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HAVANA TO KABUL

A Sri Lanka Non-aligned View

By

S. P. AMARASINGAM

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Letter From The Editor

WAR HAS BROKEN OUT BETWEEN Iraq and Iran. Both countries are bombing and destroying each other's oil installations. At the time of writing it is not clear whether the UN and the pressure of world opinion will bring about a ceasefire to end the fighting. Wars between developing Third World countries is the one thing the former colonial rulers and their successors have wanted ever since enslaved countries won their independence in the period after the Second World War. The British had continued the imperial Roman strategy *divide et impera* right down to the time they withdrew from their colonies and created new divisions before they quit. The Indo-Pakistan wars and continuing conflicts are the outcome of this sinister strategy. The British are past-masters in this game. Towards the end of the First World War, when the Ottoman Empire had begun to crumble, the foundations were laid for a Jewish enclave in Palestine to later become the State of Israel when over a dozen sovereign Arab nations had emerged. The role Israel has played and continues to play needs no recounting. Early in the fifties when the greatness of *Pax Americana* was threatened by surging national liberation movements on all continents, John Foster Dulles, without the subtlety of British or West European diplomatic finesse, had proclaimed that the only way to maintain the white supremacy of America and the Atlantic Alliance in Asia was to make "Asians Fight Asians". This tactic no doubt succeeded to some extent: Indians fought Pakistanis, Vietnamese fought Vietnamese, Philipinos fought Philipinos but all these minor wars were submerged in the big American war in Vietnam. The Chinese attack on India in 1962 and on Vietnam in 1979 were short-lived because Mandarin logic had prevailed over Western wishful dreams. But the present war between two sovereign Islamic states belonging to the Non-aligned Movement is something that should normally have gladdened the hearts of the former colonial masters of the world—but for the fact that this war will disrupt oil supplies to some countries in the rich capitalist world notably Japan. The USA and most of the Atlantic Alliance countries evidently have an adequate stockpile of oil to last much longer than the Iraq-Iran war could ever last—even taking into consideration the time necessary to set matters right. But Japan does not have such reserves, and its gigantic industry depends on regular shipments from the Persian Gulf. The Iraq-Iran war is a calamitous setback for Japan and this will give the USA and the affluent industrialised countries of Western Europe a chance to get even with the competitive superiority of the Japanese. Furthermore, the Iraq-Israeli war is the finest gift anyone could give Israel at this time when it has got the best out of the Camp David Accords whilst reneging from its obligations under the Agreement to help set up a Palestinian state. The Iraq-Iran war has also shattered Islamic Unity. What is left of non-aligned unity has been still further denigrated by the outbreak of hostilities between two leading nations of OPEC. If there was one thing the USA and Western nations wanted badly at this stage was the division and destruction of OPEC.

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Poverty, Food & Priorities

ON THE COVER we have a picture of a man praying to the Gods before he starts sorting an assortment of rough stones he has garnered in his little basket to pick precious gems. If he is lucky he may have a million in the lot before him, but he can also cast aside hundreds of such basketfuls without getting even one little precious stone. The country has now gone crazy about gems. The fabulous prices they fetch have brought untold wealth to a handful of people who seem to think that they must flaunt their new riches in extravagant and wasteful consumerism in the face of the common man who is suffering great privations as a result of the inflation and the lop sided affluence that has suddenly descended on this country. The government continues to free-wheel on promises of the good things to come, on the small mercies in the form of marginal pay increases, on providing greater employment of an insecure nature in the private and public sectors and above all on the remittances from the export of manpower to the oil-rich and other affluent countries.

Whilst this merry-go-round goes whirling round and round (going round in circles in the terminology of economists), the real backbone of the country's economy—Agriculture (plantation as well as rural)—continues to deteriorate. The slight increase in paddy production does not offset in any significant way the falling production of exportable tea, rubber and coconuts, on the one hand, and, much-needed (for local consumption) subsidiary foodstuffs. Unwise imports of subsidiary foodstuffs that is grown locally to appease the consumer lobby in Colombo and other urban areas have undermined the productive capacity of the producer who will very soon suspend production of articles like chillies, onions, potatoes, pulses and the like. Floor prices exist only on paper, whilst imported foodstuffs have forced down prices to levels that are totally uneconomic in the context of current prices of fuels, fertilisers, agro-chemicals and labour charges. The floor prices are low enough, but imports have made a mockery of them.

INDIAN FINANCE EXPERTS, politicians and leaders have at long last learnt two lessons by bitter experience: *first* that in the long run it is better to subsidise the producer rather than the consumer (if a subsidy is necessary at all) and *second* that the agricultural producer (the big industrialists know how to look after themselves) must get a fair and reasonable price if he is to survive and to go on producing. In Sri Lanka, farmer-producers are no doubt subsidised in the form of subsidised fertilizers, but the price their produce fetches is totally unreal and uneconomic. With the subsidised fertiliser, a bushel of paddy today fetches in the open market about Rs. 70 whereas the government price is Rs. 40 with seed paddy at a little over Rs. 50. In the coming Maha, with the present price of fuels, lubricants, agro-chemicals, fertilisers and labour charges, a bushel will cost a farmer producing about 70 bushels an acre (higher than the average yield for Sri Lanka) about Rs. 80. The open market price of good rice—not the imported varieties not favoured by the consumers who can afford to be choosy—is very nearly this—between Rs. 70 to Rs. 80 a bushel. Farmers will sell to the PMB only to pay off loans and not be unduly exploited by traders who buy below PMB prices on the threshing grounds to resell later at double the price.

It is time that the government realised that the entire edifice of its Dharma prosperity will come a cropper on poor performance in the agriculture sector. Even the new DDCs cannot save the situation. The DDCs are still an uncertain and problematic "solution" to many problems facing this country, but by themselves they cannot rescue agriculture from the quagmire in which it is wallowing today.

BUT THE MOST ALARMING ASPECT of the state of Sri Lanka is the complacent self-assurance among politicians that all will be well as long as they are in power, among bureaucrats that nothing could go wrong if they continue to guide the destinies of the nation and among the rich that they alone mattered because the country belonged to them.

Even the fact that unemployment has begun to soar in rich Western capitalist countries has not woken up Sri Lankan gentry up to current realities. Economic recession continues to hit developed capitalist countries at an alarmingly high rate. OECD experts have warned that unemployment will rise sharply—it is estimated that in the rich member countries of the OECD the figure will increase from 20 million in the first half of 1980 to 23 million in 1981—that is 7% of its "active" population. As for youth unemployment, forecasts made in the major capitalist countries indicate a serious rise in Britain (by 75% more jobless youths in 1981 than in 1979). West Germany and the United States (a 40% increase). Young job-seekers in the United States are nearing the figure of 3 million, in Britain 600,000 in Italy close to 450,000, in France 300,000 and as much as that in West Germany. Unemployment growth rates are even more telling. Take 1979 and look at the forecasts of unemployment for 1981. Labour non-occupancy is about to rise in England from 11.9 to 14 per cent; in France from 13.3 to 16.5 per cent; in the USA from 11.2 to 16 per cent. The total unemployed people in the aggregate of the 24 OECD member countries is estimated at 22 million this year. The Western German daily *Sud Deutsche Zeitung* said that unemployment "has become the most serious and urgent problem of the Western countries."

But in the Third World countries the situation is much worse. The Second Development Decade is pretty close to its end and the Third Decade is about to start. Any inventory of the priorities that were established and achieved will pinpoint a steep gap between what was decided and what was done. The world's present economic situation has burdened Third World countries with 450 billion dollars foreign debts. It is a depressing figure which unveils inequities and imbalances in the current economic, commercial and financial worldscape. Third World countries in which 2/3 of the world's population live, have a share of only 33% of the world social product, of 36% of the world's farm output, 7% of the industrial one and 5% of the technical-scientific potential.

In the context of such figures—highly edifying for the dramatic realities of the world

today—the establishment of a new international economic order is not just a terribly pressing imperative but—more than that—a basic pre-requisite for progress and peace. It is perfectly understandable that the demand for a new economic order should be heard so insistently is being heard at different international meetings and conferences. Third World nations have finally realized that it is necessary to change unacceptable socio-economic structures. There where colonialism formerly grabbed everything with its rapacious arms and where neo-colonialism is now sending its tentacles, either overtly or not, hundreds of millions of people have nothing to eat or drink, they cannot learn or work, their moral and physical world being painfully confined to the miserable slums that are beselging and most often stretching as far as the hearts of the big cities.

But dire poverty is not something that must be accepted as irrevocable. The Third World is rich, its people are on the move and are eager for a change destined to shape their future in the way they want. What is it which is ruthlessly grinding the Third World. One single example will suffice; Africa owns 30% of the world's raw materials, many of which are basic commodities, yet its share in the global output barely amounts to 2%. This is the neo-colonialist "gift" in the 80s. No doubt that Africa, just as all the other Third Worlders can correct such a "gift" if only because aggressive oppression now is a nightmarish anachronism which sharpens the rift between the rich and the poor countries, causes economic and political instability and worsens the international environment. SRI LANKA has been luckier than many Third World countries in Africa and elsewhere. But this should not blind us to the stern realities facing this country and the world. Many politicians and their bureaucratic chorus constantly echo the thought that "poverty" and "starvation" do not exist in Sri Lanka; Pauperism (and malnutrition) are regarded as synonymous with Third World under-development. But investigative research by respectable bourgeois economists have revealed that poverty exists even in high-income developed capitalist countries; that poverty is an endemic phenomenon in all society where exploitation is the order of the day. The West German

publication *Stuttgarter Nachrichten* recently revealed that in the FRG 26% of the people (or 14.5 million people) were "poor". Official statistics put only 110,000 families in the category of the poor, but *Stuttgarter Nachrichten* would include among other "afflicted" among the "poor" 800,000 homeless, 90,000 deprived of the chance to find permanent settlement—no matter where in the country", and the 2.3 million living on welfare.

What does "poverty" mean in the developed capitalist countries? There are several divergent views on this according to the socio-political attitudes and inhibitions of the investigators. According to a panel set up by the EEC there would be two concepts about poverty; on the one hand—"naked" poverty (covering those with an income 40% lower than the average) and "disguised" poverty—including low-income pensioners, mothers raising their children by themselves, families with only one income-earner and not at the terminal.....the ever larger contingents of jobless without the right to work is ensured, they certainly remain the poorest of the affluent society's poor.

IN SRI LANKA no study has yet been undertaken of the different categories of the "poor". Our politicians and bureaucrats seem to be satisfied with the left-handed and dubious compliment paid by some quarters that Sri Lanka enjoys a "quality of life" much higher than many other developing countries.

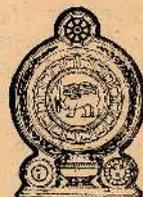
How long can Sri Lanka maintain this mirage about the "quality of life"? How long can our economy be run on foreign loans and aid?

Is it not time that we re-ordered priorities to ensure at least sufficient food for the ordinary people of this country?

Over a year ago President Jayewardene had wanted Agriculture to be made Priority Number One and Food Production (including livestock) to be placed on a "war footing". Besides a few rousing speeches and a multitude of seminars, conferences and newspaper supplements by the concerned Ministries in which they indulged in boastful rhetoric to their hearts' content, agriculture (plantation as well as rural) has continued to slip. It is difficult to determine how far down the list

of priorities agriculture now stagnates. And, as for the "war footing" the only "war" that is real is the in-fighting, jointly and severally between Ministries, Departments, Factions and Individuals charged with producing more export crops, on the one hand, and food and meat on the other. The constructive and purposeful effort to produce more fish—sea, lagoon and inland—and which is likely to bear fruit soon, appears to be the only silver lining in otherwise dark horizon.

Govt.



Notice

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

Reference No. 2/41/288

It is intended to acquire the land described in the schedule below for a public purpose. For further particulars please see Government Gazette No. 109 of 03-10-80 (part III).

W. M. T. B. Menikdiwela
Assistant Government Agent,
District Land Officer.
Kegalle District.

The Kachcheri,
Kegalle.
8-09-1980

Schedule

Situation:— Situated in Miyanawita village, No. 114A Udapola Gramasevaka's Division, Deraniyagala D.R.O's Division in Kegalle District.

Plan No. Supplement No. 3 to F.V.P. 623

Lot No.	Name of land.
590	Mahaowita watta
592	Mahaowita watta
593	Wijemanna watta
595	Nugahena
596	Nugahena

Tamil Politics—2

IN ANOTHER COLUMN, last week, attention was drawn to the reactions of sections of Tamil opinion in the Jaffna Peninsula to the decision of the TULF to approve the DDCs Bill and to co-operate with the Government in the matter of the economic development of the Tamil districts. *Tribune* had characterised this decision as the first positive step taken by the Tamil leadership which for fifty years had followed a policy of boycott, non-co-operation and negativism (except for short spells of limited and hesitant "responsive co-operation" by Suntharalingam, Ponnampalam and even the Federal Party).

