development by India.....The two countries agreed that the Afghan developments posed a threat to the security of the whole region and expressed the hope that a negotiated settlement would be found for a peaceful solution of the problem. While India was convinced that any solution must be worked out in a comprehensive manner taking into consideration the viewpoints and interests of all countries concerned, Pakistan hoped

that the Soviet Union and the Afghan government would enter into a dialogue with the three-member committee constituted by the Islamic Conference for a peaceful solution. India told Pakistan that the impulse to resort to arms and confrontation would prove 'detrimental to confidence-building and invite big power confrontation to our very doorstep.'

THE TALKS have also made it clear that India and Pakistan still view the Afghan problem from two different diametrically opposed angles though both are agreed that a political solution was the best under the circumstances. Whilst India has recognised the Babrak Karmal regime as the de facto and de jure government in Afghanistan, Pakistan like many western countries want him out and insist that a government consisting of the rebel and right-wing elements be installed as a "Provisional Government" until elections are held. India regards this as unrealistic in the present circumstances. Many feel ironic that Pakistan should want elections in Afghanistan when the military junta has refused to hold elections in Pakistan although there is a universal demand for it in the country.

Agha Shahi had also denied that Pakistan had helped or was helping the rebels or promoting subversion. The Indian authorities however have expressed serious doubts about the veracity of these assurances. The weight of evidence from reliable press reports (not denied) in prestigious British and American papers have confirmed that from the time Taraki came to power in April 1978 right-wing insurgent and rebel elements were financed, trained and armed to overthrow the pro-socialist Kabul regime by Pakistan, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, China and the USA.

Even the USA has now begun to talk of a negotiated political settlement. But Washington still wants a government of its choice and amenable to its bidding in Kabul. And the US insistence on elections in Afghanistan contrasts sharply to the bolstering up of dictatorial military regimes in more than a score of countries without ever talking about holding elections.

INDIA has made her position clear. She says that one can only ask Russia to withdraw completely only after ensuring that inter-

ference from other sources and assistance to rebels have been stopped. It is interesting to note the views of the veteran Pakhto leader Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan who has just returned to Afghanistan after taking medical treatment in India. A UNI report stated: "Veteran Pakhtoon leader Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan today said he agreed with India's stand on Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. 'Mrs. Gandhi's and my views (on the issue) are identical,' he told newsmen after his meeting with Acharya Vinoba Bhave at the latter's Ashram here. The two met after a gap of eleven years. 'There were compelling reasons for USSR to intervene in Afghanistan,' Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan said. The Soviets alone could not be blamed. US and its allies must also share the blame or developments in Afghanistan, he said. Disclosing that if the Soviet Union had delayed its action by three days, US would have intervened in that country in collusion with Pakistan, he said the two countries had reached an agreement on this. Criticising US military activities in Asia, Khan, Abdul Gaffar Khan said the US was trying to build a military base in the Indian Ocean—at Diego Garcia—in spite of the United Nation's declaration to make it a zone of peace. USSR could not be expected to remain a silent spectator to the provocative moves of the US and invite danger at its doorstep, he said....."

ALTHOUGH AGHA SHAHI was at pains to point out that conditions inside Afghanistan had deteriorated and that rebel activity had increased, reports reaching India indicate that the situation inside that country had improved vastly in favour of the Babrak Karmal government. And at the same time there is a mounting volume of evidence that conditions inside Pakistan were getting worse everyday so far as General Zia was concerned. Opposition to Zia and the military dictatorship has mounted and very soon it will reach bursting point. The unrest in the Baluchi areas (with a demand for a separate Baluchistan) had gathered fresh momentum. But more than this, the most acute problem facing the Zia government is the fighting that has broken out between the Afghan refugees and the local Pakistan population in the border regions.

