

TRIBUNE



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

ELSEWHERE IN THIS ISSUE we have published an article by Eric Hauser which appeared in the West German paper *Frankfurter Hundschau*: in our issue of September 6, we published David Housego's articles appearing in the British paper *Financial Times*. Both these articles were written after the Paris Consortium meeting in July. Housego's article was reprinted in the *Ceylon Daily News* on August 9, but Hauser's article reprinted in the FRG paper *The German Tribune* on July 27 has not received the attention it deserves here. Housego's arguments are based on the logic of the US-UK (Anglo-Saxon) dominated IBRD-IMF complex, whilst Hauser spotlights the new trends of thinking in the Franco-German economic entente that has begun to dominate EEC thinking. Hauser quotes Clayde Cheysson, EEC Development Aid Commissioner: ".....every dollar which the World Bank puts into development projects in the Third World brings \$ 1.80 in orders to the industrial countries. It is almost grotesque that the World Bank may lend to the developing countries only up to the amount of its own capital although it has no losses so far because the Third World countries make a point of repaying debts to retain their credit rating. The North-South Commission also suggested that apart from doubling capital the World Bank loan ceiling should be increased to twice its capital. But this is a modest proposal considering that the European Investment Bank may lend up to two and a half times its capital." There is no doubt that there is a great deal of agitated rethinking about "aid" to poor countries in powerful West European countries. The *Süddeutsche Zeitung* in an article entitled BONN AMENDS AID POLICY reprinted in the *German Tribune* reported: "Economic Cooperation Minister R. J. Er Offergeld told the press in Bonn that the independence of Third World countries would be respected and that Bonn held the non-aligned movement in high esteem. Development aid could not be the reward for political 'good behaviour' nor could it be a lever for military alliances. The prime aim remained the fight against absolute poverty.....Future development aid would concentrate on the poverty belt of Africa and Asia and support an international programme for the poorest countries. He called on the developing countries to create a favourable cooperation climate for business activities in the raw materials sector. To improve the poorest countries' competitiveness on world markets the Bonn Government had called for an international liberalisation plan for tariffs and export obstacles." This is one trend in the current Western thinking on how to save the capitalist world from the impending economic holocaust that faces it. One dollar invested in a Third World Country brought \$ 1.80 in orders. There were also other benefits—interest, influence, etc. But can a wee bit richer Third World save capitalism? Can IBRD/IMF policies or even EEC programmes help poor countries to attain even minimal prosperity? Or will the world be ultimately driven towards the New International Economic Order suggested by the radical group in the Non-aligned Movement?

TRIBUNE

Ceylon News Review

Founded In 1954

A Journal of Ceylon
and

World Affairs

Editor, S. P. Amarasingam

Every Saturday

September 20 1980

Vol: 25 No: 10

TRIBUNE

43, DAWSON STREET,
COLOMBO-2.

Tel: 33172.

CONTENTS

COVER

—Foreign Aid p. 2

FILM FOCUS

—Omen II p. 6

TRANSNATIONAL

—And Third World p. 7

BOOK

—English In India p. 9

ART & PATRONAGE

—This And That p. 11

POINT OF VIEW

—Jayewardene Raj p. 11

SHORT STORY

We're Back Home Amma p. 12

POINT OF VIEW

—Character Train p. 17

WHICH R SRI LANKA

—Think Aloud p. 19

CHRONICLE

—Sept: 4 — 10 p. 23

DEVELOPMENT AID

—To Third World p. 27

LETTERS

—Plantation Workers p. 28

—Musical Discord p. 29

NGUYU—II

—Reminiscences p. 30

CONFIDENTIALLY

—Customs p. 32

The Young Will Soon Ask.....

THE YOUNG WE SEE ON THE COVER, in a happy and joyful mood, will soon begin to ask whether all the money this government and earlier governments have borrowed from foreign lenders, under the plea of aid for development, was worthwhile. Was it necessary, they will ask, to borrow so much? Was the money properly spent? Or, was much of it wasted on useless consumerist extravagance? Already these questions have begun to surface, but the generation that elected this government to power is still partly under the euphoric belief that the 1977 policies will still bring in a new millennium of golden prosperity. But long before the present decade comes to its end, the euphoria would have disappeared (it is already beginning to wear thin) and devastatingly demanding questions about the wisdom of the massive foreign debt that Sri Lanka has piled up will become the dominating issue of the politics of the day.

There are good reasons for thinking that disillusionment about the value of foreign loans will soon overtake this country, especially the common people and the rural masses. This kind of doubt and scepticism has been reflected in writings and commentaries emanating from the lending countries themselves. In a *Depthnews* special article published in the *Ceylon Daily News*, Nestor Cervantes had pointed out that *Foreign Aid Propped up The Rich*. He said that:

".....People who are poor are poor because they lack the power to secure the income, food and housing that they need. So, many go hungry where adequate and even plentiful food resources exist, because a relative few have the power to monopolise control over those resources." This in essence, is the response to the preliminary report of the United States Presidential Commission on World Hunger by Frances Moore Lappe and Joseph Collins of the US-based Institute for Food and Development policy. While the commission insists that "poverty

is the root cause of hunger today", Ms. Lappe and Mr. Collins say that unless the more basic issue of power is first confronted, improvement from inputs and capital works to increase productivity and production will only be appropriated by those already in advantaged positions. They point to tubewells intended for poor farmers in Bangladesh villages which become instead the property of the richest landlord, Food-for-work projects in Haiti intended to help the landless poor end up as a boon to the village rich. Rural electrification, justified as a pre-requisite for jobs in rural industries, eliminates jobs of thousands of poor rural women in Indonesia.

"While certainly not calling for direct political support to 'oppressed' people, they call for the removal of the mighty obstacles in their way, obstacles reinforced with tax dollars and 'in our name'. These obstacles include US foreign aid, and US government aided 'corporate interventions in the economies of the Third World. Saying that foreign aid concentrates its support on some of the world's most repressive regimes, they also point to military assistance amounting to four times the development project aid to the Third World. Military assistance and sales, they say, are also used to entrench the elite-dominated and repressive regimes. US investment', subsidised by tax dollars, also give ruling elites a greater-than-ever stake in both resisting redistribution of control and expanding their hold over local resources.

"Still, the Commission prescribes more US foreign assistance, calling for a tripling of such assistance (as a percentage of the GNP). Ms. Lappe and Mr. Collins challenge the claim that aid is now oriented toward meeting the basic needs of the poor and toward countries where poverty is the worst and to governments most concerned about the poor. US bilateral development assistance, they point out is highly concentrated in a few countries with only 10 receiving well over half the total. Israel and Egypt alone receive a full 40 per cent. Of the top 10 recipients, only four are considered low income.

"Among the top 10 are the governments of Indonesia, and Bangladesh. 'In each of these countries vast increases in foreign assistance in the last decade have gone hand in hand with

the increasing impoverishment and repression of the majority of the people,' they say. In Indonesia, landlessness and hunger have increased while the Government 'squanders its oil export wealth on luxuries, showcase industrialisation, and military excesses.' In agriculturally rich Bangladesh, 90 percent of all food aid goes to the middle class—almost a third of that to the military and civil service who 'maintain control over a population, the majority of whom are denied land and adequate food.'

'The authors call as 'naive' the Commission's claim that hunger will only get worse 'unless the indifference of many national leaders is replaced' by concern and commitment.' (The two authored a popular book *Food First: Beyond the Myth of Scarcity* and a forthcoming one on foreign aid, with David Kinley, to be published by the Institute in the spring of 1980). 'To call for change in the political will of those now in power is to ask for those benefitting from the current productive resources to take the initiative for change', they say. 'It contributes to policies that show up repressive regimes and diverts attention from the true responsibilities of Americans.'

'A prime responsibility, they say, is to stop supporting the enemies of those working for legitimate change and driving for greater justice. Ms. Lappe and Mr. Collins insist: 'Hunger will never be ended by the poor becoming recipients of the largesse of the well-off. Just as it is by the sweat and blood of the poor that much of the food and luxuries of the well off are produced; so, it is the poor that must organise themselves to overcome their powerlessness.'

Current developments in Sri Lanka—though embryonic—confirm the apprehensions raised in the article. Foreign aid and foreign capital has already created a new and powerful elite of contractors and other entrepreneurs—whilst the hardships of the majority of the common people are daily increasing.

IN ANOTHER *Depthnews* Special, Ian Steele, pointed out that: 'Money is tight in the foreign aid business as traditional donors and lending institutions examine what they see as the dubious credit ratings of Third World clients. And nowhere is that credit tighter today

than in the United States where private banks have warned that they cannot continue to finance the massive balance of payments deficits developing nations are facing. 'Just because we got through the 1974-75 period all right doesn't mean we can make it this time', said Lawrence J. Brainard, head of International Economic Research at the Bankers Trust Company recently. 'We are facing a critical situation.' In the Morgan Guarantee Trust Company's latest newsletter, Rimmer de Vries, a company economist notes: 'The financing of the new imbalances and the refinancing of existing obligations, as they mature, imply considerable risk to the world's financial system.'

'The major concern centres on the rising debt of non-oil-producing countries. This increased their external debt from US \$ 142 billion in 1974 to US \$ 315 billion in 1978 to finance energy needs and inflation. According to the World Bank, 61 percent of what was borrowed from private banks and American banks alone are owed amounting to US \$ 57 billion by the non-OPEC developing countries. Analysts here say that figure amounts to 130 percent of their total equity capital and loan loss reserves, which represents the banks' own money, not deposits made by others.'

'Brazil and the Philippines alone (two countries most often mentioned as having financial problems) had claims totaling US \$ 16.7 billion on 128 American banks as of June 1979—almost 40 per cent of the equity capital and loan loss reserves of those banks. It is the back up of commitments like these which has made bankers reluctant to extend further credit. Among the heaviest borrowers, Brazil faces a payments gap of US \$ 11 billion in 1980. Argentina, US \$ 2.7 billion; Turkey, US \$ 2.5 billion; Thailand US \$ 2.4 billion; the Philippines US \$ 2 billion; and South Korea US \$ 1.7 billion. The banks are asking how those deficits are going to be financed and have begun to cut back on their loans.'

'Analysts suggest that even if there are no repayment problems, there is no way that the countries with the heaviest deficits can avoid severe adjustment policies, drastic reductions in living standards and the political and social upheavals which are likely to follow.'

Bankers are saying that the only solution to a possible payments crisis would be an expanded lending role for the International Monetary Fund. Developing countries have hesitated to go to the IMF because of strict conditions it places on borrowers' domestic economic policies. But there is currently debate as to whether the Fund might be more flexible in its conditions in future.

"In Washington, administrators are fighting to preserve a US \$ 5 billion foreign aid authorisation for 1981. Funding shortfalls have already become a serious embarrassment to those involved in foreign policy. For instance, funds for the Food for Peace and disaster relief programs have run out, making it impossible for an adequate response to appeals on behalf of refugees in Pakistan, Kampuchea, Somalia and other countries. There is a US \$ 2 billion shortfall on commitments to International development banks, including the World Bank and officials involved in the narcotics control program say that a lack of funds is hampering efforts to curb the heroin traffic from Mexico and Thailand. Summarising a foreign policy dilemma for the country, US Assistant Secretary of State Warren M. Christopher said recently: 'We withheld both our funds to poor nations and went back on our word to our industrial allies—a highly efficient way to antagonise both.'

"President Carter's election year pledge to trim the budget and increasing domestic unhappiness about international support—and the lack of it—for American policy abroad, is viewed on Capital Hill as a major threat to future foreign aid programming. As the *New York Times* pointed out recently, there has already been considerable slippage. About 30 years ago, the United States was perhaps the only country offering foreign economic aid as national policy. But today the country is No. 13 on the list of 17 donor states dispensing aid as a percentage of gross national product. Congress often tries to stop aid to countries which vote against the US in the United Nations or show a preference for socialist policies or the Soviet Union. And as the aid bill for 1981 moves to the Senate administrators are particularly sensitive to the mood of the legislature. The message they are trying to

push is that governments which described themselves as Marxists are not automatically under the domination of the Soviet Union and that the US is becoming increasingly dependent upon developing countries for raw materials. The politicians are certainly not sold on that idea, however. A group of Republicans who dissented from foreign aid proposals last June told the House Foreign Affairs subcommittee: 'We hold that our friends should be favoured. Those who work, or vote against us, should not.....'.

One thing is clear that funds for foreign lending are not only drying up in countries like the United States but there is an increasing unwillingness to lend money to countries which are not willing to actively support the foreign policies pursued by Washington. Most of the newly emergent countries of the Third World want to follow independent foreign policies consistent with their own national interests and aspirations, and in this they come up sharply against the foreign policy imperatives of the US.

