

Vol. 25 No 8 — September 6, 1980 — Rs 3 00

TRIBUNE

CEYLON NEWS REVIEW



26TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION



BOOKS FROM USSR

We are pleased to introduce a few titles of
English Books on Science and Technology

Colour Television	27.50
Television	27.50
Theoretical Physics	10.00
Fundamentals of Manufacturing Engineering	15.00
The Theory of Probability	27.50
Problems in Elementary Physics	27.50
Physical Chemistry 2 Vols.	90.00
Motor Vehicles	18.50
Machine Elements	37.50
Principles of Automation	38.50
Engineering Thermodynamics and Heat Transfer	37.50
Linear Algebra and Multi-Dimensional Geometry	12.50
Selected Problems and Theorems in Elementary Mathematics	37.50
Basic Electricity and Electronics	39.50
Problems in Geometry	17.50
Mathematical Handbook	42.50
Higher Mathematics for Beginners	12.50
A Course of Mathematical Analysis Vol: I	37.50
—do— Vol: II	37.50

FOR MORE TITLES DROP IN OR WRITE FOR FULL LIST:

People's Publishing House Ltd.,

124, Kumaran Ratnam Road, Colombo 2

76, Galle Road Colombo 4.

Telephone: 36111.

Letter From The Editor

LAST WEEK in this column we cited a paragraph from David Housego's story in the London *Financial Times* about the meeting in Paris on July 1 of the Sri Lanka Aid Consortium. This was from a report sent from London to the Sun in Colombo by Arthur Hettigoda that Ronnie de Mel, Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister, had been angered by the demands made by the Consortium countries. The report went on: "*Financial Times* says that the Western donor nations pressed for a slowdown in Sri Lanka's 5-year public investment program which is designed to extend in structure and transform the country into a trade and manufacturing centre to compete with Singapore. But Mr. de Mel pointed out that the Government had 3 years ago introduced almost revolutionary changes in confirming IMF policies and had taken hard and unpopular decisions in cutting back welfare subsidies. The Government is now faced with choices of whether to accept deflationary measures proposed or turn to international banks for what Western donors term expensive commercial financing.....". This is very close to the scenario *Tribune* had foreseen and written about. Once Sri Lanka was drawn into the IMF Debt Trap (read the famous Penguin book *The Debt Trap—IMF and The Third World* by Cheryl Payer) then the orders would flow fast and furiously to keep Sri Lanka on a modest level of semi-development—insisting on deflationary and restrictive measures only to ensure repayment of debts. These new tough and austere measures demanded—following the 'hard and unpopular decisions taken earlier to cut back welfare subsidies'—will inevitably lead to strikes, economic unrest and even civil commotion. Sri Lanka has already had the first (minor) taste of such disturbances and unless the Government takes steps to remedy matters greater troubles are in store. Whilst the World Bank and IMF hierarchy want Sri Lanka to toe their austerity line, our government cannot put the brake on its development and investment plans because it is only the fulfilment of these plans that would ensure the growth of the economy to a point where the basic problems of poverty and unemployment could be solved even marginally. An abrupt slowdown of the development programme in order to implement the new and additional deflationary measures the IMF and Consortium want will bring disaster. To continue with the policies, plans and programmes envisaged by the Jayewardene Government in the first flush of power in 1977/78, money that the Consortium is now unwilling to lend has to be obtained from commercial banks on much higher rates of interest. Housego says "Sri Lanka will have no problem in raising funds in the international capital markets. Last year it raised fifty million dollars in a syndicated loan arranged through many manufacturers on which it has not yet drawn. But commercial borrowings on the scale now needed to cover the shortfalls in its present investment program could carry the service ration up from its present level of 10 percent of foreign exchange earnings to a shattering 40 per cent by the end of this decade." *Is this the end of the trail for Sri Lanka with the IBRD-IMF Consortium group?*

TRIBUNE

Ceylon News Review

Founded In 1954

A Journal of Ceylon
and

World Affairs

Editor, S. P. Amarasingam

Every Saturday

September 6, 1980

Vol: 25 No: 8

TRIBUNE

43, DAWSON STREET,
COLOMBO-2.

Tel: 33172.

CONTENTS

COVER	
—Foreign Debt.	p. 2
EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK	
—Post-Mortem	p. 4
SPECIAL SESSION	
—At The UN	p. 9
FILM FOCUS	
—Films For Children	p. 10
THE STRIKE	
—Some Reflections	p. 12
TOXIC CHEMICALS	
—At The Seminar	p. 17
ODD MAN OUT—4	
—WNPS	p. 17
LETTER	
—WNPS	p. 20
NGUVU—9	
—Cattle	p. 21
SRI LANKA	
—Faces Crucial Choice	p. 22
EARTHWORMS	
—150,000 To The Acre	p. 24
THE STRIKE	
—Anatomy	p. 25
CITIZENSHIP	
—For Stateless	p. 27
POWER CRISIS	
—Small Hydel Schemes	p. 28
CHRONICLE	
—August 21—26	p. 29
CONFIDENTIALLY	
—Pesticides Lobby	p. 32

Sri Lanka's Foreign Debt.

ARE THE YOUNG LADIES on the cover celebrating what Government propaganda likes to hail as the "Unprecedented Influx of Aid". The *Ceylon Daily News* of Friday, July 25, published an article under the same title by the Information Department official presently attached to the Ministry of Finance and Planning—Lakshmi Dharmaratnam. This article was written after the results of the Paris Consortium Meeting were known and has no doubt intended to counter the reports (and stories) that had appeared in the press about the difficulties encountered at the meeting. We are citing practically the whole of this article to set out the Government version (really the Ministry of Finance and Planning) version of what happened in Paris. Elsewhere in this issue we also publish a *London Financial Times* article by David Housego that was printed in the *Ceylon Daily News* on July 8, dealing with some aspects of the Paris meeting.

Lakshmi Dharmaratnam in her piece had stated: "Despite the fact that highly developed and industrialised countries, which provide a substantial amount of aid to Third World countries, are themselves facing severe economic problems, Sri Lanka has been very fortunate to receive an unprecedented amount of aid and grants during the last three years. Never in the history of Sri Lanka was there a period in which so much foreign aid and loans for development activities were received. Inflation is the biggest threat that Sri Lanka and the rest of the world are facing today. It is one of the major constraints of the development effort. In addition, the continuously rising cost of oil has seriously affected development activities and the current account position of the Third World countries in particular. World wide inflation has boosted the cost of the 5-year Development Program of the Sri Lanka Government from an estimated 47 billion rupees to nearly 120 billion rupees. The Finance Minister was entrusted with the gigantic task of finding the money and bridging the deficit. Thanks to the confidence which the Jayewardene Government enjoys in the international community, the

Finance Minister's task was made easier to some extent. This was only a cautious preamble to what was to follow.

"This year's Sri Lanka Aid Consortium Meeting, which met in Paris on the 1st and 2nd July to consider Sri Lanka's case for aid in 1980 was a vote of confidence in the economic and financial policies of the present government. Sri Lanka presented well thought-out, well planned project proposals which the Aid Consortium could readily support. At this year's Aid Group meeting, representatives of 17 donor countries and 7 International Monetary Agencies pledged aid in various amounts, aggregating Rs. 8,432 million to support Sri Lanka's Development Program outside the Mahawell project. This pledge for 1980 represents an increase of Rs. 2,512 million over the aid pledge for the year 1979. It was an increase of 42 per cent as compared to 1979 pledges for normal development activities." This estimate of "pledged" aid was the most optimistic of projections under the circumstances."

"At the above meeting, Mr. David Hopper Senior Vice-President of the World Bank", she went on to say "highly commended the Sri Lanka Government for its achievements last year. The Sri Lanka Finance Minister's strong plea for more aid to proceed ahead with the country's development program was very favourably received at this meeting. Most of the donor countries and International Agencies complimented Sri Lanka for its courageous efforts, despite severe economic problems. At the Aid Group Meeting, Sri Lanka's Finance Minister had to make out the strongest possible case for continued support from the donor countries on a sustained basis and in substantially increased amounts. Most of the assistance was pledged for economic development activities, not for consumption." *Hip! Hip! Hip! Hurrah!*

Lakshmi Dharmaratnam went on to point out: "Sri Lanka had to work hard to gain this success at the Aid Group meeting. It was in large measure due to the confidence which the government enjoys among the international community. The increasing number of donor countries and International Monetary Institutions, present at the recent Aid Consortium meeting in Paris, was a clear indication of the ever-increasing confidence.

At last year's meeting, Sri Lanka presented a clear-cut economic policy and a definite Medium-Term Investment Program for the years 1979 to 1983 to the donor countries. In addition there were well thought out 100 Project Plans in Industry, agriculture, irrigation, power, housing, transport and so on. At the Aid Group Meetings, Sri Lanka's Finance Minister stressed the great measure of political and economic stability which the government had been able to achieve. To prove the point in 1979, Sri Lanka's economy had recorded a growth of 6.2%. Growth rate for 1978 was 8.2 per cent and it was the first reaction to the new economic reforms which were introduced in 1977 by the government. The gross external assets of the country reached a record level of Rs. 9,652 million at the end of 1979, which was sufficient to pay for the import of about three and half months."

"Approximately one third of all aid received last year was in the form of outright non-repayable grants. This is the largest amount of grants ever obtained by any Sri Lanka government. The balance 2/3 of aid, received last year, was in the nature of soft loans on the most concessional terms. Some loans were interest-free. In the case of others interest rates varied from half percent to three percent. Maturities extended up to 30-40 years with grace periods of 10-15 years. According to economics observers, these were the best terms of assistance ever obtained by Sri Lanka. The Government's main aim was to obtain grants and loans on the most concessional terms possible to help finance economically viable development projects which will pay for themselves long before repayments are due. It is envisaged that some development projects in agriculture, industry, irrigation, power etc., will pay for themselves in 3-5 years, others in 7 years and most in 10 years. This means, Sri Lanka will start repaying only after these projects begin to pay for themselves."

Lakshmi Dharmaratnam concluded her article by drawing attention to: "A significant feature of the aid-received last year was that much assistance came from small countries, like Norway, Sweden, Netherlands Switzerland and Denmark. Aid for Sri Lanka did not come only from the big countries. Sri Lanka was also successful in getting aid

from the OPEC Fund, the Saudi Fund; the Kuwait Fund and the International Fund for Agricultural Development. The Soviet Union, G.D.R., China and some other Socialist countries also have given assistance to Sri Lanka in very many ways. Although the government has obtained a considerable amount of foreign aid necessary for our immediate needs, we must however, remember foreign aid by itself is not a lasting solution to our economic problems.

"As the Minister of Finance and Planning, Mr. Ronnie de Mel, stated in Parliament on 5th July last year: 'Actual work is much more important than all the money we have received. The Development Ministers and bureaucracy in particular, must now get down to the task of quick and efficient implementation of our development program, including the Mahaweli Project. It is no easy task. We need a supreme co-ordination of work and effort—a task unprecedented in the whole history of our land.'

Such is the position as envisaged by the Ministry of Finance and Planning. The financial assistance committed was also set out in the article in the following schedule for the period July 1977 to June 1980 (in millions of rupees).

	Loans	Grants
1. 2nd half 1977	609.8	377.5
2. 1978	4,120.5	1,918.5
3. 1979	4,076.1	5,631.25
4. 1980 first half	5,100.5	995.1

It is one thing to borrow, but the more important matter is whether Sri Lanka will be able to repay all this without getting into serious difficulties—and without additional borrowing to repay these loans on the due dates. But one disturbing factor is that, as in the past, of the debts outstanding in 1979 of SDR 1339 million, the undisbursed or unspent component was very high at SDR 497 million—well over 30%.

This high level of unutilised or undisbursed debt, most of it belonging to the central government, appears to be a major feature of Sri Lanka's economics—at the present moment. It shows, apart from everything else, that Sri Lanka does not have the capacity to fully utilise available credits. This may be due to one or more of several reasons: (a) Sri

Lanka does not have the infrastructure and implementation capacities to utilise the aid; (b) that the credit has been extended on terms that do not have the flexibilities to enable quick disbursements which is essential for profitable and productive utilisation; (c) that many of these credits are such that they do not fit into the current development plans and priorities and (d) that the terms of credit are not favourable for the projects of top priority.

But more than the non-utilisation of aid are the Damoclesian apprehensions about the repayment of these loans. It is no doubt true that the maturities of 80% of Sri Lanka's foreign debt are over 15 years. Since 1975 there is an increasing trend to obtain loans of longer maturities.

Nevertheless, these loans have to be repaid. Will this country be able to do this from the projects now being built with the aid of these foreign loans?



EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Post-Mortem

Colombo, August 29,

Last week we published the statement of the Citizens Committee for National Harmony on the situation arising from the strike followed by the lockout and the Emergency. This week we publish a statement by the Rt. Rev. Lakshman Wickremasinghe, the Anglican Bishop of Kurunegala (he has been a fighter for human rights and civil liberties under all governments in Sri Lanka) on the recent strike. We also publish an article by Jayantha Somasundaram in the fortnightly *Lanka Guardian* (August 15, 1980)

The party periodicals of the—UNP, SLFP, LSSP and the CPSL—have taken predictable and understandable postures. The official government media—*Lake House* and *Times*—only published expurgated news reports with sermons preaching the UNP version of a revised Sermon on the Mount for strikers and their unions. The (Gunaseña) Independent Newspapers of Ceylon Ltd., *Sun* and *Weekend* were the only papers that attempted to pro-

vide interpretative analysis of the strikes and connected events. As usual *Migara* had the most informative comments on the strike, emergency and the satyagraha.

