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Letter From The Editor

STRANGE EVENTS seem to erupt all around with unfailing regularity. Not only in Sri Lanka but in the world as well. Let us look at our little island first. Who would have thought that Abeyratne Pilapitiya would be recognized as a Member of Parliament on the eve of the Nomination Day fixed for the by-election for the Kalawana seat he had lost. The Speaker has now ruled that by virtue of Pilapitiya's nomination under the new Constitution way back in 1979, after he was held to have vacated his seat by reason of his continued absence for a period of three months from the House without leave of absence, that he was duly entitled to a sit as the Member of Parliament inspite of rulings by the Courts to the contrary in regard to the 1977 election. But whilst he had continued to sit in the House as a nominated member, an election petition filed against him was pursued with rare determination by Sarath Muttettuwegama who had lost the seat in 1977 on a split vote (caused by the SLFP). The election petition against Pilapitiya was upheld and the Courts had decided that he had forfeited the seat. After a little delay, Government decided to hold a by-election because the Constitution laid down that a vacancy caused by an election petition can be filled only through a by-election. Everybody had taken for granted that Pilapitiya had ceased to be a Member of Parliament and that a new MP would be elected at the by-election. The Elections Commissioner had fixed the Nomination Day, viz. December 10. The candidature of Sarath Muttettuwegama (CP) was endorsed by five opposition parties including the SLFP. The UNP was scheduled to select its nominee on December 9—just one day before Nomination Day. Then came the surprise. On a letter from Pilapitiya the Speaker ruled on December 9 that he (Pilapitiya) could sit as a MP who had been duly nominated and this nomination had never been challenged. By implication, it means that the election petition proceedings were of no consequence because Pilapitiya had ceased to be the MP elected in 1977 election which is the one that was invalidated. We cannot go into the legal intricacies of the Court's decision or the Speaker's ruling. The Speaker is supreme in his domain. No one can question his ruling except the House. But the Courts too have their functions and obligation under the Constitution. They have the duty of safeguarding the rights of citizens and the nation. How this matter will ultimately be resolved is hard to say, but people will naturally ask why Pilapitiya had waited so long to clarify his position with a ruling from the Speaker. It can of course be argued that Pilapitiya had been challenged only a short time ago and the Deputy Speaker had ruled that he could not attend sittings of the Parliament. We do not know what the outcome of this mock heroic melodrama will be but if people rightly or wrongly suspect that the trumps were played as a device to avoid a by-election, the consequences in the long run for the UNP will not be happy. It is a fact that the UNP was hard put to find a suitable candidate to stand up to veteran Sarath Muttettuwegama who had held the seat from 1970-1977 and had lost in 1977 only because the SLFP had split the anti-UNP vote. It is not often *Tribune* is taken by surprise, but the Kalawana melodrama has taken us by surprise. Without questioning the correctness or the validity of the Speaker's ruling, all we can say is that the Government's credibility will be further corroded if a by-election is not held at Kalawana. The Government may be able to boast that it has maintained the record that it had not been defeated in any by-election held since 1977, but whatever benefits the UNP may derive from such a dubious boast it will loose much more by failing to hold the by-election at Kalawana. A defeat at a by-election cannot do much damage to the image or popularity of the UNP, but to be suspected (even wrongly) of running away from a by-election will have a corroding impact on the credibility of the UNP and the Government. At the time of writing it is difficult to say how the Kalawana affair will develop. It is not difficult to appreciate the fact that a defeat will embarrass the government at this juncture, but it will prove a worse embarrassment in the long run if it is thought by voters that the all-dominant UNP with an overwhelming parliamentary majority had to take refuge behind a Constitutional loophole to avoid facing the people at a by-election at Kalawana.

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TEA

ON THE COVER we have a scene from a tea plantation. Official statistics reveal that the production is continuing to decline rapidly. The Finance Minister in his Budget speech on November 5 had glossed over the matter. One would have thought that the Government's much proclaimed measures to boost production would have improved matters in a significant way. The Finance Minister's excuses for the bad performance—especially the stock excuse of the weather—are not convincing and only add to the growing credibility gap which has begun to envelop the Government: "Tea production in 1980 is expected to show a decline of 2.9 per cent. Dry weather conditions that prevailed during the first quarter of 1980 have been the major factor contributing to the drop in production. In the past few years, the tea sector has also been suffering from problems of management in the State-owned plantations, labour shortages and insufficient attention to manufacture and marketing. The importance of the tea industry to the Sri Lanka economy need not be over-emphasized. It is highly labour intensive and utilizes land which cannot be readily and economically diverted for other purposes. The international market for tea continues to be satisfactory. No tea produced is left unconsumed. Tea will continue to be the country's major income earner for years to come. Urgent measures would therefore have to be taken to raise productivity in the industry."