The Zia government, for political reasons, had not permitted a large number of the no-

madic Afghan cattle breeding and goat rearing tribesmen, who traditionally come down to areas in the northern areas of Pakistan during the winter months, to return to their home grazing grounds with the coming of spring. Pakistan wanted to keep these tribes back to swell the number of refugees for propaganda and political purposes. This has now boomeranged. The Afghan tribesmen want to use all the facilities—water, grazing lands etc. etc., in the northern border areas of Pakistan. But, there is not enough water and grass to go round in the dry summer months. The local population naturally resent this. Armed clashes are reported to have taken place. Reports indicate on July 13 and 14, such clashes took place on the border near Mishke, Muslimbagh and Zkorbo. The casualties are said to be well over 100. As a result of these continuing clashes, the students in the northern towns and villages of Pakistan have started an agitation calling on the Government to solve this problem and to ensure the local population were not deprived of their traditional facilities—which have become virtually important in the hot drought-prone months of the summer.

The Pak government is not in a position to solve this "internal" problem of the clash between the Afghan tribesmen who had been Shanghai'd into becoming refugees and the local population. If the external problem of Afghanistan is solved, then this internal problem may get solved automatically. But the Zia junta had made a big issue of the Afghan problem and had also played a nefarious role in it—in order to get both economic and military aid from the US and the West. The Pakistan Aid Consortium has this year agreed to re-schedule \$ 3 billion of Pak debts—they had refused to reschedule any debts in the last two or three years.

In the meantime an agency report from London published today in Delhi papers stated: "A people's movement to overthrow the military rule in Pakistan and restore democracy is to be launched in the next few months, according to Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Khan, a Pakistan People's Party leader living in exile in Britain. Mr. Khan dismissed the assumption that Gen. Zia had the full backing of the army and said it was only the higher echelons, whom General Zia had pampered, were

supporting him. He was certain that the majority in the armed forces would be with the people in a future popular uprising against Gen. Zia. Mr. Khan challenged Gen. Zia to prove his claim that he had the people's support. He said the Afghanistan crisis had to some extent helped Gen. Zia to stabilise his position.

"Talking to newsmen, Mr. Khan, former Governor of Punjab, said there were growing signs that the people of Pakistan were 'fed up' and 'frustrated' with the regime of General Zia U-Haq. He was confident the proposed movement would achieve its objective, he added. Mr. Khan declined to discuss details of the plan for the movement but said the leaders of People's Party were anxious to avoid violence. He expected that other political parties in Pakistan would also join in supporting the movement. He said General Zia might have in the past succeeded in tackling isolated incidents of resistance to his regime but the planned uprising would be a very different thing."

There is no doubt that General Zia is becoming desperate. Muslims in India are aghast that he should flog and whip those who eat during the Ramzan fast. Such extreme punitive action is a sign of a coming crack up.

Tribune Correspondent

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IRAN

Details Of A Plot

Teheran, July 22,

An investigation into the abortive coup d'etat and exposure of the persons involved in the counter-revolutionary plot are continuing in Iran. The newspaper *Teheran Times* reported the arrest of former Iranian Air Force Commander General Mahdiyoun and one-time Commander of the Gendarmerie of the Shah's regime General Mohaqeqi on a charge of masterminding a plot. Representatives of the Iranian authorities announced that they have full lists of the plotters, but, however, "their names are not published so far for security reasons."

The details of the plot are being uncovered. It was to be carried out with the backing of US imperialism and Israel, the newspaper writes. It is seen from the findings of the investigation that the plotters intended to use Tabriz and Khuzestan province in the South of Iran as the main bases of the coup. According to a Teheran radio report, the plotters had been trained abroad. In recent months "experts" in staging coup d'etats and street fighting had visited Iran in the guise of tourists bearing passports of Britain, the FRG, and other allies of the USA. They trained anti-government elements for action against the existing regime. The plotters set themselves the aim of reinstating in the country a puppet regime that would meet the interests of the United States, Israel and their allies and would be an obedient tool in their hands, the radio commentary said.

In this connection the local mass media stress that Washington has not given up its hostile plans against the people of Iran and is cherishing the hope to turn that country into its domain again. Thus, Teheran radio stressed, on the eve of the attempted coup d'etat, two US aircraft carriers and 25 other US naval ships carrying on board 125 "Phantom" aircraft, 100 tanks and a large number of helicopters approached the Iranian shores.

