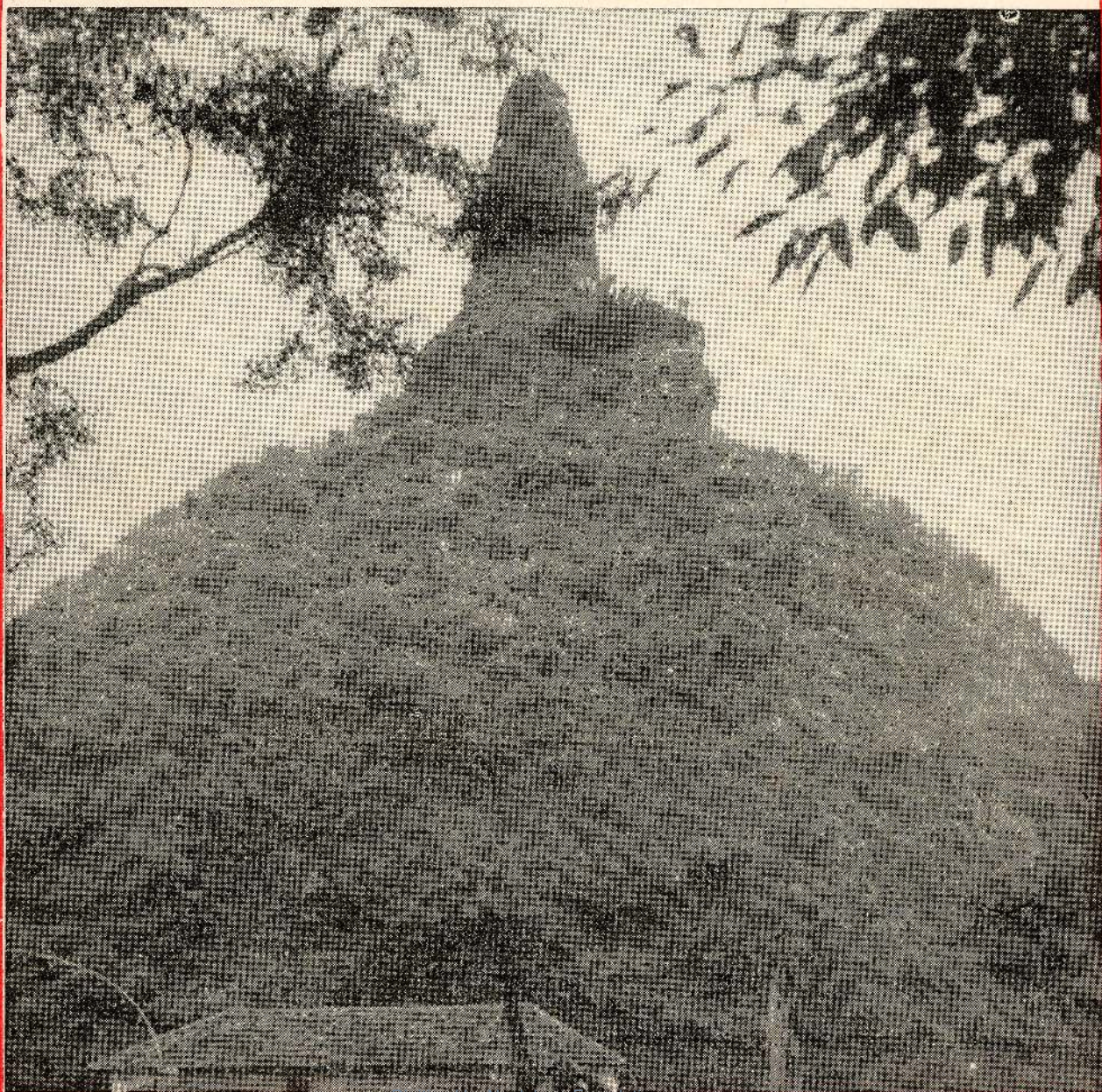


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Letter From The Editor

MR. HOPPER, a Vice President of the World Bank in the island this week, is hailed by advocates of free enterprise as a good friend of Sri Lanka, whilst those who still want a socialist future for this island regard him as the devil incarnate. There is no doubt that Mr. Hopper believes that developing countries like Sri Lanka can effect a breakthrough out of economic stagnation only by Western-style capitalism in the manner adumbrated by World Bank and IMF experts. The UNP having failed to make any headway with its capitalist-leaning "mixed economy" policies between 1947-1956 and 1965-1970 under leadership of the Senanayakes embarked on a full-blooded free-enterprise IMF copyrighted export-oriented policies from July 1977 under the leadership of J. R. Jayewardene. The success stories of Singapore, Taiwan and South Korea were held out as models for Sri Lanka to follow. At that time, Tribune, had characterised this IBRD-IMF experiment to make Sri Lanka a Singapore-type model for the Third World "a gamble". After three years, the experiment continues to be a gamble with many more question marks than before. Much of the original boastful rhetoric and high-falutin' euphoria have disappeared. This has been replaced with mournful tales about global inflation, world recession, OPEC intransigence and the like. Additionally reference is also made to dissidence and non-co-operation among sections of the population in Sri Lanka itself. But, most of the problems that have come up now could easily have been anticipated and suitable precautions taken before rushing headlong into economic experiments of doubtful validity. Today the inevitable chopping, chipping, patching, tinkering and changing the hasty and hastily and impulsively drawn up plans by half-baked IMF experts (who do not know Third World countries or really care about them) has begun in real earnest. The same Hoppertype experts who inaugurated the new era standing in the mud in Wap Maguls have now turned round and told Sri Lanka that its economy was "overheated" (who caused the "overheating" but the IMF ?) and that she should cry halt to ambitious programmes and settle down to modest development programmes and to concentrate on the problem of repaying the debts so far incurred. Unmistakable signs of the erupting trouble surfaced at the Aid Lanka Consortium meeting in Paris on July 1. The Sun published a report from Arthur Hettigoda in London under the headline **RONNIE ANGERED AT CONSORTIUM DEMANDS** : "Sri Lanka's Finance Minister Mr. Ronnie de Mel exploded in anger at the scale of cuts being pressed on him at the recent Paris meeting of the aid to Sri Lanka consortium, says the London **"Financial Times** in a special article on Sri Lanka's economy in today's issue by David Housego their Asia correspondent.....". We will revert to Housego's revealing report about the Paris Consortium meetings in forthcoming issues, but for the moment we are interested in the talk that Hopper who is in the island this week has come to soothe the nerves of the Finance Minister and to make Sri Lanka continue to see sense in the IMF way.

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COVER

Cultural Triangle

ON MONDAY August 25 President J. R. Jayewardene, Prime Minister R. Premadasa and UNESCO's Director General Anandon Mahtar M'Bon inaugurated the hundred million rupee international campaign for the restoration of monuments in the cultural triangle.

The Cultural Triangle—Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, and Kandy districts—project has been adopted by the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation—UNESCO—as one of its world cultural heritage projects. UNESCO has undertaken similar restoration programs in Egypt, India, Indonesia, Guatemala, Mauritania, Malta and Peru.

In a report in the *Ceylon Daily News* Dr. Roland Silva, Deputy Commissioner of Archaeology, who is in charge of the 'cultural triangle' work in the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, said that UNESCO would contribute up to 60 per cent of the estimated cost of the project. The balance 40 per cent would be provided by Sri Lanka. But due to inflation, the estimated cost of one hundred million rupees would be exceeded by a few million rupees. However, UNESCO had assured that it would honour its commitment to provide 60 per cent of the expenditure for the 'cultural triangle' project. The six monuments planned for restoration are the Jetavanarama Dagaba (400ft—the tallest stupa of the ancient world); the Abhayagiri Dagaba (the second tallest stupa in the same period); the Alahana Pirivena (an ancient university); the Sigiriya pleasure gardens of King Kashyapa; the Dambulla cave temple and the Dalada Maligawa.

UNESCO has already drawn up an international fund-raising campaign through its member countries under a phased out program which will include: (1) The selling of the six special stamps depicting the cultural monuments; (2) Distribution of picture post cards; (3) Arranging cultural exhibitions (UNESCO has collected 5 million dollars in Japan alone for the restoration of cultural objects in Egypt); (4) Screening of a colour film in world capitals on the cultural monuments; and (5) Inviting

foreign universities and governments to associate themselves with the restoration project jointly with one of the universities in Sri Lanka.

Dr. Silva explained that the local fund-raising will take the following patterns: (a) Selling of picture post cards; (b) Donations from Members of Parliament and Ministers, Deputy Ministers and District Ministers; (c) Selling entrance tickets to cultural monuments to foreign tourists at 10 dollars each; (d) Donations from private sector trusts. Besides UNESCO, the United Nations Development Program has agreed to establish a laboratory to train personnel for chemical restoration and maintenance work. This laboratory will cost the UNDP 300,000 dollars.

The restoration work of the first project in the cultural triangle was inaugurated by President J. R. Jayewardene on Duruthu Poya Day, January 1, this year at Anuradhapura. Immediately after the laying of the "nidahan vastu", Prime Minister R. Premadasa inaugurated the local fund-raising project at Anuradhapura. Japan which donated five million rupees worth of equipment for the Jetavanarama Dabaga restoration project, has agreed to make a further donation of three million rupees worth of equipment that could be used for the restoration work on the other monuments as well.

ON THE COVER we have a picture of one of the biggest stupas in Anuradhapura. We are not interested in the minor controversies as to which is Jetavana and which is Abhayagiri because what is important is the restoration in the best possible way of the entire complex in Anuradhapura and all other similar complexes in the Triangle. In their heyday, the buildings and other structures were part of the living world—and after the UNESCO programme is completed many "sites" will continue as "restored ruins" and will be maintained as such in the interest of history and archaeology. Only a few of the buildings, like temples, may come into use. But, in any case, the UNESCO-restored Cultural Triangle, in Sri Lanka will become one of the biggest attractions in the region not merely for the tourist, but also for the student of history and archaeology.

* * *

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

DDC Bill

August 23,

After fifty years of negative boycott politics (which had successfully isolated and alienated the Ceylon Tamil Community in a blind alley separatist romanticism), the leadership of the Ceylon Tamils at last took a positive step in the right direction by deciding to support the District Development Council Bill. From the time of the 1930 boycott of the first State Council elections by the Tamil electorates under the impact of the emotional rhetoric of the Jaffna Youth Congress—they wanted total independence when the rest of the country was satisfied with a kind of glorified self-rule under British tutelage right up to August 17, 1980 (when the General Council of the TULF by 82 votes to 15 decided to back the DDC Bill) the Ceylon Tamils have been treading a negative boycott path to the point of no-return. Even after the Ceylon Tamil politicians decided to enter the legislature, they continued to live in a futile chimaeric world of fifty-fifty, federalism, and last but not least Eelam. Whilst chasing their illusions, they missed the bus many times by their inability to be negotiate on a pragmatic basis in the context of the realities of the day.

Chandrasenan, S. J. V. Chelvanayakam's son who led the opposition of the 15 at the TULF General Council meeting, at Vavuniya last week quite rightly pointed out that what Amirthalingam & Co were accepting today, was much less than what they could have got in 1957 under SWRD's Regional Councils (which the young Turks of the then FP—Federal Party—led by Amirthalingam had rejected). But Chandrasenan was quite wrong in wanting the Tamils to miss the bus again with regard to the DDCs. The list of opportunities the Tamil leadership failed to grasp from 1957 to 1977 is a formidable one.

THE TAMIL LEADERS no doubt have good reasons to explain the negative policies they had followed—the lack of magnanimity on the part of the majority community and their determination to have more than the fair share of power on the strength of their members in a parliamentary system. There

is a great deal of truth in what the Tamils say, but they fail to realise that it is not in legalistic argumentation about principles, rights and wrongs that history is made but in the capacity to take history along in the direction one wants through compromises possible in any given context.

This is not the time or occasion to launch a post-mortem into the history of Sinhalese-Tamil relations in Sri Lanka in the twentieth century especially in the post-British period. It is a matter for congratulation however that between President Jayewardene and his Prime Minister Premadasa and the leader of the Opposition Amirthalingam and the TULF President Sivasithambaram they have been able to prepare a democratic framework on a district autonomy basis for the development of the country. This will help to defuse existing communal tensions and divert popular attention to urgent development work. In Marxist terminology an attempt is being made through economic development to bypass communalism. All attempts in the past to solve the communal tangle through a frontal attack had failed and such attempts had only helped to accentuate tensions and conflicts. All Parliamentary leaders who have thus helped to take the first step to national unity and communal amity must be congratulated.

The SLFP predictably opposed the Bill and without debating it made a statement with a view to reaching the Sinhala masses on an emotional level at the next General elections and then staged the customary walk-out whether the SLFP will be able to influence the Sinhala masses sufficiently to win the next elections (on proportional representation district-wise) is yet to be seen.

THE REAL CREDIT for the DDC solution to some of the grave problems of the day must go to President Jayewardene. He has succeeded where S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike and Dudley Senanayake on the one side and S. J. V. Chelvanayakam on the other had failed. The way he has handled the Sinhala-Tamil problem from the communal holocaust of August 1977 to the near-unanimous adoption of the DDC Bill with the support of the Bud-

dhist Sangha on the one hand and the overwhelming majority of the TULF on the other is a story worthy of careful research and detailed exposition. The political style of J. R. Jayewardene must evoke admiration from all students of history and political science.

To the credit of the TULF leader Amirthalingam it must be said that he has risen to heights of mature action many had not expected of him. He had a difficult task. He had a millstone hanging round his neck in the form of the Eelam and the rhetoric that went with it. For a long time his hands were bound by the stupidities of a terrorist gang that claimed to be the military wing of Eelam. But Amirthalingam has succeeded in spite of these handicaps to persuade the majority of the General Council to support the DDC Bill although it is not the most perfect of legislative bills and which does not resolve the Tamil question in the way the FP and later the TULF had wanted as a precondition for any co-operation between the two communities.