Apart from the merits and demerits of the DDC Scheme, the fact that the dominant Tamil leadership has at long last realised the need for economic development and a concrete economic programme is a major step forward. It is hard for a leadership, which had lost its way in the mystique of Eelam, to persuade a majority of its leading cadres not to insist on Eelam as a pre-condition before undertaking any constructive programme. It is a matter for congratulation that Amirthalingam, Sivasithamparam and others were able to do this.

The TULF now has the task of meeting its critics (among the Tamil people) in a number of ways. They still continue to fly the flag of a "socialist state of Tamil Eelam" on the TULF's masthead and argue in the Tamil areas that DDCs are only a step towards their ultimate goal. They have started a new paper "*Uthayasooriyan*"—*The Rising Sun*—as the official organ of the TULF. The *Sutantiran*, started by Chelvanayakam and now carried on by son Chandrahasan, has become bitterly critical of Amirthalingam and has denounced in no uncertain terms the decision to support the DDCs. Though the *Sutantiran* was never the official organ of either FP or the TULF, it was regarded as the unofficial yet official, mouthpiece of the Party. Over the years the *Sutantiran* has been a highly emotional, racially jingoistic and provocatively chauvinist paper and has contributed in no small measure to the extrangement of the Sinhalese and Tamil

communities. There are many similar counterparts in the Sinhala press and between them and the *Sutantiran* communal tensions have in recent times been kept on the boil.

The first issue of *Uthayasooriyan*, (dated September 28), is a departure from the *Sutantiran* type of Tamil political journalism. It is yet too early to say what this paper will turn out to be after a few issues—the next issue will be on October 10 and, thereafter, the announcement says it will be weekly. The paper, as the official journal of the TULF, makes a rhetorical proclamation, that the ultimate goal is a socialist state of Eelam. This theme is the text on which all other arguments are hinged—even the SLFP statement on the DDCs is torn partly out of its context to say that the DDC scheme would lead to a division of the country.

Among the many arguments of the SLFP against the DDC—the main being that it was an instrument of UNP tyranny—is one that raises the bogey of the division of the country at the next general elections. The UNP and the SLFP have both used this bogey against each other whenever either party had tried to solve the Sinhala-Tamil problem. Whether the SLFP will be able to do it this time remains to be seen—especially with the political red-herring the UNP has thrown into the fray with the proposed disenfranchisement of Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike and Felix R. Dias Bandaranaike.

In its editorial *The Uthayasooriyan* has set out its immediate objectives: viz. to uphold the current policies of the TULF and to defend the leaders who are now subject to savage personal and political attack in the *Sutantiran* and other publications. Written in polemical idiom, the *Uthayasooriyan* has so far not resorted to the swear words and abusive terminology inexactitudes the *Sutantiran* has always used to denounce those it seeks to criticise and denigrate. If the *Uthayasooriyan* can maintain this, it will be a welcome landmark in contemporary Tamil political journalism.

Tamil opponents of the DDC had expected strong critical reactions in Tamil Nadu against the TULF decision not to insist on Eelam as a pre-condition.

But the Editor during his recent visit to Madras had met DMK Leader Karunanithi and his position was that this was a matter for the Tamils in Sri Lanka to decide. The leader of the Congress—I and CPI welcomed any move that will help to minimise Sinhala Tamil tensions. The interviews with the Indian leaders will be discussed at length in a later issue.

In Sri Lanka, the CWC has welcomed the DDCs. In an editorial, in its Journal *Congress News* of September 1, it stated: "The District Development Councils Bill is now law. The framework that this law envisages has been controversial for almost a quarter century. This is not the first time that a legislation of this nature was contemplated. As the President of the Ceylon Workers Congress, Mr. S. Thondaman pointed out in Parliament that day, the late Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, when he was Prime Minister fashioned a District Council Bill of sorts. This was gunned down without compunction by communal tub-thumpers as a partisan move to placate the Tamil people. Similarly in 1967 the then Prime Minister, the late Mr. Dudley Senanayake, toyed with yet another draft law to provide for the setting up of District Development Councils. Here again this law never saw the light of day.

"And again as Mr. Thondaman pointed out, these moves were aborted because they were parochial in outlook. They were aimed at solving an instant problem by ad hoc means. Those councils were to have functioned only in the Northern and Eastern provinces, to resolve some of the problems of the Tamil-speaking people. But the new law is a complete departure from those two earlier drafts and aims at the greatest benefits to the largest number of people not within any narrow confines or parochial peripheries, but on a national scale. Development programmes would be unified at district level and dovetail into national efforts. No section would be left to feel isolated in helping their country. Development has hitherto remained lopsided in spite of the fact that large sums of money have been expended over the years towards making this country prosperous. While some districts have enjoyed the patronage of the governments and have advanced over much, some

others have remained neglected and received step motherly treatment.

"However, it is imperative that all sections of the people are represented in the District Development Councils. Provisions must be made to ensure that certain sections which for historical reasons, have been denied participation hitherto in the national affairs are not left out. Plantation community has remained backward because national development programmes, activities to uplift the people had not been extended to them. Any further isolation, any further perpetuation of this pernicious process will only make them more removed from the mainstream of national life. This is an excellent opportunity for the government to experiment and accelerate the process of integration of the plantation people with the rest of the society."

The SLFP in a widely publicised statement had criticised the Bill and had thereafter walked out of Parliament and refused to participate in the debate.

The Communist Party is the only Left party that has publicised a critical analysis of the DDCs by its Political Correspondent in the *Forward* of September 1. We will publish this statement together with the paper read by Mr. G. G. (Kumar) Ponnambalam, leader of the All Ceylon Tamil Congress, at the Seminar organised by the Centre for Society and Religion.

***NEXT WEEK: MRS. BANDARANAIKE PROPOSED DISENFRANCHISEMENT.**

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. 1719.50	Rs. 1722.50
Sterling Pound	Rs. 4102.00	Rs. 4108.00
Deutsche Mark	Rs. 950.20	Rs. 951.80
French Franc	Rs. 409.65	Rs. 410.35
Japanese Yen	Rs. 8.2275	Rs. 8.2425
Indian Rupees	Rs. 220.80	Rs. 221.20

Mauritius Demands Return

by Nicholas Hyman

London, August 29,

The Organisation of African Unity resolved this year to demand the return to Mauritius of Diego Garcia, currently Washington's one acknowledged Indian Ocean base. Diego Garcia is a British colony which was hived off from Mauritius just before independence with two other islands of the Chagos archipelago. It was American pressure that prompted the detachment of the islands from Mauritius, on the grounds that it was unhappy about the sovereignty of an independent Mauritius over islands where a 'modest' American communications base was projected by 1963.

At the Nassau meeting between President John Kennedy and the British Prime Minister, Harold MacMillan, Indian ocean bases from Britain were bartered for the "independent" Trident-style Polaris. The American Navy, especially was attracted by Diego Garcia. The hope, before 1974, was to detach strategic islands from both Mauritius and the Seychelles. Aldabra an ecological wonderland, was saved for the Seychelles, partly due to criticism by the Royal Society of proposals to make a defence base of the island. The loss of Diego Garcia by Mauritius was agreed at the pre-independence constitutional conference, in a secretive swap for Britain's agreeing not to hold a referendum on the question of independence..

The copra economy of Diego Garcia was superseded by American runways and base facilities, under the vestigial figleaf of rule from Whitehall. A new colony, the British Indian Ocean Territory, was set up without fanfare and without any resident British administration.

Admirals Gener La Rocque and Robert Hanks spelt out to some scepticism from a minority of doveish American Senators including John Driver of Iowa, the catastrophe "to be avoided at all costs," which demilitarisation of the Indian Ocean would be for Washington. Richard Nixon, aided by pliant

Labour and Conservative governments in Britain, gave the go-ahead for a base on Diego Garcia. The "zone of peace" proposals advanced by India were openly flouted, while United Nations Resolutions 514 (1960) and 2066 (1966) specifically outlawed the detachment of the territory on the one of independence.

Nuclear weapons are part of the Diego Garcia scene. Extensions of the base continue and include oil storage in a capacity of 800,000 barrels, "a logistic jetty", deeper shelter for nuclear submarines ready to launch long-range ballistic missiles, and facilities for 12,000 marines.

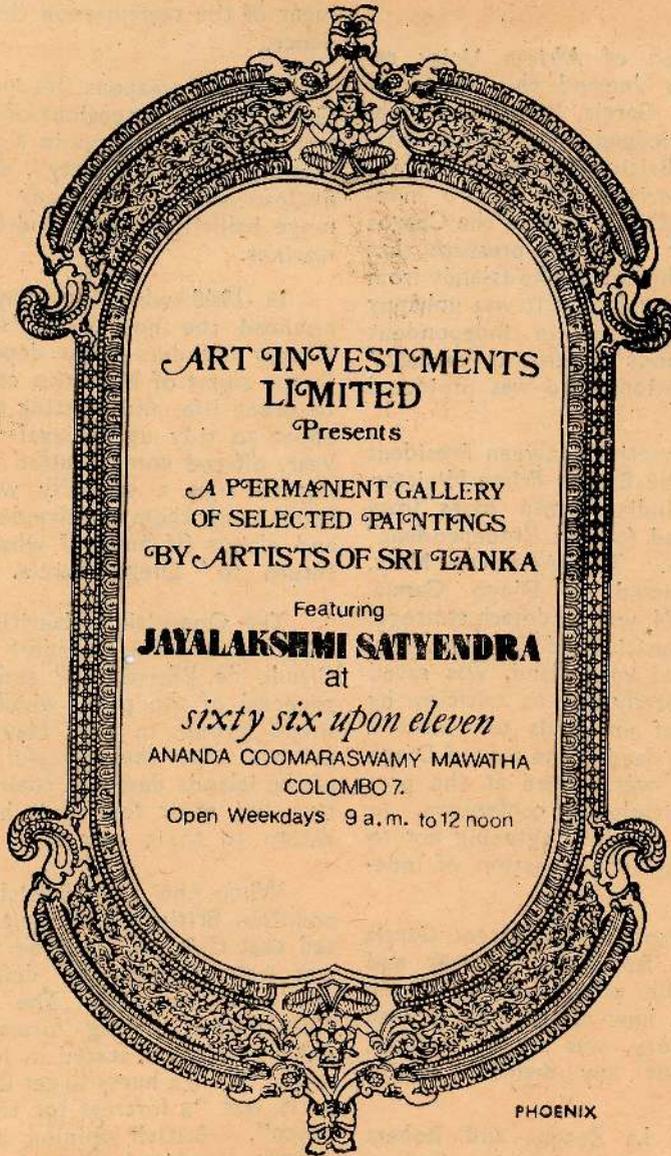
In 1965 when Anthony Greenwood announced the new colony's existence, 1,200 Chagos islanders were deported. They rot in the slums of Mauritius capital, not adapted to urban life, and wanting to go home. In an effort to tidy up its legal title, Britain this year, offered compensation to islanders willing to sign a carefully worded document-committing them to abandon "all our rights and claims (if any) of whatsoever nature to return to" Diego Garcia.

The Opposition Mauritius Militant Movement advised the islanders not to sign. Jean Claude de l'Estrac, MP and deputy secretary-general of the party which has the largest single group in the Mauritius Parliament believes that the peaceful economic future of the islands demands their return to Mauritius and their former inhabitants' right of return to their homes.

When the new British colony was announced, British and Mauritian politicians stated that if Britain decided that Diego Garcia was not necessary for defence purposes, it would be returned. The present Mauritian Government, having formally accepted the OAU resolution, stated in July 1980 that they were "not in a hurry to get Diego Garcia back", as it was "a fortress for the preservation of peace". British opinion about this British colony, inhabited solely by American forces, might well consider its present defence use as "not necessary."

—Tribune, U.K.





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U. S. And Iran

Postmortems on how Shah's Imperial Iran collapsed have begun to proliferate. One of the latest is the version of William Sullivan who was the US Ambassador in Teheran during the revolution that had brought Khomeini to power. We publish the Reuter report of Sullivan's views together with a review by a Tribune commentator.

Washington, Sunday Sept. 7,

The former US Ambassador to Iran said yesterday that the United States spurned a 1979 contact with Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini designed to avoid disintegration of the Iranian armed forces during Iran's revolutionary upheaval. William Sullivan laid the blame on Presidential National Security Affairs Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski for that and other matters connected with Iran. He said the late Shah—then reluctantly preparing to give up his rule in the face of revolution—was incredulous at the cancellation of the mission to get the Ayatollah's approval of US backed arrangements meant to keep Iran's forces intact. "When I told the Shah, he reacted with incredulity and asked how the United States expected to influence 'these people', if it would not even deal with them", Mr. Sullivan continued: "As far as I could determine, the United States, on the eve of the Shah's departure was left with no policy". He concentrated on "the Brzezinski Factor" in Iran in an article in the latest issue of foreign policy magazine.

Asked about the former Ambassador's comments, a White House spokesman said the article was factually inaccurate, but said it would not be appropriate to get involved in a detailed public discussion of the subject. Mr. Sullivan said in the article, "by November 1978 Brzezinski began to make his own policy and established own 'embassy' in Iran. That embassy materialised in the person of Ardeshir Zahedi, the Shah's ambassador in Washington."