THE BUILDUP for the much-talked of general strike scheduled for July 21 can be traced from the JTUAC "protest" on June 5 for increased wages because of the inflationary spiral that had led to an unbearable increase in the cost of living. The "protest day" on June 5 was a damp squib, but for the death of trade unionist Somapala because of a counter-demonstration. Then came the joint opposition political rally on June 25 at Hyde Park. It will be recalled that on "protest day" June 5, the Government had organised a "solidarity day" to confront the protesters and this had led to the death of D. Somapala, a leading trade unionist and a member of the Communist party. The funeral of Somapala had drawn a larger crowd than the Protest day.

Wisely the government had not tried confrontationist tactics on June 24, but the meeting itself did not get the support of all the Opposition forces. The CPSL and the NLSSP (Vasudeva Nanayakkara) which had spear-headed the June 5 protest did not take part in the meeting which was organised by the SLFP and LSSP and they secured the support of the TULF. The JVP had not been invited by the sponsors to participate in the meeting. *Migara* in his comments on June 29 had observed: "The LSSP was able to get the support of the northern based TULF which is increasingly seeking extra parliamentary methods such as trade union action for their own goals. But while SLFP and LSSP have struck a friendship once again after the 'lover's tiff' in 1975, when Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike booted them out of the coalition Government and as the LSSP claimed she had to go to Yugoslavia shortly afterwards for knee treatment as a result, the CP was having bitter attacks throughout the week on both these parties in their press.....".

WITH SOME JUSTIFICATION, *Migara* had also pointed out: "The meeting went unnoticed by the vast mass of the people and the newspapers too did not have much space for them owing to local and world attention being diverted to neighbouring India where

the funeral of Sanjay Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister's political minded son, was taking place the same day. The attitude of the government towards the meeting was not only wise but welcome too. Quite often the ruling party leadership has been 'advised' to act and react on the wrong matters.....". He went on to warn the government: "..... This was the morbid hallucination that was in a large way responsible for the downfall of the previous government and even governments before them. Tending to feel insecure, being captives of their own 'yesmen' they tend to ward off criticism the easy way and thereby alienate themselves from reality. This Government need not make the mistakes of the past. Often in the midterm of their tenure of Ministerial office, the Government might tend to overreact to events where such over reaction only leads to the Opposition growing from strength to strength." and concluded: "Therefore, the ignoring this week, of the opposition meeting at Hyde Park was about the best course of action for the Government, a government which is still able maintain popular support in the country, to take. The gathering at Hyde Park drew far less public interest and crowds than did the funeral of CP trade unionist D. Somapala.

"This brings us to the reality that some form of opportunity should be available to give vent to one's feelings, either individually or as a group. Of course, such exercises would have to be well within the confines of the laws of the land. This is undoubtedly an essential ingredient for a healthy democracy, where public opinion is a predominant factor. No one will challenge an administration's right to deal with a situation where the country's security is threatened or a disruption of the law and order is feared whether by external or internal forces. In such events it is at full liberty to put into use the legitimate machinery to deal with them.

"Countering such situation by encouraging other rival groups to take up hostile stances is by no means the solution. It is in fact a remedy that is worse than the illness. What is therefore essential is the need to assess the situation carefully instead of applying the same yardstick to measure all situations. If democratic traditions are to be nurtured (and

preserved in the long run), it is important to identify who are the enemies and who are not. A political group of individuals indulging in a legitimate democratic exercise (which may not be to the liking of the government) should not be branded as enemies purely because they generate substantial public attention. It should be borne in mind that these parties, groups or individuals indulge in such exercise publicly, unlike some of the other political groups who have denounced their faith in parliamentary democracy and are operating surreptitiously." This was undoubtedly a highly commendable approach by the leading political commentator of the Sun-Weekend group reflecting sane and sober opening in the UNP.

BUT WHEN THE SNAP AND LIGHTENING STRIKES, which erupted at Ratmalana on July 7 on account of the dismissals of some workmen who had participated in the protest on June 5, began to spread a week before the scheduled General Strike scheduled for July 21, the Government pulled out its sledge hammer, invoked the Public Security Act, declared all key industries to be "essential" and imposed the customary censorship.

Mrs. Bandaranaike in a statement in New Delhi had characterised these measures taken by the government as an "over-reaction". Was it? Could the government have contained the strike which began to escalate from July 12 without the declaration of the Emergency? Most observers feel that the strike could not have been brought under control without the imposition of the Emergency or even without the declaration of a lockout from July 18. Others argue that the measures taken by the Government was tantamount to a virtual denial of the fundamental right to strike not only as an expression of protest but also to obtain redress for economic grievances. The government's reply was that as the strike was politically motivated to cripple the government in the middle of its term and at a time when it had announced further wage increases, it had no alternative but to safeguard its development programmes by taking measures to suppress the strikes.

Nowhere in the world is the right to strike absolute in its implementation, nor does any government ever permit a strike to paralyse the normal life of a community beyond a point.

Every strike is a continuing manifestation of the class struggle in capitalist society—and a symptom of a deeper malaise in a socialist country.

THERE IS NO DOUBT that the strike which began on July 7 and which began to escalate on July 12 was partial at its best. Only a few unions fully supported the spontaneous strikes that broke out after the stoppage at Ratmalana. The CPSL and NLSSP jumped into the fray in a bid to take over the leadership of the opposition trade unions. They did not seem to mind tailing behind a few local strike-happy trade union activities in the hope that they could use the opportunity to lead not only the striking unions but the entire movement also. In this they failed. Only a few unions affiliated to other parties partly joined the strike movement. The SLFP and LSSP were half-hearted in their support. The unions led by Shan, Bala Tampoe, the JYP and others refused to join the strike. The government therefore did not find it difficult to check the escalation of the strike because it acted fast and declared a lockout before other unions could be persuaded and pressurised into joining the strike.

The number who went on strike or have been locked out is immaterial—because they were not enough to bring any public utility service to a halt. The Railway was able to run more than a skeleton service. The CTB was little affected and no one went on strike in the key Electricity or Waterworks services. The bulk of those who did not attend work on July 18 were white collar workers mainly from the GCSU. The Teachers Union were sympathetic, but the Emergency and the lock-out did not permit the Teachers Unions to flex their muscles.

In retrospect there is no doubt that the striking unions were outmanoeuvred at every point by the government. Take the Satyagraha of August 8. What the striking unions hoped to achieve by it—at a time when the unions should have been busy devising ways to effect a strategic and face-saving retreat to live to fight another day—is hard to say. But any tyro in politics could have predicted that violence (at least a little) would be inevitable and that this would have been seized upon by the government to take sterner

measures against the union leaders. This is exactly what happened.

Thus the leaders and parties involved in the Satyagraha walked into a trap of their own making and seeking—and thirty minutes of stupid violence against property, mostly public, (no lives were lost), enabled the government to put the last touches to the *coup de gras* to the ITUAC “general strike”. Within a week the government lifted the Emergency and the censorship.

THE GENERAL STRIKE that never really got off the ground is no longer on the cards—at least for a long time to come. The lockout is still being inflicted on a large number of persons (estimated up to 40,000 persons) and the Shylockian pound of flesh that is being extorted from those locked out has already begun to prove counter-productive. A government can take a good thing too far, but the strategy of teaching strikers a lesson is a doubtful validity even if it is not carried too far. The government cites *ad nauseam* the way LSSP's N. M. Perera handled the Bank strike when he was Finance Minister. NM had also set out to teach the strikers a lesson and it boomeranged on LSSP in no uncertain way. The present attempt to “teach them a lesson” (a la Deng Xiloping and Carter), if persisted in much longer, will cause a backwash that will bring the UNP no good. But present “locked out” (discussed) persons are being taken back in trickles in penitence and sack clothes. How long this process will go on is hard to say, but there is no doubt that the longer this process goes on, the worse for the government.

The trade unions as well as the Government have many lessons to learn from the recent events. As long as the trade unions have agreed to play the game (the trade union game) according to the rules (they now have the benefit of trade union dues being collected on checkroll and paysheets and the memos remitted directed to the unions), spontaneous and snap strikers without notice and without preliminary negotiations more often than not prove counterproductive especially at times when such action is not likely to be backed by unanimous strike action by other trade unions, especially those in the key and essential industries. It was an even bigger mistake

to attempt to escalate the Ratmalana strike by raising the main General Strike demand of Rs. 300 salary increase whilst almost forgetting the reinstatement issue on which the strike was started.

It would also appear that the leaders of the strike movement did not seem to have a realistic appreciation of the situation. Prices have no doubt reached dizzy heights, but with the inflow of money from the export of our manpower, many sections of the community have an additional income which has so far helped to cushion the impact of the high prices. But more than this, some trade unions seem to subscribe to the view that history can be made by tailing behind spontaneous outbursts of strike action and other activities which can be classed as "revolutionary."

But the government has more lessons to learn than the trade unions. If the cost of living and the prices of essentials are not brought down to levels people can afford, more and more strikes will occur and trade unions and political parties will tend to go underground. The fact that the JVP has criticised the present strike (after refusing to participate in it) cannot offer any consolation to the government. It only criticises the SLFP, LSSP, CP leadership for bungling and their inability to help those who have been locked out to get their jobs back.

The government has used the Big Stick and crushed the strike. It has refused to negotiate with the strikers—except on terms humiliating to the locked out who have been dismissed. In its own interest, the government should show a degree of realistic magnanimity and take back all those who did not show up for work on July 18 without insisting that they eat the humble pie—except those who were guilty of violence or acts of sabotage and they should be dealt with differently.

A POSTMORTEM on a corpse is not difficult, but a position on a complex socio-economic-political situation is not easy. We have published several postmortem reports—from the Citizens Committee for National Harmony,

Bishop Lakshman Wickremasinghe and the interpretative analysis from the *Lanka Guardian*. We cannot do better than cite Migara's concluding remarks on "the violent Satyagraha" in the Weekend of August 10 (this piece it was claimed was "approved by the Competent Authority without alterations").

"As dusk fell over the City of Colombo the morning tension had cooled. But there was a great deal of thought-provoking questions that emerged. One was why the SLFP political leadership which had only a few days earlier gone to the extent of criticising its trade union boss Alavi Moulana for their attitude on the general strike call by the JTUAC, now deciding to throw its weight behind the trade unionists. Could it be that the political leadership is looking for an opportunity—any opportunity to make maximum political advantage before allowing the party itself to wither away. For after all they who received such a verbal onslaught from both the LSSP and the CP until so very recently have decided first to get on the same platform with the LSSP and now join the pro Moscow CP too on the streets.

"When the LSSP and SLFP called the CP to join in a joint political May Day rally, the CP refused and went ahead with their own trade union rally. Recently however when the Communist Party political leadership invited the SLFP political leadership to join hands during the general strike period, the SLFP kept somewhat aloof by sending only their trade union representatives. The LSSP too having had, and still continue to have some bitter battles with both the SLFP and the CP were very prominent on Friday's events. Though their party and youth leaders were detained, Dr. Colvin R. de Silva made it clear that the LSSP had nothing to do with the stone throwing incidents. "It was not part of the plan" he said and added that they did not plan any violence on Friday. One UNP wag commented that the "LSSP was being literally taken for a ride by the trade unionists" But the LSSP maintains that the political leadership backed the trade union struggle without subscribing to any violence.

"A Government political analyst pointed out the "hit squads" were a clear manifestation of the predicament of some opposition

trade union leaders. On the one side they were facing might of the state power. On the other, they were not—except for the CP—having the full support of the political leadership of their respective parties. While on yet another side, they were having to answer for the 40,000 or more workers who lost their jobs on July 18 and July 21 by participating in the general strike call by them. Therefore, if the general strike had boomeranged then how were they to create an “impact” with both the Government and the people. It was by resorting to the traditional form of protests—by violence.

“The Opposition claims that their purpose was to hold a Satyagraha and hand over a petition to President Jayewardene requesting him to take back the 40,000 strikers who lost their jobs. They added that the President had earlier agreed to meet Mr. A. Amirthalingam the Opposition Leader in Parliament regarding the matter but had later not met him. But has all this boomeranged again on these unions? While sources close to the unions say they will not stop their agitation, Government too were showing hardening attitude.

“There appeared to be some sort of softening in attitude towards the strikers in the recent days. It was almost a case of doves and hawks within the Government. The President was more concerned with the welfare of the families of the strikers. Now that this has happened on Friday, official Government attitude appeared to be to ask the people whether this type of wanton damage to their own public and private property by trade unionists, were not sufficient proof for the need to go ahead with the proposed legislation to deal with trade union leadership. To control their accounts and to seek a vote from the membership before deciding on strike action. President Jayewardene is learnt to have told some of his Government men to interpret Friday’s events and ask the people what a Government ought to do in such a situation. Therefore, it seems, while opposition parties and trade unions are pressing for their demands (the Hartal anniversary is next week) so is the Government keen on exercising its powers in governing.