Whilst the Minister has looked at the matter from the Governmental angle, Fr. Pio Ciampa SJ of the Estate People's Services at Kahawatta has sent us a note on another aspect of the situation in the plantations. This is what his note says: "The Sun of 10.11.80 had a headline, 'Serious Scarcity In Estate Sector: Incentives to Lure Plantation Workers'. 70,000 non-citizens making use of their fundamental human 'right to freedom of movement and residence' (Art. 13 (1), left the plantations and went to transform jungle places into cultivated areas. Is it now necessary to 'lure' them back to the plantations? The repatriation process is depriving Sri Lanka plantations of half a million of plantation workers. Can 70,000 be 'lured' back to the plantations, while many other thousands of them who wanted to become Sri Lanka citizens and applied for it have been and are still refused? The 'serious scarcity' of workers is visible a little but everywhere. Tea quality and quantity are decreasing because of such 'serious scarcity' also.

"A typical example can be seen by anyone passing through Pelmadulla. On the hills there is the Kuttapitiya State Plantation. Two thirds of it have now become a jungle covered with a wild golden grass. From far away it looks a wheat field. The Indian plantation workers were sent to India and no one was sent to replace them. The same 'golden wild grass' is seen invading the ever-green fields of tea. The budget too

seems to have forgotten the possibility of increasing revenue, increasing tea production. If tea production has to be increased, 'plantation workers' have to be increased. Is this not the right moment to reconsider possibility to grant Sri Lanka citizenship to all those who have applied for it?

"One individual was, of late, deprived of her civic rights as a punishment for her 'abuse of powers'. On the eve of the golden jubilee of the franchise granted in 1931, and as an item of its celebrations, could someone study whether the depriving of the citizenship and civic rights of 1,000,000 people, who had enjoyed voting rights for years, was not an abuse of power: a decision ultra vires? If so, are those responsible for such a "crime" and "abuse of power" to be punished with the loss of "civic rights"? People who have applied for Sri Lanka citizenship have the right to change their minds and apply for Indian citizenship. But those who have applied for Indian citizenship are not allowed to do so. Is that according to the Fundamental Human Rights Charter? 'Everyone has the right to a nationality'. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality' proclaimed 32 years ago on the 10th December, the Universal Declaration Of Human Rights, Article 15 (1), (2).

"In that very year, 1,000,000 Indian Tamils had been 'arbitrarily deprived of their nationality' and are still now deprived of the 'Right to change their nationality'. That 'abuse of power' and that decision ultra vires affecting the lives of 1,000,000 people remain one of the most serious—if not THE MOST SERIOUS CRIME committed in the history of independent Sri Lanka against the largest number of human persons, who were rendering and are still rendering such a great service to the nation and its people.

"Is there need now to 'lure 70,000' back to the plantations, when one could do a double service to the nation, its people and especially to their consciences: i.e., Respect the Fundamental Human Rights granting Sri Lanka citizenship to all those who have asked or who are still asking for it. It will be a gain for everyone, Ceylon Tea included. I wish this could be the most meaningful and practical celebration of the 32nd anniversary of the 'Universal Declaration Of Human Rights by the UNO'. Sri Lanka Government has signed it and is bound to implement it. Let the blot of STATELESSNESS be removed from the conscience of both Government and people."

The weather and statelessness may contribute to the declining production in tea, but the main cause of the rot is the current weakness of the top management apparatus. It is too late in the day and too inimical to national interests to change the ownership of the plantations (back to private hands), but until public sector managerial skills are able to cope with the challenges and tasks, an element of stern private management skills may help to pull the plantations out of the doldrums.

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BUDGET-4

AFTER SETTING OUT the details of the economic situation in the best possible light from the Government point of view, the Finance Minister in his Budget speech on November 5, went on to deal with the Government's fiscal policies: "Mr. Speaker, on the fiscal front, the policy of this Government is primarily designed to generate and redirect resources from consumption to investment. While such a policy undoubtedly creates hardships to the people in the short run, this Government firmly believes that it is the only way to find lasting solutions to the problems facing Sri Lanka. More investment, more employment, more incomes—these are the corner stones of this Government's economic policy. In 1978, we were able to generate an increase of 74 percent in Government revenue, which as a ratio of Gross National Product rose from 23 percent in 1977 to 32 percent in 1978. This is ample testimony to the success of our resources mobilisation effort.....".