BUT THIS IS NOT ALL. Expenditure on arms appears to be the main priority of most of the rich countries. Joseph Fitchett in an article in the *International Herald Tribune* entitled *Some Blunt Talk on Politics of Aid* stated "Military spending will amount to \$ 450 billion this year on this small planet—a new peak reflecting heightened international tensions, according to Etouard Saouma, head of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation. In contrast, international economic aid remains less than \$ 25 billion. It is half the amount he considers necessary to eventually feed 800 million hungry persons. Phrased another way, Mr. Saouma's point is that one-half of 1 percent of one year's military expenditure would pay for all the farm equipment needed to approach food self-sufficiency in the world's poorest countries by the end of this decade. After five years of heading FAO, Mr. Saouma acknowledges a decline in public support for aid and for the United Nations, but he argues that international tensions make it more imperative, not less, for the democracies to launch a new aid effort—not as charity, but as a global responsibility.

"His arguments echo points made by the Brandt Commission in its just published study titled *North South: A Program for Survival*. Its sponsors hope to convene a summit conference of influential countries to focus on development as the key to stability until the end of the century. Like the Brandt commission, Mr. Saouma would like to see a special tax on arms sales to finance development. Like the Brandt commission, Mr. Saouma worries that much current thinking about aid risks displacing the priority on self-help and investment in favor of relief. For example, Cambodia has been saved from famine this winter, but a new campaign is essential now to enable Cambodians to rebuild their agriculture, he said.

"FAO is in the middle of a little publicized \$ 30 million program to provide seed-grain and tools to restore rice production there. 'We're getting complete co-operation from the authorities in Phnom Penh', says the FAO head, who thinks that Cambodia can restore a quarter of its rice production by next year—provided the current relief effort succeeds so that the Cambodian farmers are not forced to eat the grain being provided as seed.

"Mr. Saouma does not use his UN status to dodge political questions. For example, he says that the US partial grain embargo is unlikely to hurt Moscow unless it is maintained for two years during one of which the Soviet Union has a bad harvest. 'Our figures show that the Soviet Union has big reserves of grain' he says, 'and they will find enough extra on world markets to tide them over this year'. He is equally blunt on the politics of aid. 'There is widespread disappointment with the United Nations and with aid among all the industrial nations except the Nordic countries,' he says, adding that the negative mood hardened after many major Western aid-donor countries were bitterly criticized last year at the Havana non-aligned conference.

"Yet Western contributions dominate the aid picture. The democracies are providing nearly \$ 19 billion this year—compared to just under \$ 3 billion from the communist bloc and less than \$ 2.5 billion from the oil-exporting states. Arab oil exporters aid has not yet coalesced into effective, sustained

development policy, according to Mr. Saouma a Lebanese and the first Arab to head a major UN agency. An interesting rest will be whether OPEC takes the lead in replenishing the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), which was constituted in 1977 with \$ 1 billion on the initiative of OPEC countries. It combines funds and management from developed and developing countries in stimulating farming in the poorest countries. Mr. Saouma hopes that OPEC will expand this formula now. Both OPEC and the West have a vested interest, he said, in trying to promote food stability in a world of 4 billion people—roughly speaking, 1 billion in industrial countries, 1 billion in China and 2 billion in the other developing countries, whose primary resources remains agriculture.

"The developing countries need to do much more to help themselves, he says, 'Too many recently independent countries which used to be food exporters, have become net food importers', he says, adding: 'The problem is to convince these governments to offer the local farmers the incentives to increase their production.'

"In keeping with this FAO emphasis on investment for production, Mr. Saouma criticized a UN plan to ask for 'food entitlements, for some of the world's estimated 800 million hungry people—in effect, a form of global food stamps. The plan has been proposed by Arturo Tanco, agriculture minister of the Philippines and president of the UN World Food Council. It is ridiculous, impractical, too expensive and would mostly help urban poor instead of the farmers who alone can provide the extra production we need in the long run, he says, adding: 'The effect would be to create a new clientele of dependent people instead of helping more people to help themselves'....."

Politicians and planners in Sri Lanka and the whole of the Third World must pay serious attention to these trends that have become dominant in the thinking of the lending countries of the First World. Sri Lanka has to shift its economic planning to monitor self-reliance in economic development and self-sufficiency in food. This means that agriculture

should become the top most priority of the government—but unfortunately it is even today the most neglected in spite of the money being pumped into it (into the wrong pockets). Unless this government and the government that will be elected in 1983 (which will go on till the end of the decade) do a great amount of re-thinking and re-ordering of the priorities, the next generation that is now growing up will pillory them for their misdeeds and mistakes.

* * *

FILM FOCUS

OMEN II

There have been two unmistakable trends in the themes of some of the English films that have come our way recently. While there was a swing towards the spiritual realms of the re-incarnation apotheosis, there was also a veering to unravel and expose the pomps of satan and his evil works amongst humanity. There has been an element of fear and horror that have been knit into these presentations, so much so that in many homes several controversial debates have broken out, on these themes over cups of tea or at dinner time. A recent release "Omen II", that takes off from where the film Omen I left, keeps quite close to the Book of Revelation and it might be quite appropriate to quote excerpts from Chapter 13 of the Book, so that Tribune readers may be able to grasp the background to the relevant journey that these two films traverse, and their connotation to the figure 666, accepted by Christian thinking, as the mark of the evil one. It reads: "And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. And he opened in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them, and power was given him over all kindreds, and to tongues and nations. And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth, and he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven

on the earth in the sight of men. And he deceiveth them that dwell on the earth, by means of those miracles, which he had power to do in the sight of the beast. And he had power to give life into the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast, should be killed. And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand or in their foreheads. *Here is wisdom—let him that hath understanding, count the number of the beast; for it is the number, of a MAN; and his number is Six Hundred, three-score and Six.*"

DAMIEN OMEN II (English): To get into the flow of this 20th Century Production, one has to hark back to the climatic sequences of the preceding film "Omen I" when a baby born of a Jackal wreaked havoc on all the humans who hovered around him, close enough to smell out his antecedents, stamped physically on his head by the numerals 666, thus seeking their own destruction as a consequence. It was actor Gregory Peck, as the ambassador father of the attractively evil child, who was shot through his head in that film, in a church, while his hand was raised with a dagger, to save posterity from little Damien's devilish splendour. Omen II opens ominously in the archives of the Middle East when an aging archaeologist, stumbles on the caricature of the evil one, which point to Damien (Lee Grant) as the beast, but perishes in the process. Just seven years later, Damien a chubby lad in his teens, is warming up in the house of his uncle Thorne (William Holden), Managing Director of Thorn Enterprises, the latter's second wife and Mark, an offspring of Thorne's first marriage. With both Damien and Mark entering a Military school as cadets, the story gets moving devastatingly to surface several gruesome and ghastly deaths, one common factor looming large over each death being the victims' awareness of Damien's evil structure, even cell-wise. It was first an aging aunt, whose sixth sense smelt out the beast in Damien, then it was a roving female journalist who had stumbled on the excavation findings to identify the disguised devil in spit and polish surroundings, followed by a Pathologist whose microscope gives the show away. The Thornes however remain dead pan to these happenings,

that bear a relevance to the growth of their foster son, who not only barks all the answers, even before the questions are put to him at school, but also carries away all the graduation day honours as the best cadet. It was Mark's mysterious death when in the company of Damien, that turns the foster parents to the reality of a situation that they had scorned all the time, and the inevitable moves in most brutally on them, leaving no doubt that Damien would march triumphantly into an Omen III perhaps to emerge unscathed again. As a cinematic warning in celluloid, it was very effectively done, and convincingly kept close to the one personified in the Book of Revelation and identified in prophetic parlance as Anti-Christ who would assume a Christ-like posture, to reveal himself only when the time is ripe enough. The bifurcation of his dual personality from time to time was brought out well by young Lee Grant. The screwed glint in his eye when suspected was so immediate and scornful, that it did not need a musical keyboard to strike home the prophetic notes on which the picture ends warning all and sundry of false Apostles and deceitful workers who would be masquerading even now as soldiers of Christ. Sleep took a longer time closing on me, the evening I saw this film, due to its searing impact. Do see this film as it will keep you in the throes of its realism while it lasts and after.

SANKAPALI (Sinhalese): With a fine array of stars, a tribal war as its base and the hero preaching pious platitudes of the virtues of the human person, devoid of caste, race and creed, this film in captivating colour fails to click somehow and peters out rather tamely. Gamiri Fonseka is the muscle bound villager who is in quest of spiritual enlightenment at the feet of his guru, but draws the sword in the wake of the carnage that develops around him. A pretty damsel in Anusha Mediwaka makes her bow, to freeze the camera by her inactivity, but compensation comes as the camera sweeps the landscape, with some horse riding thrown in for good measure. Directors Sarath Rupasinghe and Anton Gregory cannot be too happy with the results of their joint efforts, which comes as a surprise. So there you are and the choice is yours!

JAMES N. BENEDICT.

PROBLEMS OF THE "THIRD WORLD"

TNCs And Developing Countries

by Prometheus

THE DISINTEGRATION of the world colonial empire under the pressure of National Liberation Movements in the second half of our century forced the imperialist powers to resort to new means to preserving their positions, particularly in the economic sphere, in the former colonies.

The capitalist world could not reconcile itself to the loss of its traditional sources of valuable raw materials, cheap manpower, large markets and the sphere of extremely profitable investment of capital. This new colonialist policy has resulted in rapidly growing debts of developing countries to their former colonial masters. According to preliminary calculations, by the end of this year they will reach the figure of 450,000 million dollars.

In the system of neo-colonialist exploitation of the developing countries, the leading part is played by transnational corporations which have stretched their tentacles to practically all parts of the globe. What these octopuses are practically interested in is the extracting of super profits from the developing countries.

While in industrialised capitalist countries the rate of profit for TNCs does not top, as a rule, 15 per cent, in the developing world it amounts to nearly 70 per cent. Deals, connected with raw materials produced in former colonies, annually bring in TNCs about 200,000 million dollars of profit, while the countries where these raw materials are extracted receive only 30,000 million dollars, that is 15 per cent of the profit of the TNCs.

Particular attention of the TNCs is being paid to Asia. In India, alone, according to economists, more than 800 foreign companies are actively operating, a considerable part of which is being controlled by US capital. These countries officially carry away from that country, in the form of net profits, more than

120 million dollars, and much is being pumped out illegally.

IN THE PHILIPPINES, in 1978, the TNCs derived a net profit of more than 100 million dollars. From every dollar invested in the Philippine economy, the American-monopolies receive 3.5 dollars of profit, out of which 2 dollars is carried away to the USA and 1.5 dollars reinvested.

What is the source of these profits? Firstly, the merciless exploitation of working people in developing countries particularly the low pay for their labor. The TNCs also pocket large sums through the establishment of high monopoly prices of the products of foreign firms. For example, a Singaporean worker at TNC enterprises gets a tenth of what an American worker is paid, and a fifth of a west european worker.

The American Oil company CALTEX, artificially understates the cost of oil it exports from Indonesia, and overstates the prices of oil-extracting equipment it sells to that country. Thus, the Indonesian economy loses in currency deductions from oil sales, and suffers from the difference between the market and monopoly prices of the equipment.

The TNCs also increase their profits by evading taxes and through other machinations, such as the selling of outdated technology and winning over to their side of the most talented representatives of the developing world, although they are paid less than the specialists of the TNCs.

The TNCs penetrate more and more deeply the financial system and the local administrative apparatus and attempt to influence the mass media. Using their strong financial levers, the TNCs influence the economic development of Third World countries. They stop at nothing. This can be seen from the fact that Boeing has been accused of bringing in 15 countries.

States which give the TNCs freedom of action, such as Egypt, pay a high price for this. Their economies are in a feverish state, inflation gallops, and state debt constantly grows.

It has been repeatedly pointed out at various forums in Third World Countries and at UNCTAD sessions that TNCs were first of all responsible for the growing disproportions

in the economies, the deteriorating currency situation in the developing countries, the exhausting of their natural resources and the prevalent low living standards of their population. It is on the initiative of the TNCs that the capitalist countries are attempting to shift the burden of the economic depression and the energy crisis on the young states.

As far as developing countries are concerned, they have at their command a very effective instrument to oppose the economic expansion and political pressure on the part of the TNCs. This is united actions in the struggle for creating a new, just order in international economic relations. Until such a time, a NIEO remains only a dream.



Govt.



Notice

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

Ref. No. 3/63/Mahawel/3985/J.76 L.244

It is intended to acquire the lands described in the schedule below. For further particulars please see the Gazette of the Republic of Sri Lanka No. 107 of 19. 9. 80 Part III

Schedule

Name of Villages etc: Halmillawetiya Village, Andarawawa Grama Sewaka Division, Galgamuwa DRO's Division, Kurunegala District.

Name of Land: Halmillawetiya and Halmillawetiya

Plan & Lot No: 8, 9, 11, 14, 15, 21 and 22 in Extract I to N. P. 3985

H. M. W. Chandraratne

District Land Officer, Kurunegala District
The Kachcheri Kurunegala
21/08/1980

English In India

ENGLISH LITERATURE AND THE INDIAN MIND By Prof. T. V. Subba Rao.