“That is possibly why hardly a few hours after the stone throwing incidents on Friday by the opposition and armed troops went on the road, President Jayewardene who was hosting

the visiting Commonwealth Secretary General Shridath Ramphal for lunch along with Ministers Lalith Athulthmudali, Ranil Wickremasinghe, Ronnie de Mel and brother H. W. Jayewardene said that “Sri Lanka was a vibrant democracy’ But some hours later in the day, the State Radio in its night news bulletin announcing the local strike, had a rather significant story following it. That story was datelined Manilla. It stated that Philippine’s Ferdinand Marcos had told his countrymen that labour unions should not use violence to create unrest in society and that if they continued to do so he would not hesitate to use his Presidential powers to control those unions. Any significance?”

Migara was thinking aloud—as so many others are doing. What the ultimate outcome of the recent appearances in the trade union movement will be is hard to say. Government complacency that it has won a great big victory is as short-sighted as the opposition claim that a new revolution is around the corner is miasmatic.

Govt.



Notice

**The Land Acquisition Act (Cap. 460) A
Amended By The Land Acquisition
(Amendment) Act, No. 28 Of 1964
Notice Under Section 7.**

Ref. No. 3/62/545/O3J. 75 E.481

It is intended to acquire the Land/Lands described in the Schedule below. For further particulars please see Government Gazette No. 105 of 05.09.1980 (part III).

Schedule

Name of Village etc.: Gahalagaswela village
Yegampattu Korale, Bingiriya D.R.O.s
Division, Kurunegala District.

Name of Land: Paragahamulawatta
Plan and Lot No.: Lots 61, 62, 63, 64, 65 in
Supplement No. 2 of F.V.P. 2036

H. M. W. Chandraratna
District Land Officer, Kurunegala District,
The Kachcheri, Kurunegala.
12 August, 1980

The Special Sessions

by Prometheus

A SPECIAL SESSION of the United Nations General Assembly has been convened in New York last week. It has been convened to discuss progress towards the New International Economic Order and is expected to formulate a development strategy for the 1980's and initiate a "global round of negotiations to begin in January, 1981. The sessions, unfortunately are taking place against the background of aggravation of international tension. Many are of the opinion that this would be a constraint to solve the problems on the UN Agenda, specifically the formulation and adoption of a strategy for international economic development of the 1980's.

Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister, A. C. S. Hameed, summed up the mood of the developing countries in his address to the Special Sessions: "A spectre is haunting the world today—the spectre of economic anarchy. Either we continue to allow the world situation to drift with each nation struggling to maximise its own gain in isolation, causing economic confusion and chaos or we seize the opportunity presented to us now by the effects of global economic interdependence to establish a new international economic order."

The bleak prospects for the Third World countries has been spelt out by a regular report published by the IBRD (World Bank) on the current state and prospects of the development of the World Economy. It notes that the current deepening of the economic crisis in the western world will be felt during the entire first half of the 80's. When compared to the previous decade, rates of economic growth will slow down, competition and trends towards protectionism in world trade will increase, difficulties in finding free capital for financing economic development will rise. The authors of the report predict that as a result the disintegration of international economic co-operation may occur and a serious political instability may arise in various regions in the globe.

THE DEVELOPING NATIONS will find themselves in particularly difficult situations. Ac-

ording to preliminary estimates, in the next 5 year period, the rates of their economic growth will be approximately one-third lower than in the 60's and 70's. This year, the deficit of the balance of payments in the developing states will reach 61,000 million dollars. In 1970, this deficit amounted to only 8,300 million dollars.

The economic development of the developing countries is further hampered by a more rigid credit policy conducted by the international financial organisations and private banks. This rigidification, the authors of the report explain, is being caused by the sharpened competition on the international capital market.

Of course, we have had a plethora of international conferences on the issue but of no tangible result. Particular concern about the outcome the current UN sessions results from the fact that all major international conference held in the last few months to prepare the ground for the forthcoming Special Session of the UN General Assembly did not produce any substantial result. At the Special sessions, the developing countries are demanding that western powers take concrete and effective actions which will make it possible to do away with the economic Diktat and to establish a NIEO based on equality and justice.

For instance Zimbabwe's Premier, Robert Mugabe pointed out that the increasing of protectionist measures by the developed capitalist countries leads to a further weakening of the positions of the Third World on the international markets. Inflation is imported and IMF grants credits under shackling conditions. The Algerian Minister stressed the necessity for a radical reform of the IMF which is now tailored to cater to the capitalist powers. The President of Bangladesh pointed to the unequal economic relations as a source of serious danger threatening the world.

ON THE OTHER HAND, the speech made by Gaston Thorn, Luxemburg Minister of Foreign Affairs, (on behalf of the common market) conveyed no replies to the demand of the Third World. Like Edmund Muskie, who spoke earlier (US Secretary of State), the representative of the "Nine" made an attempt to blame the oil producing countries for the current economic morass.

What makes the West so intractable? What would guarantee the success of the current sessions?

The 5th sessions of the UN Conference on Trade and Development was held in Manila in the Summer of 1979. In the autumn of that same year, the UN Conference on Science and Technology for Development was held in Vienna.

The Third UN General Conference on Industrial Development was held in New Delhi in 1980. At those conferences, one could clearly see that the West had toughened its position on major problems related to the restructuring of international economic relations and retracted from the principles earlier agreed upon and accepted.

In spite of the West's opposition, a number of constructive decisions were taken in Manila—these decisions applied to structural changes in international economic relations, elimination of protectionist practices and discrimination, trade between countries with different social systems, and the establishment of control over the activities of TNCs. In Delhi, however, the Western powers objected to 60 out of the total of 116 clauses of a declaration proposed by the developing nations and at the end of the conference opposed the very idea of reshaping the international economic order. No mutually acceptable compromise was achieved in Delhi.

It is highly significant that the West toughened its position on the restructuring of international economic relations at a time when it launched an offensive against detente and began reviving the Cold War together with the escalation of the Arms Race. It is more than a mere coincidence. By provoking tension both politically and militarily the West seeks to relegate the problems related to the restructuring of international economic relations into the background and thereby preserve the status quo of the TNCs, for instance how can the raising of import tariffs on some industrial goods compare with the presence of an armada of warships and a vast amount of arms in the Indian Ocean? Will anyone pay attention to the provisions of the Code of Conduct for Technology Transfer to the

developing countries at a time when the threat of military aggression which puts the very existence of developing nations, is growing?

The essence of the programme for building a NIEO advanced by the developing countries consists of two main demands; First, full sovereignty over natural resources and economic activity and the right to their utilization for overcoming economic backwardness. Secondly, the establishment of an international mechanism of redistribution of incomes from world trade in favour of the economically backward countries.

The realisation of these demands depends on a number of indispensable conditions. To achieve success in their struggle for equal status the newly-independent states must strengthen their unity, the main weapon with which the countries of Asia, Africa, and Latin America can counter the economic might of the West. It is also of paramount importance for the World to take the road once again to DETENTE, for only the easing of international tension will lead to the building of independent economics and accelerate economic development.



FILM FOCUS

Film For Children

A cursory glance at the film advertisements that appear in the daily secular press will reveal that, most English films screened in the city carry the "Adults Only" tag. Now that Sinhalese films too are showing a tendency to take up this refrain, where will our children turn to for cinematic entertainment? Time was when certain cinemas like the Savoy set apart a weekend show for little ones only, and handpicked films for them were screened at the cinema attached to the BMICH. These little mercies for the innocents have now gone by the board, and parents are faced with the dilemma of either leaving their children behind or depriving themselves perhaps of viewing a good adult film.

I feel that the State Film Corporation should address its mind to this tender problem, with a view to finding a solution, whereby our non-adult generation could absorb the

maximum advantage, even education-wise, of a powerful visual medium like the cinema. This need must be given top priority and hope Chairman Anton Wickremasinghe, who has spoken of a large cinema complex that is coming up shortly will reserve that amount of space for a kiddies cinema, where families could sit together for some clean film fare.

In this context, it was heartwarming news that "Handaya", the Sinhalese children's film, directed by Titus Thotawatte had won the first prize for the best subject filmed for children at the International Cinema Festival for children and youth held in Rome this month. It might be recalled that although this film received adequate recognition at the OCIC and Sarasaviya Film Festivals this year, praise for it regretfully, was not sufficiently reflected and was on a lower key at the National Film Festival. Now that this film has held an international spotlight, I would like to give my assessment of this delightful film. "Handaya" was Director Totawatte's gift in celluloid to the children of Sri Lanka for IYC 1979. Although it is a low budget film, its aims were focussed on the significance of a year dedicated to children, remaining "tall" enough for adults to view it patiently, with the eyes and hearts of the little ones. Soundly built around a pony named "Handaya" the story is "Beira" and "City" centred, where the teenagers besides splitting into two camps to sharpen their pranks, in childlike confrontation, unite also in their innocence, to feel for a dump friend in trouble. A turtle and pony race delight—while you watch the children in the audience, enjoying themselves thoroughly with their eyes glued to the Silver Screen. Well done Titus and congratulations.

KARUMAKKARAYO (Sinhalese): Sitting through this salacious film, with classic pretensions, I could not help recalling what I wrote in the *Tribune* recently with reference to Director Bharati Raja of South India who blotted his fame by striking a sorry note with the film "Red Roses" that was sickeningly steeped in sex and sin, with the comment, that our producers should steer clear of such themes. Well, "Karumakkarayo" is a sad example of a reputed script writer, actor and Director, Tissa Abeysekera, picking on one such, to display his acknowledged prowess.

The controversial story, is too hard on the life styles of our folk in a rural milieu, wrongly emphasising the exception more than the rule, where a nymphomaniac goes on a sexual spree, incestuously devouring her mate, in laws—father and brother—while her helpless husband gives up keeping pace with her sordid affairs and goes his own piteous way. I wonder whether in furthering ourselves in the field of cinematic art, we should project such sensual topics, that defy tradition to such extremes, moving ruthlessly against the grain in an indigent background to brand a people. Going purely by the eyebrows that have been raised by many picture-goers who have seen this film, I think a firm check should be kept on such embarrassing productions.

The censors appear to have used their scissors profusely, but where their eyes were focussed when the precincts of Kataragama Devale, held in reverence by so many in our midst, was being polluted and desecrated sexually with large doses of infidelity, while a Hindu Pooja was on, seems a mystery. With so many excellent Sinhalese films going the rounds now, I consider Karumakkarayo as a nauseating blob of dirt in the pot of milk, whatever its artistic merits may be. It tends to distort, if not destroy, the family values held sacred by custom and belief, by our people. It was very small mercy indeed that it is for "Adults Only"!

ASYLUM (English) A Paramount production based on a novel written by Robert Bloch of "Psycho" fame—which as a film, boosted the late Alfred Hitchcock to the little as master of suspense. This story however hovers around an asylum, where more than the patients, the psychiatrists inside create a conundrum which puzzles a visiting young Doctor Martin, who is determined to smoke out the culprit—a doctor again. In his ward rounds he analyses the gruesome fantasies of four patients in the snake-pit in flashbacks, which however are rather irrelevant to the main plot. A versatile actor of yesteryear Richard Todd appears briefly in one sequence, while Peter Cushing proves once again that he can inject that amount of horror, in spite of his age. A scene where the dismembered human portions of an anatomy seek out the murderer, could churn your stomach, and hence this film is recommended only for adults whose alimentary

systems are resistant to such onslaughts!

FEAR IN THE NIGHT (English): A Hammer Production on a horror trail, when a triangular relationship near a school, gets out of gear on the verge of being squared by a marriage. Actress Judy Geeson gives a fine performance as the fear wrought fiancée of the piece, but the plot peters out to an anti-climax. Rather disappointing fare, which even Peter Cushing as the villain could not cushion to purpose!

JAMES N. BENEDICT

—X— —X—

SOME REFLECTIONS

On The Strikes

by The

Rt. Rev. Lakshman Wickremasinghe

Bishop of Kurunegala

This is a full and complete (unabridged) text of Bishop Lakshman Wickremasinghe's statement on the recent strikes.

EVEN THOUGH THE EMERGENCY HAS BEEN LIFTED, the situation has not returned to normal. The Government says that about 40,000 workers have vacated their jobs; others claim that the more realistic figure is around 100,000 workers who have been locked out. If the workers' families are included, at least 300,000 to 400,000 persons are affected by the lock-out imposed on them. The tussle between the Government and the Trade Unions remains. Even those Trade Unions which did not join the strike will be watching to see whether their power will be further undermined by further actions on the part of the Government. Some of the strikers cannot be easily replaced by new recruits as they have specialised training, such as those in the railway workshop, in the Government Press, and in certain clerical grades.

If the tussle drags on, both intransigence by the Government and militancy by the frustrated strikers and Trade Unions will together lead to increasing confrontation. Some perhaps may like this, because they will find opportunity to disrupt the administration of

the present Government for their own purposes; others may like this, because they would like to see repressive measures developed to decimate the present power of the Trade Union movement. But those who acknowledge the right of a duly elected Government to govern, and also the right of Trade Unions not to be made vulnerable to domination by the Government and employers in the private sector, will desire something better. It will be a solution that will be in keeping both with the common sense and also the democratic traditions that have hitherto guided national politics in situations of crisis. Only then will the words 'vibrant democracy' and 'righteous society' have a ring of truth when they are applied to Sri Lanka, at just this moment.