The Finance Minister nonchalantly admits that these policies have created hardships for the people for a "short run" because there was an attempt to divert resources from consumption to investment. But, unfortunately it is the poor and the have-nots who appear to pay the price. And the "short run" seems to be interminably long with everything becoming more and more difficult. The rich are getting richer as a result of these policies and they openly flaunt ostentatious living and fabulous consumption in a way that further widens to the credibility gap that has overtaken the Government.

Then Mr. Ronnie de Mel went on to analyse the main features of the expenditures and the efforts of the Government to curtail "recurrent expenditure" and increase revenue: "The year 1978 also saw an increase of 143 percent in capital expenditure. Such expenditure as a ratio of GNP rose from 8 percent in 1977 to 15 percent in 1978. A marked improvement in the performance of various Ministries in their investment programmes was also evident in the under-expenditure on capital account declining from 19 percent in 1977 to 14 percent in 1978. Recurrent expenditure in 1978 rose by 10 percent, reflecting the increased costs of maintaining consumer subsidies, social service and public utilities and the increase in public service emoluments. The increase in recurrent expenditure result in a current account deficit of nearly Rs. 700 million which together with capital expenditure was financed largely with foreign resources. We had very little recourse to inflationary financing by the banking system.....".

"Our continued efforts to increase revenue and to curtail recurrent expenditure resulted in a surplus of Rs. 200 million in the current account in 1979. While Government revenue rose by 9 percent in the year, total recurrent expenditure increased only by 2 per-

cent. The total capital expenditure in 1979, on the other hand, increased substantially by 36 percent over 1978. These achievements are no doubt remarkable and a tribute to the success of our policy aimed at transferring resources from consumption to development!"

With hardly a thought for the overwhelming mass of ordinary people who have been hit below the belt by the policies of the Government, the Finance Minister pats himself for the "success" in transferring resources from consumption to development. But people ask what is the development achieved so far which helps the common man. There are no doubt a few more millionaires, but millions were being slowly pushed into penury, malnutrition and starvation.

THEN, THE FINANCE MINISTER looked at the 1979 figures of expenditure and revenue—and the deficit of Rs. 8,791 million. He then analysed the breakdown of the money that was borrowed to bridge the gap: "The total expenditure of the Government in 1979 was Rs. 21,521 million. Recurrent expenditure amounted to Rs. 12,530 million while the total capital expenditure was nearly Rs. 8,091 million. Government revenue on the other hand, amounted to Rs. 12,730 million, resulting in an overall deficit of Rs. 8,791 million. This overall deficit was financed as follows:

Source	Amount (Rs. million)	%
Domestic		52
Market borrowing	3,486	
Non-market borrowing	1,096	
Cash balance	28	
Foreign	4,237	48
Project loans	813	
Commodity loans	1,434	
Trust Fund loans	599	
Grants	1,391	
Total	8,791	100

"Mr. Speaker, you will observe that more than one half of the Budget deficit in 1979 was financed through our own resources whereas in 1978 only about 40 percent was so financed. Nevertheless, we should not relent in our efforts to mobilise more and more resources domestically if reliance on foreign finance is to be reduced and inflationary bank financing is to be minimised."

He derived great satisfaction from the fact that 52% of the money borrowed was from domestic sources. This is no doubt something to crow about, but for this the Government is paying a high price in interests, viz., about 20%.

THE FINANCE MINISTER then went on to discuss the problem of fiscal discipline and the cuts he had imposed on expenditure "Mr. Speaker, I regret to state however, that developments in 1980 have tended to seriously undermine the fiscal discipline that I have so painstakingly tried to infuse and maintain from 1977. They have upset all our budgetary calculations. We are faced with an enormous overall deficit, the financing of which would have grave consequences,

particularly on the price level and the balance of payments.

"Mr. Speaker, recurrent expenditure in 1980 (inclusive of net outpayments in the Advance Accounts) is now expected to be as much as Rs. 4,592 million or 41 percent, higher than the original provision. Capital expenditure too will now be Rs. 2,429 million or 24 percent, higher than the amount originally provided for. The increase in revenue over the original estimate has been insignificant. The result is a staggering increase in the overall deficit from Rs. 8,920 million as originally estimated to Rs. 15,009 million, an increase of more than 68 percent. The following table depicts these changes:

	(In Rs. Million)	
	Original Estimates	Revised Estimates
Recurrent expenditure (net)	—11,219	—15,811
Revenue	12,262	13,194
Current Account		
Surplus deficit	+11,043	— 2,617
Capital Expenditure (net)	— 9,963	—12,392
Overall deficit	8,920	15,009