Recalled here in this connection is the hypocritical stand of the present US administration, which is talking profusely of the necessity of a "peaceful settlement" of the Iranian-American conflict, but in fact continues hatching criminal plans against Iran. —Tass

(D)

IRAN

Conspiracy Against Revolution

Teheran, July 28,

The Central Committee of the Tudeh party of Iran, in an appeal to all revolutionary forces, said imperialism is mustering every reactionary element and left over SAVAK gang inside and outside the country to topple the Islamic Republic created in the 1979 revolution. The appeal warned the people and their leaders about the deep conspiracy hatched against the revolution.

The Central Committee said US Imperialism after the abortive attempt at military intervention in April have now set on a course of internal *putsch* with external aid and preparation. The Tudeh party linked the widespread sabotage of production and oil installations in the country to the CIA mafia engaged in the preparation of the *putsch*. 'In view of the current dangerous situation, the Central Committee of the Tudeh party calls on all revolutionary forces in Iran to come together in a "popular united front" and be prepared to defend the revolution.'

The Tudeh Party Central Committee took a serious view of the US military build up in the Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf, synchronized with the mustering of counter-revolutionary forces in hostile countries bordering Iran. The Pentagon has introduced a "rotating system" to ensure a permanent military presence in the Gulf and Arabian Sea. For the first time, since the nationalisation of the Suez Canal, US combat forces have crossed from Mediterranean to Indian Ocean using the Suez. President Sadat, violating late President Nasser's pledge not to use the waterway for aggressive purposes has given the freedom of Suez for the US military forces engaged in war preparation against Arabs. —ADN

IN THE INDIAN OCEAN

FRG Missile Destroyers

Dr. Julius Mader

THERE ARE MANY REASONS for alarm at the naval operations of the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) lasting from April to the beginning of August this year, which will cover the Atlantic Mediterranean, Red Sea, Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean. According to Associated Press, in the Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean, the fleet should temporarily link up for manoeuvres on a war-footing with the US Navy's armada which has been expanded from six vessels in January to 34 warships in April.

The Soviet news agency Tass rightly sees this Indian exercise by the Bundesmarine as forming part of the "USA's plan to involve its NATO partners, including the FRG, in

its dangerous war preparations outside NATO's sphere of operations." Directly after the ships had set sail, Admiral Robert Long, Supreme Commander of the US Pacific Fleet, told the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (3 May 1980)—"addressing himself mentally to his European allies", as the paper put it—"if we all stick together we will succeed."

The route of the FRG convoy takes in two European states, (France and Spain), two African (Egypt, Kenya) and three Asian (Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka), and thus in terms of both size and territory covered, represents by far the major commission in the 25-year history of the Bundesmarine. The convoy, with a combined crew of more than 750 men, set sail from Wilhelmshaven on 29 April 1980. It consisted of the destroyers "Lutjens" and "Bayern" (replaced by the missile destroyer "Hessen" after it collided in the Mediterranean), both of which are armed with the most up-to-date surface-to-air missiles, and the naval supply ships "Coburg", "Spessart" and "Odenwald", the last named of which will be only sailing as far as the Mediterranean. The "Lutjens" is one of the most heavily armed surface vessels of the Bundesmarine.

THE BUNDESMARINE, a service branch of the Bundeswehr, which is integrated into NATO, has 277 warships and auxiliary vessels, and 180 marine combat aircraft, most of which are equipped to carry nuclear weapons. It is under the command of Admirals a large number of whom served in Hitler's Navy. For instance only recently, Admiral Gunter Luther took up the important post of Deputy Supreme NATO Commander Europe (DSACEUR). During the Second World War, he fought against the armies of the anti-Hitler coalition, first as a naval officer and eventually as lieutenant and ordnance officer of a Nazi airborne division. Today he is still a member of the revanchist "Naval Officers' Association (MOV)" based in Bonn.