Mr. Brzezinski, according to the former ambassador, reportedly encouraged Zahedi to urge the Shah to use force to halt the revolution which was bringing the Ayatollah to power. This advice was given despite the State Department's own assessment that armed forces could not avert for long the Shah's fall, he said. "Time and again the Shah told me that he would not use force because 'a king cannot murder his own people'. Mr. Sullivan said, "With what I regarded as more convincing logic, he told me that if he used force, he could suppress the spreading revolution only as long as he himself lived."

Mr. Sullivan said that differing perceptions in Washington about the Shah's ability to remain in power also extended to the nature of instructions that were sent to the embassy or, more often, to the absence of any instructions whatsoever, because the bureaucracy could not agree upon their terms. Mr. Sullivan said he began to anticipate the collapse of the Shah's rule in November 1978 after rioting and arson in Teheran brought about a military government and sent a message to Washington about preserving US interests in Iran.

"We should act.....to preclude the armed forces from being chewed up in the revolution", he said, "because of our special relationship, we should determine whether we could break up an arrangement that would permit the armed forces to remain intact. They would have to be under the direction of a government that would enjoy the support of the groups that would prevail after the success of the revolution and that would have the blessing of Khomeini." Eventually, he said "detailed understandings were reached between the armed forces and revolutionary leaders in Teheran. A number of senior officers would have been allowed to leave the country with the Shah and a transfer of allegiance of the remaining armed forces would have been made in a way that would have preserved their integrity." In this context, Mr. Sullivan said he proposed an emissary be sent from Washington to consult Ayatollah Khomeini, then living in exile in Paris.

The then Secretary of State Cyrus Vance approved the general idea and Mr. Sullivan said he later obtained the Shah's 'acquiescence'. But in the first week of January 1979, he added, he received an urgent message from Washing-

ton informing him the mission had been cancelled and the President had directed that the Shah be told. "The President who had stayed in Guadeloupe after the economic summit meeting with west European leaders to do some deep-sea fishing was accompanied in his retreat only by Brzezinski," Mr. Sullivan said. "I sent an impassioned reply to the Secretary of State imploring consideration and stating that the cancellation of the mission would be an 'irretrievable' mistake. I received a curt rejection that cited all the Cabinet officers who agreed with the President. When I told the Shah, he reacted with incredulity and asked, how the United States expected to influence 'these people' if it would not even talk to them."

After the Shah named Shapur Bakhtiar his Prime Minister Mr. Sullivan said he received terse instructions that the policy of the US government was to support the Bakhtiar government without reservation. Mr. Sullivan said he argued against this policy, saying the Bakhtiar government 'was a chimera that the Shah had created to permit a dignified departure, that Bakhtiar himself was quixotic and would be swept aside by the arrival of Khomeini and his supporters in Teheran. "Moreover, I argued that it would be reckless to transfer the authority of the armed forces because this would cause the destructive confrontation between the armed forces and the revolutionaries that we had hoped to avoid."

In reply, he said, he received a message that "in my judgement, contained an insulting aspersion upon my loyalty and instructed me, in no uncertain terms, to support Bakhtiar no matter what reservations I had." Mr. Sullivan said he then decided to resign, but briefly delayed because, "I was still responsible for protecting about 15,000 remaining Americans (in Iran) in the face of enveloping chaos." —Reuter.

+ + +

REVIEW BY A TRIBUNE CORRESPONDENT

As to who actually blundered on the Iranian issue, from the time of the Iranian Revolution to the capture of American diplomats by the Iranian militants is a subject

hotly debated in US today and a subject that is bound to haunt America for some more time. There were several actors to the drama; Cyrus Vance, former Secretary of State, Brzezinski, National Security Adviser, William Sullivan, US Ambassador in Teheran during the aftermath of the revolution and of course the hero Carter, who owes an explanation to US and the world. Though the American mass media is trying to play low the Iranian issue on the eve of Presidential elections, either by diverting the American voters to other crisis areas, latest being the Polish strike and Soviet reactions or by offering explanation that Carter has avoided direct confrontation by remaining cool despite provocations. And now they have the Iraq-Iran conflict.

Latest in the series of evidence of the often contradictory US foreign policy posture is provided by W. Sullivan: In an article recently published he accused the Carter administration for not having an Iranian policy on the eve of Shah's departure and for not acting on his advice, which might have spared the humiliation and ignominy suffered at the hands of Iranians. Briefly he accused Carter administration with the following lapses: that it was certain by 1978 that the Shah's rule was collapsing and the vacuum should be filled early with an understanding between the army and revolutionaries; that instead of advising the Shah to adopt repressive measures which ended in the massacre of thousands of Iranians, and understanding of the real situation would have been in the interests of US because Shah himself had said that a king cannot kill his own people; by 1978 (November 1978) Brzezinski had established his own "embassy" in Iran and the "go-between" was not the US Ambassador in Teheran, but Ardeshir Zahedi, the Shah's Ambassador in Washington; that on the advice of William Sullivan, with the acquiescence of the Shah himself it was agreed that a mission should meet Khomeini in Paris, though accepted on principle by Cyrus Vance and State Department, it was later cancelled, hence any rapprochement with the revolutionaries was lost for ever; that Washington refused to believe William Sullivan's advice that Bakhtiar's Government was not a strong one but only a

chimera which the Shah had created to permit a dignified departure.

One cannot dismiss W. Sullivan's arguments as a vindication of any mistakes that could be attributed to his role during the revolution. Because it was maintained for long that W. Sullivan was an authority on South East Asian affairs and was a stranger to South West Asia. At the early stages of the revolution he viewed the situation in Iran as a fairly minor matter and did not suspect that Shah's future was in jeopardy (*Newsweek*, Jan, 29, 1979). In fact immediately after the revolution a writer in the prestigious *US Foreign Policy Journal* (Number 23, Spring 1979) suggested that to win back Iranian sympathy the President should "name a new American Ambassador to Iran who has never had any ties with the Shah and is associated with a more receptive attitude toward Third World nationalism than William Sullivan. In a culture that considers symbolic acts to be substantially revealing, that would be taken as a fresh start."

What all this boils down to was that there was a deep crisis in American foreign policy making an inbuilt struggle between Cyrus Vance and Brzezinski. This has also made the US especially the Carter administration, to demand greater allegiance from its European partners. If Carter wanted to pose as champion of human rights and really believed in peace, he should not have accepted the resignation of Cyrus Vance but should have dropped his chief pilot Brzezinski. After all did not Nehru drop Krishna Menon after the Indo-China war? That would have added at least minimum credit to his so-called "doctrines."

x x x

LETTERS

Farmers Unpaid Handyman

Sir,

I have been following your recent articles on the above subjects, with much interest. Back in 1976 and again in 1978, a very talented and able worker, Ms. Mary Harwood presented 2 papers on some work she had done with earthworms at 2 Joint Australian Poultry

and Stock-feed Conventions. Ms. Mary Harwood, Waite Agricultural Research Unit, University of Adelaide, South Australia. Both papers presented at Joint Australian Poultry and Stock-feed Conventions (i) 1976 Melbourne—"Recovery of protein from poultry waste by earthworms" (ii) 1978 Sydney—"The nutritive value of earthworm meal" (to recycle through stock)

It must be emphasised that this work mainly applies to our intensive poultry production methods, where the 'animal factories' have great trouble disposing of the accumulated manure, collected under cages and in the deep-litter systems. Both these papers, were a result of funding of projects by the Australian Poultry Research Foundation, as pieces of original work. Unfortunately we have lost the services of this enthusiastic researcher—she plays second violin in the South Australian Symphony Orchestra! Needless to say, no more earthworm papers have been presented for our perusal and follow up work.

In both projects, Ms. Harwood demonstrated the feasibility of harvesting large quantities of earthworms and the nutritive value and ability to recycle these as meal, very high in protein value, through poultry and other animals. Thus, we can cut-down on usage of traditional protein sources like meat and fish meal, sun-flower, safflower, soya bean and such. At the same time, we can also avoid the great problems associated with the accumulated manure, so hard to dispose of satisfactorily, at the best of times.

The feeding back of earthworm, as meal, may sound unpleasant to the squeamish, specially to those who follow the ways of The Great Teacher. In nature, however, one species lives off the others, always maintaining a very fine and delicate balance. Only greedy Man, in his arrogance, claiming to be higher in all manner of things, upsets nature and reaps the benefits (?) of this wanton foolishness.

The Arab proverb "You cannot sow thorns and reap roses" comes to mind.

Aruna M. W. Fernando

Steggles Breeding Unit,
Wallalong via Maitland,
N.S.W. 2321, Australia.
14th September, 1980.

Why 'Backward'?

Sir,

Educationally Batticaloa still retains the unenviable title of 'a backward area'. Why is this? The reasons are not far to seek. The schools here are very inadequately equipped and staffed. Their buildings and equipment and furniture that had been destroyed by the cyclone of November 1978 have not been fully repaired, or replaced. During the forthcoming wet season which is round the corner, many of the buildings may become unsuitable for occupation.

This area is short of some 800 teachers, and most of the teachers of Advanced Level class subjects who had been transferred to the schools here are not in a position to teach the subjects in which they had obtained passes at their degree examinations. These teachers should give in writing that they are not able to handle their subjects and either be replaced on a lower scale of salary or be considered as O/L subject teachers and given a special scale of salary.

In every one of the three constituencies of Kalkudah, Batticaloa and Paddiruppu, at least three schools should be fully equipped and adequately staffed for Advanced level work. As it is, very few schools have the required laboratory and library facilities.

A thing that is worthy of note and commendation is that after the new arrangement of visiting lecturers to do work in the Batticaloa Govt. Training College for Teachers much progress has been noted since the lecturers who handle the several subjects have been qualified men and women.

It is our earnest wish and hope that the State will give heed to these very urgent needs.

K. Kanapathipillai

52, Angle Road,
Batticaloa.
12.9.80

* * * *

Democracy In Action

Sir,

I am astonished at your faith in democracy. It apparently is an abiding faith. Vox populi you would say is vox Dei. And this exotic

transplant from Britain effectuated in 1930 with universal franchise and free elections does not appear to have ushered in, not even after half a century of trial and error, the rule of reason, the millennium of righteousness.

It has been said that of the lands in Greater Asia in Lanka alone and the subcontinent to the North, the India of Gandhi and Nehru, does one find democratic institutions in full theravadic splendour. In Persia and Afghanistan, in Pakistan and Bangladesh, in Indo-China and Malaysia, not to mention Russia-in-Asia and China, there reigns grim Militarism, the subjugation and subordination of reason to muscle and organized might.

Mishra in your issue of 05 July 1980 paints no flattering picture of democracy at work in its most crucial period. Nor can we ourselves say with unfeigned candour that our own 1977 Elections aftermath has not been marred having neither spot nor wrinkle but must perforce admit that it was not without partisan strife and bloodshed.

Jennings would have it and many would agree with that laudable concept that democracy is rational government, government by reasons as though the viability of political truth could unerringly be always ascertained democratically and then operated also democratically. But this reason is apparently not the same in every individual; in some it appears to be prejudice; in others it is passion; in still others it is just for power, the pride of predominance; only to a very few, the infinitesimal fraction does it signify the impact and operation of the philosophic mind on the ordering of affairs in the society of man.

One says the People will decide their fate, their claim to rule the masses. The Roman World showed compassion to the conquered (*parcere subjectis*), to the defiantly obstreperous it presented the unrelenting front of ordered might. That was his mission—*regere Imperio populos, memento*—the Roman believed and to that mission he marshalled in unswerving dedication all his powers of body mind and soul. But what we ask and ask is the mission and dedication of our democrat seeking entry to rule and legislate. He bends and bows dispensing petty largesse with munificent hand and mendicant-like cringes and

salaams for favour of the ballet. Once declared elected he receives on his victorious brow no laurel wreath of Olympic glory but rather sees emplaced round his sweaty neck notleyed garlands of paper, stringed oleanders and other exotics with a stray bouquet of purple roses for his exultant spouse decked in all the gorgeous finery of oriental splendour.

The vox populis which under proportional representation would not have turned out en masse the previous regime, is strangely enough not always vox Dei in spite of the latter's physical concurrence upholding all things good and evil with the word of his power. The vox Dei is not ratiocinative: it is peremptory, rationalizable, not consistent with sudden volte-face, not prey to mutability with token gifts descending like bolts from the blue. So was it not long ago when an entire hamlet (kerny) swang overnight to the right on receipt by each household of a fiver plus half a flagon of Old Stuff. So too did an entire street in our provincial town put on overnight a fresh complexion political with a generous bottle and less generous fiver.

If such has been democracy in action at its most sacred auspices and such it will continue to be with soaring momentum, is it vox Dei or the sounding brass of cheap chicanery? You will pause for a reply Sir and the pause will not speedily come to an end. Is there in Sri Lanka a permanent right and an equally permanent left with some marginalia swaying indecisively right and left which alone is wooed at the hustings? 1970 & 1977 do not indicate the presence of any such permanency. The former was a debacle even as the latter a catastrophic swing to the right. Is it the voice of God or the voice of fallen unregenerate man?