Like the SLFP the Tamil Congress (TC) led by Ponrambalam Jr. has rejected the DDC bill. He probably hopes to win over the anti-DDC dissidents among the TULF supporters for the TC. Whether the TC can capitalise on the fact that the TULF has accepted the DDCs and become a significant force in the North is difficult to say. Time alone will show.

At the time of writing the comments of the Left Parties are not yet available. They have not yet got over the trauma of the devastating defeat they have suffered on their attempt to organise a General Strike. They will no doubt lick their wounds and bide their time to fight another day. It will be a pity if the Left Parties are so engrossed in the sectarian inter-party hostilities that they fail to see the positive aspects of the DDC Bill.

One fact will no doubt worry the Left, the SLFP and other opposition groups. If the DDCs will bring the UNP and TULF together, it will have a major impact on the next general elections with the system of district-wise proportional representation. If the partnership between the UNP and TULF which has brought the DDC Bill on to the Statute should persist until the next election the parliamentary supremacy of the UNP will be difficult

to shake. And this will not be so much on what the UNP has done but more because the Opposition is in such total disarray.

No party in the entire spectrum of Left and Opposition Parties has so far put forward a workable, viable and attractive alternative. Mere economic hardship and inflation will not bring the defeat of the UNP unless one party or a coalition of parties emerges in a way as to be accepted as an alternative Party. The SLFP is the only party that could have provided the alternative leadership but as matters stand today the SLFP has a long way to go to recover lost ground and offer a serious challenge to the UNP.



THE FOOD WEAPON

And American Power

London, August 22.

A Reuter message from Washington a few days ago had stated, "President Carter has promised to take a look at the grain embargo imposed against the Soviet Union for its intervention in Afghanistan and left open the possibility he may drop it, Senator George McGovern said..... 'President Carter gave me an assurance he would take another look at the embargo.....he did not give me a promise to drop the embargo. He did say he was monitoring it closely, leaving open the possibility, he would drop it if he sees fit', Senator McGovern said in a television interview show.

"Farm leaders say the embargo, which cut off sale of 17 million tonnes of grain last January 4 and has become an issue in the November 4 presidential and congressional elections, is hurting American farmers much more than the Soviet Union. They say farmers are losing money because government aid does not fully meet the cost of growing the embargoed grain, while the Russians have been able to make up at least some of the shortage with supplies from other countries. The Liberal Senator McGovern, the 1972 Democratic Presidential candidate and a leading supporter of Senator Edward Kennedy, in

this year's Democratic race, said he told Mr. Carter he would campaign much more for him if there was no embargo. Senator McGovern said he remained convinced the embargo was 'a disaster' for farmers, as well as for US shippers who would have carried the grain to the Soviet Union."

Though there has been a great deal of pressure from farmers, the US Congress has so far supported Carter by keeping intact the embargo on grain sales to the Soviet Union above the previously stipulated limit of 6.8 million tons a year much to the detriment of the farming community and even contrary to the recommendations of the Department of Agriculture. *Observers have pointed out that the US does not hesitate to use food for political objectives. It even breaks contracts to supply food grains as a political threat or lever.*

Although US Intelligence reports have been at pains to say that the embargo has cost the Soviet Union about one billion dollars because they had to pay a higher price for grain which the USA had contracted to sell. How far this assessment is correct is hard to say but observers in UK were surprised that the Soviet economy was able to withstand the US embargo. It is also said that it has begun to dawn on Americans, not excluding Carter and Brzezinski, that the embargo has failed to have any political impact on the Soviet Union. In spite of this the Carter Administration has not yet lifted the embargo on food exports.

IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED therefore that the Carter-Brzezinski combine mainly want to impress Third World countries that the food weapon would be used by the US to teach a lesson to any country that tread on Washington's increasingly sensitive toes. This is no doubt a serious threat to Asian and African countries which depend largely on American food exports. Reference is often made to the way the food weapon was used in Bangladesh. In 1974 due to crop failures caused by natural disasters, Bangladesh was compelled to buy grain from the US at high prices. But Bangladesh unfortunately committed the unpardonable sin of selling jute to Cuba. No sooner this happened, the US pressed for payments due on earlier food purchases. Bangladesh could not make payments on the due dates.

And shipments promised under agreements were not sent. This led to the Bangladesh famine which quickly led to civil disturbances and nationwide unrest. Mujib was overthrown and a government more favourable to the US and West came to power in Dacca.

The food weapon is a powerful and terrible one. Eighty percent of the world's food exports now comes from just two countries—the United States and Canada. With 25 countries facing food shortages at the end of 1979, it is little wonder that many developing countries view this fact with as much apprehension as the West looks on OPEC. President Carter's embargo on grains sales to the Soviet Union also shows that the United States is prepared to use food for political ends, further driving home the comparison with OPEC, which tried to withhold oil from supporters of Israel during the 1973 Yom Kippur war. Some are even talking of a "food cartel" following the decision of Western allies to support the embargo.

William Robbins writing from Chicago in an article in the *New York Times* on January 14, 1980—shortly after the ban had been placed—had stated that the grain ban would be costlier than said for the US. "The costs in tax dollars of the US decision to use its grain weapon in retaliation against the Soviet Union for its actions in Afghanistan are likely to be substantially higher than any figures that have come out of Washington so far, according to a number of non-government agricultural economists who have been assessing its potential impact." *The Third World should read this writing on the wall and make the growing of food to make themselves self-sufficient the task of the topmost priority.*

In spite of pressures from the Carter Administration "Canada has announced that it is dropping out of the boycott of wheat sales to the Soviet Union. Senator Hazen Argue Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board said Canada's short-lived Conservative Government had made 'a big blunder' by going along with a US wheat boycott in protest over the intervention in Afghanistan.". Argentine has not only continued to sell freely to the Soviet Union but has also refused to submit to US pressure to limit its sales so that US embargo may have some impact on the Soviet Union.

All Carter's so-called fool-proof methods to teach the USSR a lesson have flopped badly. First the boycott of the Olympics Games was partially successful in keeping 50 countries of the 130 out but this did not make the Olympics Committee cancel the games or the USSR withdraw its troops from Afghanistan. Second, the grain embargo has boomeranged badly affecting the US economy and may cost Carter his presidency. Many who know the American scene say that Carter will postpone the lifting of the embargo until his Elections' Brain Trust decide that the time was most appropriate to help him win the Election. Carter may also spring a surprise by securing the release of the hostages in Teheran a week or a fortnight before the elections. If this happens it will give Carter a landslide victory.

ANOTHER MATTER that has become a major talking point here in London is the bloody communal riots that have broken out in India and when the trouble in the North Eastern States had begun to subside and a negotiated settlement had come into sight, the Hindu-Muslim riots broke out all over North India and they, like the Assam troubles appear to be a pre-planned attempt to destabilise the Indira Gandhi Government. Was she being punished and being taught a lesson for following an independent foreign policy line in regard to Afghanistan, Kampuchea and many other matters? There is no doubt, an unmistakable pattern behind this orgy of violence. There is no clear evidence regarding the elements responsible, or what, if any, is the foreign involvement in it?

Reports from India revealed that government and opposition leaders had levelled charges against each other in Parliament for the rioting which had left many hundreds killed. It is unbelievable that a few pigs and a few pieces of pork near mosques had started these violent outbursts. These happenings have made political circles in the British capital turn once more to the perceptive disclosures in the ZED Press publication entitled *Bangladesh: The Unfinished Revolution* by Lawrence Lifschultz. A long and detailed review of this book had appeared in the *Tribune*.

In this book, it will be recalled, particularly on pages 99, 104-7, 143-147, among others,

was discussed the nature, scope and extent of American Power that had brought about the downfall of Mujibur Rahman in Bangladesh. The shadowy American Power in this destabilisation exercise, according to Lifschultz (page 113), consisted of officials of the "U.S. State Department, Central Intelligence Agency, Defence Department, Agency for International Development, Office of Public Safety, National Security Council and other agencies with tangential connections.....".

Lifschultz describing the fall of Mujibur said: "Within three hours Mujib and more than forty members of his family were dead.... Intelligence Activities had the American people riveted to their televisions and newspapers, as the Committee slowly pulled the wraps off the covert empire of American power. It was the summer when Americans first heard acronyms like MONGOOSE, COINTELPRO, AM/LASH and elaborate details of assassination plots against Lumumba in the Congo, Castro in Cuba and Aude in Chile. The covert hand of American power had touched far and wide. Now for the first time the tip of the iceberg was emerging for Americans to take a look at. But all that was happening far away in Washington, in a muggy heat as sultry as any South Asian monsoon..... Other more neutral, observers during that summer of 1975 could not have imagined a more absurd moment for the United States to have covertly involved itself in the overthrow of a regime such as Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's in Bangladesh. It was the summer the world was watching Senator Church's hearings unfold on the details of American involvement in the assassination of various foreign leaders..... Thus, that August nearly the entire foreign press corps in New Delhi, including the present writers, instinctively rejected the notion of any American link with the fall of Mujib, as simply specious propaganda from Indira Gandhi and the Moscow-oriented Communist Parties of India and Bangladesh. These conclusions

Next Week

THE POST-MORTEM ON THE
STRIKE AND EMERGENCY

TRIBUNE, August 30, 1980

made in the summer of 1975 must now be completely re-examined. According to new information obtained from interviews with senior US officials present at the American Embassy in Dacca and from well-informed Bengali sources, it appears, that not only did the United States have prior knowledge of the coup which killed Mujib, but that American Embassy personnel had held discussions with individuals involved in the plot to overthrow Mujib more than six months prior to his death. These discussions were held with the purpose of determining the attitude of the US government towards a political change in Bangladesh if a coup d'etat were actually to happen. On the basis of investigate work which has spanned two years and over two hundred interviews we are prepared to outline in detail the story behind the men who killed Mujib. It is an intricate and complex story. We wish to state from the outset, that, although we have unearthed new and fundamentally important information, without the power of legislative subpoena, a full and exhaustive investigation of the affair is impossible."

This book must be read to understand the meaning of the word destabilisation.

IT IS ALSO REMEMBERED that in 1977 elections in India rumours were spread by American sources that the CIA had given large sums of money to the Indian National Congress under Indira and this rumour was repeated in a book published by the former US Ambassador to India, Senator D. Moynihan (Democrat, N.Y.). Though subsequently the rumours were officially repudiated as "absolutely groundless and malicious", the damage was done. But to save his own face Moynihan went on repeating the lie even to the former Indian Foreign Minister Vajpayee during the latter's visit to Washington in the spring of 1979.

American Power operated through the CIA and other Agencies is well known, it was used in Iran in the 1953 coup against the legitimate government of Dr. Mossedegh. Facts about the 1953 intervention are now part of recorded history, and today after the exit of the Shah the invisible American power admittedly incites conflicts and confrontations between various groups there as well as rebellions against the regime. It is seeking to destabilize the country threatening to launch an armed intervention and seeking to compromise Aya-

tollah Khomeini and to distort the goals and motive of the Iranian revolution. Thus an attempt is being made to create conditions conducive to the overthrow of the present Iranian regime, including the use of the American military might.

This is exactly what is happening in India today—the violent communal riots and secessionist eruptions are being fomented to soften India for a counter-revolutionary coup against the Indira Gandhi regime.

The situation is no different in Afghanistan. According to a report in the *New York Times*, National Security Council chairman Brzezinski leads an *ad hoc* Committee to co-ordinate all the activities of recruitment, training and infiltration into Afghanistan with counter-revolutionary and mercenary groups. According to the Washington magazine *Counterspy* these operations had been launched long before the Afghan government had asked Soviet troops to come to its aid. The *Counterspy* has asserted that subversive and secret American operations in Afghanistan had begun (to destroy the April 1978 revolution) long before the Soviet intervention.

What is funny is that the current American operations in Iran, Afghanistan and now India are smokescreened behind big talk about the need to protect Islam from a communist offensive (Indira Gandhi now being the devil incarnate of communism). Whether the Muslim states will accept the USA as a defender of Islam is doubtful, in view of the decades of US-Muslim hostility stemming from the creation and strengthening of Israel as a watchdog over the Arab and Muslim World. Today, Israel's action in annexing the whole of Jerusalem and the military occupation of South Lebanon has angered the Muslim States even more.

According to the US Magazine *Current Action* the new collaboration between US and China has brought a new direction in the attacks on Vietnam through Kampuchea (from 1975), the unrest in North East India and among the secessionist rebel states in Burma. American power, it will be seen, has now begun to assume a new aggressiveness not only in India, Iran, Afghanistan and Indo-China but also in the Middle-East, Africa, Central and South America and also the Pacific

and Indian Ocean areas. There is a Carter doctrine to intervene in any region on the specious ground that it was an area vital for US security e.g., the Persian Gulf, Middle East, Africa, Central America etc. etc.—the entire world in fact. Carter has also now evolved a new Nuclear Strategy which gives the US the right to nuclear power in pre-emptive strikes.

And as a prelude to a war to wipe out communism for all time, the Thatcher government in collaboration with the Carter Administration has launched a major propaganda war with the latest electronic and technological devices against the Soviet Union after triggering a strike situation in eastern Poland through dissident elements.

How close is the world from a real nuclear war? Capitalism is desperate. Recession, depression and economic doom today confront nearly all the richest capitalist countries. Is war the only way out? Who can tell?

—Tribune Correspondent

—X—

—X—

POEMS

Lonesome

Home they brought his master dead,
All laid out in a box
With satin lining, lace and frills
And brass upon its locks.

The people, they came and thronged the house,
Only white and black did they wear,
Some placed wreaths, others looked on,
While some sobbed and wept in despair.

They took the corpse in a big black car,
Down to the graveyard square,
And while music played a mournful tune,
To'was laid to rest out there.

The flowers faded and people went,
And he was left alone,
With not a soul to call his name
Or even give him a bone.

Beside his master's grave he sat,
Now grown with weeds and flowers,
With woeful eyes and head on paws,
He spent his lonesome hours.