THE GOVERNMENT ALLEGES that the strike was designed to disrupt its administration and create disorder. No doubt there may have been some strikers and some trade unionists who had this intention. But a sample survey of the views of the strikers will indicate that all involved did not have the intention. It is also alleged that the rank and file of the strikers were either misled or intimidated into joining the strike. In any strike a percentage are influenced in this way; and when a strike is not successful, those seeking to regain their employment usually allege this. However, the way the strikers began to stay away from work in many places suggests that there were other reasons for the strike. *It is further alleged that the strike was designed to upset the policies comprising the development programme of the Government. It may be helpful to examine whether this allegation is true or whether the strike arose out of the consequence of this development programme.*

One of the major reasons which impelled the present strike was the increasing cost of living. Spiralling inflation has placed unbearable burdens on the urban middle class and working class with fixed incomes. Government has provided no recent relief in terms of an extra cost of living allowance to meet recent increases in the prices of essential domestic items. Whatever subsidies are provided either affect those families with a monthly income of less than Rs. 300/- or those who have no member gainfully employed. The urban middle class and working class

employee with a fixed income does not benefit from this type of relief. In addition, prices of essential domestic items and travel are no longer subsidized, but are fixed by the operation of the free market and borne by the consumer. Such people have to use public transport for travel, and cannot fall back as does the rural worker, upon such things as coconuts, firewood, rice and jak for free consumption; and they are used to a certain standard of living. Making ends meet for themselves and their children becomes an increasingly impossible burden, leading either to indebtedness or use of savings. And with so many attractive consumer items available owing to the Government's trade policies, they are tempted to buy them even though the prices are prohibitive. They also know that prices have been inflated not only due to increasing costs of imported items beyond our control; they are also inflated because certain sectors of the population receive increased incomes owing to the development and trade policies of the Government. Since these have a higher purchasing power and the required items are of limited availability, higher prices are fixed by the operation of the free market as manipulated by traders, middlemen and market operators.

The strike is a protest against such unbearable costs of living without relief, by those adversely affected and who can register their protest without having to wait for an election. The Government must grant a wage increase soon to these classes of workers and others in a similar plight. There are many others in sympathy with this protest, and include those who either support or are not against the Government. Also adequate methods must be found to correlate wages to prices in all sectors of the economy, in a rational manner. Tariff and taxation policies can be also adjusted by the Government to provide money for its anticipated wage bills.

ANOTHER REASON for the present strike by these classes of workers was the increasing inequality of income distribution (and wage scales) among different sectors of the population. (In the rural sector, the small farmer is as adversely affected, but is not sufficiently organised for registering grievances. He

must wait for an election). The preliminary Consumer Finance survey by the Central Bank indicates in its Report the following statistics. The share of the total income of the poorest 10% of the population fell from 1.8% in 1973 to 1.5% in 1978; of the poorest 40% of the population fell from 15.1% in 1973 to 12.3% in 1978; and the share of the richest 10% rose from 30% in 1973 to 39% in 1978. It is not likely that the statistics for 1979 will reveal any reversal of this trend.

Figures apart, it is what people see for themselves daily that registers. They can see a super class with very high incomes from among the foreign businessmen and experts coming here in increasing numbers, local business tycoons, tourist hoteliers, import traders and mudalalis, contractors and tenderers especially in the construction and quarrying industries, gem dealers, mining operators, and highest paid doctors and lawyers. The increasing gap between the standard of living of these people and their own is obvious to them. (They see also a significant imbalance between the wage scale of those working in banks, tourism, certain private sector industries and as MPs and Ministers on the one hand, and their own wage scales on the other). The recent mini-strike by University dons was a protest against imbalanced wage scales from an adversely affected professional group.

To the strikers, the Government does not seem to have taken any significant action to control this glaring disparity in standards of living. Leaving aside the Mahaveli Development project which will bring only long-term benefits, there has been no concerted attempt by the Government to divert the excess income of this super class into investment which will develop subsidiary crops.

The planned development of products like sugar and cotton have received little attention; so also have the agro-based industries based on coconuts, rubber and other raw materials locally available been overlooked. Such diverted investment with careful planning will generate labour intensive employment, will produce tariff-protected domestic items, which if of good quality can be exported also, and will re-locate money from luxury consumption.

Also, such investment is essential to foster self-reliance and prevent dumping of Imported goods. The Government must therefore divert excess income from the super class for this purpose. But incentives of this nature to divert and utilise such excess income are not enough. As extremely high Import duties can control wealth squandered on luxury goods from abroad, (and also pay for some of the increasing wage bills facing the Government), so likewise some form of suitable tax must be imposed on excessively accumulated wealth, while taking preventive measures against such wealth being drained abroad. The income disbursement of the Super class must be brought under some kind of public restraint, to lessen a glaring disparity between standards of living, and to finance income-relief to those requiring it.

THE STRIKE is a protest against this uncontrolled disparity, and a demand for some effective remedy. In any society which claims to be righteous, its basis should be a real lessening of glaring inequality, according to the teaching of all religions. It means some redistribution of income from the hoarders and squanderers to the needy and struggling. The Government must not attempt to destroy the inherited structure of welfare capitalism which tends to reduce glaring inequality. In its concerted attempt to generate both wealth and employment. Human values must also be recognised as important, and not only the operation of a free market which the operators manipulate for their benefit.

The final reason for the strike by the workers involved, was the increasing policy of suppression of the rights of the trade unions. The Essential Public Services Act provides the Government with powers to control and break strikes under the normal law, which hitherto have been used mainly under a national emergency. The range of services that can be declared essential, and the harsh nature of the punishments enforceable are aimed at placing the trade unions at the mercy of the Government (and the employers). The consistent use of political thuggery in recent times with the connivance of the governing party, to break forms of trade union protest like picketing which are permissible in a democracy, has roused

deep resentment within the trade unions. It is one thing to bring discipline into the trade unions; it is another thing to deny them their rights. The recent attempt to freeze party funds in banks, and the misuse of the Government controlled press and radio to spread slanted reports during the recent strike are disquieting signs.

There seems to be a partiality in the Government's maltreatment of workers' organisations, when considering its treatment of employers' organisations. There is no similar attempt at political control of disciplined businessmen and employers who misuse their powers to defraud workers of their legitimate wages, allowances and other benefits. Multi-nationals and foreign business enterprises are even given guarantees in the Constitution to safeguard their rights and powers. In a righteous society, impartiality before the law and between associative groups within the nation, is the duty of the ruler. The Government does not even seem to recognise the normal forms of protest permitted to trade unions in any vibrant democracy. The strike was a protest against this kind of bias and partiality against the trade unions.

No fair-minded person will condone the violence that erupted from the workers' demonstration in Colombo, after the attempted satyagraha was prevented in the precincts of the Fort Station by the Police. Perhaps, some evidence might be shown to indicate that some of the demonstrators had premeditated it. But the evidence of those present was that this outburst was due to the frustration and resentment at the persistent violence directed against trade union demonstrations by both politically motivated thugs and some members of the security forces, with the connivance of the governing party. The actions of the present Government in this respect are not justified by pointing to similar actions on the part of the previous Government, whether ULF or SLFP. Two wrongs do not make a right.

Over-reaction on the part of the government will not be able to break the core of the trade union movement in Sri Lanka. This is not Singapore. A policy which seeks to isolate the workers from their leaders, and which uses the

'carrot' and 'stick' technique to draw back the locked-out workers to seek re-employment, may have a temporary success. Confrontation will not cease; it will merely be postponed. For any lasting solution to emerge from this present tussle, dialogue and negotiation are also essential; not merely trial of strength. The public will have its prejudices and preferences, but will expect those entrusted with governing to be fair, while playing politics. Remedies must be found in relation to unbearable costs of living, glaring inequality of income distribution, and the alienation of an important section of the working force of the nation. IN SEEKING to solve the tussle between the Sinhalese and Tamils regarding language rights and the nature and scope of district development councils, the President did not yield to extremists, on either side. He continued a dialogue with the Tamil leaders, and was flexible, imaginative but firm when negotiating with them. All the problems were not solved, but the basis for a more lasting solution was achieved. He must likewise be willing to follow a similar policy when dealing with the trade unions and their leaders whether they be those involved in the present strike or not. He is after all the President of the nation, and not the Minister of Labour.

A few trade union leaders may be disruptive by ideology or design. The majority will be willing to negotiate a settlement which will be both unrealistic and mindful of mutual rights. The Government has the right to govern and to seek to achieve its basic goals within the period for which it was elected, while also recognising the role of particular groups such as trade unions, within the nation. The trade unions have rights to safeguard, legitimate power to exercise and duties to fulfill.

A realistic compromise based on just dealing and mutual respect is not beyond the wit of the protagonists in the tussle. It will strengthen the foundations of both a vibrant democracy and a righteous society.



Govt.



Notices

Revocation Order Under Section 39(1) Of The Land Acquisition Act (Chapter 460) As Amended By The Land Acquisition (Amendment) Act No. 28 Of 1964.

My No. 03 J 78 LH 117
G.A.'s No. LA/1621

Whereas by order No. 726 of 1979 dated 19th December, 1979 made under provision (a) to section 38 of the Land Acquisition Act published in the Gazette No. 68/18 of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka dated 28th December, 1979, the land more fully described in the schedule below, vested in the Republic of Sri Lanka,

And whereas possession of the said land has not yet been taken for and on behalf of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. Now therefore, I Lionel Gamini Dissanayake Minister of Lands and Land Development in the execution of powers conferred to me under section 39(1) of the Land Acquisition Act as amended by the Land Acquisition Amended Act No. 28, hereby declare that the above order No. 726 of 1979 dated 19th December, 1979 is revoked.

Gamini Dissanayake

Minister of Lands and Land Development.
Colombo,
June 6, 1980

Schedule

An allotment of and called 'Peththan Valavu' Assessment No. 251, Beach Road in extent 0A. 1R. 03.0P. situated at Siviyatheru East Village within the Jaffna Municipal Council limits, Jaffna D.R.O.'s Division Jaffna District depicted in the Advance Tracing No. ya/A/78/17 prepared by the Survey General and bounded as follows:—

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| North & South | — Road (Highways) |
| East | — Land called 'Peththan Valavu' Assessment No. 120, Bankshall Street claimed by Indrani Kanagasabai. |
| West | — State land—Jaffna Fisheries Training Centre. |

Notice Under Section 7 Of The Land Acquisition Act (Chp. 460) As Amended By The Land Acquisition (Amendment) Act No. 28 Of 1964.

Reference No. ATH 17/366

It is intended to acquire the land described in the schedule below. For further particulars please see Government Gazette No. 104 (Part III) of 29.08.1980.

Schedule

D.R.O.'s Division : Nugegoda
Village : Pitakotte & Mirihana
Name of Land : Hikgahawatte, Weherakanatte alias Weherakande, Kosgahawatte, Delgahawatte.
Lot No. : 1,2,3,4,5,6,7 & 8
Plan No. P.P. Co. 5273

H. C. Gunawardene
District Land Officer
Colombo District.

The Kachcheri
Colombo.

Date:— 08th August 1980
EJP/24/01 21/07

Notice Under Section 7 Of The Land Acquisition Act (Cap 450) as Amended By The Land Acquisition (Amendment) Act No. 28 Of 1964.

Reference No. ATH 18/637

It is intended to acquire the land described in the schedule below. For further particulars please see Government Gazette No. 104 (Part III) of 1980.08.29.

D.R.O.'s Division: Moratuwa
Situation: Ward No. 5, Indibedda, within U.C. limits of Moratuwa
Village: Kaldamulla
Name of Land: Moragahakanatte alias Andiawatte alias Delgahawatte (Assmt. Nos. 3/1, 3/2, & 3/3 1st Lane Indibedde.
Lot No.: 1 & 2
Plan No. P.P. No.: 5366

H. C. Gunawardene
District Land Officer of Colombo District.
The Kachcheri
Colombo.
Date:— 12th August 1980
EJP/15/05—10.25 06/08

My No. LA/4363
The Land Acquisition Act (Chapter 460) As Amended By The Land Acquisition (Amendment) Act No. 28 Of 1964.
Notice Under Section 7

It is intended to acquire the land described in the schedule below. For further particulars please see the Gazette of the Republic of Sri Lanka Part III No. 104 of 1980.08.29.

Schedule

Name of Land: Madangahawatte and Thalghawatte
Name of Village: Uihitiyawa
Plan No. & Lot No: Pu./1984—1,2,3,4,5,6 & 7

H. A. Herath
Acquiring Officer Puttalam District and District Land Officer.

The Kachcheri
Puttalam. 06/08/1980

Land Acquisition Act (Chapter 450) As Amended By The Land Acquisition (Amendment) Act No. 28 Of 1964.
My No. LA 1627
Notice Under Section 7.

The Government intends to acquire the land described in the schedule below for a public purpose. For particulars please see Part III of the Government Gazette No. 104 published on 29.08.1980.