(Published by Vaigai, 184, South Veli Street, Madurai, 625 001—April 1980—Price Rs. 32/-)

THE TITLE of the book allures both students of English literature and philosophy and as a student of literature, I was tempted to read this book rather avidly, particularly when the author seemingly links the teaching of English literature with the pathetic condition of the present day Indian mind. The Indian mind is in some sense the essence of the Hindu literature, whatever language it may employ. Although the book caught my interest, my reading of it page by page patiently left me exhausted because it is a difficult book.

This is a difficult book to be read, digested and reviewed. It is difficult because the reader finds it hard to sympathise with the author most of the time. He becomes discouraged to assimilate the same old points repeated rather in digression by the author. Notwithstanding there are occasions where the author puts forward his arguments cogently and these seem plausible and convincing at the end. Paradoxically it is rigorous, disciplined writing in the Leavisian tradition (Prof. T. V. Subba Rao had sat at the feet of Dr. F. R. Leavis at Cambridge and obtained his Tripos in English and Anthropology, in 1961).

The best part of the book (348 pages in all) comes later, where one would call "splendid" or "enthraling" exercises in practical criticism are included. Mr. Subba Rao's (he is the post-graduate professor of English in Thyagarajar College, Madras) disciplined training at Cambridge in the latter part of fifties, has given expression to a controlled analysis of some of the passages by Robert Penn Warren's article on Hemingway, Lionel Trilling's "Freud And The Crisis Of Our Culture" and V. S. Naipaul's "India: a wounded civilisation."

PROF. SUBBA RAO also in passing criticises Nirad Choudary and Khushwant Singh—Indian writers, but he comes on heavily on professors

of English in some Indian Universities, particularly those in the South. (The author is a Telugu-speaking, Sanskrit-loving teacher, who also campaigns for the importance of classical music to the growth of the Indian mind). Late Prof. Aiyappan Pillai, Prof. Sachithanandam, Dr. Stanley F. Rajiva, Dr. Shiv K. Kumar and Dr. S. Visweswariah are mercilessly attacked by Prof. Subba Rao who claims that they are all no good teachers and that the Indian mind is rotten to the core. Implicitly it is meant that he alone could teach English literature well. The author says that most teachers of English literature in the Indian Universities are particular about grammar and spelling mistakes than the content in contexts.

But why is he so angry about the present conditions in the Indian universities? Prof. Subba Rao underscores that "human nature is generally prone to ignore fundamental questions" and that "we must accustom ourselves to a high standard and to strict judgement". But he is not very clear about the high standard he speaks of. He is critical of all forms of criticism or evaluation. He criticises "formalism" while being formal in that he is less complimentary to social or political or cultural contexts and merely faithful to "structural" or textual analysis.

MULTI - DISCIPLINARY APPROACH to literature has become vogue in the seventies and is being accepted by most critics with different shades. If this claim is correct, then Prof. Rao's mode of approach has lost its vigour now. Prof. Rao is angry perhaps of this. But it must not be taken that the main thrust (that is the attack on the mode of teaching English literature in Indian Universities) is without validity. In fact he exposes the poor standard point by point. Sri Lanka's students of English literature may be fortunately a better set of students and yet there are parallels here too.

Prof. Subba Rao speaks about the following in his book: What happens in the class room?; The teacher's vainglory and misdoings; a profile of the Indian student; pathological conditions of mind; and research and the English departments. In the appendix he gives an "advertisement for a professor" and also writes a note on the "English Depart-

ment of Madras Christian College", where he first taught during 1962 — 1966. The author is blatantly anti-American (literature and culture inclusive) pro-religious, national minded and is against "Indian writing in English". His previous book (1976) was on the last subject. Here are some points that the author adumbrates to put forward his thesis:

"That the condition of the Indian University classroom, the condition in which the teacher meets the student for purpose of teaching English literature, defeats that purposes."

"The teaching of English literature has suffered from want of real interest on our part from the beginning. The English language has been more important than its literature."

"The relation between one's mind and a great author is all important in the study of literature but the relation between the Indian mind and a great author has been essentially false, false in the sense that what it makes of the latter is in the nature of an infantile or sentimental attitude or of slavish admiration".

"Since English literature is taught by incompetent teachers, it is either studied at the level of the false emotional life of the modern mind or more commonly for the utilitarian aims it serves".

"The Indian mind is always too full of shallow things to find itself with any serious matter in true form of thought for expression. An Indian with the kind of mind that is possible for him now can never master a great mind and his work, because by habit he lays hold of ideas, opinions, expressionally destructive of his own mental power though he believes in them and regards them as constituting enlightenment".

"You would have noticed plebeianism in our writing and speech. It is due to our habit of generalities and headmasterly interest in expression. The mannerisms of the Indian mind are easily spotted; I mean its preference for getting by rote purple passages and reeling them off and its habit of using set expressions or inkhorn words."

"Historically, until journalism corrupted the human mind, thought had been idea, being its form in expression. But since the corrupt human mind accustomed itself to hit upon ideas, which are not of thought and to describe

them, keeping an eye on the effect of description, in a language entirely different from the language peculiar to thought nothing is more unfortunate than failing to cultivate the mind to the distinction between thought and idea. But the distinction will not convey any force to one who is used to journalism of third rate books and of the newspaper articles. Our habits of expression are now journalistic, so that the sentence with thought is not the medium for our mind."

"As if inevitable our mind takes to that to which thought is out and out opposed; superficial idea, false emotion, attractive sentiment, opinion, avant garde affectations, the genial commonplaces of the philistine."

One is tempted to agree with Prof. Rao when one notices that the Indian M.A. English degree holders who opt for research write answers to questions on English literature rather stupidly. A case in point:

Question Give your estimate of Browning's ability to blend poetry with philosophical ideals.

Answer: Browning is an obscure poet. His poetry is disinteresting because of its obscurity and formlessness. Browning is so fond of writing dramas. But they are failed because there are more thoughts and philosophy than action. He then became great artist by writing monologues."

"Apart from its seriousness, the dry humour that this book presents, make all of us interested in English literature prepare ourselves to sharpen our minds. For whatever its worth, "*English Literature and the Indian mind*" should be read by students, teachers, university academic, particularly the English department, dons of our universities to gain from the comic opera that is being performed in the Indian universities in the name of English Literature.

K. S. Sivakumaran.



THIS AND THAT

Art & Patronage

Our Treasures. There has been a spate of Art Robberies in the Western World for quite sometime, mostly paintings. Some time ago a priceless statue of a Hindu Goddess was smuggled from India and sold to an American Art Collector and later found its way to an American Museum. The recent robbery of a gold Buddha statue from a Buddhist Temple in Kandy marks the arrival of International Art Robberies to Sri Lanka. Earlier, the Crown of King Rajasinghe the Second was pilfered at night by a burglar. In 1967, the world famous Sigiriya Frescoes were decimated by some maniac. Strangely enough the report of the Commission appointed to inquire into this episode has not yet been released. About a decade ago a visiting party of school children to the Dambulla Rock Temple is supposed to have scratched some of the paintings. Some time back some ivory Buddha statues were also supposed to have been lost from the Kandy Museum. There is a rumour that even our old stamps have been lost from their repositories.

There are several gold Buddha statues in the country that should be protected from any future robberies. As regards the Colombo Museum a good number of the galleries are closed to the public. We would like to know why this is so? Cannot the authorities concerned take steps to see that these exhibits are open to the public? I wonder what prompted the authorities to keep the entrance to the John de Silva Theatre through the one and only one Art Gallery we possess. I have seen several occasions when there was no one present to protect these paintings. What a sorry spectacle from the security afforded in other countries, specially the Western countries to their Art Treasures. We only hope the Government will afford sufficient protection in the future to these art treasures whether in Museums or Temples.

On the contrary we shout from rooftops and make a big fuss of the art treasures taken away during the Colonial Period. Let us first give adequate protection to the few art treasures already with us and then bring

the others that have been taken away from us.

Powers of M.P.'s. Recent outburst by a M.P. to the industrialists of his electorate to employ only people from his electorate brings into focus the limitations of the powers of an M.P. Prior to 1956, employment was not channelled via MPs. Since then MPs have encroached gradually into this arena of employment in Government Agencies.

Now, they seem to have started making in-roads even into private enterprise. It is natural that any employer will select employees capable and loyal to him. The chances are that he will employ mostly from his neighbourhood, according to the geographical situation of his factory. Special consideration will naturally be given to higher posts. These categories are bound to be selected from his relatives, confidantes, and the like, who may or may not be from distant places. What is wrong in electing this way as his money is involved? After all they pay taxes whatever party they belong to. Where is the freedom under this Democracy if MPs are allowed to interfere into the private domains of individuals? Are they trying to create small kingdoms within a kingdom or may I say within the Republic of Sri Lanka?

On the contrary it is an open secret that some MPs practice barefaced shameless clanishness by sponsoring people only from their community for jobs, though they may even constitute less than half the population of his electorate. Hence, it is time that the authorities took counter precautions to nullify these tactics, or refrain from nominating such individuals as MPs.

V. P. A. Abeyesinghe

X X X

POINT OF VIEW

Not Safe To Be True

by Jayantha Somasundaram

THE EXPERIMENT that the *Jayewardene Raj* commenced in July 1977 is without precedent. In the advanced market economies of North America and Western Europe where capitalism emerged a century and a half ago, it preceded the establishment of a liberal democracy and

universal franchise. In the nascent market economies, like Brazil, South Korea, Taiwan and Singapore, capitalism has been built in the absence of a liberal political system.

Sri Lanka and India were unique in that they had a parliamentary system with genuine pluralism side by side with a low per capita income. Thus Welfarism became the central feature of our economic life. With her large market India could industrialise with a fair amount of independence and success, Sri Lanka unfortunately did not have this advantage.

It is too early to write off welfarism as the Jayewardene Raj would like us to do, but certainly we have to come to grips with the dismantling of the welfare state which is what is being effected.

Living standards and the quality of life for Ceylonese had been protected via welfarism and the controlled economy. Subsidies compensated for low wages. Prices were kept down by restriction of imports and a suppressed exchange rate. Thus we were reasonably protected against the inflation that the industrialised nations perennially experienced.

LAISSEZ FAIRE is not an ideal; it is a ruthless creed that the developed countries and the international agencies that they control, seek to impose upon us. In conformity with this creed the Jayewardene Raj threw out the subsidies which cushioned living standards and instead made consumption a direct function of money income. The introduction of a floating exchange rate was in effect a latent devaluation. In a situation where our terms of trade—the bargaining power of our exports—continue to deteriorate, the rupee can float in only one direction—to the bottom of the currency barrel.

Not only are they without food subsidies, but households have to buy essentials which become dearer each day as the rupee continues to plummet.

Sri Lanka's rate of inflation is further fuelled by unrestricted imports—the dumping of expensive foreign goods—and the effect of heavy capital expenditure. Big projects like the Mahaweli and Jayawardenepura which are financed by foreign borrowings are, according to the mentors of the Jayewardene Raj,

contributing to the escalating spiral of local prices.

In countries where your opposition is safely locked up in jail, like in Indonesia or Chile, a Jayewardene Raj could get away with the collapsing living standards, the ostentatious consumption of an elite and their concomitant corruption. But Sri Lanka is a different breed of cat.

The 'free' economy that the Harvard Economists are selling to the Jayewardene Raj is a gamble for high stakes. With inflation running at forty percent, it just isn't safe to be free.



SHORT STORY

We Are Back Home, Amma!

by R. B. Tammita

The Grade 12 class counted two score scholars, boys and girls. One morning as they were dispersing after assembly classmate Mala accosted them at the hall door. She was eager to call on everyone of them, she told them, For a problem study. Would they mind? She was comely to the eye, a painstaking student and, as everybody felt, a bit wayward. The all thought to humour her, doubting she'd ever do it. Their homes were scattered far and wide, woods separated the villages, the distances thwarted near neighbourliness. Only when school resumed after the midyear vacation did the twelfthgraders realize that Mala had visited them all. They compared notes but were none the wiser as to Mala's problem. She had busied herself conversing with their elders, this was the consensus.

"Ah, it's over at last, Appachchi, the schoolgoing I mean," and before her peasant father could feel surprise or relief she stammered, "I might fail the exam. But I got educated. And I can help you."

Her warm smile had won the day when-ever she had called forth this mood. Mudiyanse smiled back as was his wont, threw a scarf over his shoulders. "The sun's coming up. I must hurry," he said. The chillies had been plucked, a lush crop, and were due for

drying. He was as yet the pioneer and was proud of his pioneering as a fulltime grower of curry chillies. Kiri Menke, his spouse, looked balefully at their only offspring now approaching twenty and fullblown. "Go help dry them," she said testily.

Mohammadu cupped a hand over his temples to scan the deeply wooded pathway. The morning sun streaming into his sundryshop was blurring his vision. Could it be true, what he had heard? He plucked off the pale skullcap, gave it a vicious squeeze as though rinsing the sweat bubbling out of his bare upper torso. The grey hairs across his sunken chest bristled and the big belly bounced and wrinkled. His wife Ayesha, hooded and happily masticating the red chew, had come out on the inner verandah, and Mohammadu twisted round almost angrily to ask, "Is it true, then, what you said you had heard?"