Will this mysterious thing called death
Come to him soon some day?
And like his master it had snatched
Take him too away?

Sita Selvadurai



The President, The Olympics And Peace

Having read with appreciation the letter from Sovetskaya Rossia, APN under the little "Farce" in the last issue of your weekly I am sending the above for publication in your next issue.

His Summer boycott was so chilly,
Carter quite forgot poor Billy,
As Envoy whom he could have sent
On that same mission Ali went.

But Billy Carter stole the show
When to the Games he did not go,
And brother Jimmy felt so proud
Of this Olympian 'neath a cloud.

He could have won a Gold for beer
Had he but crossed the peace barrier;
Yet Senate after much debate
Probes deeper into Billygate.

Whilst Jimmy with high moral tone
Builds bases in the Indian Zone,
Which Non-aligned to tensions ease
Have loud proclaimed a Zone of Peace.

Mervyn Casie Chetty



IRAN

With acknowledgements to the *Third World Quarterly* (Vol. 11, No. 3, July 1980) we publish below an extract from its editorial which deals with some current developments in Iran. The *Third World Quarterly* is one of the journals published by the Third World Foundation which has been registered as a charity in 1978 under the Law in England and Wales and has its headquarters in London. The Trust Deed provides that the Foundation will not accept, directly or otherwise any aid, grant or assistance from any Government or official agency. The objectives of the Foundation have been set out as: "To work for the intellectual, economic and social advancement of the people of the Third World through publications and research. To assist in the evolution of a fundamentally just and equitable relationship between the Third World and the developed countries. To create greater awareness of the problems of poverty, hunger and ignorance in the Third World.....The Trust Deed is made between the Bank of Credit and Commerce International of 39, Boulevard Royal, Luxembourg (Settlor) and the Trustees who exercise their powers in accordance with the provisions of the Trust Deed."

The Editor of the *Third World Quarterly*, is Altaf Gauhar. One of the new publications of the Foundation will be a monthly called SOUTH: THIRD WORLD FACTS, ANALYSIS, ARGUMENT—the Editor-in-chief is Altaf Gauhar and Denzil Pieris is the Editor.

.....All this is evidence of old habits. The danger is that old habits and responses may push the world over the brink as they very nearly did in April 1980. It would be instructive to trace some of the stages which led to the point of touching off a global conflagration..

THE REVOLUTION IN IRAN, 1979: The US failed to understand that the change in Iran was not a coup d'etat or a mere replacement of a regime by violent means. It

was a revolt of the people against an oppressive and tyrannical system. America found itself aligned with the Shah and a terrifying line-up of exploitation against the people of Iran. US initial response was to consolidate the Shah's position and when that proved difficult, to put in his place a government of its choice with the support of the Iranian army. It was only when the people smashed the state apparatus that the Americans began to realise that the situation might be more complicated than they had wanted to believe. The blame was then put on the intelligence agencies which had not provided adequate and reliable information. Information about what? Events in Iran were largely of America's own making. The only choice left was to think in terms of the past and to put back the clock to August 1953, when the Shah returned from exile to reoccupy the Peacock Throne with the help of the CIA.

THE SHAH IN NEW YORK: The 'Company' went to work. Dissidents in Iran were strengthened by infiltrators. A large number of Iranians working in the US and in other European countries returned to Iran pretending to be disgusted with the ways of the West and yearning to make a contribution to the establishment of an Islamic order. They were to spearhead the revolt against Ayatollah Khomeini. The Shah in the meantime had reached Mexico after his sojourn in Egypt, Morocco and the Bahamas. Shahpur Bakhtiar, the last Prime Minister under the Shah, having disappeared after his government was toppled, suddenly surfaced in Paris, and even put in a brief appearance at the Hyde Park speakers' corner in London. Various Iranian groups were conspiring in European luxury hotels with financiers to stir up trouble in the outlying regions of Iran. The time was set for the Shah to come to New York (on the pretext of treatment for terminal cancer.) This was the signal to the opponents of the Iranian revolution to strike. 1953 style CIA-sponsored street agitations, accompanied by large-scale disorders in Iran were organised. But the mercenaries were soon discovered. In retaliation the Iranians occupied the US embassy in Tehran and held some fifty Americans as prisoners on 4 November 1979.

THE AMERICAN PRISONERS: Western politicians talk of the dishonourable Iranian

behaviour in holding diplomats as prisoners. They point out the gross violation of international laws and conventions on the subject. What is conveniently ignored is that international laws and conventions in Iran were not violated for the first time on 4 November 1979. The history of the violation of international laws and treaties and other recognized norms of international behaviour goes back much further. The conventions which govern the treatment of diplomats are no more sacred than the conventions which require states to abide by the principle of non-interference in the international affairs of other nations. The West cannot, nor can the Soviet Union for that matter pretend, that they have never interfered in the internal affairs of Iran. Indeed, they have been directly running the affairs of Iran. It is the Iranians who have been trying unsuccessfully for the last 100 years to 'interfere' in their own affairs. Only this time they appear to have succeeded. Whatever independence Iran (and Afghanistan) enjoyed before World War II was due entirely to their ability to survive within the context of Anglo-Russian rivalry. After the war all effective control over Iran passed to the Americans. Immediately the Americans proceeded to take hold of Iran's economy and in less than ten years they had acquired complete control over Iran's oil and other resources—and had assumed direct charge of Iran's revenues and assets abroad. Diplomats and American military advisers were induced into Iran and in 1961 the Shah's government agreed to treat the personnel of the American Technical Assistance Mission 'as part of the diplomatic mission of the United States of America in Iran for purposes of enjoying the privileges and immunities accorded to that Diplomatic Mission.' The Americans asked the Shah to adopt a particular interpretation of the Vienna Convention which had the effect of allowing an American refrigerator repairman or apprentice mechanic in Iran to enjoy 'the immunity that Iran's ambassador enjoyed abroad' (Roy Parvaz Motehadah, 'Iran's Foreign Devils', *Foreign Policy* No. 38, April 1980). A member of the Iranian Senate exclaimed in desperation at the time, 'eighteen times I have underlined the word reciprocal, reciprocal, reciprocal. But if I go to someone's house as a guest, does it mean that I have to receive 200 guests on the return visit?' Before the

revolution in Iran there were 85,000 Americans, many of whom had special passports and several thousands enjoyed diplomatic immunity. Few leaders in the West bother to recall these facts of history. We all know how few of these privileged Americans were engaged in legitimate diplomatic work, and how many were conducting covert intelligence and espionage operations. The hostage issue was converted into an issue of national honour by the US administration in an election year. The media followed suit and charged it with great passion and immediacy. Soon it became a matter of life and death for the American people. (*The International Herald Tribune* (Paris) reported on 24-25 May 1980 that the hostage issue had waned as the White House had taken 'a number of steps to deflect public attention from the hostages after several months of emphasising the situation at every opportunity,'—a media switch-off). Caught in its own propaganda and swept by public opinion the administration had to provide some evidence of action.

TABAS DISASTER: That action occurred in Tabas. The full facts of what happened there will not be known for some time. At present it does not suit either the Soviet Union or the US to talk about them. But no one believes the story of 'technical failure'. General Maxwell Taylor (*International Herald Tribune*, Paris 15 May 1980) who was Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during the Kennedy and Johnson Administration wrote: 'I find it extremely hard to understand confidence in any plan so fragile that the loss of one or two helicopters would be certain to cause it to fail. It is equally difficult to understand embarking on an enterprise of such world consequences with such a thin margin of safety.' The text of President Carter's televised address (the only authoritative document available so far) to his nation on the aborted attempt to rescue the American hostages (25 April 1980) contains some revealing sentences: (a) "Equipment failure in the rescue helicopter made it necessary to end the mission." (Was a single helicopter designed as 'The rescue helicopter?') (b) "There was no fighting. There was no combat." (But there may have been a threat of fighting or a direct hit; (c) "No knowledge of this operation by any Iranian officials or authorities was evident to us until several hours after all Americans were with-

drawn from Iran.' (The knowledge may have been there but it may not have been 'evident to the Americans. Did the Russians have any knowledge?;) (d) The purpose of the operation was "to position our rescue team for a later withdrawal of American hostages." (Emphasis added. How much later? If the purpose was first to position the rescue team and at a later stage to mount the withdrawal operation 'the equipment failure in the rescue helicopter' could not result in a stampede).

Was the plan something much bigger? We know that President Carter's options 'included air strikes to protect raiders' (*International Herald Tribune*, Paris 2 May 1980). Did Brezhnev pick up the hot line and warn Carter? At the height of the Suez crisis the Soviet Premier called the Prime Minister of Britain and gave an ultimatum that if Anglo-French forces were not immediately withdrawn London and Paris would be bombed. (Leonard Mosley, *Dulles: A Biography*, London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1978, p. 425). The Iranians say they knew nothing about the plan. President Bani Sadr is on record (statement broadcast by Tehran Radio, 26th April 1980): "One reason why the operation had not been detected was that Iran had been made dependent on the US in many respects; the radar system had been installed by the US, which therefore knew and was able to exploit gaps in the system." Did Colonel Charles Beckwith, the army commander of the ground forces of the mission suddenly lose his nerve? Was it all because of equipment failure in one helicopter? That could at best explain why dead bodies of comrades were abandoned, but it does not explain why the four helicopters with detonator devices were left squatting in the desert. A bus load of peasants and a car full of fleeing smugglers could not have persuaded President Carter to abort the mission. When Colonel Beckwith was asked why he did not destroy the helicopters he said, "that was not his responsibility. (*International Herald Tribune*, Paris, 3-4, M.y 1980). If Colonel Beckwith "sat there and cried" he could have occupied himself more profitably by removing classified material from the helicopters even if it was not his responsibility to press the detonation switch. The conclusion is inescapable that the Russians were monitoring the invasion (as were the Israelis on their own admission) and they allowed it to develop

up to Tabas and then brought it to an end. It was not American technology or equipment that failed in Tabas; it was the last throw of the dice. Had the mission reached Tehran mankind would have been pushed over the precipice. The world has much cause to be grateful for the "hot line". There are some important lessons in this.....

DHARMISTA SOCIETY

Peter Pillai Award

by R. Kahawita

WE ARE IN SEARCH of a clear concept of what a "Dharmista Society" should be. Though we often say we are committed to a just society; this does not cover the entire gamut of a just or Dharmista society we are in search of. We suppose Dharmista is a derivative of "Dharma" which means, "Right Behaviour" to the Hindu and "Law" to the Buddhist. The root of the word is Sanskrit and it means, "A Decree or A Custom." This does not lead us any where.

We are in search of a more than a simple dictionary definition of a "Dharmist Society". If it means a "Righteous Society"; that righteousness must permeate through all the social and economic strata of that society. Each:— the rich, the poor, the lowly, the outcast, and the beggar, has a rightful place in that society. Thus as in law, they are equal and the same concept of equality must apply to them irrespective of race, cast, creed, social and economic status. We are not going to question whether this dogma is observed and practised by those who are committed to lead the way by precept, example or by deed. That is another realm of human activity.

We want to find a phrase that will cover all what is meant and intended to mean by a "Dharmista Society". According to our own convictions and conscience, the phrase "Do unto others what you wish them to do unto you"— fits into a form of society, where every one has a just and rightful place in that society. This is individualistic, and groups of individuals form a society. The "practice" must begin with the individual and should permeate through the individuals to the community. From

the community to other groups that form the organisations to manage the larger society of humans. This leads us to social justice.

THERE ARRIVED IN CEYLON, in the year 1934 a priest scholar—Rev. Fr. Peter Pillai who took upon himself the task of creating an awareness of “Social Justice” in the country. Social justice is not the preserve of any particular religion. It is the fundamental law, equivalent to what is meant by human rights, on which a human society can be built. The success depends on the individuals’ conscience and his convictions. For the christian, his attitude towards “his neighbour” is governed by—“Do unto others, what you would like others do unto you”. When the entire fabric of our thoughts, actions and relationship with the neighbour is torn down to the skeleton the final motivation for our acts or deeds can be assessed by this edict. This is social justice.

Fr. Peter Pillai inspired by his deep religious convictions, that our society should be built on Social Justice became the Crusader of social justice. He entered most vigorously into a campaign in the cause of Social justice to recognize the dignity of the human person, and in 1937, he started his campaign with the Publication of the “*Social Justice Review*” in English and “*Samaja Samaya*” in Sinhalese.

From thence onward he worked fearlessly and tirelessly towards the goal of a society based on Social Justice till his death in September 1964—Sixteen years ago. After his death, a few friends and admirers of Fr. Pillai established an Organisation named after him. “*Peter Pillai Social Institute*”. Its work—a—day expenses and its activities were financed by membership fees and contributions. Today the Institute has been incorporated and steps are being taken to have the Institute declared as an approved charity.

In the meantime the Institute has established a Foundation entitled “*Peter Pillai Award Foundation*”. The award will be made Annually, and the value of the award, as present funds permit, is Rs. 10,000/-. It is hoped to increase the amount and the number of annual awards as citizens of Lanka begin to recognize the cause for which the foundation has been established and implement that recognition by contributing towards the Foundation fund.

To qualify for the award, there are several

fields, within the concept of Social Justice, where any person, Institution, society or Association, by their work, activities, propaganda can merit consideration for the award annually.

Our inquiry at the commencement of this article is to establish what is meant by a Dharmista Society, which we hear repeated on every platform by those who promised to lead us that way. Once we know what it is we will be able to fall in line with their line of thinking and expand the areas of activity for the award. The award now covers activities towards the improvement of living conditions of the less privileged, working conditions in work places, equal treatment and opportunities in employment, services, education, Removal of social and economic inequalities—“The labourer is worthy of the hire” in obligation and in practice, a complete understanding of the aspirations of various communities and inter community communication on the principle of “Do unto others what you wish others do unto you.” These are some of the areas which are being considered that merit recognition for the award.