Name of Land: Kanchurapulam
Name of Village: Udupidy
D.R.O.'s Division: Vadamerachchi South and west
Lot No.: 1
P. Plan No.: a 1463

A. M. M. Kulanayagam
A.G.A. Jaffna District.

The Kachcheri
Jaffna 8.8.1980.

Notice Under Section 7 Of The Land Acquisition Act (Cap. 460) As Amended By The Land Acquisition (Amendment) Act No. 28 Of 1964.

Ref. No. EA/6/305

It is intended to acquire the land/lands described in the Schedule below. For further particulars see the Gazette No. 104 dated 29.08.1980 of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

Schedule

Situation: In the village of Berathuduwa in Berathuduwa Grama Sevaka Division D.R.O.'s division of Wellaboda pattu North in the District of Galle.

Name of Land: Radaudumullawatta

Plan and Lot No.: GA/1332 Lots 1-2

W. Somadasa

Acquiring Officer, Galle District.

The Kachcheri

Galle. 1980 August

AT THE SEMINAR

Toxic Chemicals

IS IT TRUE at the National Tripartite Seminar on the Improvement of Working conditions and environment sponsored by the I.L.O./Ministry of Labour/Sri Lanka Foundation Institute, held from the 27th to 29th August 1980, one of the Committee had deliberated on Toxic Chemicals? That surprisingly representatives from Hayleys Ltd., (Haychem Ltd.) and Baur & Co. Ltd., did not participate in the above deliberations—though they were invited? That another surprising feature was the attempt by an I.L.O. official to dump equipment here under an "aid" credit line? That it is a well-known fact that various developing countries of this region have been inundated with the same kind of equipment from a particular firm in a particular industrialized country? That at this Seminar there was a mighty effort to "sell" this equipment but what was not known to more than 95% of the participants was that most of the equipment exhibited were outdated and were not used in any country by any occupational health and safety personnel who know the subject?

That they are certainly not in use in the so-called developed countries? That there are pseudo-occupational health and safety personnel in a few developing countries who can be "persuaded" to use them or pretend to use them? That sometimes ignorance may be bliss, but such ignorance is often a cover for golden opportunities to make hay? That the Deputy Commissioner (Technical) who chaired the recent Seminar invited the participants to examine the exhibits? That it was a case of the elephant and the blind men? That it is also a fact that no one from the factory inspectorate was familiar with this equipment to point out the inadequacies of the items displayed? That it will be a tragedy if any of this equipment is dumped in the Museum of the Factories Division of the Labour Department? That it is good to recall the sound level meter bought at a high cost is still lying idle? That no one knows whether readings were taken using that meter? That government should take the necessary precautions to see that useless equipment is not "sold" to Sri Lanka under the pretext of "aid" even if the salesman is an I.L.O. "expert"—and a Sri Lankan at that?

Were any Labour Officers invited to the Seminar?



ODD MAN OUT—4

The Diktat

by Lorls

This is the fourth and concluding 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. This meeting has been the subject of much comment in several reports in the local daily press. We welcome comments and observations from other readers especially those who may have a contrary point of view—Editor

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

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

T.H.: Well, er.....there is nothing to add to what we have.....er.....said in the annual report.

Member: The question has not been answered in the annual report. What we want to know is the reasons for the objections of the Society to the setting up of the Elephant Secretariat.. ..

T.H.: The main objection is the secretive manner in which the projects are being promoted.....our point of view was not seriously discussed.....

Member: We wish to know the other objections of the Society.

T.H.: These are good objections.....

Member: We wish to know the other objections, if you have any.....

T.H.: Like you are a member here, we are a member of IUCN. If they or WWF jointly promote a project here, it is their duty, according to their own rules, to consult with us, to ask us, speak to us, submit these proposals.. ...they have failed to do so.....and it is one of the main reasons why we, a self-respecting body, cannot accept their dictate.

Member: Might I know whether the views of this house was canvassed before the Committee took this decision?

T.H.: The Committee runs the affairs of the Society, the Committee consists of 18 people who are elected by the general membership.. ...as I said, we have 6,000 such members, spread all over the country and if every time we have a question like this to decide we would have to ask for a general meeting, there would be no end to general meetings.....In fact, it would be quite unworkable, but anyone, as I have said before, is welcome to come and give us their advice, and say what they have to say, and it would be considered when we make our deliberations and when we take decisions.....any more questions?

Member: Might I suggest, as a member here we have a representative of the World Wildlife Fund, may we ask him for his views? Dr. Olivier.....I would suggest that we ask him what he has to say.....

T.H.: Dr. Olivier is a member of this Society, and if he wants to speak, he has the right to speak.....

Members: Dr. Olivier! Dr. Olivier!!

Dr. O.: Yes, please. Mr. President, I am very grateful for this opportunity to respond.... ..and as a member of this society and the representative of the World Wildlife Fund mentioned in your item on the Asian Elephant Secretariat, I am particularly glad because I am also aware that this matter has been discussed in Committee for many months now, and this is the first time I've been invited to make any explanation, although I have been here since October.....I think before this meeting can discuss or adopt this item on the Asian Elephant Secretariat, I should start right at the beginning and explain the background of what we intended to do. In 1978, World Wildlife Fund decided to give high priority to raising funds for the conservation of elephant eco-systems and elephants. As most of you probably know, all.....on this program are implemented according to scientific advice from IUCN. In the case of programmes involving species, it is largely IUCN.... ..Commission that provides that advice. It was decided that in relation to the local elephant program that WWF would provide the two small secretariats to facilitate the work of the IUCN.....Commission Asian and African Elephant Special Group. It was hoped that this would improve the overall efficiency of WWF/IUCN efforts to conserve wild elephants in Africa and Asia. In addition, it was hoped that these.....would serve as information centres, information clearing houses and an international stimulator for elephant conservation. As such, a primary function of these was to try to identify what exactly needed to be done in various countries with wild elephants in order to achieve our aims. Many of these identified needs can be translated into potential projects for funding. The sum total of needed action or activity for a country constitute what we have called an Action Plan. However, I now come to a very important point which I beg you to try and understand. That is, that in a sense, the Action Plan will never be finished.....they are open documents, they are meant to be evolving, they are to be continually revised and up-dated, and improved. Anybody and everybody is invited to suggest additions.... ..alternatives, or to debate the merits of any or every component of the Action Plan. However, even when consensus has been reached on an Action Plan, one thing has al-

ways been clear, and that is that there is no way that funds from WWF alone would be sufficient to pick up identified needs. Therefore, another vital role of the Secretariat is to co-ordinate with other organisations, with the potential to undertake projects, so that the entire.....so that the Action Plan can be implemented in an integrated, multi-lateral fashion. Nevertheless, I must.....to emphasise the conservation action.....up by government agencies or organisations other than ourselves are wholly the responsibility of, and come completely under the control of, those organisations or agencies. We have never envisaged the Secretariat, or any specialist group, being either interested, authorised, or able to even attempt to usurp such authority or responsibility. By now I hope its very clear that the Secretariat has a regional function. However, it has to be physically located somewhere, and it was realised.....It was inevitable that the country hosting the Secretariat would have some advantage. It was logical to site the Secretariat in the country with the most severe and pressing problems in relation to elephant conservation; not only did Sri Lanka fit that bill, it has always been in the vanguard of elephant conservation in Asia, and had a long history of concern and action in this regard, both in Government, in the Universities, and non-governmental organisations such as this society. For all these reasons we chose Sri Lanka and frankly, never anticipated that the location here of a service such as the one I have just described, would be opposed and least of all by a Society that had associated as closely with IUCN and the World Wildlife Fund as this. Therefore, you probably won't be surprised that I can counter most of the objections that are listed in the annual report, and I'd like to list them very briefly—and may be you'd like to question me further after I have stopped talking. I think.....I hope, having described what the Action Plan is, I fail to see how it can be of no consequence to Sri Lanka, or of doubtful value. We are now in the 3rd draft of the National Plan for Sri Lanka, and put it for the approval and endorsement of the Dept. of Wildlife Conservation. The second point I would make is that these things were not promoted by me as representative of WWF. They were promoted by my organisation. I

was selected as the head of the office, and its obvious that I should be the front man trying to negotiate agreements. But I emphasise they were promoted by WWF and IUCN at the very highest levels. To get on to the next paragraph, I am in a dilemma how to respond, because it is quite clear that a misunderstanding.....the President.....on the Committee. You see, there's no such thing as a Sri Lanka Elephant Project, that.....was drafted on the.....it doesn't exist. So if I assume that they really mean the Action Plan, then I certainly was consulted on wildlife conservation. This Society had already opposed and attacked the Secretariat Project before we even drafted the first version for this country. If, on the other hand, he means the Secretariat Project, in its own right, then I myself put it to Mr. Hoffmann.....I'd like to know more of what he means by certain projects. He said "our point of view was not seriously discussed", but the attitudes taken by the leadership of the Society have.....and subsequent to our first.....precluded any discussion....
..We know what they think about it.....they think the whole thing is a waste of time. The final point I might pick up is the autocratic attitude.....I said in my earlier presentation that we in no way intend to usurp anybody's authority or responsibility in the country. Now.....I hope I have convinced many of you that there are no technical grounds for opposing what we hope to do here and, I'm afraid, from the documentary evidence at my disposal, the opposition to this whole exercise has been largely on a personal level, and this is very much to be regretted, because I'm here not in my own capacity but as the representative of World Wildlife Fund and IUCN, and we are being prevented from helping this country and other countries in the region, which is a very sad thing. The second thing is that this has led directly to a severe erosion of the credibility of this Society in the international conservation community.. Thank you.

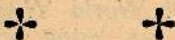
Member: In the light of these observations made by Dr. Olivier, I propose that the section in the annual report for last year entitled Asian Elephant Secretariat, at pages 14 and partly on pages 15, be deleted.

Member: I second that.

T.H.: Well.....first of all let us thank Dr.

Olyler for his.....er.....lucid explanation. I have already told you before that we were not consulted about the technical aspects, we had neither seen drafts 1, 2 or 3 and we weren't.....therefore able to work on them.....or comment.....and otherwise make ourselves useful.....this is our main objection because, as I said, we are a self-respecting body, and we are.....we may not be the last word in conservation in this country, but we *should* on numbers, be the first word on matters of conservation. So that's that. Now, it has been proposed that we delete this paragraph from the report.....well.....it is a fact that this paragraph came to be put down because it is the Committee's point of view, the Committee has decided on this, and if you feel you'd like to remove (?) it,.....as a matter of fact.....well.... ..I'm easy.....but these reports, contrary to what some of you think, do not convey all and everything that goes on in one year. In fact, they *cannot*.....in that case we would have to publish extracts from the minutes. Anyway, you have proposed and seconded that this paragraph on the Elephant Secretariat be removed from the record, from the report of happenings for last year..Well, I put this then to the house—those who are in favour of deleting this section, Asian Elephant Secretary, please raise your hands.....one hundred and two.....those who are against deleting, please raise your hands.....one hundred and thirty-six..for keeping it.....one hundred and two for deleting.....so it stays where it is.....

Concluded.



LETTER

● WNPS

Sir,

Having read all that has been published in your journal in the past few weeks on wild-life and nature protection (and/or conservation), I realise the aptness of a placard carried by a youngster in the recent 'March for Conservation'. The message was disarmingly

simple; it said: "Birds Are The Best Insecticides". How true, when one reads what Professor Weerakoon has to say on the lethal effects of man-made insecticides and pesticides on just about everything, including man himself! What man is trying to do—in fact, hell-bent on doing—amounts really to a brazen and foolhardy act of oneupmanship on Nature!

I find it curious, to say the least, that there has been no word—either of agreement or of disagreement—from the prestigious Bird Club of Ceylon. It sounds like a sick joke to have to point out that if nothing is done to reverse the way things are going now, the members of the Club will certainly end up watching birds—die and disappear, that is.

I am reminded also of what a planter friend told me recently. He was out on his daily early morning 'round' when the feeling seemed to grow on him that there was some thing different, but he couldn't quite put his finger on it; a strange feeling of uneasiness, although he could not figure out what it was that seemed different. That afternoon the estate's labourers had collected the carcasses of little birds by the hundreds; the area had been sprayed with pesticides the previous day. And then, of course, my friend says he remembered what it was that he felt was different that morning—it was the silence of death. The birds were not the target of the pesticides, but they died all the same

I suppose it would be too much to ask, say, the Secretary of the Bird Club to comment on what has been published in your journal on the subject of nature conservation, at least in so far as it concerns the life and well-being of birds in our country. The most likely answer: 'Why should I?'—which after all, has fast become the hallmark of the dedicated nature-lover in this country.

Eagle Hawk

Colombo

September 2, 1980



Cattle Trouble

by Bwana Rafiki

Two days and three nights was the refreshing length of time that I was at the estate after the hectic last two weeks when my energy was directed chiefly in another direction, and I must say I enjoyed it there in retrospect, in retrospect because my life there, peaceful in a way, is hardly ever without unwelcome incidents, especially at night when it is more restful, the cattle all tied up or in their pens, but a dog barking here, or cattle lowing there, setting me thinking, for animals rarely make a noise without some reason, and it has paid in the past to take note of the noise. These noises occur mostly when I am just ready to retire to bed, often at a very late hour, and then the watcher or I go out to investigate the noise.