"How would I know?" she smiled amiably.

"Woman you" Mohammadu snarled, and Ayesha hastily withdrew, seeing that he stuttered for words.

Mohammadu slumped back on the three-legged stool whence he had risen to scan the road again. For the daily bag of chillies Mudiyanse had been supplying him, carrying the two hundredweight of load on his clothpadded pate the distance of two village miles over the ruddy, root-trellised pathway. The sundryshop, a loner servicing these villages, was fast filling up with customers.

"No chillies? Mudiyanse Ralahamy not come yet?" a customer queried, vewing the large empty tray. "Late? Unlike him to delay, that one."

Mohammadu chewed his upper lip, seemingly too busy to talk parcelling a halfpound of curry salt. Another customer walked in just then. He carried a matbag within which amongst other things were red, red chillies. Questioning eyes eloquently fell upon him.

"You can get them aplenty at the young lady's door, and far cheaper, too, I swear, than I've ever known in these hard, unhappy times." There was a note of something like personal triumph as he added, "Go over there and see for yourself if you don't want to believe me."

Mohammadu watched them leave one by one. The casualness in the manner of their scurrying out notwithstanding, he sensed what exactly it meant. Within him anger seethed, a silent rage against the newsmonger no whit less than what he felt towards the man Mudiyanse who was robbing him. He knew now for certain that what he had heard told was in fact true. He there and then decided that he would close shop to teach everybody a lesson.

At the end of a week, though, the sundryshop was back in business, and there was Mohammadu jauntily pacing its claypaved awning back and forth, greeting his customers with welcoming epithets, rotating his new-laundered skullcap on his clean shaven pate chapped with medicinal oil. His teenage son had obviously been told to make play with the fully laden tray of pricemarked chillies on display in the accustomed corner. Nevertheless only a bare few were attracted to buying it. It seemed as though the week's closure had induced in a majority of his clientele an abstinence towards its use.

A pound was weighed and released into a bag. The buyer sampled its quality, pronounced it good. "That bitch, the young bitch," he vented, looking about and around. All eyes were upon him instanter. "Yes, the bitch, leading that good man astray, her father. This is what comes of educating these young bitches. Well, we'll see." It was a challenge. No doubt about it.

Two months went by, with Mohammadu patiently taking note of the pressures affecting his latest investment. Only the bare few of that earlier day continued buying his chillies. Time as well as the changing temperatures were eroding their quality under storage, and his apprehensions came to a head when one day a customer blandly suggested a cut-down price because the pods were yellowing. The customer who had ranted against "the bitch" was even less considerate. Mohammadu found it was hopeless to plead with him. "I'd much rather pay more for better stuff," Mohammadu's heart dropped to hear him so declare. He recalled the man's mystic words of that former day, the "We'll see", and cursed him below his breath for the double-crosser villain he just was.

Mudiyanse collected the two letters the postman had delivered to his doorstep. They were both frankmarked and for his daughter. In recent weeks Mala had been receiving frequent correspondence through the mail and on every such occasion he had seen her hurrying with loose sheets of writ and dropping them in the grate and waiting over until they were reduced to ash. To her mother's enquiries she was wont to answer that they were trivia of little concern to anyone. The frankmarkings being in English, neither parent could guess whence they came, but Mudiyanse surmised that one or the other might have a bearing on the examination Mala had recently sat. In fact, he recalled her having made mention of this expectation more than once in recent days. Mala, however, seemed in no great hurry to read them. Meticulously, as in everything else she did, she with the aid of her young househelp squeezed the wet off her lush head of hair after her morning bathe and changed into a wash-fresh jacket and saree before slitting open the envelope that lay uppermost on her worktable. Her sensitive jet eyes were a swim as she attempted to read its script a second time and ran to her father with it, her eyes now ablaze with an indefinable dread. As her father fell silent her mother snatched the sheet off his hands and proceeded to take in its message. It was a court summons by which Mala and her father stood indicted with the offence of profiteering.

"Didn't I tell you?" she blazed. "Didn't I warn you she'd bring us to no good? Here now it has happened, you fool," she exclaimed in high dudgeon. "This is Saturday, and you be wanted Monday. Deiyu Sakki, what will come of this! What sin have I done to suffer such a disgrace?"

Mala stood with head bowed, transfixed, speechless, thinking.

"And you! Have you nothing to say, nothing? With all this mischief you've brought on? Going school, only to go loafing around, this is what everybody is saying. Learning not one proper thing. And now, and now, put your father in serious trouble."

"Stop this jabbering, please, please, will you? Mala has learned things you'll never understand. Even I couldn't, at first. But I do

now. And there won't be any trouble, I assure you. But if there were, I'd face it gladly."

"No trouble Doing what is unlawful?"

"To be just and fair, is that being unlawful? Juster even than our Council is trying to be? Laws change from time to time. But Justice never does. You will never understand that."

"Cadju-gedi, your punditry"! she rasped. "But if something happens, I'm leaving. Not a day longer will I bide in this village, I swear. The best people are already sayin' nasty things about us, *about me*. Common traders we've become, and black-marketeers to boot. What's become of your Ralahamy status, I ask you. Muda'aliyek, just a common trader, that's what you've become, all because of you and your accursed chillies. Never was a thing said when like everybody else you worked your fields. Cadju-gedi, you and your Justice!"

"Do as you please, go if you want to." Mudiyanse's temper was rising.

It was the first ever rift between her parents that Mala could remember. She went down on her knees and begged her mother's forgiveness. She felt she had deeply wronged by her obstinacies to which her doting father had innocently succumbed "I will have Appachchi exonerated of all blame, mother, I vow it," Mala wept, none too sure how she could contrive this thing that she had promised.

The courtroom, seemed somehow to bolster her confidence notwithstanding the immense crowd and the loud whispering all around her, and the Tribunal President's courteous tone seemed to sustain her even more. She listened to the three complainants giving vent to their shared grievance. There was no departure from truth in their testimony. And now came her turn to plead.

"I scarcely know how to answer you, sir," she said apologetically. "I believe I've done no wrong. As for my father he did only what I had got him to do."

"Your witnesses?"

"I don't understand; I've none, sir." Her glance swept the courtroom, after which she fell silent. A strapping youth stepped up to her to say something in her ear. She cared not to listen, seeing who he was, the same

Persistent, unwelcome correspondent whose outpourings she guardedly had consigned to the flames.

"You will bear witness?" the President addressed the youth.

"Yes, your honour."

"Who are you, and were you a customer of hers?"

"I am Rajah, your honour, and my father is the Chairman of the Council. We buy our quota of chillies at her house.

The next to offer her similar service happened to be the latest addition to her circle of customers, Rudolph by name, the very man who, privy to her, had "bitched" her in Mohammadu's sundrystore. And the next was the Headmaster of her school. In the confusion to which her mind had run on account of this mixed bag of appearances and quite unable to divine what they would depose to, Mala kept her eyes downcast, and the President was constrained to thump the table to summon her attention.

From the demeanour of several others in the well of the court it seemed to the President but fair to presume there would be many more willing to testify.

"What you say then is that your school studies led you to this?" the President interrupted her to ask.

"Yes, your honour," she dropped the "sir", taking a cue from Rajah despite her dislike of him. "I think it only just and fair.. . . ."

"That chillies ought to be varyingly priced to the consumer in line with an individual's earned income?"

"I believe it is the only way to offset the vagaries in the rising cost of living. Else the havenots would always have to go underfed and undernourished. And....."

"Yes, go on, the President probed, leaning forward as though to capture the rich nuances of her soothing soft voice.

"I have been thinking of ways to market all those other consumer goods that are daily essentials, so the people can have total instead of partial, and limited relief. The grower is paid twice his production cost, the retailer is allowed a 10-15 per cent profit, and the

consumer in the lowest income-scale is charged the floor price which is upscaled incomewise therefrom. Each and every purchase is automatically subjected to a consumer-tax again designed incomewise which the retailer surrenders to the Rural Council's treasury weekly fortnightly or monthly as the Council may direct. The Personal Income Tax is a redundancy and must give way to the Consumer Tax."

"And are you following these rules?"

"Yes, your honour."

"The Consumer Tax, for instance?"

"Yes, your honour." She held up a small metal key on a chain. "Here is my tax-treasury key and, begging your pardon, your honour is welcome to take a count of the collections so far. Furthermore, each day's tax collection is endorsed by a written check account."

"Any snags you have encountered? Can other Rural Councils adopt this method?"

"I indeed wish they would, your honour. As every consumer is carded in terms of his income and rationed in terms of his quantitative need there can be no snags, none, if a Rural Council is conscientious in its governance."

Through a halfhour adjournment the President sat in his chambers carefully reviewing the evidence so far placed before him. Mala's theory of trading was no mere fanciful experiment. Rather it was a down to earth economic exercise, practicable, rewarding, fair beyond cavil or question. Its basics almost hypnotized him with their fundamental truths. But the whole contravened the law, nevertheless. He made his mind up to a course of action which more than any other would not transgress his duty as a judge, also his honour as a man. After a consultation with the Clerk of the Court he directed him to make an announcement inviting to the wall of the court all those who made their chillie purchases from Mala or from Mohammadu's sundrystore, and directing them to line up alongside the four walls of the courtroom. Mala stood solitary in the witness-stand trying to rationalize this new development, calm and collected, the cynosure of every eye.

When the Headmaster followed in the

wake of Rajah and Rudolph to occupy the witness-stand Mala for once seemed to lose some of her composure. She almost rose in her seat to let him pass and her countenance took on aspect of distinct apprehension. As this witness lived far off from the cluster of villages which she had researched, what could he have to testify that would be germane to her present involvement?

"Your honour will pardon me," the witness told the court.

"Yes!"

"The accused is one of my students, your honour, and I felt obliged to be of assistance to her in whatever way possible. And I have brought with me a document which has some relationship to this enquiry. I beg to be permitted to tender the same to Court."

The President devoted some time to its perusal during which his bushy eyebrows knitted and relaxed in a jigsaw dance and, he too shook himself as for greater ease from his grey tweed cloth and tunic coat which he involuntarily unbuttoned at the neck. But his alert mind promptly returned to the issue in hand.

"I have come to a resolution," he declared sedately to the throng lined up alongside the courtroom walls. "It seems to me the proper course to take in all the circumstances of this hearing." Amid the tension these words built up he continued: "I want you everyone to indicate by a show of hands who amongst you approves of the pricing the accused has been dictating. Will all those who approve raise their hands? The Clerk of the Court will take a count."

All hands went up save three, these being of the complainants'. By individual questioning thereafter the income status of each and everyone was ascertained. And a tabulation showed that every grade of earned income, from the lowest to the highest and representative of the community, had given Mala's terms of trading its approval. And most noteworthy was the fact the three proclaimed disapprovers were here being challenged by nearly thrice as many of their income category.

The Clerk duly announced the result of the census and the crowd with bated breath stood wondering what the sequel was going

to be. And was there the suspicion of a smile on the judge's mien when Mala, summoned back to the witness-stand, stood before Court, her form all a tremor with an indefinable expectancy?

"Under our law you are still guilty," the President solemnly declared. A murmur arose, which a glance from the Bench stilled forthwith.

"But laws, as I understand their context, are designed and promulgated for the people's welfare and that alone. For nothing else." And he took on a smile as he proceeded: "Thus the verdict, if it is to be fair and just, must be one that at all times and in all seasons upholds that norm. The law-giver and the judge, if each is to be fair and just, may not contravene that cardinal principle of good social management.

"The people here present and participating in this enquiry who have been affected by your trading criteria have openly and freely and unreservedly declared an overwhelming accord with them.

"To add to it, I have filed on record an official document tendered to Court by one of the witnesses, and I want you all to take careful note of what it sets out as I myself have done. The accused is thereby informed that she has been awarded a student scholarship for higher studies in recognition of a thesis formulated by her at her recent school examination. And this thesis, moreover, is described in the following terms: "A notable contribution to new thinking in that area of economic investigation designated The Rising Cost Of Living.

"I acquit and discharge the accused."

Mudiyanse linked hands with her as he led Mala by feel of foot homeward through the forest track rendered invisible by the starless night. "That letter that I forgot to open, it must be it, Appacchi, don't you think?" Mala giggled. From some distance off they espied the aight lantern on the open piyassa (verandah) of their cottage-home and they both ran to it the final few yards. "Amme, Amme," Mala joyfully yelled, "we are back home, Amma, Appacchi and me."

But Kiri Menike was no longer there.

o o o

The Character Drain In Sri Lanka

by V. N. D. Gunewardene

THE SIGNS OF DISINTEGRATION are manifest everywhere in Sri Lanka. Something dreadfully wrong is happening to our peoples. We are rapidly losing character—losing our ability to blush, our sense of shame—perhaps most sickening of all, we're learning not to care. Our Society is sick. We are no longer, a "great" society, no longer even a "good" society. Our society is becoming evil. We have lost our way. We don't know what we stand for, where we're going, who or what we are. We have no goal.