The first award year is 1980 and the first award will be made in September 1981 and there-after the award will be made annually.

The Trustees of the fund solicit assistance with information about organisations and individuals who are working for the betterment of man based on Social Justice.



THE EARTHWORM

The Farmer's Unpaid Handy Man

by Sir Albert Howard C.I.E.,

We publish this article with acknowledgements to the magazine *Organic Gardening*. What Sri Lankan agriculture needs most urgently is more earthworms and less pesticides and artificial fertilisers. *Tribune* will publish a number of articles on *Earthworm Tillage* in the coming weeks.

IN THE DELUGE of advice nowadays

showered upon the gardener and allotment holder by the radio, by the Ministries of this and that, and in a torrent of books and pamphlets there is one serious omission. Little or nothing is said about the unpaid labour force in the soil itself, without whose co-operation the grow-more-food campaign cannot possibly succeed. This labour force is largely invisible; it consists of animals and plants, many of which can only be seen under the microscope, but an exception among the animal population is the earthworm. Among the microscopic plants in the soil moulds and microbes are the most important. Unless this mixed population is kept in good fettle the produce of a garden is never fit to eat. But once the gardener looks after his unpaid workers, everything else follows; a satisfactory crop of good taste and quality and of high nutritive value will be a foregone conclusion; artificial manures will be unnecessary; the plants will protect themselves from insect, fungus and virus diseases; there will be no need for the fungicides and germicides now used as antidotes for soils poisoned by chemicals.

In the murder of our soils, now proceeding so merrily, perhaps the chief victim is the lowly earthworm, whose beneficent activities—so graphically described in 1882 by Charles Darwin in *The Formation of Vegetables Mould through the Action of Worms with Observation on Their Habits*—are now, alas, almost forgotten.

HOW CAN EARTHWORMS assist the gardener? In the first place they keep the soil fit for its population by providing a ventilating system in the shape of their tunnels. By this means the life of the soil obtains its supply of oxygen from the atmosphere and also expels its used up air. Moreover, these tunnels allow the surplus rainfall to drain away into the sub-soil. In the second place the earthworms condition the food materials needed by the roots of plants. This is accomplished by means of their casts which in a garden soil in good condition may exceed 25 tons to the acre in a single year. The casts are manufactured in the alimentary canal of the earthworm from dead vegetable matter and particles of soil. In this passage the food of the creatures is neutralized by constant additions of carbonate of lime from the three pairs of calciferous glands near the gizzard,

where it is finely ground prior to digestion.

The casts which are left contain everything the crop needs—nitrates, phosphates and potash in abundance and also in just the condition in which the plant can make use of them. Recent investigations in the United States show that the fresh casts of earthworms are five times richer in available nitrogen, seven times richer in available phosphates and eleven times richer in available potash than the upper six inches of soil. The earthworm is, therefore, the gardener's manure factory.

THE REACTION of the roots of a crop like the potato to a fresh worm cast is illuminating. A few years ago in South Lincolnshire, while investigating the root development of this crop, I observed that the fine roots of the potato plant in passing downwards into the subsoil always made full use of the tunnels of the earthworm. In these galleries fresh worm casts are constantly being deposited. Whenever a fine root passed one of the deposits, it at once formed a web-like network of new roots which closely invested the cast and penetrated it in all directions. Then the root continued its downward passage into the subsoil. Obviously the potato was removing something from the casts, otherwise, this network of new roots would not have been developed. The recent work in the United States explains what it was the roots were seeking.

Feeding the crop is not the last service performed by earthworm. They are the ideal soil analysts and furnish the gardener with a report on the state of his land for more instructive than anything the soil scientist has so far provided.

All that is necessary is for the gardener himself to make a rough count of the earthworms in the top spit of soil and to observe their colour, general condition and above all their liveliness. If, in each spadeful during the autumn digging, one glistening red active lob-worm occurs, about the thickness of a man's little finger, then all is well with the soil and the quality of next season's crop is assured.

There will be no need for plant nutrients of any kind: no anxiety need be felt about pests. But if the worms are few, coiled up in balls; or pale in colour and sluggish in their

movements, then the next crop will be poor and trouble with pests will be inevitable. In this country our old and experienced gardeners pay great attention to the earthworms and often base their manuring largely on the indications they furnish. In the cases of the Sahara the tribesmen also make great use of the earthworm as a soil analyst. They judge the value of land by the number of worm casts appearing on the surface.

In return for what the earthworms do for the gardener all that is needed is to supply these animals with the right kind of food and to avoid the use of unnatural nourishment. Earthworms thrive on farm-yard manure, or better still on freshly made compost manufactured from vegetable and animal wastes. On a diet of artificial manures and poison sprays they either perish outright or abandon the garden to its fate.

In the planning of the future we must all see to it that the extermination of the earthworm ceases and that these creatures get a square deal. If we fail in this duty to the soil from which we all spring, Mother will hit back and after a series of warnings will finally wipe us out of existence. We must at all costs avoid being weighed in Nature's balance and found wanting.



ODD MAN OUT—3

WNPS & The Elephant Secretariat

by Lorls

This is the third part of a detailed (tape-recorded) report of the proceedings of the last Annual General Meeting of the Wild Life and Nature Protection Society of Sri Lanka. We welcome comments and observations from other readers especially those who may have a contrary point of view.
—Editor

Prof. C: (Hilary Cruz) I would like to say a few words.....to cool down tempers....

T.H.: Nobody is hot here.....I'm feeling pleasant here, for a change.

Prof. C.: The Deputy Governor of the Central Bank boasted that this was the second time he had come for an annual general meeting... only twice he had come, and then I told him that there was one better than he here, and that's myself. I have come for this annual general meeting for the first time. The reason for that is very simple.....not that I think that the annual general meeting of the society is a very important.....is not an important event; I for a long time thought the society was going on very nicely, doing a lot of good work, and so on.....until I found that what they were.....and the attitudes they were taking, and the ideas that the scientific and other bodies, conservation bodies in the world, the ideas they were studying, other new ideas about the society were now being revised, and we have now an example of the latest attitudes taken from the WWF, where you find people like Sir Peter Scott and the late Sir Charles Lindberg, both of whom I knew very personally.....I wish to say this; I come from the University in Peradeniya. I am the head of the Department of Zoology there.....I try to keep my activities confined to the scientific aspects of conservation, and I think that Mr. Thillo Hoffmann will be the last to say that I have not given my support, and so on.....to the Society. I have written well about the Society for a long time in the newspapers but think the time has come when we must revise our attitudes in regard to the Society.....we cannot go on like this.....I remember.....the Society many many years ago my old Professor of Zoology used to say that the Society was a hangover from the colonial days, where they used to shoot, and all the shooters are now suddenly turned conservationists, but I believe a genuine effort is made towards conservation, and I like the work of the Society. Then, the second thing was, they said it was a colonial hangover and it was ruled for a long time by the old colonial remnants, and I think we are now reaching the fag-end of our days.....I want merely to mention here that, before the World Wildlife Fund took this very important step that was mentioned, there was an inquiry that was held here, a representative was sent, and he interviewed, I believe, the

President of our Society and various other people and he even came up to me to Peradeniya to discuss various matters about this, and I put into his hands documents which I promise you Ladies and Gentlemen, will be made public one day. But before that I think His Excellency the President of the Republic will have a full report on these matters. These refer to certain matters where, you find, that the attitude is taken that our Society is the last word in this country on nature conservation.....the last word. We can't bring anything against it, it will be thoroughly disputed, and the attitude will be taken that we are the last word. Now, I have only to quote what Louis the XIV said: "Le.....The State.....that is me!"....."The Society that is me!".... We have come to the stage when the Society has to stand up and think hard about not letting the generality of opinion of members rest in one person..... Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to refer to four matters where I am concerned, the University community is concerned, first of all, when the Smithsonian project came here in the late sixties.....the Smithsonian affair.....

Voice: There was opposition.

Prof: I am going to document the opposition... later on, when an effort was made by the university to take people in the universities and in the Wildlife Department, mind you, men like wardens and others, to collect their data and write papers themselves.... I helped them, and some of their papers were published in journals, efforts were made to pooh-pooh the work done by them, and mind you, I personally went through the work for accuracy—and so, pooh-pooh the idea and to show that the Society had discovered it many many years ago, before this man on the spot had discovered it by long series of re-researches and data. I had to show that that man.....that these persons were....on the spot....had done it many many years ago, and proved it documentarily. These will be out very soon, and I hope to present the report to the Society some time. Then, the Elephant Secretariat affair....when the elephant secretariat was mooted, it was put to the Wildlife Department, it was put to the... Zoology Department at the university, and it was discussed....it did not come sur-

reptitiously, it was not a thing that was discussed surreptitiously, and we are now on the verge of getting it passed...you see, elephant maximus was the name that...gave to the elephant...the Ceylon elephant.... the name that was first given...it behoves us to have the secretariat here. And efforts are made to stop that...you see, everything that is of value is...efforts are made to block it, and it comes from here, from us,—this is a thing that must be resisted at all costs. And lastly, the Wildlife Conservation Department affair...there is a cry...you can see...the Wildlife Conservation Department is a government department...is not co-operating...not co-operating...not co-operating....you can see the song written in every, almost every annual report of yours...but I can see the reason for non-co-operation if it is there...we can see by the attitude that we take in regard to the department...it is a two-way process, this co-operation. It's true, the department lacks funds, it is not well staffed, we are trying our best to make it scientifically solid, but as long as it is weak and non-scientific, and not scientifically solid, it will be a prey to Societies like ours. I do not like the attitude of the Society, and the people who run it, to say that some members want it...that was used...some members want it. All right, if some members want it, we will discuss it and we will take a vote and we will see whether other members would not also like to follow suit...because a good idea usually comes from some members, or one member, not from all the members, so that the advice that some members have to give are valuable things, we must not discard them. Lastly, bad English...the Deputy Governor of the Central Bank stressed this question of *legislature* and *legislation*—and the reply was given...oh, its bad english, so its okay. For God's sake, if you're writing a report in English, you write in good English; it may not be good English, write it in clear English because it is a legal document. You can go to Courts over that report....a report of that nature, so every word counts, the way sentences are formed counts, and so we must stick to the language and what it means. Otherwise, write it in Sinhalese or Tamil...that's all I have to say.

T.H.: Thank you very much, Professor Cruz. . . I would like to say only one thing. . . that is your complaint that members cannot contribute or criticise—that is absolutely not true. . . any member here present, any on our roll, and incidentally, Mr. de Silva, it is not 3000 but nearly 6000. . . any member is welcome to see us, to speak to us, to come to us, to write to us, to criticise any of our activities—we have said so many times, we have written it. . . and I am, for one thing, a very acceptable person—accessible person, sorry, and English—and any member who has anything to say or propose is most welcome to do so, and he will be given a most patient hearing. . . but my complaint, and that of my colleagues, is that far too few members do that. But they come to meetings like this, where they smell the scent of battle and blood in the air—that's when they come, not otherwise.

Sidney: . . . to make a few observations, I did not realise that on the same subject far more interesting things were going to be said by people more important than myself. I will now deal with just one aspect of what the chairman said. The chairman said that members do not participate, members do not contribute. . . so I am a member; my membership number, my interest in wildlife, I don't think anything would question. Now, I did not get this document, the agenda, or notice of the meeting, nothing. . . fortunately Mr. Edwards phoned me about some other matter and informed me about the meeting today. In the meantime, I read in the *Observer* of 19th May, "WNPS Objects to Asian Jumbo Secretariat"; so I read it and wondered, why on earth. . . I couldn't understand, then I read a mysterious reference that these had been promoted by a foreign wildlife expert. I now find that the same, the substance. . . is in our report; with one difference: "these were promoted by representatives of the World Wildlife Fund". Now reading the *Observer*, reading our report, there is so much beneath the surface. . . that I personally do not think the Committee of this Society should have rejected an offer of that type without reference to the general membership. . . its a serious-enough matter. . . and subsequently I made some enquiries. Apparently there was an offer to set up this Secretariat,

to invest a very large sum of money in the pursuit of these objects, and it was worth examining, and the general membership who entrust administration to the Committee have a right to know big things like that before decisions are made and they are written off. . .

. . . I quite agree with. . . had I known that an offer of that type had been made and that the Committee was going to write it off, I would certainly have tried to intervene—not that I know much about these matters, but I know little enough to come and talk about them. And I sincerely believe that the Committee has only a limited mandate. . .

. . . the Committee has no right whatever to take vast decisions of that nature, and to write off a thing like this. One of our main objections. . . I have the highest regard for Mr. Hoffman, as a man, I know he has had an interest in wildlife longer than lots of people here, but this has nothing to do with personalities. . . this is a matter of principle, and what the Society stands for. . . and the learned Professor who spoke last gave the answer to some of the comments in this paragraph which I am objecting to. I do not think it proper, in an official document of this type, to state that. . . "the secretive manner" and things like that, and also to say that a much better project. . . if there are better projects, and some secret. . . is going on about a project, the general membership is also interested in such things. . . so the Committee has a very limited function, I don't think it is a good thing for the Committee to feel that they are endowed with complete control of every activity which represents the views of this Society. So I feel, sir, I take strong objection to the decision made about the Asian Elephant Secretariat, and as an ordinary member I have no way of canvassing that except to say that I object. I would like very much that the matter be re-opened, and that we get to know if it was the World Wildlife Fund or some strange person from abroad.

. . . the *Observer* gave the picture of some foreign snoopers from abroad snooping around here, trying to destroy our elephants, like the chaps snooping around here trying to destroy the Maldivé Islands. . . you see, we have all sorts of foreigners coming here, and we have a right to. . . I do not know the

Constitution of this....I am told its a legal enactment. I do not know if there is any provision for us at a general meeting to undo the damage that has been unthinkingly done by the Committee in rejecting out of hand an offer of that type.

T.H. I'll think....and work out an answer...I can't give you the answer.