"The major part of the increase in recurrent expenditure, Mr. Speaker, is due to an unexpected net outpayment of Rs. 2,575 million in Advance Accounts, although the original provision in the Budget was only Rs. 100 million. This outpayment is reflected mainly in the Food Commissioner's Advance Account activities, which had to bear the brunt of food stocks which occurred during the course of the year. The escalation in petroleum prices also has a significant impact on Government's recurrent expenditure because the higher costs of petroleum products are still being subsidised in the case of the Transport Board and the Railway. It is necessary to provide nearly Rs. 700 million in 1980 to cover the losses of those two organisations. I have also provided an additional sum of Rs. 491 million for the operation of the Food Stamp scheme. Other major supplementary estimates under recurrent expenditure are Rs. 250 million to the Ministry of Industries and Scientific Affairs for import duty repayments, Rs. 197 million to the Ministry of Education to supplement teachers' salaries, free text books etc., Rs. 157 million for pension payments and Rs. 68 million for interest payments on Treasury Bills.

"The major supplementaries under Capital votes are in respect of Mahaweli Development Board (Rs. 1,500 million), National Housing Authority (Rs. 545 million), Urea Project (Rs. 236 million), National Television Project (Rs. 225 million), Amortisation of Public Debt (Rs. 156 million) Irrigation (Rs. 109 million) and Urban Development Authority (Rs. 80 million)."

All this provides interesting statistical details about the reasons why the 1979-80 Budget was knocked off the rocker but will the steps taken to prevent a repetition of the same debacle in the 1981 Budget prove a success?

Then Mr. de Mel explained the salient points about revenue collections: "Mr. Speaker, while there has thus been a steep increase in Government expenditure this year, revenue collections are expected to be only Rs. 932 million or 8 percent, higher than the amount envisaged in the original estimates. This net increase in revenue is expected to accrue as follows:

(Rs. Million)		
(a) Increases:		
Corporate income tax	406	
Import levies	400	
B.T.T.	325	
Excise on liquor	325	
Excise on tobacco	105	
(b) Decreases:	121	1,482
Other		
Administrative levy on coconut	260	
Export duty on tea	170	
Export duty on coconut	110	
Other	10	550
Net increase		932

"The increase in revenue collections are mainly due to upward revisions in tax rates and recovery of arrears. The higher price levels and the increased level of activity in the economy also helped to increase revenue. On the other hand, the decreases in revenue collections were mainly the result of providing relief to the tea and coconut industries. The reductions in exports of tea and coconut kernel products, particularly the latter, accounted for a substantial shortfall in revenue."

AND HE CONCLUDED this part of the speech by explaining how he proposed to meet the deficit in the revised (pruned) budget estimates: "The revised budget deficit of Rs. 15,000 million is expected to be financed through the following sources:

(Rs. Million)	
Appropriation Act Loans	3,100
Commodity loans and grants	2,765
Project loans and grants	4,070
Trust Fund loans	500
Cash loan from Iraq	95
Bank borrowing	4,479
Total	15,000

"Mr. Speaker, the fiscal year 1980 has thus proved to be a difficult one. The budget deficit that has to be financed is enormous. Developments quite beyond our control such as increased oil prices and world inflation played a major part in upsetting all budgetary calculations. While making due allowances for these factors, I cannot help referring to the vital need to reduce unnecessary expenditure and avoid waste, and to utilise available resources to the maximum efficiency, confronted as we are, and will inevitably be in the future, with such developments. Mr. Speaker, you will observe that quite a substantial amount of supplementary estimates have surfaced during the year. In fact these

amount to Rs. 5,600 million or more than 60 percent of the original budget deficit. While cost escalations due to higher import prices no doubt had a role to play in this, better planning and budgeting by Ministries, Departments and Corporations will no doubt make our task less arduous in these difficult times."

Whether the Government will be able to contain its expenditure within the limits envisaged or whether it can realise the revenue collections in hard cash is yet to be seen.