I leave you, Sir, to your editorial musings. I do not doubt you have yourself heavy misgivings. All things that are with better spirit chased than enjoyed. Are we giving chase to the shadow forgetting there is some substantial thing shadowing the shadow for which man has yearned since the dawn of history finding continually thereafter to his eternal chagrin that such a consummation has always been beyond his reach though not beyond his ken.

E. Seemanpillai

Chenkaladi.

Cigarette Smoking

Sir,

In a letter I sent to you a few weeks back, I have mentioned that 1 nanogram is equal to 10^a of a gram. That is a mistake. The correct position is as follows: 1 nanogram=10^a of a gram. That letter was about cigarette smoking. Please be good enough to make this correction.

Dr. B. G. Punchihewa.

50A, Borupana Road,
Ratmalana.
3.9.80



FROM THE HANSARD

The State Film Corporation

by Anura Bandaranaike

Films and the State Film Corporation have been very much in the news recently. The debate in Parliament on September 2, 1980 on some amendments to the State Film Corporation Act, No. 47 of 1971, threw a great deal of light on the working of the Corporation. An outstanding contribution was the speech made by Mr. Anura Bandaranaike, (Second Member Nuwara-Eliya-Maskeliya). We publish this speech in full in two parts. The first part appears this week. We taken the report from the Hansard, Vol. II No. 9 of Sept. 2, 1980.

THIS IS A BILL to amend the State Film Corporation of Sri Lanka Act, No. 47 of 1971. There are a few observations which I wish to make on two or three aspects of this Bill, which need very close scrutiny.

This Bill attempts in Clause 5 to make the Chairman of the Film Corporation the chief executive of that Corporation. In the original Act of 1971, Section 21(1), the chief executive of the Film Corporation was the General Manager. This Amendment seeks to remove the chief executive post of General Manager and to divest his power in the hands of the Chairman. Now at this point I think it is not

impertinent for us to question the wisdom of taking the chief executive's powers from the General Manager and transferring it to the Chairman. This presumes or assumes that the Chairman functions properly, carrying out his duties according to a set procedure and his functions have been so perfect that he deserves to be given also the powers of the chief executive officer who up to date has performed his duties without any serious misgiving.

Now, when we look at it from this point of view, I think this is the opportune time to pinpoint some of the glaring discrepancies, some of the serious omissions which are taking place in the State Film Corporation since 1977. Sir, I am not seeking here to justify everything that was done in the State Film Corporation during the previous government, nor am I seeking to condemn the State Film Corporation since the UNP came into office. I am not interested in either of those two exercises. All that I am interested in is to show that by transferring the powers of the Chief Executive Officer to the Chairman, you will be making the state of affairs of the Corporation go from bad to worse. My good friend, the hon. Second Member for Colombo Central (Mr. Jabir A. Cader) was very concerned about the liberty of cinema owners. I am not concerned about the liberty of cinema owners. I think he is quite capable of looking after the wild geese at the Liberty and any other geese that happen to roam around there.

Now Sir, there are four main functions performed by the State Film Corporation. They are: distribution, importation, production and exhibition. Every subject which the Film Corporation deals with can be classified under one of those four main headings. **Sir, there is no basic contradiction between the stated objectives of this Government and the previous government. There is no fundamental difference in the stated objectives between the last government and this Government.** But, in the practice of those stated objectives there are several fundamental differences and discrepancies which have caused grave hardships not only to good cinema owners like the hon. Second Member for Colombo Central, but also to producers and directors.

SO YOU WILL SEE how the Chairman of the Film Corporation has up to date handled

the first function of the Corporation, which is distribution. The hon. Member for Jaffna quite correctly pointed out the difficulties faced by the owners of cinemas. This is due to a number of reasons which he mentioned in this House. Before 1977 the Film Corporation imported films and scheduled their screening. I do not say that it was done perfectly at that time. My point is that it is not being done at all now. Earlier, there was a certain schedule that was followed in the screening of films at various cinemas and this function was performed by the Chairman. Today, the present Chairman has completely abrogated this power and due to the haphazard way in which it is done, certain cinema owners are now given the best films, as the hon. Member for Jaffna was saying, and the other cinema owners are given very bad films which bring them no income at all.

There is no clear procedure that is adopted. Before 1977 there may have been difficulties—I am not denying that—but there was a certain rational procedure that was followed in the scheduling of films. Today that rational has been dropped, that procedure has been changed, and various people who have access to the Chairman are given priority over the others in a most discriminatory fashion. Today, those in the film industry have a genuine fear that the Corporation has become only a clearing agent in that its functions are only to clear the films, for which it gets 10 per cent, and thereafter the entire handling of the schedule has been handed over to the private sector. **Certain people in the cinema industry in this country have a genuine fear that two cinema companies—I do not want to mention the names—have completely taken over the scheduling of films to cinema companies, and this has led to various discrepancies and discriminations. That is what the hon. Member for Jaffna himself said. We would like the Hon. Minister to check on this and find out what kind of procedure is adopted in the scheduling of films.**

TAKE THE STATED OBJECTIVES of the Film Corporation during our time as well as now—to develop the local film industry, in particular what they call quality Sinhala films. Let me give an example of what happened to a quality Sinhala film recently. There was a film

produced called "**Ganga Addara**". This film is one of the best quality films made in recent times. It drew mammoth crowds when shown at the Majestic Theatre owned by Ceylon Theatres. It was running to packed houses every day. I went three times and could not get tickets. All of a sudden for no rhyme or reason, the film was withdrawn. It was not withdrawn because it was not making money, but to make way for some trashy American film called "**Star Wars**". That is not a quality film, nor a local film. On whose instructions are quality Sinhala films withdrawn? "**Ganga Addara**", a quality Sinhala film, was withdrawn at the height of its box office draw. This is a complete disincentive to local cinema producers and directors. This should be controlled. This should not be let in the hands of Ceylon Theatres or, for that matter in the hands of Liberty Cinema.

Clause 4 of the Bill refers to control, supervision and inspection of cinemas and studios or institutions engaged in the film industry. Such control and supervision must not lead to discrimination of the local film industry.

Another point that I should like to establish here is that it is useless trying to give the Chairman more powers than he has got because he is not even exercising his powers properly at the moment. He has completely abrogated his powers in various areas, as I told you earlier, to the private industry. Meanwhile, you are giving this same person more and more powers. It is useless. What must be changed is not the name. They have changed the name of the State Film Corporation to the National Film Corporation of Sri Lanka. Well and good. We have no arguments against it. We are not concerned with a change of name. What is important is not to change names, but have a different approach—a practical and national approach to the whole problem. By changing the name of the Film Corporation or giving more powers to the Chairman you are not going to achieve anything at all.

What we would like the Corporation to keep in view is not to permit a few individuals to go to the Chairman of the Film Corporation and through various personal contacts they may have had with the Chairman, to completely upset

the scheduling of films. There are a lot of film stars in this country, directors and producers who are extremely disillusioned because there is a long queue of films. Over 100 films which were produced years ago are on the waiting list. There is no way of having them released early. So, when somebody who has access to the Chairman or some other person in the Corporation goes to him and uses his influence to get his film released before anybody else's it completely upsets the schedule.

This has happened before. In fact, one of our leading actors with whose political views we do not agree, has stated that one of the reasons for his leaving the country is this discriminatory behaviour on the part of the Film Corporation. This gentleman was not complimentary to our corporation either, but he seems to be more disillusioned with the corporation run by his own party rather than the corporation run by the last government.

By transferring powers of the General Manager to the Chairman, you are going to regularize an irregular procedure. It is the Chairman who has practised the irregular procedure. That is why we object to this on that particular ground.

THE GOVERNMENT, when it came to power, established in the Film Corporation for some time what is called an advisory board. During the last government a major policy decision was taken regarding the Film Corporation, namely, to change the tone and emphasis. Most often the Corporation wrote to those involved in the industry, cinema owners and others to get their views before they changed their various policies. This government replaced that practice with the advisory board. But let us see how these advisory boards have functioned under their government.

There was a chairman of the Film Corporation by the name of Upasena Marasinghe who was a great supporter of the United National Party. He was appointed by the UNP and was also dismissed by the UNP in 24 hours for reasons best known to the government and to Marasinghe. Now, this character called Marasinghe established these advisory boards. But without consulting his advisory

board or having consulted some stooges in the advisory board, he abrogated an agreement entered into by the last government for the supply of raw films called **Or Wo**. I think it is a company in the German Democratic Republic—East Germany. An agreement had been entered into between the Sri Lanka Government and that Company for the supply of **Or Wo** raw films and that agreement was to last till 1980.

In 1977 or 1978—I am not sure which year—just after this government came to power, the former Chairman, Marasinghe, cancelled this agreement and entered into an agreement with another private company called Agfa. Under the old agreement, Or Wo raw films was supplied at Rs. 400 each. He abrogated this agreement and entered into an agreement with Agfa and agreed to buy at Rs. 2,000; Rs. 1,600 more than the price stated in the agreement which we had signed with Or Wo. I do not know why he did that. This seems to be more illogical and irregular.

This agreement with Agfa to purchase raw film at Rs. 2,000 was also abandoned. Subsequently, they went back to Or Wo. By that Or Wo had got sick of this whole episode and they raised their price of Rs. 400 because the agreement was cancelled and started to sell at Rs. 1,500. That is because you come to an agreement, then you abrogate the agreement, you go back, they get very annoyed and they raise the price because you cancelled the agreement long before its time.

What is the rationale behind this? Today there is a tremendous shortage of raw film. It has been so for the last three years. There is only a six months' supply of raw material available to the producers. My good friend, the acting Minister of Foreign Affairs (Mr. Tyrone Fernando) has produced films himself. I have been able to help him to get through one in our time, and he should know this subject better than all of us. There is a serious shortage of raw materials. How do you expect to encourage the local film industry when they cannot purchase raw materials.

On the one hand, under your import liberalisation you say you can get down any-

thing you want. You can make any amount of films you want. There is no restriction. Well and good. While you liberalize the import of all these items, there is a serious shortage of raw materials for the film industry. It is a serious contradiction, a serious discrepancy in your policy. We are opposed to this. I would strongly urge the Government to consider the situation of the serious shortage of raw materials as far as raw films are concerned.

(To Be Concluded)

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NGUYU—13

Dairymax

by Bwana Rafiki

The Visiting Agent came and went thoroughly into the question of the missing coconut shells, or to be more correct the short count we thought there was. Two points he made, first that in the last few years there has been no where near the number of coconuts rejected by buyers such as we had in the last two crops and therefore nowhere near the number of shells after these rejections had been made into copra. Second, as demonstrated by the watcher, only coconut shells packed close give off the requisite heat when lit, and therefore a much larger number of shells expended, set fire to when badly or loosely packed, would not conduce to a heat sufficient to dry the kernels well, to make good copra. This explains the shortage or short count in the context of my last article, and we can heave a sigh of relief.

The Benedictine conference that took place in Kandy last week should not be allowed to pass without some mention. For me the attendance of a man from South India hailing from England but with a name that I think is Welsh stirred up emotions. My meeting with him this second time was part providential. Like most of us at some time in our lives he was seeking the truth, truth both as God and in relation to himself. One day when he knelt down to pray he became oblivious of time and found when he finished that unknown to him eight hours had passed

by. At the end of it all, he did the first thing that came to hand in that locality, he farmed. He went on to become a Roman Catholic, a monk and a priest. It gave me pleasure to recall this with him and I used the word sleep. He said he had not been sleeping and when I said nine hours, he said it was eight.

Yesterday I got to the estate at about 2.25 a.m. It was 4.15 a.m. before I went to bed and I got up at 6.30 a.m. Just as I was leaving the estate, a man came along to pay for and take away two heifers I had shown him earlier. He accepted my stiff price without demur and handed over the money. I arranged with a lorry to pick up five tons of fertilizer in Colombo for the other estate this morning. Of this more later. There was no poonac to be had in the village, and the place where we get our rice bran was closed. Nine ropes for the carts and the cattle and torch batteries for one of the watchers, cost close on Rs. 50/-. The Co-op was out of salt, the kind I buy in gunny bags for manuring coconut trees together with cow dung and green matter. One of the cattlemen demanded that he be allowed to change his house because he said he is being pestered by a former employer of this estate when the man is drunk.

St. Augustine's feast, a man of Hippo in North Africa. At least he became bishop of Hippo. For some reason Augustine is regarded as the greatest intellect the world has produced, but there never was a more hard working or humble man. He lived at a time when the world was collapsing about him or at least he died at such a time. He slaved for his flock by his preaching, which was never grandiose, but simple, yet packed with ideas. I find I am almost falling asleep over this. My usual policy is to go to bed when I am like this. Then I invariably lie on my bed fully dressed, with the light dimmed if I am on the estate, or turned on fully if I am in Colombo, and I wake up a few minutes before midnight whether I get out of bed then or later.

Last week, it probably was when I said I was happy again on the estate after years. That is so but I had what I felt was one of the worst days of my life yesterday. The fertilizer had not been called for the previous day. What would Baur's do about it? It worried me. Eventually I got as far as trying to telephone Colombo from a post office almost

opposite one of our government farms. I was there from 10.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. except for the luncheon break and when I caught a bus back to the estate I had still not got through. I went straight on to our own village where I got off the bus. The only shop that sold straining cloth, for we are now without one for the dairy, was closed. But a ray of sunshine, there was Dairymax in the Co-op.