S: I was going to raise that question.....why on earth we are not told what the other projects are. There are better projects, they have been sponsored by the World Wildlife Fund, then tell us what they are. The World Wildlife Fund is a body which deserves our respect with which we wish to be associated. So as an ordinary member who has attended a series of meetings, has never wanted to be on the Committee, but is keenly interested in what goes on, I must say that I resent the Committee arrogating to itself the right to deal in this....way.

T.H.: Thank you Mr. Silva, we have....I am sorry, Mr. de Zoysa, we have noted your remarks and your comments. We will certainly discuss them, and you will be invited to be present when we do so.....

Member: Could we have the answer for the Elephant Secretariat, please?

T.H.: Er....what was that.....?

Member: What Mr. Ranil Senanayake asked...the second point.....



BUDDHIST STUDIES

Second International Conference At Nalanda

NALANDA, the ancient city famous for its great university, is today in ruins which are to be found in a village called Baragaon which literally means, the "Great Village". The Bihar Government has sought to resurrect the pristine glory of the university by carving out a new district named after Nalanda and setting up an institute for Pali and Buddhist studies at Baragaon. Fuji Guruji, a Buddhist monk from Japan, has meanwhile, made a significant

contribution to the resuscitation of the glory of Nalanda by his efforts in developing nearby Rajagriha, as a focal centre of Buddhist lore. Nalanda once again came into focus as the venue of the second conference of the International Congress of Buddhist Studies recently. Delegates and Buddhist scholars from 41 countries attended the conference and presented papers on significant aspects of Buddhist literature.

The papers presented were mostly of academic and scholastic interest. But there were a few which transcended the academic and scholastic jargon to penetrate into the heart of the Buddhist ethos. An instance was a paper by Isri Arshad on the *Jataka influence on Urdu Literature*. Mr. Arshad says that all essential features and characteristics of the teachings of the Buddha can be traced in the Urdu stories and folk tales. The stories of Munshi Prem Chand and Quratul Ain Hyder and scores of other writers bear testimony to this. The Arabian Night stories clearly show that the people of that time gathered inspiration from the Buddhist life, culture and writings.

in his paper *The Buddha, the Dhamma, and the Sangha As Refugees and Recollections*," Mr. George D. Bend says the Buddha, the Dhamma and Sangha constitute the central foci of the Theravada Buddhism: the founder his teachings about the absolute truth, and his disciples the company of saints. The paper examined and compared the "Three refugees" and the "Recollections" to discern the role or function of the Buddha, the Dhamma and the Sangha in the soteriological process in the Theravada Buddhism and the dialectic between faith and meditation, the essential dynamic of the Theravada tradition which results from these two religious contexts. Mr. Saenga Chandngarm, the Buddhist scholar from Thailand read a paper based on a manuscript titled, *The Buddha Toured the World*" written by a Thai monk 256 years ago. It was an effort by a local devotee who tried to consecrate all the Buddhist shrines in the region now called Thailand by connecting them with the personal visits of the Buddha himself.

Nibbana and Brahman was the subject matter of a paper by Mr. P. C. Chandrakaw

who stressed some basic similarities and differences in the concept of liberation between early Buddhism and Advaita vedanta. The vedantification of Buddhism, the paper says, is not warranted historically, though both these systems of thought have many basic ideas in common. Early Buddhism agrees with Vedanta as to the concept of the unreality of the world and certain descriptions about the state of liberation. But Nibbana is not the same as Brahman, and the fundamental standpoint that differentiates them lies in the fact that the former is never stated to be the ground or base of the phenomenal world, as in the case of the latter. Nibbana is simply the ultimate goal for which we are striving.

Another Buddhist scholar, Mr. P. H. L. Eggermont, in his paper shed new light on *Emperor Ashoka and the Tisyarakshita Legend*. Jean Przyluske was the first Buddhist scholar to have supposed that already in the Maurya period an Asoka cycle arose in Magadha. From it came various Asoka legends which spread over a large area and which diversified according to the various Buddhist countries. Eggermont confirmed this hypothesis by proving that the cycle must have had the character of a chronicle which related the events of the successive years of reign after the Emperor's anointment.

An interesting discourse by Mr. Marcia A Fontress sought to trace the interplay of history and archaeology in the *Rediscovery of the Four Sacred Sites of Buddhism; Lumbini-Kapilavastu, Buddha Gaya, Sanath and Kasia*. Until the mid-nineteenth century these sites were unknown to the world and sources and techniques essential to both archaeology and history were utilised in rediscovering them. Mr. Walker A. Frank in his paper described basic *Buddhism as the Ethics For The Modern Age*, which alone could fill up the vast spiritual emptiness, the lack of a common moral principle or of a generally acceptable world view. Mr. Balakrishna Govind Gokhale in an illuminating treatise on the *Sangha and Society* traced the process of socialisation of the Sangha and the interaction between the Sangha and the Society. That finally transformed the early Buddhist movement into religion.

Mr. R. P. Grombich, the delegate from Ceylon, presented a case study of *Sectarian Tendencies In Modern Sinhalese Buddhism*. Since the late 19th century a form of Buddhism has grown up in Sri Lanka which Professor G. Obeysekera has aptly called *Protestant Buddhism*. It began largely as a protest against British missionaries, but from the first was also heavily influenced by their Protestantism.

Mr. Y. Krishnan in his lecture traced the origin and development of the *Bodhisattva Doctrine* which according to him is one of the most controversial and confusing problems in Buddhism. He set out the different connotations of the term Bodhisattva in Buddhist literature and came to the conclusion that it has varied, inconsistent and even contradictory meanings, namely, a ordinary being, a Buddha or an enlightened being who forgoes his own Nirvana for the sake of humanity and a divine Bodhisattva. The paper traced the development of the divine bodhisattva to the compulsions which the Buddhist faced to find escape from the relentless and inexorable law of karma.

ANOTHER VERY INTERESTING PAPER presented by Mr. John K. Locke dwelt on *Newar Buddhism: Survival of late Indian Buddhism in a Hindu Society*. Nepal is the land of the birth of the Buddha and is often considered by outsiders to be a Buddhist country though in fact it is a Hindu country. Yet there is a sizeable Buddhist population in Nepal, and Hinduism and Buddhism have existed side by side there for centuries. Much research has been done on Tibetan Buddhism flourishing in Northern Nepal. However, surprisingly little research has been done on the Buddhism of the Newars, the original inhabitants of the Katmandu Valley where Buddhism has been flourishing for 2000 years in a Hindu society. It is the Newars who have preserved the Sanskrit tradition of Mahayana and Tantric Buddhism, and most of the research on the Sanskrit tradition of Mahayana Buddhism has been based on Sanskrit texts found in Nepal.

A study of Newar Buddhism is especially important for the light it sheds on the continued survival of Buddhism in a Hindu society. Little has survived from India that can give a clear understanding of the relationship of

the two great traditions to each other and their interaction. In Nepal the original situation of Buddhism in a Hindu society has survived and the interaction has been heightened by the dominance of the Hindu elite and the close confines of the society in which it has flourished. The present state of Buddhism in the Nepal Valley will be seen to be in many ways the logical conclusion of the process of development of Indian Buddhism and its interaction with the dominant Hindu community.

In his paper on *The neo-Buddhist movement in India: A critical perspective*, Mr. G. Pantawane said the most important aspect of Buddhism in India is the conversion movement that since 1956 has brought five million of the former untouchables into Buddhism. The oppressed have found in Buddhism a means of advancement, not through any political or economic gains but in psychological liberation. But it is astonishing that some people have questioned the authenticity of the Buddhism of the new converts.

Mr. Ismail Quiles, in his paper setting forth the *Characteristics of Buddhist Philosophy* said very frequently it has been repeated that Buddhism is not a philosophy, but a certain number of moral rules in order to reach the liberation of afflictions of the existence. In this way it is asserted that Buddha's teachings were only limited to the four noble truths and to the eightfold path. To this, it is also added the "Buddha's silence" about the "metaphysical questions" referring to the soul and the world, "silence" that has been imputed to him by an old tradition in Buddhist history.

In an illuminating article on the *Buddha: Human, Superhuman and Celestial*, Mr. N. H. Samatani dwelt on the personality of the Buddha as the central theme of the Buddhist texts. Hence the Buddha is the first jewel in the conception of the trinity of Buddhism, viz., Buddha, Dhamma and Sangha. In his paper on the *Concept of Freedom Buddhism and Existentialism*, Mr. R. C. Sinha streamlined the dominant existential trends in Buddhist thought. The existential orientation of Buddhist thought suggests the possibility of a

comparative study of existentialism and Buddhism. The search for human freedom is common to both Buddhism and Existentialism. It includes the structural analysis of human existence as well as the understanding of being as such. The treatment of the problem of freedom differs according to the ontological framework of each thinker.

Existentialism conceives of human freedom as freedom from inauthentic human existence. Buddhism, like existentialism believes that the meaning of human freedom lies in authentic existence. Buddha and Kierkegaard have affirmed paradoxically that in renouncing the world, man also returns to it. In his paper *An Analytical Study of Transcendence and Immanence Manifested In The Black Sect of the Tibetan Tantric Mysticism* Mr. Lin Yun Thomas said "the transcendental aspect of knowledge is a theory espoused and manifested by the black sect of the Tibetan tantric mysticism. It is a Buddhist concept which originated in India. In his paper *The One Important Cause And The Opening Of Human Wisdom* Mr. Shig Hiu Wan said the Buddha perceived the unreal characteristics of human existence as they are: impermanence, unsatisfactoriness, emptiness, not self.

In all 141 Buddhist scholars from all over the world read papers at the four-day conference.

—Courtesy: Madras Hindu



NGUVU—9

From Day To Day

by Bwana Rafiki

Deep sleep and then, awake Estate, Colombo? A strange room, a strange bed Ah! Matara, for that was where I was. My first task was to write the last page of an Nuguvu article, and this I did without getting up, seated on the bed, my feet on the ground, the papers on my lap, the window opened behind me. There was no hard board to rest the papers on, the sheets of paper on which I wrote. The man I had come to see, whom I was shortly to meet, was the man whom I had been

On my way to visit nine years before, on the occasion when I was knocked over by a bus just starting out for a place called Saliya, if I remembered the name correctly, in a remote place in Raja Ratta, at the Pettah Bus Stand. The treatment for the injury I sustained then was the cause of my learning to write with my left hand. I had come to see my friend about snake bites now, and we talked about cures, snakes and their bites.

My mind is a blank and I feel that what I write must bear some relation to the day about which I write. Getting up at eight straight from a sleep is a strange experience for me, and one that happened the two nights I spent last in Colombo. On both occasions I was wakened at six to have my tea and then went straight off to sleep again after drinking it, not to awaken at all until two hours had passed. Next, a visit to the Bank is rather prosaic but not a visit to Baillie Street which I never forget is where my grandfather had his firm. So there is an aura like that of awe about me whenever I visit Baillie Street and there is only one other attraction that takes me there. The two attractions together place me in heaven and there is more truth to this than most people would guess for it is as if heaven come down on earth at the function I attend.

Those who read the first NGUYU article will know the series' vital connection to Africa, and Africa it was yesterday. There were four of us and the hour long past dinner which none of us had had yet. Names like Beni, Bunia and Stanleyville cropped up, and Kivi, Uganda and Kenya. The conversation ranged as far as President Nixon and who might be the next American President. We spoke about Red Indians and Veddahs and our Kaffirs with whom I claimed a strong affinity. We described parts of Africa as unsettled and we mentioned the vastness of Zaire. We even referred to the Gall of Africa, which harks back, now I come to think of it, to the jungle calls of Buster Crabbe and Johny Weismuller on the screen. Nevertheless it exists. We spoke of the ancient cultures of Ethiopia and Egypt.

The result, a late dinner to the discom-

figure of the cook and her employer. With the best will in the world I can never get away early anywhere except to the Lionel Wendt. So it was that I arrived at the estates at 5 p.m. and to a birthday party. Don't come before 8 p.m. was what I was told, at 10.30 p.m. back in Colombo. The party had quietened by then and when we were leaving a girl insisted on walking home with me and then on taking a taxi, which fortunately turned out to be one of these tricycle affairs. Between all the money I had in my pocket and the money she had in her purse and a trip upstairs at her home to get more, we were able to pay the man. She told me about a car that had stopped and my name being hailed by a man who had then driven off.

Whoever it was must have been amused at me in this unusual company at that hour of the night. My friend had thought I had seen the car and noticed the man, but I was too busy hailing the trishaw for I think that is its name. Then it was back to the estate the next morning, late again as usual, and late again leaving the estate in the evening for an appointment at 5 p.m. There was much to do, including a deputation that came to see me just about the time I should have been leaving the estate. It was in the middle of a pick and it reminded me of a previous occasion when they had done just the same thing. This time I stood firm and asked them if it was their intention to cease work. They disclaimed any such thing but made some threats, not of violence, which left me cold. Late, but was I to keep my appointment before night fell? Impossible, but it happen!

That is what I call faith on my past and providence on someone else's. It was not nightfall but I was asked, Is it too dark to go out? In case others thought so, we got permission. We learnt a lot. I was asked by my partner if I would turn out in the morning. I had other plans which did not involve just myself alone, but I agreed and said I would telephone if the others thought they would not be able to get on without me, for it involved a trip to the estate by many members of the family. The appointment for the morning's activity was 7 a.m. which we both punct-

ually kept, and it was 9.10 a.m. before we were through with it. Somehow or other I got to the estate while the others were having lunch. Then we loaded two hundred-weights of tamarind and, back to Colombo to deliver it.



RAINMAKING

Marginal Clouds

by V. Buvanasundaram

PEOPLE IN COLOMBO, who water their home gardens without a hose, would have seen this July clouds pathetically passing by dropping only a single tear on a dying leaf. Those unkind clouds are marginal clouds and Dr. Mason, the undisputed authority on cloud physics, under whom our Prof. Osmund Jayaratne obtained his doctorate, has this to say of them in his book on Rainmaking.