My memory is very bad especially at names but there are little incidents that I read about that stick in my memory, and one is that the first man to fly the Atlantic solo and his wife heard something like glass breaking the night their child was kidnapped. The baby was eventually found dead and appeared to have died by banging its head while being removed from its nursery down a ladder. The tinkling of the glass was the kidnapper breaking a window pane to open a window, and the child's parents beyond noticing the noise took no further action and did not think the matter worth investigating. Even at that stage the child's life might have been saved. I was inveigled out to see a late night film and walked the two miles home as I am so unused to taking taxis, and I write this at half-past two of a morning.

That unholy hour was not because of the picture for I was now back on the estate and thought I would make my nightly inspection of the cattle at the unusual hour of 10.30 p.m. and so go earlier to bed. Accompanied this time by the watcher I had gone round nearly all the cattle when I found that a cow named *Booruthenna* after its mother who was *Booruwa*, was nearly loose and the rope round its neck was fastened by a slip knot like a lasso, which had worked loose instead of

tightening and strangling the cow. For some reason the watcher is not used to animals any more than our Ceylon-bred cows are used to me, but with his aid supplied under my direction I managed to refasten the rope round the animal's neck with a knot that would not let the rope slip, not easy when the rope had also to be removed from round its head. Eleven other cows and the bull had to be done in this way.

The operation took us three hours. Most of the cows were not very tame and would have broken away if given a chance. Each cow's rope and the bull's presented its own problem. Some of the animals had to be calmed first. If any had broken away they would have been the very deuce to catch, and we had to work without a spare rope. Most of them had no short ropes round their neck. As for all these who did try to break away and those who did not, we had to rely on the coconut tree to which they were tied to take their weight for we would never have held them otherwise. In all cases this meant two twists of the rope round the tree and the ropes were short. Even when all these cows were safely tied up that was not the end of the story. We lost, the watcher and I say we because I had to awake a lad sleeping on my verandah to accompany me to go and find him. Even that was not the end of my tale. I must go to bed.

Caught well and truly with a cold on my part, and the usual telegram calling my factor away, and with two estates to look after now, the accounts for the two estates taking us till 10.30 p.m. the money for each kept separately, and checked, I now had to turn my mind to the cattle. My factor after two years here still does not know the animals as well as I do, and so I call in my second houseboy who has a way with cattle, and I give him a detailed description of where each animal is to be found, taking them in batches but giving each a name, its mother's name and its sex if it has not a name, and I send him off with the factor to see if they are all right, sixty-five head of them. They come back to report all correct.

Fortunately it was Saturday, the next day, when we only have the dairy section at work and the resident labour. I stopped

the Saturday work of the others on my estate over since the day when nine of them sneaked off to the Labour Office near the coast to query a point about their pay about which I was right but played a lone hand because I had everybody against me including the Labour Officer. Eventually I gave in some time later before the point became law, and law without any retrospective effect, as was only right and proper, and in time unknowingly on my part to put them on the wrong side as regards their food stamps, which they nevertheless proceeded to claim and succeeded in getting, but the five-days-a week men came down on the right side of the law as regards food stamps, at least the sole wage-earners in a household.

SRI LANKA

Faces Crucial Choice

by David Housego

Sri Lanka's economic experiment is running into trouble. After ending the 1970s as one of the success stories of the International Monetary Fund and with two years prosperity unparalleled in the decade, Sri Lanka is now one of those developing countries whose investment strategy is being knocked off course by a combination of rising oil prices, global recession and more restrictive Western aid policies.

The difficulties came to the surface during a fierce exchange at the recent annual meeting in Paris of the Aid to Sri Lanka Consortium. Western donor nations pressed for a slow-down in Sri Lanka's five-year public investment program, which is designed to extend infrastructure and transform the country into a trade and manufacturing centre to compete with Singapore.

The program was always too ambitious, but Mr. Ronnie de Mel, the island's Finance Minister, explained in anger at the scale of the cuts being pressed on him. He said that the Government had three years ago introduced 'almost revolutionary changes' in conforming to IMF policies and had taken 'hard and unpopular decisions' in cutting back welfare subsidies.

The government is now faced with the choice of whether to accept the deflationary measures proposed or turn to the international banks for what Western donors term 'expensive commercial financing.' A key factor in its decision is that, though Sri Lanka has been politically quiet, it has a record of violence, trade union militancy and communist agitation that forced the former regime some eight years ago to call in foreign troops to suppress an armed insurgency on the island.

Recollections of this violence, and parts of renewed agitation if the Government fails to meet expectations of better living standards and more jobs, no doubt played a part in the July 15th decision to impose a state of emergency to pre-empt a revival of trade union activity. Sri Lanka is a test case of IMF realism. When President J. R. Jayewardene's United National Party Government took power in 1977, Sri Lanka had one of the most extensive welfare systems in Asia. But it was collapsing under the weight of a stagnant economy and over one million unemployed in a population of 14 million.

Under IMF auspices, his government opted for a policy of cutting back on welfare payments to finance higher levels of investment, and hence more jobs, and of export-oriented growth. The economy's performance is being monitored under the IMF's extended fund program which carries the toughest of the fund's conditions.

In Mr. Jayewardene's first two years, national output expanded at 7 per cent; or double the rate of the early 1970s, investment climbed as the private sector responded to a more open economy and foreign exchange reserves rose. Much of the new prosperity was due to favourable export prices for tea, rubber and coconuts that account for about 55 per cent of export earnings and provide a significant contribution to incomes and tax revenue. Thus, Sri Lanka's terms of trade improved about 40 per cent, between the trough of 1975 and the good years of 1977 and 1978.

Colombo has been bashing in the backwash of this prosperity. One of the few danger signals has been an inflation rate of about 35 per cent that reflects the hectic pace at which tourism, construction and the services sector

have been expanding, increasingly the whole island faces slower growth, continuing high inflation and fewer new jobs.

At the heart of this change is the sharp deterioration in the terms of trade as prices for imported oil and capital goods have risen and prices for tea, the country's major export, have slumped. The terms of trade index was 28 percent last year and is expected to fall further over the next four years. There is little chance of off-setting this through increasing the volume export of commodities because of poor estate management in the past. Manufactured goods are coming up against protectionism in the West.

Textiles and garments have been the fastest growing manufactured exports and were the backbone of the New Free Trade Zone outside Colombo. But they have been hit by new quotas in the US and it is a difficult time to be striking out into new ventures and products.

The difficulties of the export sector are also dampening prospects for growth and new jobs. But beyond this, the adverse shift in the terms of trade is exacerbating Sri Lanka's balance of payments problems and eroding the Government's tax revenues. The current account deficit will almost certainly double this year to over 600m dollars and could rise to over 1 billion dollars by 1982 unless there are curbs on imports.

At the same time, the addition to government revenues from the large IMF-sponsored cutback in welfare payment and subsidies, which have fallen from 9 per cent of Gross National Product in 1978 to 5 percent this year, has been almost entirely wiped out by the decline in revenues from tea.

In a country with a low per capita income, the Government has little scope for imposing additional taxes or further cutting back on subsidies. It will thus have only a measure surplus of Rs. 10.2 billion (290m pounds) on its ordinary budget for 1980-84 to contribute to the five-year investment programme of Rs. 67 billion on which it is embarked. This program is the largest Sri Lanka has ever undertaken. Government investment has in fact, risen from 6 per cent of Gross Domestic Product between 1974-78 to 15 per cent

last year. The increase was made possible by a sharp increase in foreign aid which covered 65 percent of public investment last year.

But over the next five years the program assumes an annual growth in resources available to the Government of 5 percent in real terms. Under present estimates neither tax revenues nor foreign aid will expand at this pace. To avoid cutting back the program, the government must either increase domestic borrowing, which risks crowding out the private sector, or seek commercial finance from abroad. It is on whether to make cuts in the program, and where, that the Government is at loggerheads with the IMF and Western donors.

President Jayewardene's present goal is to express into six years the giant 30 year plan for a multipurpose hydropower and irrigation project on the Mahaweli River. His Government's difficulties have been compounded by the IMF's exaggerated idea of the resource available to it. The fund also, and understandably, failed to take account of the dramatic shift in the terms of trade last year.

Also to blame are donor nations including Britain, which committed funds to the Mahaweli project before feasibility studies had revealed its true cost and then left Sri Lanka to make up the difference, thus adding to the island's budgetary problems. Sri Lanka will have no problem in raising funds in the international capital markets. Last year, it raised 50 million dollars in a syndicated loan arranged through Manufacturer's Hanover on which it has not yet drawn. But Commercial borrowings on the scale now needed to cover the shortfall in its present investment program could carry the debt service ratio up from its present level of 10 per cent of foreign exchange earnings to a shattering 40 per cent by the end of this decade.

(Financial Times)



Earthworms

by William Haynes

Fishermen each season dangle millions of earthworms in likely waters. No other bait enjoys such popularity with anglers. The fish may, or may not, hold similar views.

Christopher Gallup looks at the earthworm as bait for bigger crops. More earthworms, he contends mean higher fertility.

In evidence he offers a yield of 196 bushel baskets of ear corn, in contrast to the 80 bushels his earlier methods produced. His swarming earthworms leave more than eight tons of their casts per acre each year. (The cast is the deposit after the worm digests the vegetable and mineral material which it eats).

Then Gallup points to the chemical analysis of these casts. Compared with other topsoil, they contain five times as much nitrogen, seven times as much phosphorous, eleven times as much potash, three times as much magnesium.

How does one persuade the earthworms to multiply? Feed them, says Gallup; feed them trash and organic matter. His method is to work everything possible into the top six inches of soil, where, in the lower four inches the worms do most of their living.

Gallup's farm lies among stony hills of eastern Connecticut. Two hundred and seventy years ago when King Philip and his Narragansett braves in 1675, took to the war path and ravaged that corner of Connecticut, a forbear of Christopher Gallup already had some of the farm cleared.

Fifteen years ago, determined to be successful as a farmer, as he had previously been in a Hartford insurance company, Gallup began opening the family's ancient homestead.

He says, "I went into our little fields with a heavy plow hooked to a 20 H.P. caterpillar tractor, determined to give that old land the works. I plowed deep. I put on lime and commercial fertilizer. I did everything the experts advised. I firmly believed with all its stones our New England soil was good soil. But the best I could get was 80 bushels of corn, in spite of a lot of fertilizer and hard work."

Ultimately, Gallup hit on his answer—the spring-tooth harrow plus earth worms.

No one, Gallup says, knows all about earthworms. They eat and digest both decaying vegetation and soil itself. Their tunnels carry air and water into the ground. Exactly what happens in the Gizzards between their suction mouths and the fertile casts is yet to be found out.

A scientist's count indicates that in Gallup's best fields as many as 150,000 worms inhabit each acre. A western student believes the worm population on an acre could be increased to ten times that number, enough to bring two and a half tons of digested material to the surface of each 24 hours. That's a lot of plant food, in any language.

Gallup figures that four years are needed to build up the worm numbers. Harrowing the trash in helps in the first year to create their food supply. The second year the breeding stock begins to congregate, the third it multiplies. By the fourth the works are heaving up subsoil in quantity.

"Nowadays," he explains, "we get out with the tooth-harrow as soon as the front is out. That is a good three weeks earlier than we could use a plow, and a couple of weeks before the land could be worked with a disc harrow. Grass and perennial weeds can then be killed with surprising ease."

Gallup's cultivating method is to set the teeth of the harrow at the most shallow notch, and to go over the field several times. Then he spreads his manure and promptly harrows it in. After each heavy spring rain he harrows again, both ways, each time lowering the teeth one notch.

Frequently people ask, "What about the trash? Doesn't it bunch up?" "And," they add, "aren't your fields 'dirty' and isn't that litter an A-1 incubator for pests?"

Gallup says "No" to both questions. He is, in fact, strongly of the view that "earthworm tillage" keeps down the corn borers.

Early in the spring before a bit of new growth starts, the trash—even heavy trash like corn stubble—is quite tender after having been softened by frost and snow. Warm sun and spring rains, and the worms, hurry its decay. Even at the first harrowing, Gallup

says the trash almost never bunches, and by planting time it has disappeared.

When he brings a piece of sod into cultivation, Gallup cuts the sod with a disc harrow late in July, and rakes crossways with the spring tooth. Next he manures heavily and rakes in lightly with the spring-tooth. After five cultivations, he sows rye, and is ready by spring for his regular procedure.

You notice at once that he cultivates both in preparation and in regular tillage more often than usual. However, the tractor in high speed can harrow five or six times as fast as plow or cultivator can travel.

While the soil is still loose the corn is drilled in rows with a planter and cultivator with hiller discs that throw a heavy ridge over the dressed seed. This, he believes, gives extra moisture for germination. Four to eight days later the cultivator with weeder teeth in front breaks down the ridge, destroying any young weeds. When the corn is a foot high the hiller-disc again throws back the ridge. Tractor cultivation continues until the corn is two feet high.

Gallup does not use hybrid seed. This spring he will plant selected seed from his 1944 crop, which will be detasseled for growing seed. He will also plant selected corn from his 1943 crop for the pollen rows in his seed plot. He thinks this avoids the disadvantages of inbreeding and gives vigor.