All you see around you today—the problems that concern people most, are but symptoms of a dread national sickness. The high-placed VIP who conceals his bribes in the most subtle of devices—an Electoral Development Association or some other Association; the bribe-taking demagogue who shows no shame in accepting a bribe—but he too cloaks his nefarious activities by requiring that the bribe be paid to a wife or near relative; the lecherous high-up who gives public sector employment to females on pre-empted conditions; the bureaucrat who joins his boss in arranging for secret commissions on State orders; the executive in a State institution who places orders at so many dollars above world ruling prices and conceals his blatant venality by publicly stating that he will take no salary as remuneration for his services; the clever, but immoral bureaucratic, operator who takes a fee for arranging a transfer; our doctors who refuse to look at a patient unless he has been a channelled patient; and so on and so forth—the list can be multiplied *ad infinitum*.

These are only symptoms of a deeper malaise. We're floundering in a mad sea of hate, where bickering, back-biting, name calling, fault finding, blame placing (this is a speciality of politicians in power) and biased labelism replaces kindness, patience, understanding and love.

Why what's happening to us? A black-marketing mudalali is feted in public and a notorious criminal becomes a hero. We have lost our sense of values. We're not sure, now what is "truth" or right. And in this lies a more deadly peril for Sri Lanka than any other problem of our age. Still, in spite of the desperate need to recapture lost values and to re-kindle the spiritual and moral principles we have trodden underfoot—perhaps the deepest sickness of all is our inability to care.

ASK MOST SRI LANKANS what issue concerns them most and with almost bovine-like simplicity, they will answer "we want an opportunity to make more money—by fair means or foul!" Why? They know that "materialism" is "bad". Somehow, all the manifestations of desire have finally hit home. Scores of thousands, more "hawkish" toward involvement in the base aspects of "making money" are gradually brought around to the "anti-moral" view which they scorned only months before! The concern over the making of money is vividly illustrative of our lack of VALUES and our wrong sense of PRIORITY. If a Gallup poll were held in Sri Lanka, it would reveal our lack of perception—our WRONG PRIORITIES. We become disturbed over terrible consequences. We are earnestly desirous of removing certain EFFECTS, while we are totally unconcerned with the CAUSES that produce these consequences—these EFFECTS.

If a Gallup poll showed that "b'aise" materialism was shown to be the first concern, then what would follow would be the economy, the unsatisfactory state of the education of our children, the blatant corruption; the deplorable state of our public transport system and perhaps the ecology. Finally, at the bottom of the list would come the moral and ethical crisis, and our spiritual poverty. Where is our sense of values? Are we so stupefied by the highly doctored stories of the successes of the Government, so dull witted by the more than 5 hours per day spent in listening to the radio or our latest pastime, that of watching TV; so brainwashed by the continual hue and cry of the protestors; so mindlessly driven by our own fleshly appetites and desires that we can no longer see the plain cause of our problems?

WHILE WE STRUGGLE mightily over the effects-agitating, demonstrating, worrying, legislating, voting, protesting or even praying, we leave undiscovered and undisturbed, the basic, underlying cause of the effects we seek to remove! It is our lack of education, our lack of understanding the True values of life—what we are, where we're going; what is our purpose in life—that is a major cause of our evils all around us. *It is primarily our utter lack of contact with God, our character drain, that lies at the root of all our other problems.*

Our people are growing sicker. Most of us have failed in our personal duty! Parents have failed toward each other; our homes and families are in a rapid process of disintegration; and we don't seem to care. We most desperately need to recapture sound, true values and it must begin in the home! Character is the result of Motive. Motive is produced by having a goal. But Sri Lanka has no goal—there is no great "supernational" mission which would inspire us, on toward achievement. We lack unifying motive, Lacking motive—a driving, energizing desire to fulfill a purpose, we have no reason for building character in simple language means the ability to determine right from wrong and then to force oneself to choose the right: Character therefore, demands sacrifice or abandonment of the wrong.

But the tragedy of the world today, not merely Sri Lanka, is that most of us are no longer sure of what is right and what is wrong, anymore! Although we may have a fairly good idea, alright but it's more smart and modern to give in to the siren-song of ultra-liberalism. And when a whole nation, whether it be Western or Eastern is characterised by such a type of people, it spells tragedy for its spiritual development.

For the past several decades and especially during the 60s and 70s this country has been experiencing a serious character drain. Yet, the people of this country are not really disturbed by it. It is placed last on a list of public concern.

We are undoubtedly losing our capacity for outrage! We are fast becoming new "unshockables". Nothing seems to inspire in us that kind of righteous anger against tyranny

and evil; that indignation against sin, which once seemed part of our societies. Today we tolerate drugs, venra'a disease, divorce, homosexuality, all forms of vice, pre-marital and extra-marital sex, and illegitimacy. Our homes disintegrate and our schools have become chaotic assemblages of confused children, subjected to over-crowded and archaic facilities, an avalanche of purely physiological and fleshly "Knowledge" about sex, and ready availability of drugs—even down into the elementary grades. Our motion pictures and various forms of entertainment grow more grotesquely violent and we wonder what causes brutalities among our youth.

The symptoms are there—they are all around us—but we do not like to admit our sickness. What we need now and that most urgently, is a healing of the broken, lost spirit. We need to begin, NOW, building strong, righteous character. We need to stop the morals downward slide into chaos and an ungodly state of abandonment and totally reverse the present character drain into a dynamic build up of CHARACTER.

A nation will be judged—and its future will be determined—not by its GNP, or its stockpiles of nuclear arms, or the size of its industries and technology, but by its CHARACTER. Not only are we rapidly losing, character, but we're losing the ability to discern our character loss.

WE HAVE NO GALLUP POLLS here in Sri Lanka. It will be interesting to learn what percentage recognise the deep malaise that prevails today. The writer asked a few of his friends who think that Sri Lanka is "sick" and some offered reasons of two types, causes and symptoms, such as the amount of disregard for human life and killing, lack of sufficient and effective law enforcement, laxity of courts, breakdown in morals, shunning of religion, poor upbringing, lack of individual initiative and general selfishness.

Others were asked the question "Do we live in a sick Society?" One answered "I don't know about other people, I'm not; if people are happy doing their own thing, that's up to them". A technician's comment was "there's nothing wrong with Society as a whole." A University student flatly stated "I don't think

so. Oh, you find an occasional dud in society, but generally things are getting more modern"! A mudalali's view was "No, society is now different than ever. If anything its better". Finally, an unemployed youth asked "What's wrong with it (society)?"

Such delightfully uninformed euphoria may at least bring non-involved tranquility to those holding such hazy views—but the facts are otherwise. During the decade of the 70s while population had risen by 10%-15%, crime soars about 100%. Arrests in 1978 for drug and illicit liquor violations were 4 times as high as in 1960. The number of persons murdered or killed by traffic fends keeps on multiplying over and above the pro-rata population increase. Those who deny the grisly statistics are simply uninformed and living in their own dream world, where nothing is really true, until it touches their own personal lives.

So, while the deadly character drain continues, millions play a childish game of "make believe" pretending all is well, and we're not really much worse than we ever were. And this, blind refusal to acknowledge our moral decline and qualitative degradation, is the worst sickness of all.

It is not too late for Sri Lanka. But it is much, much later than we think! Unless something is done, and done quickly, to heal the spirit of our people—to unite us behind a common cause which has the characteristic of greatness; a challenge reaching to the stars for its all-consuming importance, a goal worthy of great individual and collective sacrifice—unless such a goal is captured by our peoples and soon, then we are only writing another modern record of Sodom. We're another tottering Rome showing the decay of indulgence, stupidly failing to recognise the symptoms of our own sickness.

We must recognise the immensity of our problems and fully understand that only a deeply aroused, re-dedicated, inspired, concerted effort among hundreds of thousands and millions, in their homes and families, in their private lives—an effort to build CHARACTER, to repent for our terrible moral degeneracy, to capture the spirit of RIGHTEOUSNESS for our peoples—only such a total com-

mitment by all our peoples can save us from national calamity.

—X— —X—

THINK ALOUD

Whither Sri Lanka?

by K. Kanapathipillai

Here are some questions, some of which might already have been answered; some that might not yet have been answered, and some waiting to be answered in the near future. One thing good about them is that they are all subjects worthy of being considered for the benefit of the country and the people taken as a whole.

(The entire theme takes the form of a dialogue for it is the least tedious form of composition).

**We, in Sri Lanka, have to live a fuller and richer life, by which, I mean a life which does not merely denote a life of never-ebbing affluence, nor the voluptuous life of an upstart rich, nor the abjectly mean life of a miser bent on hoarding, nor the corroding existence of a wretched pawnbroker, nor that of a merciless and hard-hearted usurer, nor the uneventful life of a bribe king, or of a seeker after perks and fringe benefits and kickbacks who has his heart set on the get-quick-rich end of his dealings only. It is only when one uses one's well-earned gains to live a life brimful of a rare wealth of benign feelings, of an effort to open out one's heart to accommodate all the kindly feelings of the "other-loving", "other-caring" altruistic kind, of a state of inner being that has fully communed with the outer being of existence by a true understanding of all that nature stands for, and all that human society should aspire after, that one would have made a proper start in one's life's journey. In the first place we should have sufficient unto the day our basic material needs of existence.*

**Pray: what are they?*

** For an average family of five members: two adults and three children our minimum of daily needs are as follows: 3/4 measure of rice, one pound of wheaten bread, one coconut'*

1/2 lb of fish, 1/2 lb of dhal, one pound of green vegetables, including green chillies, 1/4 lb. of onions, 1/8 lb. of dry chilli powder, 2 limes, 1/2 lb. of salt, 1/2 lb. of sugar, one bot. of milk, 1/16 lb. of tea leaves, 1/8 bot. coconut oil, 1/4 bot. kerosene, 5 pieces of firewood. For purchasing these alone we need Rs. 25/-. Then there are the other needs: clothing, shelter, medicine, educational facilities, entertainment, recreation, and travelling. These will cost at least Rs. 5/- per day. So, the monthly expenses of an average family: not too rich, not too indigent: in Sri Lanka works out at Rs. 850/-. And even if one resolves to tighten one's belt to the utmost, gird up one's loins and lead a life of austerity one needs for one's family Rs. 750/- per month. **If one fails to earn this amount what does it mean? Does it not amount to eking a marginal existence? In other words we are virtually a nation of near starved beings.** Placed as we are in this pathetic predicament our health hazards are interminable, our intellectual and man-power hazards are equally risky. In all probability we are bound to turn out to be a sickly people whom a single epidemic might wipe out like a swarm of ephemeras. Facing such hazards: not imaginary, but starkly realistic, how can we be said to be living a fuller and richer life with a noticeable life-style?

* *This cannot be true.* Surely our condition can't be so alarmingly abject. Just walk out into the streets of an average township in Sri Lanka. What do we see passing under our very eyes? Isn't it all grandeur? A scintillating stream of life? Fun and jollity? Our marketes, our co-operative stores, our shops, our pavement stalls, are all brimming over with goods from other countries: dolls and toys from Hong-kong, wooley georgette from Singapore, pullovers and blouses and expensive trouser materials, and terelene and tera-cotton, and tape recorders and cameras and expensive gee-gaws and cosmetics from England and Germany, the States, China and Australia and Taiwan, Korea and Japan. Isn't this an index of our affluence?

* *Yes, yes. Didn't a Minister of State make a Nester-like utterance the other day: "What don't we have in this country? We've everything*

from wooley georgettes to chopper bicycles and posh cars? In appearance it is prosperity: borrowed prosperity. But, it is deceptive: like our thinking. It is mere surface gloss; mere passing sheen; a momentary glimmer. One moment it is there, the next it fades into utter squalor and filth, decrepitude, disease, starvation, endless craving and "dukka" —"sorrow"—grumbling, complaining, groaning and grouch and corruption and frustration: a mental derangement here and a suicide there.

* *Perhaps, this is the pattern of life that obtains in all the third world countries.*

* *Well, that is a matter for a more careful investigation and comment. We cannot stake out an opinion off-hand. Because some of the Third World countries are indigent it does not necessarily follow that we in Sri Lanka must also be so.*

* *Don't you see a gulf, nay a void, existing between the life-style of our top-brass; the merchants, the politicians, and the rest of the affluent few—barely two percent of the population—on the one hand and that of the average citizen on the other with his rural miseries and the urban slum squalor?*

* *Yes, there appears to be a lot of difference between them. Perhaps a free flow of middle East, American and African money into this country is causing an economic imbalance in the life-pattern and business dealings of the people. All the gloss, all the sheen, the glint and the sparkle, the vulgar motley of colours in dress and outlandish and exotic manners, patterns of behaviour and mode of dress, eating, drinking and other titillations and enjoyments of life of the new-rich may be only a temporary feature; a passing phase. What we need is a dynamic yet stabilised pattern of life; a solid existence where there will be less of suffering and minimal voluptuous living.*

* *I agree with you. But then, what is the way out?*

* *Well, we as a people—not divided into a governing and governed group: into haves and have-nots—stripped of all our caste, creed and racial and communal differences and class-rivalry have to put our heads together, think hard, think clear, think in earnest, and find an abiding solution, having as our sole*

aim the discovery of a constitution to safeguard the fundamental rights of all concerned, and conceived as the result of the fundamental unanimity that is essential for a peaceful life.