"There may be a number of occasions in particular regions where natural nuclei are deficient and when the occurrence or the non-occurrence of precipitation is decided by very marginal conditions. Cloud seeding may bring considerable benefit to those regions where even a small increase in rainfall would be of great economic value."

These clouds of July had formed over the sea, where the only sources of condensation nuclei is the foam of breaking waves. They are usually about a few hundred per cubic centimetre and sometimes even as low as 2 per c.c. Winds strong enough to produce white caps on waves would produce 10 condensation nuclei per c.c. of size 0.2 microns (1 micron = 1/1000 mm). As the size of particles increases, the concentration decreases to even one per litre of giant nuclei. In hurricane winds, the concentration of giant nuclei can increase a hundred fold, while over a calm sea, it may even be absent. Surf produces a better concentration of condensation nuclei along the coast line.

To distinguish between ions, the smallest particle on which condensation or freezing can take place and small nuclei of diameter less than 2 microns, the latter have been called *Aitken Nuclei*, to perpetuate the memory

of John Aitken, who had done much work of great importance on nuclei both in the laboratory and in the open in Falkirk. It was he who discovered the two types of nuclei, the hygroscopic and non-hygroscopic and that, condensation takes place in the former at 25% undersaturation, while the latter requires at least 1% super-saturation for condensation. C. T. R. Wilson's famous experiment condensing watervapour at 700% super-saturation in a cloud chamber free of all particles including ions was later in 1897. Condensation particles besides ions are broadly divided into three groups according to their sizes. Aitken nuclei 0.005 to 0.2 microns, large nuclei 0.2 to 1 micron and giant nuclei, greater than 1 micron.

TALL CLOUDS of upper cyclonic circulations that pulled the monsoon and gave rains during the first week in June in Sri Lanka were not there in July.

The gravitational pull of planets on the atmosphere were there, shown as patches of cloud in satellite pictures, but they all rode the monsoon current into India to cause floods there. The last one for this month developed in our favourite breeding ground at 92E and Port Blair showed a southeasterly wind at 500mb (18,000ft), the gravity level of the atmosphere. The pull on the atmosphere was only up to 700mb (10,000ft). The combined gravitational pull of the major planets, Jupiter, Saturn and Mars had weakened when they moved apart and with the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (I.T.C.Z.) far away over north-west India, the conditions too were not suitable for development. A circular cloud patch was seen on a Friday but it had disappeared over the week-end.

Trade wind cumulus clouds were the ones that came riding the monsoon into our land. They form in an airstream that has a long sea track and have all the moisture they need but lack in condensation nuclei till they reach the coasts. Even then they may not have sufficient giant nuclei to form large drops and accelerate the coalescence mechanism of rain formation. Cumulus clouds that form over land, need the Sun for differential heating to release thermals that would rise and condense beyond the condensation level in the atmosphere. Cumulus clouds

that form over the sea, form by an entirely different process. There cannot be differential heating over a uniform sea. They do not need the Sun, it will only burn away their tops.

Before dawn, the sea is warm and the land cold. A cloud moving into land from the sea would lower its base and then precipitation is made easier. Some nights this July, some clouds had precipitated before dawn but most of them had passed away littering a few drops, here and there at dawn or in the morning after sunrise, when turbulence set in.

When the Sun is up, the tops are burnt away and they will not be able to precipitate even inland, where there are more nuclei than along the coast line. **These marginal clouds, if seeded at the base with giant salt nuclei would give showers to a parched southwest coast during the southwest monsoon and to the northeast coast, during the northeast monsoon.**

Three decades ago Gorgia Pasha crossed the Palk Strait to show us the Indian Rope Trick. Flocks gathered to watch the rope uncoil and stand erect for him to climb and disappear. Like a missionary showing his pocket watch to escape being boiled up for dinner by cannibals, he showed us his version of the Rope Trick but explained that it has been done in India by fakirs, who slept with the rope for many years. It needs similar years of watching to identify these marginal clouds and the results are as spectacular.
5.8.80

LETTERS

Rejoinders

The two letters are duly authenticated but appear under pseudonyms

Sir,

Ranjan Wijeratne

Reference your request for views about Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne's work record as Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, from readers of your esteemed Magazine vide your issue of 5.7.80.

2. I had a very brief meeting lasting about two hours with Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne in the Uva District, a couple of months before nominations to the general election of 1970 and this brief hour will always remain to me an inspiring moment in my life.

3. Not that Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne came to meet me or I went to meet him. The meeting was purely accidental. It happened this way.

4. One afternoon, Mr. Wijeratne had come down to see a friend of his (who is presently Secretary to the Ministry of Rural Development) who was my neighbour. But his friend had gone out and the doors were closed. I then invited Mr. Wijeratne to spend the time under my roof until his friend returned, to which proposal he readily agreed.

5. Knowing him to be a Planter, Manager of the Demodera group of about 7,000 acres of tea, I took the conversation along on subjects related to planting.

6. Three things struck me most—his profound knowledge of the subject, his passionate love of the country and his childlike simplicity.

7. Before I proceed further, just a word about his simplicity. As we were conversing, tea time approached and I was on tenterhooks as to what to serve him as we all in our house drank tea dust and how could we serve tea dust to the manager of the prestigious Demodara Group of tea estates which manufactured some of the best teas of the country? I asked the domestic aid to go and bring some soft drinks. Mr. Wijeratne sensed our plight and said, "no soft drinks, I will drink the tea you all have." When the cup was served to him, he drank to the last drop with evident relish. I asked him, "Sir, how can you relish this tea?" He said, "for a change, even the dust has its flavour". This gesture on his part, put me completely at ease in his presence and I was encouraged to ask more and more questions on tea from him.

8. He explained to me how the local purchasing agents for the tea buyers in United Kingdom rigged the tea auctions in Colombo to depress prices. He said that the local estate agencies, the tea buyers in UK and the owners of the tea estates were all one and the same

set of persons. The purchasing agencies here, who were mostly estate management agencies, formed into a ring at the tea auctions and deliberately depressed the prices with three fold advantage of avoidance of ad-valorem export duty, local income tax and circumvention of exchange control regulations about profit repatriation.

9. Naturally, he said, the depressed prices for tea fetched at the auctions would make the estates run at a loss and therefore the estate owners would have to import Sterling to pay their local staff and meet their other local expenses. But they got over this difficulty, he explained by monopolising the internal tea trade, "Liptons", "Brooke Bonds", "Tanganas" etc. where practically all tea estates had shares. They ran their estates on the wind-fall profits earned on local tea sales. The country's interests, he said were seriously harmed by this process.

10. Immediately after the 1970 elections, I passed this information direct to the Hon. Minister of Plantation Industry (I still retain the note personally signed by Mr. Doric de Sousa, the then Secretary to that Ministry, thanking me for this information).

11. Sometime after, there was a talk of government completely taking over the internal tea-trade. But latterly I think the idea was abandoned because the estate agencies who also managed the estates of the then political big-wigs brought pressure on government to abandon that proposal.

12. I said this to illustrate Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne's qualities of simplicity, profound knowledge of the subject and his passionate love of his country, because other persons in his position would have remained loyal to their foreign masters (estate owners) and not disclosed this vital information on which the government could have saved millions of Sterling for the country, if they had acted on this information promptly.

13. Now coming to Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne's work record as Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture, everyone would concede that Field Marshal Rommel was a genius but how could he have fared if he was called upon to lead an army of guerilla fighters? Rommel knew and understood only the Western type of open warfare with guns and tanks and not

the guerilla warfare. Similarly Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne's genius lies in estate management and cannot be applied to subsistence agriculture in this country, which is exclusively peasant-based, and completely different in character to estate management?

14. Therefore the best way to utilise the talent of Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne is to introduce the principle of estate management into food production and paddy production in particular.

15. Everyone will agree that government took a keen interest in paddy production from as far back as 1945, but even after 35 long years, paddy production had not exceeded 50% of our requirements. Surely it is high time we sat up and examined the reason why. There is no dearth of resources of land, water and manpower and inputs. What is lacking therefore is efficient management of the resources. Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne can fill this gap, if the government agrees to introduce the principle of estate management into food production also.

16. Now can the principle of estate management be introduced into food production? Production in the paddy fields under the command of a tank should be under the personal control of a manager who is answerable to the government for his performance. The land owners under each tank may supply the inputs, if they wish, on payment i. e. they can plough sow, reap, weed, spray and perform all other ancillary services incidental to paddy production on payment. The land owners will also serve on a committee to advise the manager and even oversee accounts of expenditure, yield etc. but they will not directly and personally be involved in actual production, which will be the personal responsibility of the manager, who will decide on matters like the time of ploughing, sowing, watering, weeding, manuring, variety of seed, crop to be grown on the land, before or after paddy cultivation and so on. The land owners will retain inviolate rights to their property but the actual production will be in the hands of the manager. The net proceeds remaining after deduction of expenses will be distributed among the land owners on a pro rata basis. Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne, as Chairman of the Agricultural Development Board will directly

oversee and guide those production managers when the very principle of estate management will be directly introduced into food production.

17. The Agrarian Services Law No. 58 of 1979, on which the government relies for increasing food production in this country is a dead letter in so far as actual production is concerned.

18. Let us therefore give this proposal a trial with Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne in charge of overall supervision of production in the entire country and watch the results. I had been attempting to promote this line of thought among responsible authorities in the country since 1970 without success.

19. Speaking from grass root level experience, I wish to say three things: (a) the existing resources of land, water and manpower are fully adequate to make us self-sufficient not only in all types of food and dairy products, but also in various other raw materials for agro-based industries such as cotton, cane, castor, sun-hemp, gingelly etc., provided of course we manage these resources efficiently: (b) What we produce today from the existing resources is only 10% of what could actually be produced by efficient management: The continued existence of democratic freedoms in this country will be determined by our success in achieving self-sufficiency in food within the next three years and not at all by factors like industrialisation, tourism, Middle East earnings, foreign investments and so on. This is certain.

20. Therefore let us all including the government decide to introduce the principles of estate management into food production and permit Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne to save the country from certain disaster.

PATRIOT

Vavuniya,
12.7.80

Plan Impementation

Sir,

In your June 7 issue *Outsider* in his article entitled "Public Service—New Blood is Essential", extols the work carried out by the Ministry of Plan Implementation and the Editor commends the "excellent work" of its Secretary, Dr. Wickrema Weerasooriya.

had read with great interest the earlier article on "Bureaucracy under Re-examination" which raised some fundamental issues that should make every politician in this country do some real soul searching, for apparently they have a large share to take for the present breakdown in the Public Service. *Outsider* has somehow left out all major issues and picked up only one aspect—that of new blood—there is of course the well known analogy in this regard that no amount of infusion of the best blood can do any good to a patient whose blood system has turned cancerous. I will therefore like *Outsider* deal with only that one aspect, and examine the performances of one such new blood.

The Ministry of Plan Implementation according to *Outsider* has the following functions: (a) Census and Statistics (b) Regional Development (c) Employment and Manpower (d) Food and Nutrition (e) International year of the Child Secretariat (f) Women's Bureau. Cast this miscellany of functions against the objectives and functions such as a Ministry should have and one option is open and that is to rename it as the Ministry of Minor Affairs. Perhaps, this sorry situation has arisen because in its wisdom the government has a Ministry of Plan Implementation without a plan to implement!

If we take the Fertilizer Secretariat first, the questions that could be asked *Outsider* are whether Fertilisers were not used, subsidised, formulated and distributed prior to the setting up of the Secretariat. A good indicator of the Secretariat's performance is the quantum of fertiliser usage, not Conferences Seminars and unproductive propaganda. The Central Bank in their report for 1979 makes the interesting comment that "total fertiliser issues to the Agricultural Sector declined by about 2%, while issues to Tea and Paddy declined by 9% and 37% respectively" *Outsider* also refers to and gives credit to the Ministry of Plan Implementation for the Eppawela fertiliser project. To keep the record straight this project was started under the DDC programme of the last government. It was laughed at, scoffed at, and the pioneering efforts of the officials involved were ridiculed. Today, *Outsider* very coolly puts it into the bag of the Ministry of Miscellaneous Affairs as an item for praise.

Outsider then goes on to talk about the IYC—Secretariat. Why was this sub-sub-sub-Sectoral Subject brought under this Ministry? Whose wisdom was it to entrust this project to an important Ministry which more appropriately could have been handled by just a group of dedicated housewives. Now a good part of the Ministry's resources and interest are wastefully diverted to subjects like the IYC. Further, when it comes to project formulation however they are entrusted to a new post-1977 Organisation known as the Resource and Development Corporation! Forty two (42) such projects were handled by RDC despite the Ministry's own planning cadre.

I wish *Outsider* would furnish us a breakdown of the Secretariat expenditure whether foreign or local funds. The breakdown should include salaries paid to staff, cost of Seminars and Numbers, cost and number of trips undertaken abroad, cost of equipment, number of vehicles, local travelling and subsistence, overtime, publicity, documents and photography, and what went tangibly to the children? I understand that 1½ lakhs of rupees were given in 1980 to the Police for purchasing musical equipment for entertaining children! The plight of the poor children has become an excuse for the entertainment of local and foreign's elites. Whoever the donor their funds could have been effectively channelled through existing Institutions. But a new Organisation means another source for propaganda regardless of the impact. Is that an objective of this Ministry?

Outsider speaks of the Nutrition Planning. Does not this function come under the purview of the Health Education Programme? Must it come under Plan Implementation? Is it the only Organisation that can organise radio jingles, provide lectures on Malnutrition, write articles to papers, and organise farms! It is worth wasting personnel on functions that can be done by existing organisations that merely need strengthening with staff and funds. But a new Organisation means more publicity for the Ministry and it has worked judging from the praise of *Outsider* and the Editor of *Tribune*.