"Part of our increased yields," says Gallup, "is due to this kind of seed selection. But the method of cultivation which brings on more earthworms is mainly responsible." May be he has something.

Courtesy: "The Farm Journal and Farmer's Wife"

FROM "LANKA GUARDIAN"

AUGUST 15, 1980

Anatomy Of A Strike

by Jayantha Somasundaram

Sri Lanka's organised working class has an instinctive distrust of J. R. Jayewardene. And ever since he assumed office in July 1977, there were moves among the unions to unite in order to meet the challenges that were to

come. Whilst such unity seemed logical to the ranks, the leaders, particularly the political leaders, had reservations about united activity that would undermine their individual or party interests. The record of Rohana Wijeweera and the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna bears this out. Ultimately the base won over the apex, and on March 8th and 9th 1980, a massive convention of 4,000 trade union delegates met in Colombo. They placed on the future agenda a set of demands that included a wage increase of Rs. 300 and called for a day of national protest to register these demands. (see L.G. April 1st).

With much procrastination on the part of their leaders, the trade unions finally observed June 5th as the Day of National Protest. Until that date, whenever the opposition made any kind of protest, it was standard fare for them to be subjected to violent reprisals. The Bank Employees Union and the Kelaniya University students were the first casualties in 1978. But on June 5th this tactic backfired. Somapala who died in the melee was to become a martyr whose funeral on the 9th became an even bigger protest event.

When the trade union leaders had called a token strike on September 28th 1978, so lukewarm was the response that the leaders themselves hastily shelved. But that was nineteen seventy eight. On July 7 (1980) the workers at the Railway's Ratmalana Workshop downed tools in protest against the alleged victimisation of fourteen colleagues who had been active on June 5th. At Ratmalana the UNP controlled Jatika Sevaka Sangamaya was also out on strike. The strike at Ratmalana galvanised the Joint Trade Union Action Committee which met on the 9th to clinically study the situation. Whilst their discussions were going on, the strike spread to the Railway running sheds at Maradana and Maligawatte. Whilst locomotives, powersets and carriages are repaired at Ratmalana, their daily maintenance is carried out at Maradana and Maligawatte. By the 10th the strike had spread throughout the Railways. Into the provinces as well.

The JIUAC which met on Friday the 11th was presented with a fait accompli. Not only was the strike spreading rapidly, paralysing a vital national service, but the workers themselves were now advancing a compre-

hensive set of demands, crucial among them the Rs. 300 wage increase. The JTUAC thereupon decided to call a general strike during the week July 14th to 21st, and a public rally at Hyde Park on the 18th. The strike broke out of the Railways on Monday morning (14th) itself. Workers of the Government United Federation of Labour at the Civil Medical Stores walked out on the 14th. The workers at the Government Factory Kolonnawa followed them on the 15th. Next came the Government Press where even the JSS downed tools on the 16th. The Government Clerical Service Union came out on the 17th and the Samastha Lanka Rajaya Lipikaru Sangamaya the next day.

Although the public rally was banned, restive workers converged on Hyde Park that evening, quite prepared to defy the ban. Riot Police armed with tear gas grenades cordoned off the Park and anxious trade union leaders packed the workers off. The workers had already defied the Essential Services Act and had broken the law by striking, they seemed to have little compunction about breaking another law. This was the crucial turning point. The strike now spread to the State Corporation and mercantile sectors. Bata, Tobacco Company and Walkers went on strike on the 18th. The Mill Board came out on Monday the 21st and Lever Brothers on the 22nd. The Opposition claims that by then 140,000 workers in all parts of the island were on strike.

The strike which was initiated by workers and picked up in other work places by workers themselves was retarded by the political leaders. The Sri Lanka Freedom Party regarded the strike as a means to embarrass and weaken the Government in preparation for the 1983 General Election. They had no wish to see a spontaneous strike cripple or topple the government in a situation where they did not become the obvious alternative government. According to some critics, the Communist Party could see only one beneficiary in the event of a successful strike—the SLFP. And in a situation where they had no working arrangements or power sharing agreement with the SLFP, the CP had no reason to encourage the strike beyond certain bounds. This however, may be altogether too harsh an indictment. The Lanka Sama Samaja Party

was severely restricted by its Parliamentary perspective. Thus it could not co-exist with a spontaneous workers confrontation which might burst the bounds of parliamentary politics. But like the SLFP it welcomed and encouraged the strike within certain limits, if it could help weaken the UNP and put the SLFP-LSSP back in parliament.

With the exception of the Lanka Guru Sangamaya, the JVP kept aloof from the strike. The MEP which has unions at Kosgama, in the Sugar Corporation and in the harbour, did not strike. Shanmugathan's Ceylon Trade union Federation with a sizeable following in the Cinema industry did not strike. Bala Tampoe's Ceylon Mercantile Union also did not strike. The unions affiliated to the United Federation of Labour, identified with Vasudeva Nanayakkara and the Nava Sama Samaja Party such as their Commercial and Industrial Workers Union in the private sector and the Government Clerical Service Union in the public sector, played an important role in the strike.

On July 24th, word came through to the GCSU that the Government intended to acquire their building in Colombo. It didn't require much imagination to give credence to this, following as it did, the Essential Services Act, the outlawed strikes, the Emergency Powers, the Press Censorship and the freezing of trade union bank accounts. A siege mentality gripped the GCSU and the NLSSP who resolved to defend the building to the last. The leaders of opposition were informed and a night-through vigil began. A series of confrontations which began with the death of Somapala on June 5th, was prevented from escalating still further with the lives of a few more martyrs. The take-over of the GCSU was not carried out and the situation was defused, although gradually. On July 31st the Leader of the Opposition conveyed to the JTUAC the willingness of the government to negotiate terms under which the strike could be called off and workers return.

—Lanka Guardian, August 15, 1980.



Small Hydrel Schemes

by R. Kahawita

WE SEE from a *Ceylon Daily News*, item that the Government is now actively considering the development of "minor rivers" for Hydrel Development. We are glad that the government has succumbed to the idea which we were trying to get going since we installed the turbine at Minneriya.

There are several sites that were meant to be exploited for this purposes; one is in Minneriya Yodi-Ela, at the first fall, a little beyond the main Road crossing, where a low head turbine was to have been installed. There should be available the designs for the structure with the Irrigation Department.

Another site is in the first mile of Minipe L. B. Channel, just after the channel intake and silt exclusion structures. The design here was to extract 200/250 cubic feet of water from Mahaweli and return, to the river lower down where a considerable drop is available. This would give a steady firm power hundred percent of the time. The designs and specifications for this too should be available with the Irrigation Department.

A third site is at Nalanda Oya Reservoir. This reservoir was constructed to divert water from Nalanda Oya to Kalawewa to compensate for the storage at Dewahuwa tank. Incidentally this was the beginning of the concept of Mahaweli Development in the nineteen thirties. Now that Kalawewa is getting Mahaweli Water directly, Nalanda Oya Reservoir is redundant and can be converted to a pure hydrel project. The design, construction, and the installations were for this purpose after Mahaweli water was available to Kalawewa. The intake for a turbine has been already constructed. There is a "Johnson Needle Valve sluice" in the penstock. This can be removed and a turbine installed. Probably this can be put into operation much earlier than Bowatenne which is lower down in the river. Water released from Nalanda Oya will be picked up at Bowatenne.

THERE IS PROVISION in Kantalai Tank Right Bank, sluice to install a turbine similar to the

one at Minneriya Tank. Here again the designs should be available with the Irrigation Department. There are others in the working irrigation system where generation of hydro-power has been studied and provision made in the designs for small scale Hydrel Development. One such scheme is on the Right Bank of Hakwatuna Oya scheme which is today in a disgraceful state of neglect. When one looks at this scheme one begins to wonder why the country should spend millions and millions of rupees to develop schemes and then abandon them completely when they are ready to give returns for the investments?

As we mentioned in an earlier comment on "Power Crisis", time has come for the Government to set up a study unit to develop small scale hydrel schemes. It is also extremely gratifying to note that a new small scale turbine has been developed by our engineers. While this is being perfected, there is a French ("Advani turbine") Design in operation today which has been tested and proved efficient. This type may be adopted while our model is ready for commercial production.

Our problem is we start crowing before the egg is laid. What is important and urgent today is to move on with the investigations, study and design for "small scale development" and crow about it when in operation. The appropriate authority for the suggested set up is the Irrigation Department as wherever possible "after use of water" should be irrigation. We hope this observation will catch the eye of our young Energetic Minister of Irrigation.

50 YEARS OF UNIVERSAL FRANCHISE

Citizenship For The Stateless

by Fred E. de Silva

OUR COUNTRY is one of the few democratic countries in the world where both men and women have enjoyed for the last 50 years the benefit of Universal franchise—which is the very foundation of a democratic way of life.

Our Government guided by the wisdom and experience of our President His Excellency Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, who has devoted 40 years of his political life in the cause of democratic freedom and who has been the architect of our New Constitution, which guarantees our personal freedoms and makes a stable democratic form of Government—unlike those countries in Asia and Africa that are toppled overnight either by violence or a work over of parliamentarians from one side to the other we enjoy the Rule of Law and our Judiciary acts without fear or favour of the Government. Our Prime Minister the Hon'ble Mr. R. Premadasa is a dynamic personality, who represents the aspirations of the common man, in the true sense of the word as he is one of them. His 56th Birthday was celebrated by the 2nd Anniversary of his baby "The Village Re-awakening Movement"—what better present could he give the downtrodden, neglected village folk of our country. He exemplifies in every aspect of his life "Man's humanity to man" irrespective of colour, caste and creed.

OUR GOVERNMENT has now the opportunity of enhancing the confidence of our minorities in our "Dharmista" Government by granting an amnesty to all those stateless persons by granting them Sri Lankan Citizenship. Most of these stateless persons are of Indian origin, who have been born in this country and who have contributed to the economic development of our country by working on the Tea Plantations under conditions that few of our Sinhalese brethren would. They are expert tea pluckers, poorers and weeders. Our tea industry will be the proper by their repatriation. Our Government can ill afford the foreign exchange that the repatriation involves.

Apart from the economic aspect, the more important to my mind is a country that is looked upon as an example of democratic socialism is the humanitarian angle. Half the 50 years of adult franchise by absorbing the stateless persons into the main stream of our community as our citizens. The smear campaign against the good name of our country both in America and England gets succour from the simple fact that there are one or

two lakhs of stateless persons of Tamil origin, who have been born and bred in this country. Our Government has been very fair to the minorities. Just a break down of all those in our foreign service who hold positions as Ambassadors and others in the foreign service and hold high positions as Directors, etc. in the home service will show how fair our Government is to the minorities of all sections.

But, all this means nothing to an audience who is told there are one to two lakhs of persons of Tamil origin born and bred here who are without their citizenship rights and living not knowing their future. Other democratic countries have had to grant an amnesty to all aliens and illegal immigrants and make these citizens of their respective countries. Australia is in the process of making aliens, all immigrants and all those who have overstayed their visa Australian citizens. This is also in the spirit of the UN Charter. It is most humiliating for a person who does not bear a Sinhalese name to have to prove his citizenship, when he tries to buy or sell a piece of land or have a passport. I was sad to read the newspapers where my friend Mr. Ameer who was our Attorney-General had to prove that he was a Sri Lankan. Life for all the minorities especially of Tamil and Muslim origin could be made happier if we accept as citizens all those residing in our country over a certain period of years. This will clear the good name of our country and reduce to naught the "Eelam claim."

ANOTHER MATTER that calls for immediate solution on humanitarian grounds is the granting of citizenship to the foreign spouses of Sri Lankians, without their having to give up their citizenship of birth. This granting of citizenship rights could be enjoyed only during the existence of the marriage. Most countries including the communist countries permit the foreign spouse to enjoy the citizenship of her husband. To ask a foreign spouse to give up her citizenship of birth by marrying a Sri Lankan is unjust. What happens if the Lankan divorces his foreign spouse. She will be stateless.

The UN, Charter, the law and Religion look upon husband and wife as one unit. No

foreign spouse can even take up a job. She may be a doctor; teacher or nurse and the country may need her services, but the marriage tie stands in the way. As I write this letter, my mind goes back to the time 50 years ago, when my father the late Mr. Geo E. de Silva, advocated citizenship rights for all the Indian Immigrant labourers—the chauvinistic Sinhalese Community at the time burnt his effigy at the Galle Face as a traitor. He fought for Universal Franchise and at the time it was looked upon as a "Sacrilege". But, today, all of us take the right to vote for granted. It is only when the Courts of law deprive of it that you realise its importance. Let us work for a better world showing compassion to all sections of the people; avoiding extremism in our religious and communal prejudices.