So that night I went happily to bed as I might in a fairy-tale. Arrangements were made to go to the village early to bag the Dairy-max. The carter, the man deputed to it, was up and about betimes. I hurried through one or two formalities, little jobs that would not wait my return from the village. We got to the village, to the Co-op, to be told by the woman there that the eight bags of Dairy Max left had been reserved by the man who had taken two bags away the previous evening, the man who ran or owned the dairy, I am not clear which, situated on the President's land, the President of the Co-operative although he was careful not to designate him as such. As I said in an earlier *Nguvu* article, my carter of an earlier occasion had spilt the beans.

GRAMA SASTRA—23

—Scribblings On Uva Villages

Spotless Leopard

by Gamiya

*"Can the leopard change his spots
Or the Ethiopian his colour?"*

I strayed into a boutique and sat down for a bit of that old brew which was born and propagated of Tientsin tea-seed once upon a time. It was a superb cup, coming from lower Uva. The tea was all right, the chat was better. It seems—so the gossip of theirs went, and so did my eaves-dropping over the tea—that an official in charge of a big rubber plantation close to that area had shot a leopard, one, then two, then three, almost in a row over a few months, and had sold them for one, for two, nay for three thousand (three thousand what, I did not hear, although it could have been yen, dollars

or rupees or even marks or any of that filthy lucre). He had had the brass to hide the skins (the few leftovers) when someone came to search, and so everything is all right. But conscience is not clear, consciousness is dim.

How on earth can we stretch a point (rubber-band type) and say that it is a first offence. It is not. How can we blame the official who inspected and found them absent? He was doing his duty in a gentlemanly way, not poking with a walking stick into a portable spittoon to see a ruby hidden therein on the way to the airport. He went there (so they said) and looked around, and did not find them, and so exonerated our big official. Now, this kind of thing must be looked into, or it leaves a sad taste in the mouth, what with the initials, SPCA, Wild Life Protection Society, and Wild Life department and so on. There should be no connivance in evil. It sounds like sabotage, smells like indiscipline.

Then, this same big brass cooks up a story about a subordinate and sends him out. Here's the story: "The young overseer had a kassippu bottle in his hand, and came and addressed us (he and his colleague) without the usual reverences, almost as equal, as if it were". Checked and double-checked, this story was found to have no foundation.

I read another story somewhere, of a man who owed 100 units of currency but was forgiven the debt, and yet throttled his own peer, fellow-servant for ten units or so.

If you think big, and are aggressive and hand it out big to those around you, then it is time to call a halt, for tyranny is always unmasked by the people. Saboteurs lurk under every tree (even if they are being ruthlessly cut down); he who uses the gun to settle his nerves in a country in which vanishing species are a growing menace, a country in which is enshrined: thou shalt not kill, in the first of five precepts, must have his head thoroughly examined and set alright in any NSU sector of Asia. And this, at State expense if he is to continue working where he is.

My cup of tea was insipid after I heard all this narrated by (rightly) irate peasants. Tientsin vanished, Hevea Brasiliensis receded, but only the determination to see things set aright, remained.

WAGE & SALARY SCALE

In The Public Service

by M. Rajanayagam

WHEN THE QUESTION OF FIXATION of salaries and wages is being examined the cost of living of the worker and his family will be a predominant factor among the various questions that have to be considered. Wages are not fixed in a vacuum—there is an existing scale of wages which is regarded by the worker or his Union as inadequate. The demand will be for a wage which is sufficient to enable the worker to obtain food which is nutritiously adequate for him and his family, adequate housing and enough money for his clothing and for other needs.

If statistics are available of earlier consumption patterns these will be helpful guides. Unfortunately the available statistics are meagre. The earliest survey was in 1941 undertaken by the Dept. of Labour which gives the prices of commodities and the quantities consumed by low country estate labour at that time. About the same time a survey was undertaken by the Dept. of Commerce and Industries but this does not include the consumption standards. The Central Bank has carried consumption surveys at periodic intervals thereafter.

Comparison of the standard of consumption of the consumer items given in the 1941 report of the Labour Dept. with that prevailing now makes interesting reading. By keeping the quantity consumed in 1941 static the task was to find out how much would be spent now for these same items.

It may be argued that consumption patterns have changed since 1941 but that is obviously so because any person will naturally have to adjust himself to his income i.e. the goods, items he consumes will have to be selected according to what his income is and what is available for purchase.

The data in this report can be compared with present day price levels. In the year 1941 it will be seen that a male low country labourer spent Rs. 6/38 per month on food alone while in June 1971 he would have had

needs consideration whether even with the substantial increases the take home pay of peons and clerks is adequate? In the highest administrative class the increase has been comparatively small.

A comparison has been made with the equivalent, salary structure of the Malaysian Government Civil Service.

The Malaysian Public Services Salaries have been taken for this comparative study because the peoples of both countries, Sri Lanka and Malaysia, have similar 'living' characteristics, and only data from this country is available to me. Here too it will be seen that the lowest rungs of the services i.e. the notice servers, office boys and peons have received percentage increases of 969,960 and 920 respectively while the senior categories have received an average increase of 385% and for the middle grades such as clerks, typists and stenographers the increase was in the region of 225%.

When we look at the comparative purchasing power of the currencies of the two countries, which has to be taken into consideration along with salary increases, the Sri Lanka purchase price of the Pound Sterling fluctuates round Rs. 34/- while the Malaysian equivalent is approximately 4.80 Dollars according to the latest parity rates. *This shows that inflation in international markets of imported goods will not place as heavy a burden on the Malaysian consumer as in Ceylon. If it is intended to equate the Sri Lanka worker with his Malaysian counterpart it is easy to calculate what the Sri Lanka workers should be paid.*

THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION shows quite clearly that inflationary tendencies will continue for some time. It has been stated that steep rises in the prices of petroleum products have aggravated the position. Examination of imports during recent years shows the wide range of goods and the quantities that are entering the country with progressively increasing prices. Such goods include drugs, milk foods for children and invalids etc. which are necessary for the bulk of the population.

These have an impact on local prices which will also rise though perhaps not to the same extent. A forecast one can make is that Sri Lanka is caught up in a situation

where prices will progressively and steadily rise and any new scales that are fixed must not only eliminate the presently existing anomalies and deficiencies but also make provision to eliminate the hardships that will arise from future increases in prices.

It is helpful to review what some other countries have done when confronted with similar problems.

In the United Kingdom, some salary scales in the Public Service were as follows. I regret I do not have the scales for minor staff but similar increases can be presumed.

Ministry of Labour

1943 Permanent Secretary	£3000/-
Deputy Secretary	£2200/-
Under Secretaries	£1700/-

1954

Permanent Secretary	£4500/-
Deputy Secretary	£3250/-
Under Secretaries (Men)	£2500/-
Under Secretaries	

(Women) £2325/-

Assistant Secretaries £1500/- to £2000/-

(1) Cost of Living Allowance absorbed with the new salary scales.

1969

Permanent Secretary	£8600/-
Deputy Secretary	£6300/-
Under Secretary	£5250/-
Assistant Secretary	£3500/- to £4500/-

1979

Permanent Secretary	£21000/-
Deputy Secretary	£15000/-
Under Secretary	£12000/-

Ministry of Health & Social Security:

Permanent Secretary	£18675/-
Second Secretary	£17175/-

Ministry of Inland Revenue

Permanent Secretary	£20772/-
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ON A SIMILAR ANALYSIS the same conclusion can be drawn as regards the lowest paid categories in Government Service and Public Corporations. Examination of wage levels in the private sector as indicated in Wages Board decisions, Collective Agreements show that these wages are not substantially different from those in the Government sector.

The above conclusions about the inadequacy of wage levels was also drawn by the

Commission on Social Services in its Report published in 1947. It said:—

"The Economic Surveys of the sample villages in the Wet Zone display a very low standard of life. They show that before the war most of the families in the selected villages had gross income of less than Rs. 20/- per month while very few had incomes of more than Rs. 50/- per month. There is no doubt that similar surveys in the dry zone would have an even lower standard of life."

"In Ceylon the standard of life of the majority is very low".

"The ordinary agricultural industry is permanently depressed and the standard of life of the workers is permanently low."

"A country where poverty and insecurity are high and the level of living is very low should obviously reserve substantial amounts for consumption."

"In this country as already stated the National Income is low and may still earn less than subsistence."

"No society can claim to have established even the first stage of freedom from want if it has failed to secure the subsistence needs of every citizen."

"In this country unfortunately subsistence, however narrowly we may interpret it, cannot yet be fully guaranteed when large numbers of people still normally earn less than subsistence."

These indicate that the pre-war standard of living of the lowest category of worker as well as of the agricultural worker was below standard, even before the war. It appears this has been progressively reduced even further since then.

THE COLOMBO COST OF LIVING INDEX for September 1979 was 267.8. In the popular mind the impression is created that the increase is only 167.8. But such increase is only from the base year which is 1952. If the increase is considered with base year November 1938—April 1939 it will be 752.5.

In South India in some cities the increase is given from 1936. For instance, in March 1977 the Index in COIMBATORE was 1572 and in TIRUCHIRAPALLI 1451. But in MADRAS which uses 1960 as the base year the Index

was 298 for March 1977 (ILLI June 1977 at end). It is explained that to get the Index number with base 1931-36—100 for Madras the Index number should be multiplied by the linking factor 4.76 which gives 1418 for Madras.

The cost of living figures of the Indices in the different cities quoted fall into the same bracket around 1400/-—1500/- whereas the Colombo index is somewhere around half that figure. The criticism has been made that the Colombo index is unrealistic, in that, many prices taken to calculate the index are controlled prices which do not reflect the prices prevailing in the open market where the consumer has to buy his goods.

As the war progressed the cost of living began to rise and most countries began paying cost of living allowances to avoid hardship to the working population. After the war these countries absorbed these allowances by introducing new salary scales. Ceylon was an exception, in that, it has continued to give allowances piece-meal. This procedure involves avoidable calculation which may perhaps be justified on the ground that it gives work to additional workers. A more efficient system would, of course, be to have new salary scales which absorb all these allowances.

One principle in wage fixation is to ensure that the salaries of Government servants do not lag behind salaries in the private sector for comparable categories of workers since Government is considered to be 'the model employer'. This was emphasised in July 1978 by Mr. Callaghan the former British Prime Minister. He said:

"Some left-wing Parliamentarians bitterly criticised Prime Minister James Callaghan's decision to approve average rises of 31 percent for about 1,500 senior Civil Servants, Judges, Military Officers and Nationalised Industry Administrators. The increases in a few cases more than 100 percent—will be phased in gradually however with only 10 percent rises being granted immediately.

An independent Salary Review Board recommended the rises because top Government employees have fallen far behind their counter-

parts in private industry in the salaries' league".
(Ceylon Daily Mirror—7th July 1978)

Where a worker does not have the wherewithall to purchase necessary articles for his needs and that of the family, the social consequences can be disastrous. For instance, increase in ill health, for want of money to buy the required medicines and food does not need elaboration. A more unhealthy social consequence is the increase in crime. No social survey has been done to ascertain the cumulative consequences. But it is probable that its findings will be even more unpalatable than the Report of the Social Service Commission.
July 19th, 1980



THE SAD PLIGHT

Of Rupee Companies' Shareholders

by R. Wijaya Indra

THE SRI LANKA Public and Private Plantation Rupee Companies were vested in the Land Reform Commission by the previous government on the 16th of October 1975. There were in all 163 Public Rupee Plantation Companies, 83 Sterling Companies and 158 Private Companies and Private Estates managed by 16 Trustees and Agency Houses.

There has been an unduly long and agonizing delay of nearly 5 long years of suffering and unbearable poverty and hardships caused to the victimized shareholders in the aforementioned 163 Public Rupee companies, due to some mysterious and inexplicable reasons, for their being not paid even one cent as compensation yet, whereas the foreign 83 Sterling companies' shareholders have all been paid-off and many of the 158 Private Companies and Private estates have also been paid-off and their claims settled!

What is the real cause or reason for this mysterious and inexplicably long delay of 5 years taken to settle the legitimate and reasonable demands of the Public Rupee Companies' shareholders, the majority of whom are Ceylonese sons and daughters of mother Sri Lanka? The very obvious answer to the

above simple question, is the reactionar vested interests of the once foreign-controlled agency houses (now locally controlled by our own "black Sahibs" and the Planters Association of Ceylon, both of whom have jointly and severally during the last 5 years done everything in their power, overtly as well as covertly, to obstruct and sabotage the direct payment of the compensation-in-full to the shareholders of the Plantation Public Rupee Companies, who are the real owners of all the estates vested in the Land Reform Commission on the 16th of October 1975.