Nutrition, Children and Women's Affairs (Bureau) are components of the same larger national issue—the standard of living. An

improvement of the latter will concomitantly resolve the problems of the family unit. In whose wisdom was the poverty problems of the Aged, the Young, the Adolescent, the middle aged, the child, the women, the man, separated and some bureaus and Secretariats already formed with International funding. For *Outsider* it is good performance, but for the writer it is a waste of time and funds, and above all a mere detraction from the objective of a Ministry of Plan Implementation.

The Nutrition Division has started lectures for those suffering from Malnutrition I would like to ask *Outsider* whether an Ambulance Service will also be started to bring the children to and back from lectures. I am sure a foreign organisation would readily grant a loan for a project of this nature! Sometimes I wonder whether we in Sri Lanka have really gone off our tops, or is it that we do not have much in our tops despite all our academic achievements. Yet another of the "excellent jobs" referred to by *Outsider* is the Women's Bureau. How many trips abroad have the people in the Bureau been awarded. What about the 50,000 rupee Seminar at Ranmuthu Hotel, the papadam making projects, the Seminars, and publicity document. Has it made even a dent on Women's problems, which are actually in the kitchen today?

Outsider then goes on to refer to the integrated Development projects. Basically, what are they other than Consultants, Building, roads, equipment so much so that there is a special Director in the Ministry today to handle tenders. I would give up any post if I were to command the opening of over 1000 million rupees! The site alone for a multi-storeyed building at Kurunegala is Rs. 7 million. But, although almost Rs. 98 million has been already spent under these projects in 1979, hardly anything has been received as reimbursement.

Yes, I hope I will live to see *Outsider* and *Tribune* handing a bouquet to the Ministry of Plan Implementation when the good work will be completed in 1983, and a crown for those who gave up their jobs abroad for "not" so lucrative positions in their motherland. The blessings of the Triple Gem is surely

theirs for the altruism, patriotism, and concern for their suffering bretheren.

EX - INSIDER

Colombo,
7.7.80

+ + +

DO WE HEAR

The Death Knell Of English?

Asks Inthumathy Rajalingam

One "great white god" (see *Observer Roundabout Contact* 22/6/80) is Consultant to the Higher Education Ministry. Another, a great white goddess (see *Observer News Story* 29/6/80) is in Sri Lanka, offering English expertise.

It is a cultural belief that the White Man or White Woman does not tell lies. Harvey Smith and.....have not come to Sri Lanka to tell lies. They have publicly and fearlessly told the Truth. The sad truth is that *English Language Teaching in Sri Lanka has failed*. Everybody knows that. So did the "egg" head, English Language Don, Doric de Souza, when he nodded his "egghead" in agreement with "the great white god" (see *Observer* 22/6/80). It would embarrass Doric de Souza to ask him, why he couldn't put things right, when he was a Somebody in the former regime? There is no point in waiting for his reply, as it won't undo the wrongs done since 1946 and more flagrantly since 1956.

Many have said the same thing before, Andrew Scott, Carol Aloysius, A. G. G. Perera, John B. Kumarakulasingham, Esme Leanage, Kamala Silva and the Editor of the *Tribune* have rightly sulked at the way the teaching of English was being messed up.

If the Teaching of English has failed, who is responsible for this failure. My file of news clippings bring out two scathing ones. "Folly of the English Unit" (*Sun*, October 79) and "English" in the *Observer* of March 5. In both the charge was that the culprit is the English Unit and that the English Unit must go. The wrong doers, the bunglers, the Mediocritics, who have hitherto messed up the teaching of English in Sri Lanka must go. But the

tragedy in transition is that the personnel in the infamous English Unit remains. The mess up goes on.

English language teaching must not be the State monopoly that it is. We need expertise. Our experts are no experts. They are the culprits. If we can import *French* connection expertise (see *Tribune* June 28, 1980), Bombay Onions, Mysore Dhal, Australian Butter, Japanese Hondas, Chinese acupuncture and even Korean 'flu, why in Dharmista's name, cannot we import *English*-knowing (no) experts. Many are willing to resurrect English. And in Sri Lanka, there are dedicated teachers of English, who tried out Crash Programmed Projects. On 7.7.77, Batticaloa's Sinhala Maha Vidyalaya, initiated an "Attacking the Verbs" Project and it is known talk, in Batticaloa, that the School's project was a remarkable success. Of 4 students who sat GCE (OL) English paper, 3 got Credits and 1 a Distinction. The *Ceylon Daily Mirror* (15.5.78) had this juicy 4 column news caption "Nissanka Manifests Interest in Sinhala MV's English Project". Whatever Minister Nissanka Wijeyeratne might have felt his subordinate D. E., A. M. Majeed, felt otherwise, and a conspiracy was reportedly hatched as the Minister's personal interest, would retain the Project Teacher, and another Old time would have to go. Out went the Project Teacher and a Good Project was smothered. Education Department minions can do a lot of damage to the masses in the nation. Rethinking has to be done. The two experts in Sri Lanka must invite experienced teachers and lovers of English. Such men wouldn't play the tune the English Unit of Mediocritics want played. You can't resuscitate English.

Men like D. G. Ben Danagalla, Navagamuwa, and ladies Rev. Sister Anthonry, and Kusuma "Nangi" Nanayakkara (all of Yatiyantota Sinhala MV), who had their successful strategy in 1972 and clinched 90% English Passes (see *Sun* 8.2.72) Andrew Scott, and a lot of others would be willing to offer their services. "But not with the English Unit" one teacher told the writer.

University Campus, English Refresher Courses, must be speedy and meaningful. You cannot learn any language, if you don't know the verb. Once you know the King Pins of

language—Verbs, vocabulary accumulation is individual efforts. Vocabulary study is not, and need should not be a classroom exercise. The Dictionary reference exercise at homes, is the way out.

Would one of our more dedicated lovers of English, start a "Save English Forum"? Somebody should.

Vincent's Girl's High School,
Batticaloa.

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FILM FOCUS

Peter Sellers

So the 'Bell' has tolled again for one of the finest character comedians of the Silver screen in Peter Sellers, who won himself a special niche in the hearts of all picture-goers, both young and old. When his heart failed him recently, he had completed one of the last roles of his career as the unassuming Chauncey in a Kasinski novel, filed under the title 'Being There' and it was the author's opinion that the brilliant and exacting performance by Sellers, left the character he had in mind, a trifle behind! Sri Lankan fans had always remained constant in their admiration and loyalty to Sellers, since his rollicking role as an Indian student, who found himself all at sea in "The Party".

A revival of this film at the Savoy cinema a few years later rocked the box office no little, giving it a perennial touch. Sporting a dead pan expression and an accent that was the repertoire of comedians like Buster Keaton of the silent era and Groucho Marx of a later period, Sellers delivered his humorous histrionics devastatingly as he tip-toed or rather strode like a Colossus into his characterisations, to severely "gale" an exhausted audience with hysterical laughter. He struck an appalling "base" as Inspector Clausean in the Pink Panther series of films, tipping his quarry, by messing up the clues, and yet turning trumps rather awkwardly.

His heart trouble was not of recent origin as he had walked up the aisle no less than four times, having had in reserve a permanent

soft corner for actress Sophia Loren, with whom he teamed up for a doctor-patient relationship in "The Millionaire". A workaholic by nature on the sets, he toiled hard for the millions he piled up at the expense of a clinically tiring heart, which claimed him at its second massive attempt. This columnist dips his quill in sorrow at the eclipse of a great and unique actor who will be long remembered.

NANGURAM (Anchor)—Tamil: I had always felt that if locally produced Tamil films are to thrive to maturity in Sri Lanka, it would need the assistance of artistes from Tamil Nadu. There is a latent and local talent awaiting a triggering off and it was consoling to note that both South Indian and Sinhalese film stars had come together to give a lifting hand, as in "Nanguram". This excellent film has been Director-Produced by Timothy Weeraratna, who deserves praise for venturing into a field that had proved a risk at the box office in the past.

This Indo-Sri Lanka production styled well as in "Pilot Premnath" has been very warmly received in Indian cinemas but rather lukewarmly in our country, which is to be deplored. A contributory factor may be that it is projected simultaneously, to hold its own with a more expensive importation like "Neeya" as a result of which the sweat, toll and money of a local producer is bound to go by default. In fact, this film, now running at the Eros, Wellawatte has to contend with the spill over from "Neeya" at the Sapphire cinema closely, although strictly on merit, it should be a reverse process. The local, Tamil picture-goer is largely to blame for this for sticking to his prejudices and getting his priorities in disorder.

To get back to the film proper, which steps out of the escapist groove referred to by me in last week's Tribune, to nurse progressively the story of a righteous and retired pedagogue (Raghavan) who strives hard to draw his family members to the tenets he taught once and lived by, but without making much headway. His eldest daughter (Laxmi) remains the embodiment and sheet anchor of his principles, while the others stray, to their eternal regret. Actress Farina Lye who graduated recently from local brief appearances

August 14-20

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

as a cabaret dancer to Oscar status (remember Thangamani in "Sarungale"), runs neck and neck with India's accomplished actress Laxmi—watch her glamour in a Kandyan outfit—for acting honours. Actor Muthuraman gives a polished performance while Vijay Kumartunga as one who lives by the precepts of the Enlightened One excels. Comedian Surulirajan is seldom off the mark, while the photogenic Jeannita Samaraweera shines in eye catching costumes. This is essentially a family film, brimming with lessons for our growing generation, who scoff too early at values that had stood the test of time, with repentance stalking them rather late in the day. Sit this film out with the whole family.

I DONT WANT TO BE BORN (English):

A chiller with shades of Exorcist I, that will keep you biting your nails, as Satan reveals its maled first murderously, through the prattle of a new born babe, yet confined to the cot. Pretty actress Joan Collins and actor Ralph Bates who are showing a penchant for horror lined films, are the tormented parents of the infant, who is possessed by a stage "dwarf", claiming to be the evil one. The brutal killings follow quite closely on the heels of each other, that you would wish for a breather between each murder.

There is a sex tinged story stringing the film, and cabaret items keep your eyes popping! Rather late in the story moves in a Catholic Nun who has the prayer and the panacea, together with a crucifix, to free the child from its devilish pomps by which time of course the worst has taken its tragic toll. The titles to the film are slipped between the birth pangs of the mother (Joan Collins), on whom a curse descends most astoundingly. This film is a shocker and if your nerves are insulated adequately, then go and see it, and its impact will not desert your mind in a hurry. It is strictly for adults thankfully!

THE WILD GEESE (English): I am still trying to get in, but the Liberty is packed for every show and I have a phobia for crowds. Stand by for the review shortly.

JAMES N. BENEDICT

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TRIBUNE, August 30, 1980

CDN—Ceylon Daily News; CDM—Ceylon Daily Mirror; CO—Ceylon Observer; ST—Sunday Time; SO—Sunday Observer; DM—Dinamina; LD—Lankadipa; VK—Virakesari; ATH—Aththa; SM—Silumina; SLDP—Sri Lanka-dipa; JD—Janadina; SU—Sun; DV—Davasa; DP—Dinapathi; CM—Chinthamani; WK—Weekend; RR—Riviresa; DK—Dinakara; EN—Eelanadu; IDPR—Information Dept. Press Release.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14: An eight-man trade delegation from Sri Lanka leaves for India today to make a two-week study of pepper and cardomom cultivation and trading practices in that country; Trade Ministry sources said that the visit was to prepare the ground for the formation of two companies, with major private sector participation, for the cultivation and export of cardamoms and pepper which now enjoy a booming international market. The "World Market" in Colombo's Duke Street is the hotbed of the gift parcels racket, a customs spokesman said yesterday. L. W. Panditha General Secretary, Ceylon Trade Union Federation surrendered to the Crime Detective Bureau yesterday and was being interrogated in connection with the incidents of last Friday police said—CDN. Eight persons died of alcohol poisoning and 13 persons were reported in a critical condition after consuming arrack purchased from a liquor bar at Moratuwa over the week-end. Police were yesterday probing the possibility of international connections in the killing of Canadian millionaire Charles Tissoreau alias Charles White who was found gagged bound and dead in bed in his residence at Castle Street, Borella—CDM. The armed forces which have been descaling their security operations, may soon be taken off the streets. The eighth Commonwealth Education Ministers' Conference ended in Colombo yesterday with no resolution of the issue of Britain's raising of tuition fees for

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overseas students which was the dominating issue at the meeting—*SU*. The procedure for payment of bonus to employees of State Corporations and Government Departments is to be revised; bonus to those who did not attend work regularly will be computed proportionately according to the leave taken by them—*DP*. The Building Materials Corporation has imported 3,500 metric tons of cement costing about Rs. 5 million without calling for tenders. The Labour Department has predicted that job vacancies in the Middle East will diminish by the end of next year—*DK*. The Committee of Secretaries have proposed that Corporations and Boards must give bonus only to those who attend to their work regularly—*DM*.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 15: The Insurance Corporation of Ceylon will pay damages to those who suffered losses caused by Opposition trade unions during last Friday's violent demonstrations, Hemasiri Rodrigo Chairman, Insurance Corporation, said yesterday. The state of Emergency imposed throughout the country on July 16 ends at midnight today. Mr. Alavi Moulana General Secretary, Sri Lanka Independent Trade Union Federation, Mr. Vasudeva Nanayakkara, Leader of the new LSSP and 11 other trade union leaders were yesterday remanded till August 28, by the Colombo Fort Magistrate, Mr. K. Sarath Gunatilleke—*CDN*. The Mirihara Police yesterday took into custody a man believed to be a manufacturer and supplier of methylated spirits to be used in the adulteration of arrack to a number of bars and taverns in the city—*CDM*. The death toll in the Moratuwa arrack poisoning case rose to 10 yesterday as government experts analysed samples from eight victims and established the cause of death as "methyl alcohol poisoning." Sri Lanka industries and services, slowly picking up pace after the recent power shortages, face more crippling power cuts unless the rains come soon over the hydro-power reservoir areas—*SU*. A proposal that the emphasis of the current housing program be shifted from direct construction by state agencies to promotion and assistance of individual and institutional house building activity is now under active government consideration—*CO*. The World Bank is said to have refused to give loans to the