* *I should dare to think that the best solution to all our social ills is to adopt a policy of austerity both in our personal life-style and in the general policy adopted in governing the country. To put it somewhat graphically: we have to tighten our belts; we have to put a stop to all waste. We have to make drastic changes in our pattern of life. Those who are spending lavishly on their personal mess, to titillate and tickle their gustatory organs, that is to say, those of us who have taken to very expensive and riotous and hilarious living and epicurean habits and sybaritic delights like resorting to spirituous liquors and notoriously tongue-flattering dishes, and to flaunting an expensive vulgar style of dress, will have to be self-abnegatory. We shall have to forego our joy rides and pleasure trips, and flippant jaunts. There should be a merciless cut in the import of luxury vehicles and other luxury goods. No more shall we go about dressed in our woolley-georgettes and terebene shirts, and no more shall the state make revenue out of sin money by running distilleries and breweries for manufacturing arrack and beer and sack and rum. The Buddha forbade this.*

* *That's right. Why shouldn't our people take to two-wheeled vehicles and other modes of locomotion such as bicycles and motorcycles; and most of us, even the most affluent, should travel in buses and vans and other public conveyances which should, of course, be well organised and run smoothly and regularly for the benefit of the people.*

* *Already we see a change in our mode of travel. For a change is not only desirable but inevitable. But what about the colossal waste of public money that is being literally buried, sunk and locked up in unwanted yet pompous and imposing buildings?*

* *That's the fact. When the people are at the brink of a cauldron of starvation and disease and crippling poverty, how can the few be permitted to indulge in luxurious living, flitting about in richly adorned air conditioned and red-carpetted mansions? Aren't our State build-*

ing programmes consuming a very big chunk of our revenues?

* *Yes. You talk perfect common sense. All the people can't be hoodwinked all the time in the name and under the garb of religious orthodoxy, religious revival, political expediency, national urgency, peaceful and harmonious existence: Shanti and pax: and constrained to be dumb and deaf and mute; to be stupid and made to be cringe and crawl and grovel in the dust and more—an ignominiously sordid existence.*

* *How can we afford to be in a Shangrilla in the midst of squalor and dirt and suffering.*

* *When all the people begin to sweat and dig and delve who shall then be the gentlemen, in his starched shirt, and trousers and white collar? And who will then be the beauty queen bedecked in all the gold and diamonds from the Kalgoorlie, Klondike and Kimberley mines and pearls from the Persian Gulf?*

* *Well, this art of rhetoric never did help solve social problems, take one out of one's political quandary and cure one of one's hard-boiled obduracy. Stop this: What might appear to be a harangue. We have far too many of them these days. You appear to divide society into two halves; the haves and have-nots. That is certainly the trend of your argument; a leftist way of thinking.*

* *I say, that is the general trend or genre of the talks of all politicians. Don't they, at least some of them, being hedged in and ensnared and entangled in kickbacks and fringe benefits and perks and 'santhosams' shed crocodile tears for the proverbial poor and preach their peculiar brand of socialism and social justice?*

* *You have hit the nail on the head: Yes, they are the self-styled "Elayinnapan" friend of the poor.*

* *Well, now coming down to solid earth, to brass tacks. We shall have to declare in true earnest that we shall adopt austerity as our lifestyle. That is point number one. The second is a reduction in the number of months that have to be fed, for as it is, there is an explosive increase of population imminent somewhere in 2020; that is, in another 40 years our population would have doubled.*

* *Is that so?*

* *It is increasing at 2.5% every year; and in*

2020 we shall have to meet our nemesis, and our Doomsday is nearing us.

* *And then unless and until we are prepared to confront this grim reality with a far-sighted solution we cannot survive the scarcity of food that we may have to face. And what I have in mind is the subject of the popular cry of the day: "Planned family". The size of an average family in Sri Lanka, and for a matter of that, in any part of the world should not exceed four persons, based on the famous slogan; we are two and our children are two. This discipline will have to be maintained for the healthy growth of the entire community.*

* *And what is more, we've to evolve into a single virile race of skilled workers, agriculturists, thinkers and administrators, and not a race of people that is brash, cruel, heartless and ugly: "nasty, brutal and short". And further we shall have to so plan our private and public economy as to be fool-proof and tangibly productive of results, and tend towards the attainment of self-sufficiency in the matter of our basic needs. Why buy candied sweets and status insignia gewgaws when our neighbour is starving for want of a 'chundu' of rice for his 'canjee'?*

* *By the way, can't we improve our economy by industrialisation; by buying and selling?*

* *How can we become industrialised? We don't have the basic natural resources for the purpose; raw materials, power, skilled labour, organizing skills, and the required capital? Besides, our entire outlook with regard to industries is not that healthy.*

* *Yes; besides why should we be in an inordinate hurry to tread the road to Huddersfield i.e., industrialisation?*

* *Evidently it is the way to become rich and find employment for our unemployed youth.*

* *We have the labour required: Perfectly tractable labour: unskilled and semi-skilled which must be turned into skilled labour. And thus we can supply the required skilled workers for all the Trade zones in the Middle East and in the Far East.*

* *A good idea. We can specialize in one thing; and that is skills; and by selling our skills we can attract some useful industries to our shores from more affluent and better developed nations, like in Hong-kong and Singapore.*

* *While doing so we should not fail to improve our agriculture, our plantation industries and our livestock industry and fisheries.*

* *But you know, there is a social canker on our society that goes by such piddling names as: dignity of our race, our religion, our social heritage, our caste smudge, our language allegiance and our airy nothing that goes by the name 'culture'?*

* *You are absolutely right. These have eaten into our vitals and ego-satiated fools and dupes of imposture, have, all these long years ostentatiously lighted our path and served as our torch-bearers. The blind have led the blind. They've enthralled our hearts and ensnared our art of clear and unconditioned thinking.*

* *Aren't we big imitators and placemen? And isn't the effort and the suffering and the struggle involved in escaping the stench and squalor of the slums in our cities and the gnawing ennui of an uneventful life lived in indigent village hovels more of the nature of the suffering and pain and pang of child-birth than of menopause?*

* *That is perfectly true.*

* *In our society climbing into the "status fold" is more strenuous and irksome than earning one's livelihood. And men have sacrificed their all—their caste, their colour, and even their religions patina—for gaining an entrance into and getting good-hold on what they consider to be "higher society".*

* *It is not a matter of the law of the struggle for existence that may be said to govern man. What he is controlled by is his endless craving for status. The outcome of it all is that his efforts, his aspirations, his postures, his reactions and his patterns of behaviour, have become strangely outlandish and exotic; to wit he has ceased to be a Sri Lankan. His motives have turned out to be sometimes honourable, and more often shifty.*

* *Aren't we like sheep and goats and cattle that have been indoctrinated and fed each in its special brand of cultural bran and led to the slaughter house?*

* *How about availing ourselves of the aids and gifts and "tied-loans" from the rich countries?*

* *They are a sure sign of a tangible expression of the flood of "goodwill" from the rich world to the Third World countries; and aids and*

loans from the Colombo plan, the International Monetary Fund, the International Finance Corporation, the Economic and Social Council, the Special Fund, the International Corporation Administration, the World Bank etc., are no doubt, very useful philanthropic and economic concerns and as such, doubly welcome, but; 'Caution?': the benefits just ooze and import a wrong posture to the countries at the receiving end and implant on them a slavish mentality. **They had better be avoided for everyone of them invariably has a string attached to it.**

* I agree. Man will have to beget an awakening sense of his rightful rights and doubtful duties and become a free man. He will have to aim at the attainment of that rare "virtue" that "excellence" which John Henry Newman had in mind when he clearly defined the aims of a liberal education, on receiving which, every citizen would be in a position to discover that niche in nature's pattern of existence that had been intended for him by mother Nature. Then will man have a proper understanding of the nuance that distinguishes a highly, and truly cultured being from the vulgar and the Philistine; and then will he be considered a "freeman" and then will he be able to lead a truly richer and fuller life.
52, Nalliah Road,
Bataloia.

SRI LANKA CHRONICLE

Sept. 4—Sept. 10

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 Times; SO—Sunday Observer; DM—Dinamina; LD—Lankadipa; VK—Virakesari; ATH—Aththa; SM—Silumna; SLDP—Sri Lankadipa; JD—Janadina; SU—Sun; DV—Davasa; DP—Dnapathi; CM—Chinthamani; WK—Weekend; RR—Riviresa; DK—Dnakara; EN—Eelanadu; IDPR—Information Dept. Press Release.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4: President J. R. Jayewardene was given a warm welcome

when he arrived in New Delhi to attend the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting; he told reporters he was very hopeful of its outcome; Mr. Jayewardene had a round of discussions with the Indian Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi soon after his arrival; he also met the Indian President Sanjeeva Reddy—CDN. The Government yesterday decided to ban State sector institutions from accepting gifts offered by foreign sources without the prior sanction of the Cabinet. Heads of Government from Asian and Pacific Commonwealth countries began informal discussions on the eve of the five day conference to strengthen regional co-operation—CDM. Sri Lanka yesterday signed an agreement with the Yugoslavian government for the peaceful utilisation of nuclear energy. An ultra-modern electronic telephone system for Colombo and the immediate suburbs will be commissioned in April next year; costing Rs. 150 million, the project now underway will link together subscribers coming under fourteen suburban telephone exchanges—SU. Recent depreciation of the Sri Lanka rupee, particularly against the US dollar, is substantially boosting the country's import bill particularly in relation to food and fuel—CO. It was decided at yesterday's Cabinet meeting that more duty will be levied on imported goods which adversely affect the manufacture of locally produced goods—VK. A Cabinet sub-committee will soon be appointed to find ways and means of solving the various problems that may arise when the District Development Councils Bills is put into operation—DP. The Attorney-General's Department has pointed out to the government that the sacking of strikers is illegal—DK. The government has started investigating whether certain practices by Sri Lankan branches of West Asian banks is depriving Sri Lanka of large amounts of foreign exchange—DV.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5: Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi deploring what she called a collapse of detente and a renewal of the cold war, today said the Commonwealth should build a bridge of understanding between the Superpowers; Mrs. Gandhi was addressing the opening session of a regional conference of 16 Commonwealth leaders from Asia and the Pacific region; In a keynote address, she said the outlook for peace in the

region had deteriorated as a result of the Afghanistan crisis, turmoil in South-East Asia and rivalry over oil supplies. Stringent security measures provided by police for banks in the North have proved effective and not a single bank holdup has been reported to police this year—*CDN*. "Very soon, we hope to offer the food stamp receivers the alternative of a loan or capital grant which would enable them to set themselves up in some income-generating vocation, rather than live on continuous charity", so observed the Minister of Finance and Planning Mr. Ronnie de Mel. Guidelines for the re-employment of those who vacated their posts during the recent abortive strike will be decided by the Government next week, according to informed sources—*CDM*. Singapore's Prime Minister, Lee Kuan Yew put the divisive issues of Afghanistan and Kampuchea at the forefront of a meeting of Commonwealth leaders today with an uncompromising attack on the Soviet Union and Vietnam; Mr. Lee's opening address clearly embarrassed the Indian Government whose Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi is Chairman of the meeting of Asian and Pacific leaders; she later told reporters, 'we knew he would say such things but we did not expect him to say them in public.'—*SU*. Sri Lanka's crude oil imports are rising substantially despite a government decision taken last year to restrict the physical volume of such imports to 1979 levels—*CO*. The Communist Party is to organise rallies and demonstrations throughout the country to press the government to take back all those who were sacked due to striking without pre-conditions—*ATH*.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6: Sixteen Commonwealth countries from Asia and the Pacific region agreed today that a Soviet military withdrawal from Afghanistan was imperative for world peace, a Commonwealth spokeswoman said; the vocal condemnation by Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and Malaysia of the Soviet Union's move into Afghanistan and the Vietnamese led invasion of Kampuchea contrasted with India's pleas for understanding. Further incentives to attract remittance from Sri Lankan workers abroad are to be introduced shortly, Finance and Planning Minister, Ronnie de Mel said yesterday. Fisheries Minister Festus Perera yesterday asked the CID