THE AGENCY HOUSES, aided and abetted by the Planters Association of Ceylon have been wanting to lay their dirty hands and have full control of the shareholders' compensation monies, with the collusion and collaboration of some of our corrupt politicians and equally corruptible officials and bureaucrats, who are running with the hare and hunting with the hounds!!! This has become pretty obvious through certain subtle but diabolical moves to cleverly and cunningly invoke and re-introduce the very repressive and oppressive "Memorandum and Articles of Association" of the now defunct 163 Plantation Public Rupee Companies, into the wholesome and protective Section II (2D) of the Land Reform (Special Provisions) Bill of 18th August 1980, which the learned Legal Draftsman had very wisely drafted and inserted for the protection of the already suffering and bitterly frustrated tens of thousands of shareholders in the 163 Plantation Public Companies.

The new Land (Special Provisions) Bill of 18th August 1980, very correctly and in absolute justice and fairness to all the shareholders of the Plantation Public Rupee Companies, who are and were the real owners of these companies, specially and very clearly in precise legal language, without any ambiguity whatsoever drafted and inserted section II (2D) for the protection of the Compensation-Interests of all shareholders of the Plantation Public Rupee Companies, which precisely and legally stated thus:

"SECTION II (2D): Where any public Company receives any amount as compensation computed in accordance with the provi-

sions of sub-section (2) or subsection (2A), it shall be the duty of such company notwithstanding anything in the Companies Ordinance or any other law, to pay to each shareholder of such company in lieu of his shares such proportion of the amount of Compensation less liabilities as is equal to the proportion which the number of shares held by such person in such company bears to the issued share capital of that Company:" and

by the repeal of subsection (4) of that section and the substitution there of the following new subsection: "(4) The Compensation payable, less any deductions that may be made from such compensation under this part of this law, shall carry interest, at the rate of ten per centum per annum, as from the date on which it accrues due until payment."

This bill provides for the payment of a paltry sum of only Rs. 2,500/- per acre as compensation for the best Tea estates with an average annual yield per acre of over 1,500 lbs, whereas the present market value of such tea estate land is about Rs. 15,000 per acre! *It would only be fair and just if at least Rs. 4,000 per acre is paid for the best tea estates as compensation.*

THERE SHOULD BE no deduction of subsidies and grants paid for replanting, new planting, factory modernisation, new buildings, fertilisers, new roads and installation of new machinery on the estates, because the new owners of the estates taken over from the Estate Companies, which really belonged to the shareholders of the companies, is the Government of Sri Lanka, which is, and has been enjoying the full benefits of its ownership of the estates so taken over as from 16th October 1975.

After the publication and release to the public of the Land Reform (Special Provisions) Bill of 18th August 1980, something very objectionable, dangerous and inimical to the interests of the long-suffering Public Rupee Company shareholders, seems to have taken place at an "Emergency Meeting" held at the office of the Secretary to the Ministry of Agricultural Development and Research (Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne) which was attended only by the Representatives of the Planters Association

of Ceylon and Low Country Producers Association of Ceylon, regarding Section II (2D) of the said Land Reform (Special Provisions) Bill, which had been specifically introduced to protect the interests of shareholders of plantation Public Rupee Companies regarding the direct payment of their compensation for their shares, for which they had been agitating and pleading with this Government during the last 3 years.

The tens of thousands of shareholders of all these public Rupee Companies who are the real owners of all these Public Rupee Companies and are the real people whose interests were at stake, had not been invited to this secretive and conspiratorial meeting, which seems to have arrived at a vital decision that Section II (2D) of the said Bill, should be amended and altered by the addition of the dangerous words: "As defined in the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Companies!!!"

The very ridiculous and plausible reason given for the smuggling in of these dangerous words into the Land Reform (Special Provisions) Bill of 18th August 1980, was that it would be necessary use the "Memoranda and Articles of Association" of the Plantation Public Rupee Companies, in order to differentiate between the respective compensation claims of "ordinary" shareholders and the very few "preference" shareholders in a new companies!!

IF SUCH A LEGAL PROVISION is really necessary to differentiate between the 2 classes of shareholders, then that could be provided for by the addition of a subsection (2E) to Section II—namely Section II (2E)—specifically for that purpose, without trying to cleverly and cunningly use that as a pretext to smuggle into the impending Land Reform (Special Provisions) Act of 1980, the "Memoranda and Articles of Association" of the 163 Plantation Public Rupee Companies, with the yet undisclosed intention of obstructing, harassing and appropriating/misappropriating shareholders compensation monies under various guises and devices, which will force

the already starved and exhausted poor shareholders, to seek redress in the Law Courts, which they can ill-afford, while the companies will, as usual in the past, use shareholders' compensation monies (under their use and control) to fight the shareholders in Court by retaining very expensive and eminent Queen's Counsel, who will thoroughly enjoy the misery of the poor and helpless shareholders and beat them down into submitting and surrendering their compensation claims to the dictation of the so-called directors of the now really defunct companies!!!

It is in order to avoid such a calamitous situation, that some of the more mature shareholders kept on begging and pleading, with this Dharmishta government to amend, if necessary, our archaic and imperialistic colonial Company Laws of over 100 years, which were used by the imperialist Agency Houses and their stooging company directors nominated by the Agency Houses, which exploited oppressed and suppressed, and denied to the shareholders of the Plantation Public Rupee Companies, their legitimate and rightful dues and dividends during the last 100 years and more, under our archaic and imperialistic colonial Company Laws, which have still not been revised or amended, because of the very reactionary pull and power of our "black Sahibs" with blue eyes who succeeded the "White Sahibs" of the colonial days!

I would like to appeal to our Dharmishta President, His Excellency, J. R. Jayewardene, of international eminence and fame, to have a closer look into the sufferings during the last 5 years, of the poor and helpless Sri Lankan Public Rupee Company shareholders and take immediate, appropriate and effective executive action, to enforce the immediate payment of the Compensation to the poor and helpless Sri Lankan Plantations public Rupee Company shareholders, who have been suffering and starving during the last 5 years, since the vesting of their estates on the 16th of October 1975.

Their long overdue compensation monies must be paid to them in full, without their having to hang around for another 4 years, by which time many of them will be dead, like the late Dr. A. W. R. Joachim of revered and respected fame, who was a very distinguished and patriotic son of Sri Lanka and an

eminent scientist and agriculturist and a retired Director of Agriculture, who suffered and died in poverty, because he was deprived of his compensation monies due to him in his old age.

It should also be remembered that Sri Lankan tea and rubber estates have been earning a lot of foreign exchange for our country during the last 5 years, but their real owners—the shareholders—did not receive even one cent from such earnings during the last five years!

SRI LANKA CHRONICLE

Sept. 18 – 24

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—Silumina; SLDP—Sri Lankadipa; JD—Janadina; SU—Sun; DV—Davasa; DP—Dinapathi; CM—Chinthamani; WK—Weekend; RR—Riviresa; DK—Dinakara; EN—Eelanadu; IDPR—Information Dept. Press Release.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18: Inspector-General of Police Ana Seneviratne has alerted the Police to a possible attack on Japanese nationals in Sri Lanka by the Japanese Red Army between September 25 and October 15—CDN. The President, Mr. J. R. Jayewardene who is also Minister of Higher Education has asked the University Grants Commission to increase the intake of students to the Universities in the next few years by at least 1,500—CDM. The first three years of the United National Party Government's tenure of office will be covered by the Special Presidential Commission of Inquiry; President J. R. Jayewardene will, for this purpose, extend the period during which the Commission has been called upon to inquire into and obtain information till September 28, 1980; the present period covers from May 28, 1970 to July 23, 1977—SU. The Ceylon Electricity

Board is once again casting anxious eyes over its Mousakelle and Castlereagh reservoirs now carrying just over half their total storage of water; with power use in the country up to 5.2 million units every day against 3.6 million units a day three years ago, the Board does not rule out a possible power cut next month—CO. Surveys will be conducted shortly to find out whether there are commercially viable uranium and silver deposits in the country; preliminary surveys have shown that uranium exists in the Embilipitiya and Rakwana areas—DK. A local agency of a South Korean firm which has been found guilty of corruption in handling international tenders has been awarded a tender to supply goods to the value of millions of rupees to the railway department—DK.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19: A unique and historic event took place in London yesterday when the Mahanayakas of the three sects in Sri Lanka participated in a ceremony to consecrate a Buddhist temple to hand it over to the international monkhood. Persons of either sex who undergo sterilisation voluntarily—tubectomy or vasectomy—will be entitled to a cash incentive of Rs. 500 each from October 1, this year—CDN. Wildcat strikes in the public and private sector will henceforth be prohibited under a new Labour Relations Law to be introduced in Parliament shortly; this new piece of legislation which will replace the existing Industrial Disputes Act is being introduced with a view to maintaining healthy and harmonious industrial relations in these sectors. The Government has decided that the Sansoni Commission report should not be made public. Trade union leaders Vasudeva Nanayakkara, Alavi Moulana, Gunasena Mahanama and eight others who were involved in the mob violence that took place on August 8 in Fort were granted bail by the Court of Appeal yesterday. A top level joint investigation by the Department of Examinations and the Police was launched yesterday after a large number of uncorrected answer scripts of the 1980 August GCE advanced level examination were found—with a fireworks manufacturer in Negombo—SU. Technical training together with a monthly salary of Rs. 300 is to be given to the youth of this country at the Training College to be

set up at Moratuwa with the assistance of West Germany—DP. 102 doctors working in government hospitals have left the country without serving their compulsory period in the first half of this year alone—DV. The Chief Medical Officer of the CTB said that reasons for 60% of accidents of the CTB are because of drunkenness, personal and other problems and for not getting enough rest; the CTB annually pays Rs. 6 million for accident victims—DM. The government is reported to have decided to devalue the rupee by a further 25% before the next budget—DK. **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20:** President J. R. Jayewardene will preside at a glittering ceremony at the parliamentary complex at Kotte on Monday morning when the "Navaratna" will be deposited, along with copies of the constitution from 1833 to 1978, in the Nidan Gala. The Bank of Ceylon will soon start a new undertaking in the local banking sector—Management Consultancy Division. Due to the recent increase in Business Turnover Tax, prices of upper category brands of cigarettes have been increased by one cent—CDN. Indications of systematic sabotage may compel the Education Ministry to invalidate the April and August 1980 GCE (Advanced Level) Examinations and hold them afresh; a decision likely to affect over 100,000 students will be taken shortly on the findings of top level Police and Education Ministry probe teams inquiring into Wednesday's discovery of a large number of corrected and uncorrected answer scripts which had been sold as scrap paper—SU. There is a conflict in the JVP leadership on the ownership of the properties of the Party—ATH.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21: A hand-picked squad of detectives led by CID Director M. D. A. Rajapakse seized another hundred uncorrected GCE answer scripts from a Negombo paper dealer in the early hours of Friday morning, a police spokesman said yesterday—SO. The Government proposes to take immediate steps to bring down the rising cost of consumer items; Secretaries of all Ministries will shortly be summoned to a conference to discuss at first hand methods to prevent the various Corporations handling essential consumer items from jacking up prices at their whims and fancies—ST. A

survey to ascertain the extent of ecological damage caused by the 1978 cyclone to the East Coast of Sri Lanka will shortly be undertaken by the Ministry of Lands and Land Development. Sri Lanka has banned the import of almost 200 varieties of drugs supplied by 40 foreign manufacturing companies; the drugs have been blacklisted by the Formulary Committee of Sri Lanka on a number of grounds including, the lack of insufficient data regarding the manufacturers and in some cases the failure to state as to why certain components have been combined to produce the drug. All police stations in the country were yesterday alerted to look out for any more 1980 GCE Advanced Level answer scripts in an effort to ascertain the extent of the problem posed by the removal and sale of these papers—WK. The All-Ceylon Tamil Congress has unanimously decided to contest the elections for the District Development Councils—EN. A Salary increase of about Rs. 75 may be granted from January next year to employees of Government Departments, Boards and Corporations; at the same time tax too may be recovered from such employees—CM.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22: Heavy fighting broke out between Iran and Iraq on the disputed Shatt Al-Arab waterway which runs between the two countries at the head of the Gulf, State Radio reported today. President J. R. Jayewardene will open the Prima Flour Milling Complex at Trincomalee in November; the new milling complex will enable the Government to stop the import of wheat flour from next year. The report regarding the 800 odd answer scripts of last month's GCE A-Level examination which went astray will be handed over today by Examinations Department officials to Education, Employment and Youth Affairs Minister Ranil Wickremasinghe—CDN. Several top government officials and certain Assistant Govt. Agents in the provinces are deeply involved in the illicit timber business and illicit felling of timber in the forest reserves, according to detections made by the police and the officers of the Forest Department—CDM. Saudi Arabia's recent decision to raise the price of its crude petroleum exports by two US dollars a barrel will result in yet a further expansion of Sri

Lanka's already swollen oil imports bill which is a major drain on our foreign exchange earnings—SU. It is believed that the new proposal to extend monetary assistance in place of free school books to children will be implemented next year—DP. The Commissioner of Examinations said that the A/L answer papers had leaked from the postal department—DK.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23: At a simple but colourful ceremony at the Parliamentary Complex at Kotte yesterday morning President J. R. Jayewardene enshrined the Navaratna along with selected copies of the Constitution from 1833 to 1978 in the Nidan Gala, at the auspicious hour of 10.40 a.m.—CDN. Labour Minister C. P. J. Seneviratne declared yesterday that it was not the intention of the United National Party Government to outlaw workers' unions or the workers' right to strike—SU. The Postmaster General said that a statement by the Commissioner of Examinations that the A/L Examination papers had leaked from the Postal Department was totally incorrect; CID investigations have revealed that uncorrected A/L answer papers had been sold earlier as well—DK.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24: Iran today announced that its Parliament had frozen the question of the 52 American hostages and alleged that Iraq was attacking Iran as part of a United States plan to free the captives. The value of a Millers Ltd., Rs. 8 share shot up to Rs. 140 over the week-end. Examinations Department officials investigating how 100 odd unmarked answer scripts of the last August GCE (A-level) examination went astray yesterday extended their investigations to cover the August GCE O-level answer scripts. The inaugural ceremony of the opening of a peace pagoda at Millon Keynes in Briton took place on Sunday; Foreign Minister A. C. S Hameed and the Mayor of Milton Keynes opened the peace pagoda—CDN. Far-reaching changes to the Rent Act and the Ceiling on Housing and Property Law are to be introduced in Parliament shortly to give relief to house builders and one house owners—CDM. Iraqi armoured troops flung across a border river before dawn were reported tonight to have surrounded the Iranian port of Khorramshahr

and the refinery town of Abadan, where oil tanks were reported ablaze over a wide area. The Government's next move in regard to the Special Presidential Commission's findings on former Premier Sirimavo Banaraike, was the big question in political circles yesterday—*SU*. The survey conducted by the police has revealed that over 20,000 Lankans are addicted to drugs and there are thousands of acres of ganga plantation in the country; steps are to be taken to educate people specially in the villages on the dangers of taking drugs—*DM*. Questions have been raised by the Income Tax Department and the Exchange Control Department as to who is spending over half a million sterling pounds required to maintain the 14 horses owned by Mr. Upali Wijewardene; the expenditure on the income from the 14 horses in Britain has never been declared to the Income Tax Department—*ATH*.