Electricity Board to develop hydro-electricity schemes as the Electricity Board continues to run at a loss. Number of proposed hydro-electricity schemes may have to be stopped because of this. The World Bank after requests from the government has appointed a local Accounts firm to investigate corruptions, and wastage in the Electricity Board—*ATH*.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16: As the poison-liquor death toll rose to ten yesterday the Moratuwa Police arrested seven persons in connection with the alleged incidents of arrack poisoning. Ambassador, I. Ben Fonseka, Sri Lanka's Permanent Representative to the United Nations office in Geneva has been appointed Sri Lanka's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York with effect from September 15. The Euro Asian group of companies' subsidiary firm Euro-Asian Financial Management (EAFM) will soon tie up with a local collaborator in a 20 million dollar annual turnover export project under which grass will be pelletised and exported to Holland and other European countries—*CDN*. The annual Kandy Esala Perahera, the most significant and elaborate pageant in Sri Lanka begins today with the first Kumbal Perahera—*CDM*. President J. R. Jayewardene said yesterday that if leaders of political parties and trade unions put too much strain on the democratic system, it then might not be able to survive. Government has negotiated a soft loan of 10 million US dollars—about 100 million rupees from the Asian Development Bank to finance construction of roads in the accelerated Mahaweli project. Parliamentary Groups of the Government and the Opposition are studying provisions of the Development Councils Bill which will be debated in Parliament on August 21—*SU*. The General Body meeting of the TULF which is scheduled to be held at Vavuniya today is expected to be a stormy one as it will discuss the DDC Bill—*DP*. The JIUAC has decided to carry on with their campaign against the government until those who have been sacked after the recent strikes are taken back; Opposition political parties have expressed their support for any steps taken by JIUAC in this direction—*ATH*. Investigations may be conducted to obtain certain information regarding the contracts worth millions of rupees given to certain

private sector companies under the Mahaweli Development project. The government has to face a massive loss because corruption by contractors and certain officials of the Mahaweli who are running a joint organised racket—DK. Over one lakh of strikers who lost their jobs have warned that they will have to take another step forward if the Jayewardene government continues to refuse to discuss the problem with the trade unions—JD.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 17: Delicate negotiations are now on to ensure that Sri Lanka does not take a kidney punch from the build up of wheat flour stocks following the February increase in flour prices. Deputy Minister of Finance and Chairman of the National Security Council Mr. T. B. Werapitiya has ordered that the police and armed services continue maximum vigilance, particularly against acts of sabotage, although the State of Emergency is over—SO. The suspects in the "Poisoned Arrack Case" are to be charged for murder; ten victims died in the past five days and 21 others are still in hospital after they consumed arrack purchased at a bar at Moratuwa—ST. Government has decided in principle to help families whose breadwinners have vacated their posts after defying the Government's ban on strikes last month; this decision came on the initiative of President J. R. Jayewardene, informed sources said. A group of around 25 placard carrying youth staged demonstration outside the Vavuniya Town Hall as the General Council of the Tamil United Liberation Front—the Party's policy making body—met behind closed doors last morning to study the provisions of the proposed Development Councils Bill—WK. The TULF has decided that the District Development Councils Bill is in order, since it will pave the way for development of the Tamil areas, it will not oppose it when it comes up for debate in parliament—VK. Police is conducting investigations to get information on an organised racket where newly born babies are sold from hospitals itself. An Indian firm is to set up a cycle manufacturing factory in the FTZ; this factory will manufacture 1 lakh of bicycles per annum—SLDP. An International medical college will be set up in Sri Lanka at a cost of Rs. 800 million and the university will study ancient medical system in Asia and

other regions and develop such medical systems "Medicine of Holland will finance the setting up of this Medical college—RR.

MONDAY, AUGUST 18: Sri Lanka's record of life expectancy, literacy and fertility (in relation to its low income level) is one of the best in the world, says the 1980 World Development report of the World Bank. Commissioner of Internal Trade M. Ramalingam yesterday ordered a probe into the non-availability of Lactogen, a baby milk food which is heavily subsidised by the government. The Vice-President of the World Bank Mr. David Hopper arrived here yesterday for discussions with the Ministry of Finance—CDN. Political circles in Colombo welcomed the TULF decision to support the DDC Bills as a "prophetic action"—VK. The Government has decided to give more power to GAs and AGAs to streamline development work and find solutions more speedily to problems of farmers—DV. Advisor to the Mahaweli Ministry Mr. Gamini Irriyagolle resigned from his post in protest to the setting up of a Mahaweli Economic Agency; this Agency will be in charge of all engineers and no other person or department will be able to check these accounts; this agency is being set up at a suggestion made by N. G. P. Panditharatne, Chairman of the UNP—DK.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 19: Any persons who are known to have engaged in demonstrations or acts of violence will not be entitled to any relief that is to be given to families of strikers the Ministry of Public Administration said yesterday. The Foreign Investment Advisory Committee will now permit foreign investors to hold the majority equity share in specific Sri Lanka joint venture projects established outside the Free Trade Zone, a Finance and Planning Ministry spokesman said yesterday—CDN. Several shop owners at Main Street Pettah, have sent a petition to President J. R. Jayewardene protesting against the proposal to make Main Street a non-motorable thoroughfare and constructing shops for hawkers. The President, Mr. J. R. Jayewardene has raised the age limit for recruitment to the public sector through the job banks to 40 years. Dr. Amadou Mahtar M'Bow Director-General of UNESCO who is visiting Sri Lanka for the formal Inau-

guration of the international campaign for the preservation and presentation of monuments in the "Cultural Triangle", will arrive at 10.30 a.m. today—CDM. State sector employees who forfeited their jobs by participating in the recent abortive general strike attempt will now be considered as having been compulsorily retired from service, Government decided yesterday—SU. The Ministries of Agricultural Research and Lands and Land Development will with the next Maha season undertake agricultural work in due time and also to regulate the water for paddy lands in a systematic manner by implementing a new scheme; under the scheme tank secretaries and anicut secretaries will be appointed for the 25000 tanks and anicuts in the country—VK. The Jayewardene government has lost its prestige in the international scene after the suppressive measures taken to penalise the strikers. Sri Lanka students held demonstrations in front of an Embassy in the UK and India in protest against declaring a state of emergency and newspaper censorship but it was not published as it was censored by the government—DK. A Board of Trustees will be appointed in each district for canal development according to Minister Gamini Dissanayake; this scheme will cost Rs. 25 million when implementation is completed—LD. Conservative estimates have revealed that last week mob violence organised by certain Opposition parties have destroyed property worth Rs. 6 million—DM.

private sector employees; to that fund every employer was compelled to credit three per cent of the employee's salary; failure to comply would be a punishable offence with a penalty of Rs. 1000 fine or a year's imprisonment or both—CDN. One hundred and eighteen answer scripts of the GCE Advanced Level Examination held in April this year were found at a leading bakery at Walala Manikhinna—CDM. In the event of a President vacating his office prior to the constitutional term, Parliament will elect a President almost in the same way it elects a Speaker according to a draft bill that will be presented in Parliament shortly—SU. Sinhala Mahajana Peramuna has requested the Government to postpone the adoption of the District Development Council Bill; the organisation points out that some clauses of the bill have grave effect on sinhala language, budhist religion and on the culture of the sinhala people; the organisation says that a national referendum must be held before the bill is adopted—DV. JTUAC will hold a massive rally at Hyde Park tomorrow to tell the public the truth about the measures taken by the government to suppress the strikers by sacking them—ATH. 5 Opposition parties have decided to ask the government to take back the strikers who have been sacked without any pre-conditions; the 4 political parties are the SLFP, LSSP, TULF, The CP and the MEP. The Central Bank in its Annual Report for 1980 has said that Tea, rubber and coconut production has gone down in the first quarter of this year—DK.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20: President J. R. Jayewardene will leave for New Delhi on September 2 to attend the Regional Commonwealth Conference of Heads of State to be held there on September 3. A further salary increase is now being considered by Government in keeping with the financial resources available to it said Ronnie de Mel, Minister of Finance and Planning, at the opening of a branch of the People's Bank at Kuruwita in the Ratnapura ecleatorate yesterday—Labour Minister Capt. C. P. J. Seneviratne's next bonus to the 3 million employees in corporations and the private sector will be a composite and uniform Gratuity Bill; he said the Public Trust Fund that is to be debated in Parliament later this month was the Government's first bonus to the corporation and

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. 1666.50	Rs. 1669.50
Sterling Pound	Rs. 3940.00	Rs. 3946.00
Deutsche Mark	Rs. 927.45	Rs. 929.05
French Franc	Rs. 400.75	Rs. 401.45
Japanese Yen	Rs. 7.4300	Rs. 7.4450
Indian Rupees	Rs. 213.55	Rs. 213.95

Confidentially

Surprise For Farmers

IS IT NOT A FACT that farmers in areas where the Extension Services of the Department of Agriculture had disappeared from view from the Kobbekaduwa era, recently had a surprise when some of the old time (D.S./Dudley era) activities have begun to manifest themselves? That after a lapse of nearly five years, in some districts, Assistant District Agricultural Extension Officers have begun to move out of their offices and visit farms and farmers? That AIs (Agricultural Instructors) and COs (Cultivation Overseers) have followed suit? That they have now even instituted a new scheme known bureaucratically as "contact-farm" extension service with plans to visit strategically placed farms every fortnight giving nearby farmers opportunities to meet agricultural officers for technical advice? That an even greater surprise is that the new Agrarian Services Centres are now stocked with seeds, fertilisers and agro-chemicals? (That in the late-lamented APC centres the stocks were spirited away to be sold in the black market but with the liberalised imports the black market has virtually ended except for minor shortages for brief periods)? That the "nominated" functionaries who had run the old APCs had generally used the funds for "rolling" for their private business activities and for this reason they never had stocks of urgently needed seed materials or fertilizers? That now a staff officer of the Department keeps daily check on the sales, cash, banking and the purchases (under the OLD APCs such checks were fortnightly in theory and monthly in practice)? That the Agrarian Service Centres now seem to be run better? That if this new trend is maintained, it will help to restore agriculture (especially subsidiary food crops) in the rural areas? That so far as paddy is concerned, the new rules of the Department for the use and conservation of water in irrigated lands are excellent and have been long overdue? That the directive that the planting must be on a schedule prepared by the Department, area-wise, is

another excellent measure? That it also is a happy augury that the Department has announced the new scheme in early August well before the traditional "August" ploughing rains fall in the Wann, the heartland of the paddy areas of the island? That Secretary Ranjan Wijeyaratne in a statement has pointed out that the sowing must be done with the rains (dry if necessary) and that farmers who wait until the tanks fill up (to get more water for themselves) would be penalised? That this new requirement will put an end to an old malpractice that influential farmers, who controlled the Cultivation Committees. (in charge of issuing water) or had the political pull to influence Irrigation Department Officials (in some places they were responsible for water issues with the GAs or AGAs), indulged in for their private benefit and the detriment of less influential farmers? That after a long period of slumber, the Department of Agriculture seems to have woken into a burst of welcome new activity? That it is hoped that it will not be a case of the old saga of a new broom?

That another welcome innovation by the Department was reflected in an advertisement (vide, Sun, August 18)? That the notice was about a SCHEME FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PRIVATE PLANT SUPPLY NURSERIES AND SEED FARMS? That the notice read: "In view of the vast potential for the development of a fruit and vegetable industry in Sri Lanka, the Ministry of Agricultural Development and Research wishes to augment existing state institutions by encouraging private sector organisations and self-employment projects for unemployed graduates and diploma holders in agriculture for the establishment of private plant and seed supply nurseries. This support scheme will look into needs of inputs such as land (lease of Crown and L.R.C. Land for the landless) supply of nucleus seed and quality propagation material, financial support in the form of loans etc.,.....Further particulars from Director of Horticulture, Extension Division, Department of Agriculture, Peradeniya? That this is one of the best things that has come from the Department of Agriculture for a long while and Tribune will revert to this subject in a forthcoming issue?

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AN APPEAL ON BEHALF OF THE LEVER BROTHERS CULTURAL CONSERVATION TRUST

This Trust was established at the initiative of the Board of Lever Brothers (Ceylon) Limited, to co-ordinate the efforts of persons and organisations concerned with the safeguarding of any aspects of Sri Lankan culture which are in danger of being lost and for the protection of which other funds are not available. The first Project of the Trust is the making of a photographic archive record of old temple paintings in such a way that they can be used by future restorers. The Department of Archaeology has advised us that there are approximately 75 temples whose paintings should be recorded and in many of them the paintings are rapidly deteriorating, so the work is urgent. The photographs will be available for students and the negatives stored in controlled atmospheric conditions to ensure that they remain unaltered for many years. The Trust is receiving advice and assistance regarding techniques of preparing such a record and storage from the Smithsonian Institute in Washington.

Photographic recording of paintings on rock, masonry and wood is a highly specialised function requiring special equipment. Fortunately, the State Film Corporation has released Mr. Gamini Jayasinghe who is a photographer with a strong personal interest in, and experience of, photographing temple paintings. It is estimated that the work will take 4 years and cost a minimum of Rs. 750,000. The Trust has been able to buy the basic photographic equipment (duty free by courtesy of the Government) from an initial donation by Lever Brothers and from the proceeds of "The Thorana Guide to Sri Lanka" the manuscript of which was donated to the Trust.

We are, therefore, appealing to all who have the preservation of Sri Lanka's culture at heart to support this appeal.

The Trust is an approved charity (Gazette No. 71 of 80.01.11) and donations are, therefore, tax deductible. The Trustees are the Directors of Lever Brothers (Ceylon) Limited as well as Mr. D. C. L. Amerasinghe and Mrs. C. E. L. Wickremasinghe. All donations will be acknowledged and the audited accounts of the Trust will be available on request.

A record of all Donors will be attached to the Archive Record and published whenever opportunity arises.

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Yours sincerely,

H. H. HELLIN

Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

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