(+)

SRI LANKA CHRONICLE

August 21-26

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

CDN—Ceylon Daily News; CDM—Ceylon Daily Mirror; CO—Ceylon Observer; ST—Sunday Time; SO—Sunday Observer; DM—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 21: The Presidential Secretariat issued the following communiqué last night: "A delegation of Buddhist monks and laymen which held discussions with President J. R. Jayewardene on the Development Councils Bill yesterday evening had their doubts in the Bill allayed; they invoked blessings on the President, before they left. Government yesterday decided that all government departments and corporations can return to normal procedures for the granting of leave to staff as the country had returned to com-

plete normalcy. Electoral registers (voters lists) of all the electoral districts in the country will be maintained both in Sinhala and Tamil in future; under the existing law, electoral registers are maintained in Sinhala—CDN. The State Mortgage and Investment Bank will double the quantum of loans to prospective house builders; according to the new decision the Bank will give Rs. 200,000 per house builder at comparatively low rates of interest. Airlanka Catering Services Ltd., signed an agreement yesterday with the Greater Colombo Economic Commission (GCEC) to inaugurate the operation of a flight kitchen at the Colombo Airport, Katunayake. The Foreign Minister, A. C. S. Hameed left for New York on Monday night to attend the Group 77 Ministerial meeting and also the Eleventh Special Session of the UN on Economic Development—CDM. An increase in Business Turnover Tax and increased import duties on a wide range of items were announced by the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation last night; the BTT would be increased from one percent to two percent; the tax on adding machines, air-conditioners and several other types of electrical equipment would be increased from 25 percent to 50 percent; also an import duty of 12 percent would be imposed on motorcycles which are now brought into the country duty free, it said—SU. One of the amendments to be brought in during the Committee stage of the District Development Councils Bill which will be discussed in Parliament today will be that there is no compulsion that each of the Development Councils should have as their boundary a specific administrative district, if necessary more than one administrative district can be joined together to form a District Council by the President—DP. Buddhist monks have requested the government to take back those who have been sacked by the government; a petition for this purpose signed by leading Buddhist monks and organisations is to be sent to the President, P.M. and leader of the opposition—DK.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22: The Ceylon Tyre Corporation entered the world tyre market this week when it signed major contracts for the export of car and tractor tyres with Pakistan, Burma, Bangladesh and the Gulf State of Kuwait. A fabulous collection of Sri Lanka's finest gems will go under the hammer

amid tight security at the country's first public auctions of precious stones tomorrow. Nearly 50 per cent of the total work force who vacated their posts in the public sector on July 18, have sent letters of excuse along with medical certificates, expressing a wish to return to their posts, said a senior official of the Ministry of Public Administration yesterday. The Asian Elephant Specialists Group concluded its two-day meeting yesterday identifying projects to conserve the dwindling elephant population in this region—CDN. The Development Councils Bill was passed last night in Parliament with 151 voting in favour with none against; while the TULF voted with the Government none of the SLFP members was present as they had walked out in a body, after Mr. Malthripala Senanayake MP for Medawachchiya made a statement stating that the SLFP was opposed to the Bill—CDM. Government medical specialists have been allowed the right of private practice at their residences and to levy "reasonable" charges; this new concession is among several the government has decided to grant medical specialists by relaxing the channelled consultation practice scheme—SU. In what they term as the first step in protest against acceptance of the DDC Bill by the TULF, some members of the party who opposed the decision set fire to a copy of the bill close to the Samadhi of late S. J. V. Chelvanayakam while hundreds of people and police witnessed this spectacle—VK. Investigations have revealed that 100 Chairmen and Committee Members of Agricultural Development Societies appointed by the last Government have played out Rs. 1.2 million from these Societies—LD. Government is not able to finalise Budget estimates of Departments and Ministries as all experienced clerks of these institutions have been sacked as they participated in the strike; the Budget for 1981 may be delayed because of this—ATH. Five Opposition parties, the SLFP, TULF, LSSP, MEP and the CP have decided to hold a chain meeting and a protest campaign in every major town in the island; the picketing campaign will be launched from the 26th—DK.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23: The Commonwealth Heads of Government regional meeting in New Delhi early next month, which will be attended by President J. R. Jayewardene

will discuss the world and regional political situation and international economic issues, official sources said yesterday. Finance and Planning Minister Ronnie de Mel yesterday told Parliament that inflation was running at 25 per cent and costs were rising further—CDN. The foreign aid response was most encouraging and exceeded our expectations; the aggregate of the aid pledges indicated was higher than even the amount recommended by the World Bank itself, the total aid pledges amounted to Rs. 8.4 billion; that was for our development programme outside the Mahaweli project; so said the Minister of Finance and Planning, Mr. Ronnie de Mel yesterday in Parliament. Under the Development Councils programme several vital services will be decentralised very soon, said President J. R. Jayewardene at Peradeniya yesterday—CDM. Development Councils to be set up shortly may be called upon to pay a dole for the needy under a new scheme that will replace Food Stamps. President J. R. Jayewardene declared open the new Peradeniya General Hospital gifted by the Japanese Government equipped with ultra-modern equipment. Malaysia's Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Meo Yee Pan arrives here on Sunday for a three-day official visit. Regulations prohibiting the exploitation and export of Sri Lanka's threatened species of fish will shortly be formulated under the proposed National Environment Bill—SU. Leader of the Opposition Mr. A. Amirthalingam and Leader of the TULF and MP for Nallur Mr. S. Sivasithamparam appealed to the Government in Parliament to give back the jobs to those who lost them during the general strike—EN. 2000 tons of flour that had been in stock for more than 9 years has been destroyed; this consignment is said to be worth about Rs. 1 million—DV. A delegation from the British Trade Union has submitted a petition to the High Commission in London protesting against the measures taken to suppress strikes in Sri Lanka—ATH. Steps are being taken to submit a massive petition to the President signed by the members of the families of over one lakh of strikers who were sacked by the government—JD.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24: The salary increase the government has said is under active consideration will very likely be granted with the

next budget Finance Minister Ronnie de Mel will present in Parliament in November, authoritative government sources said yesterday. President J. R. Jayewardene said in Kandy yesterday that he was baffled how foreign trade unions and parliamentarians could cable him asking for the release of various persons taken into custody over the August 8th violence in Colombo; these persons had been taken in by the Police while they were engaged in various unlawful acts—SO. In a matter of five hours there was a record sale of precious stones to the value of over Rs. 9 million, at the first ever gem auction in Sri Lanka held yesterday at the Sales room of the Ceylon National Chamber of Commerce under the auspices of the Chamber—ST. Several Sri Lankans who have gone in search of greener pastures to Canada are living in mortal fear of becoming victims of anti-Asian racial violence; according to well informed sources, racial incidents in Ontario where over one hundred thousands Asians among them Lankans live, have been escalating recently. Extensive damage was caused to two motor vehicles and wayside shops when an elephant returning after Randoli Perahera ran amok at Ambetanne in the early hours of last morning—WK. Prime Minister Premadasa speaking in Kandy yesterday stated that if the appeals sent by people who had lost their jobs by participating in the strike were found to be genuine, they would be given their jobs as soon as possible—GM. The Parliamentary Committee of the TULF has decided to hold public meetings in each electorate to explain why the TULF supported the DDC bill and to settle the differences of opinion which have arisen as a result—EN.

MONDAY, AUGUST 25: President J. R. Jayewardene, Prime Minister R. Premadasa and UNESCO Director-General Amadou Mahtar M'Bow will inaugurate the Rs. 100 million UNESCO-Sri Lanka project to restore the Buddhist monuments in the Anuradhapura-Polonnaruwa-Kandy district at the Audience Hall in the Dalada Maligawa premises, Kandy today. Workers would soon become shareholders in state-owned corporations when they were converted into public limited liability companies by the sale of shares to the workers and the public, Industries and Scientific Affairs Minister Cyril Mathew said yester-

day; the third stage of the Kankesan Cement Works should be the first to be converted into a public limited liability company, the Minister said—CDN. An unemployment insurance scheme for workers in the construction industry is being formulated by the government. The Police yesterday insisted that a veterinary surgeon examine the elephants participating in the Randoli Perahera at Kandy and certify them—CDM. The burst of violence on the infamous "Black Friday" two weeks ago resulted in more than half a million rupees in damage to public and private property, Police have tentatively estimated. The proposed pay increase is expected to take effect only from January 1, next year according to authoritative government sources. An upward revision of electricity rates is likely in November this year, a spokesman for the Electricity Board said yesterday—SU. A gang which is believed to have committed a large number of planned robberies in the North has been arrested by the Jaffna police and they have recovered stolen goods valued at Rs. 23,000—EN. A petition signed by all members of parliament requesting an increase in the monthly allowance by Rs. 2000 and 100 gallons of diesel free of charge has been submitted to the government; these MPs want this increase because of the high cost of living—ATH.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 26: About 15 doctors who passed out from the two medical faculties in Colombo and Peradeniya in the final examinations held in July this year—the results of which were released recently—had already left the country, a Health Department spokesman said yesterday—CDN. Three police riot squads will be on alert in Colombo from today to deal with any demonstrations or attempts to cause a breach of the peace in the city by the workers who took part in the abortive general strike, police said yesterday; this is part of the security plan of the Police following intelligence reports that the strikers have made plans to picket in front of government offices and public institutions—SU. Twelve Customs men were questioned by detectives last week, as a CID net was reported closing in on the ring of smugglers operating an annual Rs. 100 million international smuggling racket in gold, silver and gems with Colombo as their base—CO.

o o o

Confidentially

Pesticides Lobby-I

IS IT NOT A FACT that the Pesticide Sales Lobby in Sri Lanka is a very powerful one? That for decades it has ruled the roost and has made massive profits by slowly poisoning the land and the people under the pretext of promoting agriculture? That even today they wield more influence in high places than is good for the country? That they keep the daily press in muted silence by passing a part of their superprofits in the form of advertising? That these "agro-chemical" firms (they should really be called poison factories) buy political immunity by giving large donations to parties at election times? That they also befriend individual politicians as insurance against exposures that might lead to governmental action? That a *Tribune* reader has brought to our notice that in the "original draft" of the Pesticides Control Bill section 4 (3) had recommended the inclusion of the provision "no person having a commercial interest in the manufacture, import, marketing, formulation storage, transport or sale of pesticides shall be appointed as a member of the Committee" (the Formulary Committee)? That when the Bill was introduced in Parliament, this salutary provision was left out? That it is no secret in parliamentary lobbies that this clause was dropped because of pressure from the Pesticides Lobby? That not only was the clause dropped but the Big Three in Pesticides Lobby were nominated to fill positions in the Pesticides Control Committee? That for some welcome reason (as yet unknown) Minister E. L. Senanayake saw sense before it was too late and at the Committee stage re-introduced this provision that had been left out? That having been thrown out of the Pesticides Formulary Committee the Pesticide Lobby will now seek to influence the Committee through devious ways? That the utmost public and parliamentary vigilance must be maintained to keep the Pesticides Lobby in check? That parliamentary action must also be taken to introduce amendments to all Acts and Laws that have set up organisations and bodies to protect the environment to ensure the ex-

clusion of representatives of the Pesticide^s trade from them? That in the first instance, the relevant Ministers should ask such gentlemen to resign from the boards—and that if they don't resign voluntarily, to take immediate steps to throw them out? That *Tribune* in the coming weeks will turn the spotlight on such boards tainted by the pesticides Lobby? IS IT NOT RUE that a large number of persons die each year by swallowing pesticides? That one of the most popular among such poisons is an insecticide called ENDREX 20? That any rural youth will tell you that the doctors have no remedy for Endrex 20 and that if one wanted to make sure of the dying (by suicide) one had only to take Endrex 20? That one who knows (a doctor of science) has given *Tribune* the reason for this and this reveals a most dangerous lapse on the part of the firm marketing this pesticide? That *Tribune* has been told that the Endrex 20 formulated and marketed in Sri Lanka contains organochloro and organo-phosphorous active ingredients? That the use of these two ingredients together was contrary to the Code of Conduct followed internationally by agro-chemical firms in the interest of safety and health? That the formulators in Sri Lanka have failed to honour this? That they have gone further and have thought it fit to market the said pesticide under popular trade name which normally has only the organo-chloro compound as the sole active ingredient? That a medical doctor has informed *Tribune* that for curative purposes it was easy to "save" a victim when the poison contained only one of the chemicals i.e. organo-chloro or organo-phosphorous? That it was the combination of the two ingredients in Endrex 20 (contrary to the international code) that made it deadly? That if the formulators of Endrex 20 in Sri Lanka have anything to say, *Tribune* will be happy to publish it with our comments? That in the meantime, Pesticides Formulary Committee and the government should look into the question of Endrex 20 and take appropriate action not only to stop the mixing of the two ingredients but also blacklist a firm that has broken the international pesticide safety code? That *Tribune* proposes to bring to the notice of its readers and the public the many misdeeds of the Pesticide makers and its lobby in the coming weeks?

Now On Sale

HAVANA TO KABUL

A Sri Lanka Non-aligned View

By

S. P. AMARASINGAM

Sri Lanka Price: Rs. 12/-50 a copy.

Foreign US \$ 1.50 Postage Extra.

Tribune Publications,

43, DAWSON STREET, COLOMBO 2.

TELEPHONE: 33172.

IN 1979

Births	415,695
--------	---------

Deaths	94,190
--------	--------

∴ Natural Increase	321,505
--------------------	---------

In Little Over 3 YEARS Sri Lanka's
Population Will Increase
By About A MILLION
Sri Lanka Needs A Strong
Family Planning Programme

Issued by the Ministry of Plan Implementation.