ISRAEL PROSPERED

With Silver Iodide Seeding

by V. Buvanansundaram

I LIT A CIGARETTE to stop my weeping tears when I heard a knock on my door. The late Prof. P. A. Sheppard F.R.S. had offered me a place at Imperial College and the British Council had agreed to pay but as I was leaving for the boat train from Paddington after a prolonged stay in Britain, learning meteorology and loving London. My landlord had rushed three flights of stairs. "Gosh", he panted, "I got you. I thought you had gone." A silver cigarette case, a lighter, five packets of king size Rothmans, a pig-skin purse with a five pound note in it. Five pounds! I was pressed for money. I took it. I could buy presents for my children in Aden.

One Saturday morning, half way through my tenancy, he returned me ten shillings out of the rent I paid him. "I cannot charge you the same rent, I charged your Negro friend. We belong to the two most ancient races in the world. In future, you pay me less," he said. I wondered why? Had he noticed the change in my life with the then Government's

stoppage of my pay, meant for my family's subsistence in Lanka?—Ehelapola punishment for a meteorological traitor.

"Aryans, I thought were the oldest", I told him. "Bah", they are the scourge of God, from Atilla to Hitler. Then, he told me a story. Some may have heard it before but I heard it for the first time from him. "Why are you punishing the Jews?" someone asked Hitler. "Go down and buy a left-handed cup" told Hitler. That man went to many German shops and all of them told him "Sorry, Sir, we have no left handed cups". He went to a Jewish shop. "Yes Sir, we have one left. It is selling fast, it is the fashion now and rather expensive too." He bought the cup at thrice the price and took it to Hitler, holding it in his left hand. My landlord was a Jew. He had made good running away from Hitler's Germany and starting life as a waiter in a nil-star London Hotel. He owned two blocks in the West End, which he meant to sell and get to Israel. He may be there now.

I LEFT LONDON in November 1959 and that December, Israel published its first report of their ten year experimentation on rainmaking, begun in March 1949. Two rich widows, Mrs. A. Lasker and Mrs. Ronsensohn, sponsored it through the "Hadessa" organisation in New York. The American Institute of Aerological Research, Denver, started it with planes flying about, seeding single cumulus clouds from above with silver iodide and dry ice (solid carbondioxide) and flying below cloud to watch it rain. Experiments successful, they came down to earth and never took to air again. They began seeding clouds with silver iodide smoke from ground generators. No other country has made a more economic use of this know ledge of rainmaking than this promised land of the wandering Jew.

A punishment, they bore with fortitude for two thousand years, for crucifying Christ, inspite of Christ's prayer from the cross, "Father forgive them, they know not what they do."—an apt prayer for the rainmaking adventurers in Lanka. Thirty years of artificial rain has made this desert land of Israel flow with milk and honey, like the biblical Cannan. Silver iodide did it.

It was thought that the nucleating property of silver iodide was the deceit of show-

ing its hexagonal ice-crystalline shape to supercooled water-vapour and deceiving it to sublimate on it. Sublimation is changing from vapour to solid state, without passing through the intermediate liquid state. Silver iodide does it at -4°C , a higher temperature than others of the same hexagonal shape. Lead oxide and cupric sulphide of the same shape could do it at -6°C and cadmium iodide at -12°C . Recently, it has been found that there are crystals of other shapes too that could get supercooled water-vapour to sublimate on them. Tetragonal mercuric iodide and monoclinic silver sulphide at -9°C , cubic silver oxide at -11°C and orthorhombic vanadium pentoxide and iodine at -14°C . It has also been found out that there are some substances that cannot deceive supercooled water-vapour with their hexagonal shape. Therefore, this theory of deceit on nature has now been abandoned. A more suitable theory to explain this strange phenomena is yet to come. We may not know the reason, why. But we do know that supercooled water-vapour sublimes best on silver iodide.

SILVER IODIDE is used in seeding clouds that extend above freezing level. In the portion of a cloud above freezing level, water-vapour and water droplets co-exist in a supercooled state. The droplets are too small to fall through. They would not grow nor would they freeze. When silver iodide is introduced, the supercooled vapour deposits as ice on the silver iodide. Water droplets will now evaporate to maintain the saturation vapour pressure, which is more than that of ice. In this way layers and layers of ice are formed on the original silver iodide crystal till the hail formed is heavy enough to fall through the updrafts in cloud.

In Israel, it rains only in winter. The Galilean hills get the most. An annual average of 100cm or 40" like our Hambantota. Going south, the amount decreases. At Nazareth and at Jerusalem, it is about 600 to 700 cm like our Delft and Marichchukkaddi. Still further south at Beer-Sheba, it is only about 3 cm, like no place in Sri Lanka. In summer, from June to September it is without cloud, except in the morning along the mediterranean coast. Rains start in October, ending in May and reaching a peak in January. During

this period, the freezing level varies from 3000 to 14,000 ft. with an average of 8000 ft. Our freezing level varies from 14,000 ft. when the Sun is furthest away in the southern hemisphere and to about 16,000 ft. when the Sun is overhead or in the north.

Silver iodide crystals lose their nucleating property, when exposed to strong sunlight containing ultraviolet radiation of wavelength less than 4,300 Angstrom units. There is no general agreement on the rate of this decrease. Smith, Hofferma and Seely found out that silver iodide smoke made with kerosene burners decreased in efficiency by a factor of ten every hour, while that made from hydrogen burners decreased by a factor of a thousand every half-hour, hence the preferential use of kerosene burners in ground generators.

Silver iodide crystals are very tiny. One gram of silver iodide would produce ten multiplying itself sixteen times, number of crystals (10 multiplying itself 6 times is a million), when a dilute solution of it in acetone is vapourised in a hot flame. Its minute size keeps it in the atmosphere without falling to the ground and the winds too cannot blow them far away. They are carried up by vertical currents in the atmosphere and remain there even after losing their potency to sublimate water-vapour. They are insoluble in water and water-vapour can condense on them without dissolving them.

WHEN A PARCEL OF AIR is lifted from the surface, it expands under reduced pressure and cools. The relative humidity of the parcel of air would saturate it (relatively humidity—100%) at the condensation level of the atmosphere, which is the base of cumulus clouds. In Sri Lanka, this varies from 1500 to 2500 ft. depending on the relative humidity or the moisture content of the surface air. Greater the humidity of the surface air, less the height of the condensation level. In higher latitudes and in desert areas, cumulus bases are usually much higher.

Lifted beyond the condensation level, the water-vapour super-saturates the lifted parcel of air. If lifted further and further, its super-saturation keeps increasing, even up to 700%, if there is no nucleus for condensation. Every

droplet needs a nucleus for condensation and it is a conglomeration of water droplets that make a cloud.

Sometime, it may happen that the nuclei supplied by nature may not be enough to go round to all water-vapour available for condensation. These introduced artificially could make up this deficit. Silver iodide that lingers in the atmosphere being insoluble in water would welcome condensation.

Different nuclei require different degrees of supersaturation and different threshold temperatures at which, they act best their part of condensation nuclei. However, recent experiments have shown that they improve their performance by practice, by repeatedly getting caught in the process of rain. This is the advantage the natural nuclei have over the artificial, when introduced for the first time. Raindrops condensed on artificial nuclei fall to the ground. They are taken up again by the vertical currents in the atmosphere. The next time condensation takes place on it would be at a lower supersaturation.

No other seeding agent would serve this dual purpose so well as silver iodide. It is long lasting and insoluble in water. Dry ice would turn to vapour soon. Sodium chloride is hygroscopic. Water-vapour condenses on it at a saturation of 75%, before reaching the condensation level. If released from the ground it may before reaching the condensation level, which is the base of cloud, absorb water and get dissolved in it or become large and fall to the ground or even be swept away by the wind.

Myriads of crystals are formed out of a single gram of silver iodide. Still for all, some scientists thought it expensive and searched for other seeding agents, while Israel persisted with silver iodide. Experimenters found lead oxide, cupric sulphide, silver sulphide, mercuric iodide, silver oxide etc. They are all insoluble in water and therefore potential candidates for rainmaking. However, they were all found to be less potent and less easily dispersed than silver iodide. Silver iodide was originally chosen owing to its similarity, to the atomic arrangement of ice—"It is still the most effective nucleating substance so far discovered", says Dr. Mason in his book on Rainmaking.

The Jews have struck a bargain. Selling left handed cups in Germany or rainmaking in their motherland, they would always get the best of it without bragging. Three decades now, they had persisted with random seeding of their clouds with silver iodide smoke from generators.

"He who can does, he who cannot teaches."

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KARAKORAM—80 PROJECT

A Dangerous Expedition

From Ahmed Malik

IT IS SURPRISING that little notice has been taken in the sub-continent of the so-called Karakoram expedition being jointly undertaken by British and American "scientists" with Pakistani collaboration. The significance of this expedition was underlined by Keyt Miller, a British scientist and head of the expedition called Karakoram-80 project. He told newsmen in London before he left on a field expedition to the Karakoram that "the expedition had received the permission of the Pakistani authorities to visit this strategic and highly sensitive region a few weeks earlier".

Miller also revealed that the permission to conduct work in the vicinity of strategically-placed Karimabad (Hunza) and in other parts of Pakistan-controlled Kashmir, had been granted 'literally a few days back.' Initially, the Pakistan Government was reported to be reluctant to open the strategic Hunza and Gilgit area in Pak-occupied Kashmir for the expedition. These areas are close to Afghanistan on the one hand and the Soviet Union on the other.

A look at the nature of the expedition and the personnel connected with it brings out the highly suspicious character of the affair. According to published material the expedition has been divided into six groups. It has already started its work at different places. Thus, glaciologists (specialists on ice) went to Hispar, Seismologists, on the other hand, went to Chilas, specialists on geostructure were sent to Gilgit, Gupis and Yasin, geodesists left

for Passu and geomorphologists for Karimabad (Hunza). Another group of British scientists had recently gone to Islamabad. Their mission and the exact nature of their work remain shrouded in mystery. However, it is obvious that some of the members of the field expedition, particularly its head Keyt Miller, will extensively travel about Pakistan, Pak-occupied Kashmir and Indian areas under Chinese control in Ladakh.

Keyt Miller deserves a special mention. He is not new to Pakistan. He has worked in Pakistan as an engineer during the fifties in a British-Pakistan company, the "Attok Oil Refinery" which is incidentally one of the sponsors of the Karakoram-80 project. Miller thrice visited Pakistan later to give "assistance" to its Geodesic and Cartography Department. Keyt Miller also visited Baluchistan, North West Frontier Province in Pakistan and also Indo-China as a member of different expeditions. During one of his trips to Pakistan, Miller significantly delivered a series of lectures on "safety measures at nuclear installations."

IT MAY ALSO BE NOTED that at least two Americans are included in the British expedition—Roger Bellham of Columbia University, specialist in geodesic (topographic) survey and cartography and Alan Golwil of Colorado University, specialist in aerial photography. Pakistani scientific circles in London make no secret of their conviction that the former is a CIA officer, while the latter serves the National Security Agency. Both the Americans are included in the group assigned to choose places for "seismometric stations" and "satellite communication" centres.