The FRG admiralty has provocatively named the largest vessels of the Bundesmarine after Nazi heroes, for instance a missile destroyer after General Erwin Rommel whose Africa Korps overran Libya, Tunisia and Egypt for Hitler, and another missile destroyer after the Air Force Colonel, Werner Molders, who

as a member of the German Legion served the Spanish dictator Franco. The destroyer "Lutjens", flagship and with a 337-strong crew the largest warship of the India convoy, is named after the Nazi Admiral Gunter Lutjens (1889-1941) who from 1907 to 1918 served in the Kaiser's Navy, following which he played a significant part in the illegal re-arming of the Navy in post-war Germany, and finally in 1940 as commander of a fleet of the Nazi Navy, was personally decorated by Hitler with the Ritterkreuz for his campaign methods.

One further point, the Captain commanding the convoy, 45-year-old Klaus-Dieter Sievert, is also a volunteer member of the above-mentioned MOV, which is run by former Nazi Admiral and fascist naval staff officers.

THE BUNDESMARINE is not only being re-equipped at a rapid pace—it will be receiving in the near future new, 122 Class, missile frigates and additional "Tornado" aircraft—it is increasingly forming part of a global plan of operation as a junior arm of the US Navy. Bundesmarine warships have already taken part in missile firing exercises with US ships in the Caribbean, making use in the process of the US base maintained at Guantanamo on the Island of Cuba. In June 1979 the FRG's "Glucksburg" led a convoy on a visit to some West African states, whilst at the same time the destroyer "Molders" was showing the flag in Puerto Rico and Martinique.

At the founding of NATO in 1949, its southernmost point of operation was defined as the Tropic of Cancer. But following the December 1978 decision of the Foreign Ministers of the NATO states to take the brakes off the operation of NATO forces outside the Pact's terms of reference, including in Africa and Asia, the FRG Admirals also put on full steam ahead. Already in 1979 their warships forged 2,000 kilometres to the south of the Tropic of Cancer, and in 1980, with the "Lutjens" in the forefront, their manoeuvres will take place off Mombasa, some 3,000 kilometres south of this latitude and up to 8,500 kilometres south-east of the FRG.

At the beginning of the '80s, the Federal Republic shares NATO's neo-colonialist doctrine, aligns itself with the confrontation policy

of the USA, and is attempting to expand its power territorially. This is borne out not only by the recent fact-finding tour of the Pacific by Bonn's Defence Minister Hans Apel, which took in Japan, Australia, and New Zealand but also the India voyage of the missile ships.

THE EXTENSIVE NAVAL MANOEUVRES by the Bundesmarine are being played down as a "training mission" designed "solely to accustom crews to long periods of absence from home waters." That this is a "red herring" is readily apparent, refuted by a single glance at the planned official programme, which includes secret use of the US naval base at Diego Garcia and an inspection of the harbour of Mombasa in Kenya, which is earmarked for a US base. In February 1980, the Beirut newspaper *As Safir* reported that the FRG would give "particularly active support" to the US military schemes in Oman and the neighbouring regions.

In the meantime there has been widespread public protest in India against the military presence of the FRG in the Indian region. The Kenyan newspaper *Nation* criticized the FRG naval manoeuvres and charged Bonn with a "conspicuous lack of sensitivity" towards the countries to be visited by the convoy.

The display of naval strength by the FRG in the crisis-torn region of the Middle East has clearly been given the express go-ahead of the "Federal Security Council", the FRG's highest government body for dealing with crises and war. And according to the daily *Die Welt* of 23 February 1980, this body had reckoned from the outset on the effect such a decision would have on friends and enemies, thus continuing in the dangerous tradition established by the Kaiser's Navy and the Navy of Nazi Germany.

The peoples of the world still remember the Agadir provocation of 1911 by the 'Panther', which sparked off the second Morocco crisis, just as they have not forgotten that the Nazi ship "Schleswig-Holstein" used the occasion of a so-called "goodwill visit" to Danzig to usher in the Second World War at 04.45 a.m. on 1 September 1939 by its surprise attack on the Polish fortress of Westerplatte.