and Police to investigate a major fire which gutted the Fisheries Ministry's Cey-Nor Foundation transit stores and stores occupied by the Jute Corporation at Vystwyke Road, Mattakkuliya yesterday afternoon—*CDN*. Thirty five persons have been warded in the Galle hospital in a serious condition after they had taken a meal of turtle flesh; according to sources at the Galle hospital, seventeen among these warded are children and their condition is stated to be critical—*CDM*. Mismanagement of the state budget is one of the factors causing inflation, Finance and Planning Ministry Secretary W. M. Tilakaratne acknowledged yesterday. The Government is to shortly set up a National Health Development Fund for the purpose of promoting and developing the country's health services—*SU*. According to well informed sources the government is said to have decided to abolish free education on World Bank advice; this will be announced when the 4th Budget of the UNP Government is presented in November—*DK*. The government has decided to abolish the Food Coupon system as soon as possible—*JD*. 15,000 criminals are roaming free in the country according to the finger prints Bureau—*LD*. The Finance Minister is said to be trying to reduce allocations to ministers as much as possible in the next budget; the Finance Minister believes that it must be done because of the 400% inflation and wastage by Ministries—*JD*.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7: The battle for control of Millers Ltd., the 126 year old department store, has now pushed up the company's share price to an unprecedented Rs. 55 per share on the Colombo share market—*SO*. A two-member Ministerial Committee has been set up to decide on the sale of excess rice; the sale will apply to excess rice either in stock or committed for importing—*ST*. The fate of Sri Lanka's prestigious world proposal to declare the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace which the United Nations endorsed nearly a decade ago seems to be in the balance; according to informed 'insiders' at the United Nations the United States and the Soviet Union the most crucial participants are certainly not enthusiastic about an international conference scheduled to be held in Colombo next year—*WK*. Estate workers

will soon be paid a monthly wage; a one man committee is now working hard to fix this—CM. It has been revealed that certain foreign industrialists are trying to sabotage local industries by creating chaos in local industries; these include power machinery, equipment and other items in the form of aid in the hope that local industries manufacturing such items will have to close down when there are items in plenty in the market for lesser prices—SLDP.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8: The first ever public auctions of gems in the last two weeks in Colombo have focussed the urgent need for the setting up of an international gem exchange in Colombo, spokesman for the industry said yesterday. The Central Transport Board's Public Relations team stepped up pressure last week sweeping the entire Colombo area on a hunt for drunken drivers and conductors. The Foreign Ministers of India and Sri Lanka met in New Delhi yesterday and discussed ways of expediting the implementation of the agreement between the two countries on the future of persons of Indian origin here. Both the Government of India which is hosting the Regional Commonwealth Conference, and leading trade union organisations were very much disturbed when some reports from a political dilly in Sri Lanka were brought to their notice; the Indian National Trade Union Congress and the All India Trade Union Congress decried any intention of a demonstration on the arrival of President J. R. Jayewardene of Sri Lanka in India—CDN. Press briefings about discussions at the closed sessions of the meeting of Commonwealth Heads of Government in New Delhi indicate that they centred round economic problems; New Zealand, Australia, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Western Samoa had participated—CDM. President J. R. Jayewardene disclosed on Saturday that the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund had asked Sri Lanka to consider certain proposals of theirs, saying, in short, that Sri Lanka's economy was over-heated; "my reply was that it must be so, because all these have oil as one of the reasons for the over-heating", he told the regional meeting of the Commonwealth heads of governments in New Delhi. The International Monetary Fund

which is being increasingly criticised by leaders of the third world for creating economic, social and political problems in their countries is planning a major revision of its policies, Managing Director, Jacques de Larosiere disclosed in Washington yesterday—SU. Commonwealth leaders from Asia and the Pacific end a five-day summit today amid uncertainty on the future of the regional meeting and differences between India and Singapore over Kampuchea—CO. The All-Ceylon Muslim League has decided to request the Government to take suitable action to confirm that representation in the Development Councils would be given to Muslims living spread over in the twenty four districts according to their population ratios; a resolution was adopted in this connection at yesterday's meeting of the League's Central Working Committee—VK. 4,500 special service officers will be appointed to investigate allegations of malpractices and deprivation of certain sections regarding the food stamp scheme; these officers will be appointed from outside the Job Banks—DV. The 4th Budget of the UNP will be delayed by a few months as the government has not been able to get required amount of foreign aid and has also been unable to prepare budget estimates as all senior clerks of Ministries have been sacked due to striking—DK.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9: The heads of government of the 16 Asian and Pacific Commonwealth nations today called for political solutions in Afghanistan and Kampuchea that would leave both embattled countries free from outside interference; in a communique at the end of a five-day conference here, they affirmed "the inadmissibility of the use of force in international relations and of intervention and interference in the internal affairs of states." Air Lanka is now gearing itself for its next major challenge—wide-bodied operations—which will begin on November 1 with the introduction of the 285-seat Lockheed L 1011 Tri Star leased from Air Canada. President J. R. Jayewardene returns to Colombo tonight from New Delhi where he attended the conference of Commonwealth heads of Government of Asian and Pacific region—CDN. If an Industrial Relations process structured on compromise instead of confrontation could be evolved, that would be the answer to the

maintenance of industrial peace; this was said by Capt. C. P. J. Seneviratne, Minister of Labour, in his key note address at the ILO, Training Course on "Labour-Manpower Policy in Development in Asia and Pacific" at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute yesterday—CDM. World Bank President Robert McNamara has lamented that the economic outlook for developing countries including Sri Lanka is worse today than he could ever remember; making a strong case for enhanced lending programmes to save the third world crisis, he said that urgent action was necessary by these countries themselves to bring changes for the better. The Government is to drop its move to impose a total ban on strikes in the state sector, ministerial sources said. Sri Lanka's President Junius Jayewardene said today that Commonwealth leaders from the Asia-Pacific region were considering a proposal to establish an international authority to monitor the military build up in the Indian Ocean; a United Nations sponsored conference of countries around the Indian Ocean is to be held in Colombo, the Sri Lankan capital next year. Demonstrators waving cloth banners bearing slogans sprung a surprise at yesterday's inauguration of the Asia-Pacific regional training course on labour-manpower policy training at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute—SU. The rape of the Sri Lanka's forests which has seriously degraded the country's environment has reached a point where government has been compelled to consider a total ban on timber felling outside the Mahaweli areas—CO. Large number of tourists who have booked rooms in five-star hotels during the tourist season starting in November have cancelled their bookings due to the political uncertainty in the country—DK. The Government is to amend legislations to allow women to work at night though it is a violation of the ILO convention; this legislation is strictly for the benefit of multi-national companies who set up factories here—JD.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10: There was a large gathering at the Katunayake Airport last night to greet President J. R. Jayewardene and Mrs. Jayewardene on their return from New Delhi where the President attended the Conference of Commonwealth Heads of Government of the Asian and Pacific Region. The new Medical Faculty of the Ruhunu University

College will start functioning when the universities begin their academic year on October 1 Prof. Stanley Kalpage, Secretary, Ministry of Higher Education said yesterday. Dependents of alcoholics and drug addicts will soon be able to get them treated at Addiction Treatment Centres the Health Department plans to set up soon—CDN. The Government last evening issued an island-wide warning to the public not to consume spirits of wine as it contained Methyl alcohol the deadly poison that claimed the lives of four victims yesterday; some weeks ago the same poison was found in the adulterated arrack in Moratuwa that claimed 13 lives and hospitalised over 20 persons. The Insurance Corporation is concerned about the lack of facilities in Colombo for fighting fires successfully—CDM. The warrant of the Special Presidential Commission headed by Justice J. G. T. Weeraratne is likely to be extended to cover the period up to 1980—half the term of the present United National Party Government. Sri Lanka's scientific bodies are to jointly appeal to the Government to reconsider its decision to accept nuclear power as a means of electricity generation here. Agreements for foreign loans amounting to 5,100.5 million rupees were signed during the first six months of this year; most of the loans are repayable over a period of 20 years with a grace period of 10 years, the Ministry of Plan Implementation has revealed. The Government has awarded a three million rupee tender to a leading Japanese group of consultants to carry out feasibility studies for the electrification of the Sri Lanka rail network—SU. Tamil Ministers K. W. Devanayagam, S. Thondaman and C. Rajadurai are to take joint action in regard to the complaint that even though the Constitution recognised Tamil as a national language, in effect no satisfactory action has been taken to implement same—VK.



West Drags Its Feet On Aid To Third World

27th July 1980.

EEC DEVELOPMENT AID COMMISSIONER Clayde Cheysson is clearly worried even though the Venice economic summit of the Western world's seven major industrial countries drafted a fine declaration of intent on relations with the Third World. According to M. Cheysson it was largely due to preliminary work done by Chancellor Schmidt's Bonn aide Herr Schulmann.

In 1981 there will also be UN negotiations on North-South problems, while Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky and Mexican President Lopez Portillo are working towards a North-South mini-summit. But progress is too slow for the French EEC commissioner and Socialist Cheysson, who was instrumental in bringing about the Lome Convention between the EEC and the African, Caribbean and Pacific states and is therefore held in high regard in the Third World.

He sees Western Europe and the other industrial countries slithering into a recession due to omissions in respect of the Third World. "Being outraged about the OPEC oil price increases, which are of course the root of the trouble, doesn't help at all" says Cheysson. "The fact still remains that the developing countries' oil bill this year will be \$ 30 bn. more than last year. In other words, the money they would have spent to buy industrial goods from the West will have to be used to foot this bill." OPEC surpluses totalling \$ 115bn this year (almost twice the 1979 figure) are slowly being recycled on money markets but they do not result in industrial orders. This causes unemployment in the industrial countries and due to reduced raw materials imports, in the Third World as well.

WHAT HAS TO BE DONE IS OBVIOUS. The dollar surpluses of the OPEC countries must be converted into loans as quickly as possible, especially for the non-oil producing Third World countries. But even though they are getting OPEC money in the form of loans,

banks are reluctant to lend to Third World countries because of their poor credit risk. Says Cheysson: "The governments of the industrial countries should bear some of this credit risk by issuing guarantees for loans, but EEC Finance Ministers, worried about domestic capital markets, see no necessity for such a move as yet."

The IMF is now about to relax strict credit terms which, at long last, even Western Finance Ministers have recognised as pointless. (This was particularly brought home in connection with NATO Partner Turkey). The Venice economic summit also advocated easing up, as did Willy Brandt's North-South Commission last December. The Brandt Commission also recommended doubling World Bank capital to \$ 80 bn. It has since been decided to double the capital, but the US Congress refused to approve.

Comments Cheysson: "Every dollar which the World Bank puts into development projects in the Third World brings \$ 1.80 in orders to the industrial countries." It is almost grotesque that the World Bank may lend to the developing countries only up to the amount of its own capital although it has had no losses so far because the Third World countries make a point of repaying debts to retain their credit rating. The North-South Commission also suggested that, apart from doubling capital, the World Bank's loan ceiling should be increased to twice its capital. But even this is a modest proposal considering that the EEC's European Investment Bank may lend up to two and a half times its capital. CURIOUSLY, however, this proposal was not seized upon in the Venice summit declaration although it could at least temporarily make up for the blocked doubling of capital. Cheysson sees hesitation, delays and omissions where speed is called for, not only in the interest of the Third World but also in that of the industrial countries. As he sees it, many heads of government, Finance Ministers and MPs still cling to the idea that the class of interests between the OPEC countries and the other developing nations should fully be brought to bear to check OPEC's price policy. But the development banks of some of the OPEC countries have countered this by providing

favourable credits to the poor Third World nations. Though the volume of these credits falls far short of the amounts needed to solve the problems it is enough to create the impression in these countries that they are getting some of the oil dollars charged to the industrial countries.

Without much fuss or bother M. Cheysson has taken the necessary steps by ushering in a co-operation system between the development banks of the OPEC countries and EEC development aid. Nineteen development projects in Africa are now jointly financed by the EEC through the European Investment Bank and OPEC countries' development banks. The shares in this financing scheme vary from case to case but all orders thus generated flow to the Community. The fact that the OPEC countries are increasingly viewed as benefactors by their poorer brethren should not be overlooked in the forthcoming North-South dialogue.

OPEC development aid now stands at \$3.7 bn a year compared with \$20 bn for the Western industrial countries (of which the EEC members provide \$9 bn.) The East blocs \$1 bn is peanuts in comparison. The OPEC nations provide 1.1 percent of GNP compared with 0.35 percent for the industrialised world and 0.42 for the EEC as a whole. The East bloc provides 0.04 percent.

But even the rapid increase of OPEC development aid cannot solve the main problem the outflow of dollars from the middle group of developing countries such as Kenya, Senegal, Ivory Coast and above all the semi-industrialised Third World countries Brazil, Argentina, South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore and Turkey. These countries use relatively large amounts of oil and have also been the biggest Third World buyers from Western industrial countries. Their combined share in EEC industrial exports has been greater than that of the United States and Japan. This is why financing these countries is so important in safeguarding jobs in Western Europe.

LETTERS

● Monthly Wage For Plantation Workers

Sir,

A news item appearing on the front page of the Sun of 22.8.1980 states that Government has decided to introduce legislation providing for a monthly wage, privilege leave etc., to estate workers—While this may be feasible on Coconut and perhaps possible on Rubber, it will be most difficult to implement it on Tea without risking the almost certainty of these tea lands ceasing to be viable. The following points may be considered:

1. During the recent drought many bought leaf factories ceased to operate for nearly two months, since there was very little leaf to manufacture. The tea has still not recovered. There have been many casualties and crop is still low.