This correspondent was told by a highly-placed Pakistani source that originally Pakistani scientists were excluded from the expedition on the pretext that their knowledge falls far short of the requirements connected with the character of the studies and complexities of the equipment to be used during experiments. After a hue and cry by the Pakistanis at the scientific conference held in preparation to the expedition, a few Pakistani scientists too were included. They are mainly geodesists and assistants.

Patriotic Pakistani circles in Europe are worried that the Karakoram-80 project is only evidence of the goal of the Peking-Washington-

Islamabad axis, turning Pakistan into an American-Chinese forward post in Asia, replacing Iran. This will become a major threat to the independence and non-alignment of Pakistan, not to speak of the security and national interests of India.

THE FACT that Britain under the aegis of the Royal Geological Society took upon itself the role of the chief sponsor of the expedition, cannot hide the truth that the real organisers of the project are the US and China. They are interested in getting scientifically proved material regarding effective exploitation of the Karakoram region and its use for strategic military purposes.

The first aim of the expedition is to raise the efficiency rate of the China-built Karakoram highway. This is clearly reflected in the proposed general area to be surveyed by the expedition, qualification of its members and technical equipment. Apparently, the Chinese, by sacrificing the lives of tens of thousands of their soldiers and lakh of Pakistanis labourers, managed to build the highway. But they lack the technological know-how necessary to keep it operational. The proposed British expedition, together with American assistance is meant to overcome this problem. The second aim of the expedition—the geological survey of the area and installation of special "seismometric" stations—has much more important long-term ramifications.

The expedition will not doubt look for a suitable place to instal special equipment for gathering the intelligence data not only about the USSR or Afghanistan, but of special significance regarding India. The area of the expedition is not restricted to the Pakistani territories—Yasin Valley and Hunza. It goes beyond to Baltistan in the eastern part of the Karakoram, to Pakistan-held parts of Kashmir and even reaches out to the Aksai Chin Indian area under the Chinese administration.

The US and China are to develop natural resources of the Karakoram, to use its territory in their strategic, military interests. The Karakoram-80 expedition will also prospect for minerals, including the possibilities of finding uranium deposits in the Gilgit and Hunza belt. The inclusion of representatives of Pakistan's Nuclear Energy Commission among its members, makes the mission all the more significant and suspicious.

Knowledgeable Pakistani circles, especially young and patriotic Pakistani scientists working in various technical and scientific establishments in Europe, are extremely perturbed over this growing Anglo-American infiltration in Pakistan through science and technology. Bhutto, it may be recalled, had tried to put an end to such machinations by twice refusing permission to "Project Karakoram Hindukush" sponsored jointly by an Anglo-American scientists consortium. No wonder, poor Bhutto was ultimately made to pay very dearly for his "arrogance towards our foreign masters and future colonialists."

—PIA



FILM FOCUS

- **Star Wars (Cinema)**
- **Evita (Theatre)**

STAR WARS (English): I have tracked the progress of this 20th Century Production in 70mm and stereophonic "boom" since it was released, and would like to inform *Tribune* readers that this film has not only been a world beater at the box office wherever it was shown, but has also reached a degree of technical perfection that could only be assessed in the superlative sphere of the stupendous. Seven "Oscars" had come the way of this film, written and directed with devotion by George Lucas, for best original score, best sound effect, best art direction, best special effects, best editing, best costume design, all tied up together by an additional special award. As the reels unroll, it takes the audience on to a galaxy of make belief, a long long light years ago where far far beyond in space, a victory was recorded by a Galactic Empire against a "Death Star", leaving a Princess Leia to regroup all the stellar forces at her command, and eventually rescue her people. Well that in a nutshell is as far as the story goes, but the stunning effect of its presentation projects you into realms and starry spaces that have now come within reach of man's ingenuity and perhaps hatched battlegrounds in the centuries to come. Among the spohistry

of the "Robots" and the zooming space vehicles, which you keep "ducking" in the cinema all the time as the 70mm effects gather momentum veteran actor Alex Guinness as a space warrior Ben Karobi, and horror master Peter Cushing as Villain Grand Moff Tarkin are in opposite star camps, which close in to duel with laser lined weapons. The directors technical wizardry has been aimed at a generation who have not lost their years and even thrill to the fantastic feats of a Flash Gordon, as depicted in the comics that are avidly absorbed between text books. Luca's goal has been to make an imaginative entertainment experience that would transport audiences out of the theatre (Majestic) and into an unknown galaxy. A touch of magic here and a little love there go hand in hand to witness the ultimate eclipse of evil with a bang. And what a bang it was in the second half of the film, as the struggle snowballed into a visual and spectacular space battle, the like of which has yet to be seen on the silver screen. Make no mistake about it, the film is brilliantly conceived and projected with purpose at the growing generation—so take them along and you will take some time coming down to earth when the "WARS" are over. I conclude with a spot of literature on the film that has come my way which goes thus: "Stars Wars is a space fantasy designed to stimulate imaginations, entertain and give moviegoers an infinite variety of vicarious, emotional, physical and mystical delights. It is a world, people on this earth have never been to, but it's a world they may have encountered when years ago, they dreamed about running away and having adventures that no one else had ever had."

THEATRE EVITA (Stage Musical): I sat this much-publicised stage play out, with my good friend and Journalist E. C. T. Candappa—a well known playwright himself—who has kindly consented to turn on his critical eye on this opera, for the benefit of *Tribune* readers. The following is his assessment of "Evita" which is now the talk of the town: "EVITA is a rock opera based on the life of Eva Peron, consort of the once Argentine dictator, who even historically was a more charismatic figure than the boss. The opera to its great credit stays politically unswayed. It does not

thump a tub for anyone, or any system. In fact there is hardly an argument, except for the asides of "CHE".

"With great artistic integrity, the opera concentrates on the human factors involved in the situation—the over-powering ambition of one woman, and its consequences on a man, on a nation, and eventually and basically on herself. Rarely in a play has there been such a concentration of interest on the central character. Everything and everyone else is subordinated to EVITA. Such a searing scrutiny, such a colossal close up, therefore demands a truly outstanding actress of wide range and power to play it. Miss Leembruggen, in this performance displays the art of the total actress. She does not play EVITA. She becomes EVITA (The only other time I can recall when this happened was when Renelra Gunasena, played Joan of Arc in Jean Anouilh's 'The Lark' about fifteen years ago.

"The role of EVITA, requires, I believe an identification not with a person but with a concept. What is meant to be projected therefore is not a recreation or representation of EVA PERON, but of her ambition or ambition itself. It is in the vivid concretisation of this abstract concept that Miss Leembruggen's triumph occurs. We see in other words the birth, growth and decay of Eva's ambition inside Eva's skin. Only the utterly sensitive can portray this, Miss Leembruggen does it.

"The success of the performance also draws greatly from the brilliance of the Opera. It is a well integrated creation, skilfully constructed with the composers orchestrating the moods with great virtuosity.

"I have never succumbed to the folly of trying to compare a local production with a foreign one. Whatever is accomplished here must be judged in the context of available resources the greatest of which is ingenuity. Graham Hatch has made much of the Wendt. The efficient stage business the resourceful sets (split levels) the functional lighting (by Ralph Sellar) the accurate costuming and delightful choreography, and most of all the unfaltering direction make it a truly rewarding production. G. Hatch understands the opera and is faithful to its pace.

"Apart from Miss Leembruggen the other voice that consistently matches the power of the opera is that of Richard de Soysa. It is im-

possible not to pick him even in a crowd for he has such a wonderful stage presence. His performance was a study in understatement for he let Evita shine.

"The other players were good in that they contributed to the integrity of the performance but they were not on the same pitch as Eva and Juan. Tony de Silva's, CHE, which began weakly gathered force and the prescribed irony. The dozen or so songs, captured the fluting moods though they were unevenly rendered, while some are quite memorable ("Don't cry for me Argentine" and "I'll be surprisingly good for you").

"The marriage of orchestra with voices was superficially successful, though the projecting mikes, constituted an avoidable oddity, if not a handicap.

"Still, altogether a production to be proud of—(ECTC)."

James N. Benedict

Govt.



Notice

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

Reference No. ATH 1/121

It is intended to acquire the land described in the schedule below. For further particulars please see Government Gazette No. 109 (Part III) of 03.10.1980.

Schedule

D.R.O's Division : Colombo
Situation : Ward No. 31, Kuppiyawatte East within Colombo Municipal Council limits.
Village : Dematagoda
Name of Land : Assmt. Nos. 456, 452/2 and 452/10, Dematagoda Road
Lot No. : 1, 2 & 3
Plan No. P.P. Co. : 3781

H. C. Gunawardane

District Land Officer, Colombo District.
The Kachcheri, Colombo. Date:— 29-8-1910.

Confidentially

ADA And Politics

IS IT NOT TRUE that the ADA (Agricultural Development Authority) has come into the limelight in recent weeks? That in an inner-party (UNP) blow-up in the Kamburupitiya-Devinuwara sector, the spotlight was turned on the ADA? That *Migara* in his *Men and Matters* column in the *Weekend of September 21* had pointed out: ".....this particular meeting was presided over by a person called Danny Amerasekera. He, at that time was the Vice-chairman of the Agricultural Development Authority (ADA). That when the anti-Minister meeting was in progress, a group of persons are reported to have come in a Hiace van and hurled bombs at those in meeting....."? That *Migara* had continued: ".....In Colombo he (the Minister involved) took up the matter with the high-ups in the ruling party and the government. He had sufficient evidence to show that two jeeps belonging to the Agricultural Development Authority had been used on instructions at the meeting held by the Ruhuna Ud'naya Movement. That proof was beyond doubt and conclusive. The result was that Danny Amerasekera had to tender his resignation both from the UNP's Working Committee and as vice-chairman of the ADA.....". That *Migara* also raised some other interesting queries: "Another question raised is whether a Sub Inspector of Police from the just before Bentota Ganga was also not witnessed at the vicinity of the incidents. Did he not do some scouting privately in the Matara electorate and even informally question the driver of another Government Minister who had come for some other functions in the south. Were some government officials, including a chairman of a statutory board also present when these incidents were taking place? Should any individual who allowed to hold a systematic and consistent campaign against a member of the party who is the constitutional representative both party-wise and nationally and be allowed to go on uninterrupted without any disciplinary action being taken against him?" That *Migara* did not mention names,

but everybody knew the two top UNP personalities involved in this tussle in the South? That the SLFP lost no time in making capital of this UNP squabble? That even before *Migara's* comments appeared, SLFP's *The Nation*, in its issue of September 19, had a frontpage splash headlines: KEHELWATTA vs SEDAWATTA..PM SACKS JR's SOUTHERN LEADER..RONNIE TROUNCES UPALI? That the report read: "The determined efforts of Upali Wijewardene, the scion of the Sedawatta royal clan, received a crushing blow from the Kehelwatta's Pretender to the Throne, and Danny Amarasekera, the Chief Lieutenant of JR at Matara, who spear-headed Upali's Ruhunu campaign, had been dismissed from the UNP on the orders of the Prime Minister. Mr. Danny Amarasekera was a Vice-President of the Agricultural Authority and an Ex-co-member of the UNP. He lost both jobs overnight. In a dramatic turn of events, Premadasa clique had backed Ronnie to the hilt (vs. Upali) and forced a reluctant JR to sack his right-hand man in the Southern Province, Mr. Danny Amarasekera, within 48 hours. With Mr. Amarasekera's fall, another key fortress in the South—Matara—has fallen into Premadasa's hands. Mr. Tissa Silva, a Director of the Building Materials Corporation, the leading supporter of Prime Minister Premadasa in Matara is in the helm of affairs of the UNP in the South. Last week, a mini-war had taken place in Devinuwara between Ronnie and Upali gangs, resulting in several casualties. Mr. de Mel had pressurised the PM to take action against Mr. Wijewardene and the result was the sacking of JR's man supporting JR's cousin. With this move, Mr. Premadasa has got a foothold within the Party Secretariat and the majority of back-benchers are now clustering round Mr. Premadasa."?

That whilst the ADA is playing politics in one sector, it neglects agriculture in all sectors? That some weeks ago this column referred to a new wind that seemed to have stirred the ADA to pep up the long dormant Agricultural Extension Services especially in electorates where it is not, at the moment, involved in party politics? That beyond the first noisy introduction of the scheme the Extension Services have relapsed once again into total inactivity?

A TREE FOR EVERY CHILD

This should be part of a wider programme of social forestry.

Every child in the island should be persuaded to plant a fruit-bearing tree and should be made responsible for looking after it. A nameplate should be affixed on the tree exhibiting the name of the child. It should be the property of the child for which he or she should be given ownership with the annual yield.

If each child, particularly in the rural areas, could be encouraged to plant one tree and look after it until it reaches maturity, we will have a massive tree plantation programme and also a new generation of people who are oriented to the growing and rearing of trees. The planting of fruit, fodder and fuel wood trees under such a programme will, to some extent, meet the requirements of the rural community for fuel and nutrition.

A total effort must be made to increase the forest cover in Sri Lanka by at least ten percent of the country in a decade for the preservation of our environment. A tree plantation programme must be undertaken not by the Forest Department alone but schools and other institutions.

A TREE FOR EVERY CHILD

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