—Panorama DDR



Confidentially

+ Ongoing Racket

+ President & Milk

IS IT NOT TRUE that *Tribune* has on several occasions referred to the plight of the shareholders of the Rupee Companies whose properties were taken over under Land Reform? That until now, no relief or redress has been accorded to these persons? That a *Tribune* reader has again reminded us that this matter still remains a festering source of discontent among a group though numerically small yet constitutes a vociferous political lobby? That one among them has sent us a note which speaks for itself and which we reproduce below: "There are a large number of middle class people, particularly those who have been associated with private sector and have invested their hard earned savings on shares in the Plantation Companies partly due to sentimental reason and partly for the slightly higher return they got in those days for the shares as compared to gilt-edged securities. For most, if not all, of this category of shareholders, it was interest and not a question of 'dabbling' in shares. The estates were nationalised on 16th October 1975, under the second phase of the Land Reform Law and it is almost five years that they have neither got the capital nor the dividend for their investments. Some have given their investments as dowries for their daughters whilst others have left them as the only source of income for the sustenance of their dear ones. For some, it was their funeral expenses. Whilst the Sterling Companies have negotiated and successfully repatriated the capital over a period of five years, the Rupee Company shareholders are still on tenterhooks. The Agency Houses which very successfully managed the Plantations now manage with equal success the shares of these small time shareholders to their advantage. Today, these shares become handy weapons to the Agency Houses for the removal of Directors and change of management in Hotels and other more lucrative business enterprises. The investment in these Rupee Companies were at

the instance of the Agency Houses, placed with travel and hotel business which are bringing good returns. Whilst the Agency Houses are engaged in an intellectual exercise of which is the most appropriate value for the estates whether the 'break up' or the 'par' the poor shareholder has to engage his mind whether to skip his lunch to have his dinner or to skip the dinner to have the breakfast. Such is the predicament of some shareholders whose only investment has been in Rupee Company shares. Annually, the Agency Houses add a loss to the previous year's balance by way of management fees whilst they continue to use these shares for bigger manipulations. The foreign shareholders who, after repatriating the capital they originally invested, 50 times over, have received even the payment for the lands they owned in Sri Lanka. Whilst the Governments of Sri Lanka have with an undue haste to settle the white master, they are content to leave their brethren, of some colour, to languish?" That there is no doubt that Government must do something about this soon?

* * *

IS IT NOT A FACT that the President is anxious that every child in Sri Lanka should have at least a pint of milk every day? That if this aim is to be achieved, the first step would be for the President to ensure that the National Milk Board does not throw away bowser loads of milk down the rain or on to the ground (there are many places without dairies)? That *Tribune* understands from reliable sources that very (very) recently 27 bowser loads of milk were thrown away at the City milk processing centre? That *Tribune* has long asked for statistics of the milk thrown away for whatever reasons in the last six months? That the President would do well to issue instructions that the information be collected immediately of the quantity of milk thrown away at all milk collecting centres in the island? That this should include also the quantity of milk "rejected" by officers in charge of Milk Collecting Centres and the reasons for such "rejections"? That the fact is that if "kappa.g" is paid even bad milk is accepted, but if it is not paid good milk is rejected (to be thrown away for the producers can do nothing else)?

Out Shortly

HAVANA TO KABUL

A Sri Lanka Non-aligned View

By

S. P. AMARASINGAM

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"FAMILY PLANNING ABOVE PARTY POLITICS"

UNP View

"I am one who believes that there are many, many problems in this country which need not form part of party politics. **Certainly, one of the most important and one of the most urgent is that of population policy.** All other development work that we can do for the nation will be set to nought unless we deal with the population".

Hon. Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali M. P.
Minister of Trade and Shipping.

SLFP View

"On the question of over-population and its control, the policies of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party and the United National party are similar. As responsible political parties, we are both dedicated to the continuation of a coherent and well integrated programme, and we consider it essential as well as important".

Hon. Mr. Anura Bandaranaike
Second M. P. for Nuwara Eliya - Maskeliya.

TULF View

"I wish to express on behalf of my Party our whole hearted support for any programme the Government meaningfully takes to control the growth of population in this country".

Hon. Mr. M. Sivasithamparam M.P.
for Nallur.

(The above extracts are taken from speeches made at the Seminar on "Population and Development" organized by the Ministry of Plan Implementation and held at Family Health Bureau Auditorium, No. 231, De Saram Place, Colombo 10, on **March 13, 1980**).

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