2. Most tea lands could give only a day or two of work per week during that period as there was no flush. The labour was kept going with liberal advances which the small-holder could ill afford. In such periods—the recent drought lasted nearly 3 months and the aftermath is still on—how can anyone pay a monthly wage to tea pluckers?

3. Tea is very labour intensive and cost of proper and regular maintenance—weeding, pruning, application and cost of fertilisers every two months etc., is high.

4. A four or five day plucking round is required to obtain good quality leaf—which means that there will be no plucking for 3 to 2 days per week—although other work may be provided for another day at the most. There is of course no work on Sundays and Poya days. After pruning every two years the pruned fields do not come into leaving for nearly three months. During this period there are no crops from these fields and therefore not sufficient work for all the pluckers, who are however given work in rotation so that on the average they do not lose much. If a monthly wage is introduced presumably all the pluckers will have to be paid their wage crop or no crop—which would be well nigh impossible!



5. The cost of production even now with the recent increases in wages, cost of manure, transport and maintenance is high—with only high yielding lands making a bare profit. The present floor price for green leaf is in most cases barely sufficient to cover the cost.

6. While the State owned and managed estates—although as it is well known many of these are running at a loss—for some reason may be able to absorb paying a monthly wage and a high C.O.P. The Small-holder is unable to do so.

7. If Government is adamant in introducing a monthly wage on Tea some form of Crop Insurance is essential—as Tea depends very much on the vagaries of the weather. The high incidence of Live Wood Termite on Tea which reduces crop and decimates the bushes must also be taken into account in this connection. The only form of partial control of Livewood Termite is a very low prune once in two years. Some form of chemical injection for bushes is also prescribed—but the cost would be prohibitive as the stand per acre of tea is approximately 5400 bushes

8. A few tea lands with factories as well as bought leaf factories may be able to absorb some additional costs to a very limited extent on the profits of the factories—but the Tea Small-holder who produces and supplies green leaf will not be able to do so—which would mean that he will not be able to afford the regular maintenance and manuring which is a prerequisite to obtain high yields. Such lands will almost certainly run at a loss affecting the owners as well as the country through no fault of the tea Small-holder. Also after the LRC Act most private tea growers are SMALL HOLDERS.

Perhaps the Government should convene a conference of Planters and Unions before considering the Implementation of a monthly wage for Tea workers, in the National interest. Some other form of incentive based on production may however be carefully considered.

L. P. Ranasooriya.

Kirimetiya Estate,
Elpitiya.
26th August 1980

• Musical Discord

Permit me the columns of your esteemed journal to pinpoint a situation that can besmirch the confidence of candidates who compete for awards and certificates in examinations conducted by the Association of the Teachers of Western Music and Speech.

It is a known fact that the examiners themselves are having large numbers of private pupils who sit for these very same examinations. An award granted under these circumstances can tarnish the good name of the Association.

To remove such injustice, I suggest that the Panel of Examiners should be selected from eminent musicians outside the Association even accomplished personnel from Embassies or Abroad (nearby India) could chair such panels or be co-opted with the prime motive of giving talent a fair and equitable chance.

For example, last year's 'Child Musician of the Year' was selected by a panel of three Music Teachers of the Association, who are having private pupils and some of the candidates themselves were either students or children of the other members of the Association who may be good friends of the members of the panel.

Justice must not only be done, it must appear to be done.

The Association of the Teachers of Western Music and Speech must seriously adjust the panel of Examiners in keeping with the foregoing lines of thought, if it is to satisfy

OFFICIAL EXCHANGE RATES

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

CURRENCY	PER 100 UNITS	
	Buying Rate	Selling Rate
U.S. Dollar	Rs. 1702 50	Rs. 1705 50
Sterling Pound	Rs. 4056 00	Rs. 4062 00
Deutsche Mark	Rs. 955 35	Rs. 956 95
French Franc	Rs. 411.10	Rs. 411.80
Japanese Yen	Rs. 8 0490	Rs. 8 0640
Indian Rupees	Rs. 217.80	Rs. 218.20

the views of candidates and their parents alike.

We hope that this year too, it will not be repeated in the name of justice and fairplay. Talent must be accorded its due regard.

Interested Parent

o o o

NGUVU—II

Reminiscences

by Bwana Rafiki

Some people turned up looking for cattle for slaughtering. Killing an animal domesticated which is not a household pet is a kinder act than to let it live on to die a natural death, uncared for, eaten to death by crows, and the side on which it is lying riddled with maggots. One of our oldest cows took a fortnight to die in this way and even then her life had to be ended with a bullet. Some of our animals were lucky and died more quickly. The bull I parted with today talked to me, the way a bull talks, moments before it was led into the lorry. It was tied up while the man who was used to handling it was summoned, but just as the man arrived we got the bull in. With him went two younger bulls both from one cow.

A domestic upset in Colombo cost me an hour and I arrived on the estate at the time when I should have been setting out to return. By the time I got to the estate bungalow, a van-like lorry or lorry-like van arrived to take the bull away. The balance money amounting to over a thousand rupees for the animal was handed over to me personally. That delay in Colombo made this possible. In the lorry were the two bulls I had sold the previous day but which, I was told, had refused to walk the distance. The younger of the two was thin and I remarked on it. By now I was all set to miss what was the whole purpose of my going to Colombo, but when I got there, there was still enough daylight left to do what my partner in our enterprise and I wanted and which we repeated this morning.

That was part of a training scheduled, unplanned, accommodated to our needs and the opportunities afforded us. On the estate I must say that matters seemed to be going along very well in my absence, which according to the principle of subsidiarity, as I understand it, was as it should be. If it was not, I should think there would be no pointing in writing this *Nguvu* series for I would never get to Africa. An hour ago as I write this our Olympic relay team would have run in Moscow and we shall know tomorrow whether it had been worth sending them. Did they go to Moscow or the Olympics just to run, or for the experience, or just to show the flag? I would say they went for the sake of camaraderie, with each other and with others. Then if this was so, it might be asked if it was necessary to run in a relay to achieve this, or to run at all? Camaraderie or not, did the team go just to run, or to run their best? Was it not to win? Whether it is politics, or economics, or sport, yes, you strive to win and keep the rules.

Here am I past one thirty-five *ante meridiem*, that is an hour and a half past midnight trying to write something about the day before yesterday. It is not easy for my life has fallen into a sort of routine the last two weeks, dominated by two thoughts, that I must keep an appointment and that I must get some sleep. Many years ago I who never used taxis used to unhesitatingly take one if I was going to be as much as five minutes late for this particular appointment. Having written this I find that I can hardly keep awake. I am seated here in blue trousers and tie for I have been to a dance to which I went late and returned early. There was a car overturned on Galle Face by the roadside. I wondered if the man was still trapped inside for a policeman did not seem to be able to get the car door opened. I must try and persevere till the end of this page. Striving to keep oneself awake is quite an agonizing business.

The whole of last evening I was at an institution which is one hundred and sixteen years old and just lately has appeared to me to be getting younger. When one of its younger old members left our shores a few years ago, he said to me, calling me by my name, keep up the old traditions. He was back

here on a short visit not many months ago and he had no complaints on this score or he would have voiced them. Last evening after dusk I suddenly noticed I had a phalanx of male faces facing me. I was not terrified. I had to look for and spotted a few female faces. It was my day and I felt the best I could do was to speak a few words of encouragement. I felt I could best do this by recounting briefly, but quite inadequately I thought, one or two incidents in my life which happened to date back to that institution's centenary, year although I doubt if anybody noticed the coincidence.

So far as I know there were only three of us in Ceylon who have been to a certain Oxford College, which though a private ha is nonetheless a fully constituted organic part of the University. At Oxford and Cambridge you have to be accepted by one of the colleges or Halls first before you can be admitted to the University. All the Colleges have their own entrance examinations which you must sit for first before sitting the University entrance examination, known at Oxford as Responsons, which those have to do who have not qualified while at school. Yesterday I met one of the others. He is a bit of a recluse to my way of thinking and lives in or near Colombo. The third lives in Kandy. They are both distinguished men although I am, age-wise as it were, the senior of the three. All of us, if I may be allowed to say so, have been rebels of a sort. Yesterday I was quick to disclaim I was either democrat or socialist.



NEXT WEEK

- **BOOK REVIEW**
Ananda Coomaraswamy
- **FEELINGS IN FRG**
Run Against Poor Countries
- **EL SALVADOR**
Danger Of U.S. Intervention

Govt.



Notice

Land Acquisition Act (Chapter 459) As Amended By The Land Acquisition (Amendment) Act No. 28 Of 1964. Notice Under Section 7

Ref. No. 3/68/66/J 76 L 395(VE)

It is intended to acquire the lands described in the schedule below. For further particulars please see Government Gazette No. 107 of 19.09.1980. (Part III)

Name of Village etc.:

1. Viharagama village in Moratiha, Hewawissa Korale, Ridigama DRO's Division, Kurunegala District, North Western Province,
2. Warakawehera village in Madure Korale, Ridigama DRO's Division, Kurunegala District, North Western Province

Name of Land: Mahaiyawa Watta

1. Lot No, 126, 127, 128 in Supplement No. 2 F.V.P. 1128
2. Lot No. 11, 12' 13 in Supplement No. 1 to F.V.P. 795

H. M. W. Chandraratne
District Land Officer
Kurunegala District

The Kachcheri
Kurunegala
27, 8. 1980.

Confidentially

New Wind In the Customs

WHAT KIND OF WIND is it that is now sweeping through the Customs hierarchy? That some time ago the indefatigable *Daily Mirror* investigative reporter Lloyd Devarajah had exposed the sordid details of a house-warming ceremony by a top "Importer" (?) to which forty odd Customs officers had been invited as the special and exclusive guests? That a few of the invitees had wisely refused to attend this party? That thirty odd had attended the party and had been looked after in every way? That *Tribune* had published this news item without comment? That a short time after this, Customs Chief Dassanayake is reported to have issued instruction that officers of the Customs Department should be careful about accepting invitations from importers and exporters and especially persons who had been penalised by the Department for infringing Customs regulations? That we do not know whether the instructions also covered invitations from well known financiers and king-pins behind the organised smuggling racket (but who were never "caught" to be penalised—only minor minions pay the penalty)? That the Customs Chief should include invitations from this kind of operator in his ban (if he has not already done so)? That the Customs Chief will also do well to consult the Attorney-General and the Law Officers of the Government as to what steps he can take to protect the important officials of the Customs Department from the temptations offered by importers and exporters (and smugglers)? That more recently (vide *Ceylon Daily News* of August 20), it was reported on the front page under the headline HALT TO SMUGGLING OF STOLEN GOODS that: ".....a series of tough new anti-smuggling measures has been ordered by Customs Chief, H. S. Dassanayake following the discovery of the latest smuggling ruse adopted to send out pilfered goods, hidden among items purchased at official Port Authority sales."? That there is no doubt that there

should be a "halt" to stolen goods being smuggled out of the Customs premises? That more important is the smuggling of goods illegally imported under various legal pretences and devices?

THAT WHILST THE CUSTOMS CHIEF is on this business of cleaning up the Augean Stables at the Customs he should look into the question of the number of Customs officers and top ranking officials who have made foreign trips (officially and unofficially) in the last three years? That it would be in the interests of the government and the country if a Member of Parliament tables a question about these visits and gets a reply about these visits? That it would be interesting to know how long they were away and the Exchange they officially carried from Sri Lanka? That it would be also useful for the Customs Chief to find out whether the exchange they took was enough to pay for the five-star hotels in which some of them had often stayed or whether they were guests of friends of businessmen in Sri Lanka abroad? That though the number of officers who have gone on these trips is only a handful (and mostly from the top bracket), it is in the public interest to have on record the number with other relevant information? That it may be also useful if the Customs would ask for a confidential statement from each of the officers who have made frequent trips about the hotels they stayed in, their purchases and the side-trips they made? That he can easily persuade the others concerned to make such statements, if he sets the example and prepares a statement of his own trips and show that he himself stayed at hotels which were within the subsistence permitted to him? That the Customs Chief must see how far others had followed his worthy example? That this would be one way for the erring officials of the Customs to purge themselves of defaults now rather than be subject to an investigation by a Presidential Commission sooner or later? That the Customs Chief should also keep the public informed about the action he and his officers have taken in cases of smuggling which had been spotlighted in the press? That occasionally the information on action taken (especially in regard to foreigners) is released to the press?

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

Printed and Published by S. P. Amarasingam, for Tribune Publications at Tribune Printers
at 43 Dawson Street, Colombo 2 on September 20, 1980.

Digitized by Noolaham Foundation.
noolaham.org | aavanaham.org

Retain Your
Original Documents
And Submit

**EXTRA COPIES
OF**

LETTERS
CERTIFICATES
DEEDS
INVOICES
PLANS
SURVEY DRAWINGS
BOOKS

Rapid Service
with
Latest Photocopying Equipment

STUDIO TIMES
TIMES BUILDING
COLOMBO-1.
TEL: 21331