(To Be Concluded)

(+)

FILM FOCUS

The Rio

When there was a hike in the admission rates to Cinemas recently, it was conceded by the exhibitors that the comforts of picturegoers would be uppermost in their minds to justify this increase which was appreciably high. For instance, all air conditioned cinemas fixed the Balcony ticket rates at Rs. 10 per person, for this extra amenity provided to keep him cool, comfortable and easy while the film lasted. In my recent rounds however, I have noticed that there has been a breach in this gentleman's agreement, and various excuses are being trotted out by means of sanctimonious slides flashed on the screen that the air conditioning plant was not functioning. If this be so, would it not be honest to revert to the original rates whenever the air-conditioners failed. In this context, I must hand a bouquet to the New Olympia theatre, for sticking to the earlier rates till the renovations to the cinema are completed and toss a brickbat to the Rio Cinema management, when "suffocation" has become the order of the day to those who seek balcony comforts. The last occasion I dropped in there was to see *The Body*, and it was miraculous that mine held on till curtains, as I was progressively running out of oxygen. Complaints against the conditions in this cinema have been ventilated in the general press column quite often and I wonder whether the State Film Corporation has taken note of them.

It was with much fanfare that this cinema was opened a couple of decades ago as a pioneer picture palace where 70mm films were exhibited in the most comfortable surroundings. Somewhere down the years, it has deteriorated steadily and there is only a pseudo facade left of what existed before. The general film fare provided is also mediocre, but with mesmerising and exaggerated publicity that tends to mislead. Ends are met however, now and then by horror and adult films that sporadically run to packed houses. *The Body* running at the moment is an exception, but the people who flock to the cinema on such 'overflowing' days are in for a raw deal. I noticed on my recent visit that right under the noses of a helpless management, tickets were being spirited away and hawked at higher rates outside in spite of the security personnel

on duty. The impression one finds hard to resist is that a hand in glove understanding seems to prevail. Having obtained a ticket one has a choice of entering the well of the cinema to the persistent odour of an outdated toilet which whiffs the hall or gets to the balcony and run the risk of getting a cramp between closely packed seats.

The Navah Theatre adjoining is also a miserable excuse for a cinema, which together with the Trio Theatre at Dehiwela have not kept up to proper standards for entertainment. A semblance of discipline is however now evident at the Trio, but the management of these three cinemas keep changing so often, that with them go some of the innovations that are introduced in fits and starts. **Whether it is a discontented management or an indifferent proprietor is not for this column to dwell upon, but I am spotlighting all these shortcomings without malice, in the interests of picturegoers who should not feel cheated of the elementary comforts that should be theirs for the money they pay. It is about time the State Film Corporation took a closer look at this circuit, and not merely at the takings alone.**

THE BODY (English): This film is more a medical documentary than one intended to titillate the senses—yet it is the latter factor that over-rides at the moment, with the cinema running to a crowded capacity to appetite the 'curious'. Compiled by eminent medical luminaries, the camera is the main probing actor in the film which travels down every pore and part of the body, both internal and external to magnify its unique 'creation'. Its journey becomes squeamish at times, but is kept informative by the lively dialogue of dedicated participants who relay the functional purposes of the human system together with a fine endoscope-combing the intricacies of the cranial content, the alimentary system, the eustachion tubes, the sexual processes and the blood circulation in the heart and kidney regions. It is the frontal nudity and the child birth sequences, both done in good taste that are drawing the teenagers—but why blame them for they are only educating themselves to meet the grim realities of living! It was the years during the more serious shots of the film that confirmed, why some in the audience were there at all!

SINHA BAHU (Sinhalese): Directed in characteristic style by Pathiraja Dayananda, this film had a hurdle to clear in its rather ancient historical title, but having done so, settled down to an absorbing presentation of a rather possessive personality (Joe Abeywickrema) who having taken to the jungles in the wake of a murder and the law, took again unto himself, first as part of a passing booty and eventually as a beautiful mistress (Swarna Mallawarachchi) to love and cherish with hoops of steel. Far removed from civilization, his little family flourished through the years in the crude sincerity of his selfless love, till it arrived inevitably at the crossroads, and took a turn to tragedy and despair. If there was a hidden historical connection in the story,

I did not sense it, but the performance of Joe and Swarna deserved very special mention. Their roles demanded that they flit from a sophisticated milieu to a 'naked' one and they did it effortlessly. While the former is a veteran at all roles that come to him naturally, Swarna, a recent find by comparison transits from a mischievous shrew and dropout, bred in affluence to a veddah styled wife and mother with remarkable ease. She should however keep on revelling in vampish roles in future, for there are none barring Geetha Kumarasinghe, to challenge her in this field, in Sinhala cinema right now. Frankly, I went for the film with reservations and reluctance, yet left the cinema 'bathed' in the poignancy of a presentation that exuded very much more, than what it demanded in its delivery. There is no reason why one should not like this good film.

ODDS AND EVENS (English): A Warner Brothers production that brings once again, together, that irresistible pair, Terence Hill as 'Jacky' and the burly Bud Spencer as 'Charlie' who are out for easy money, using their wits and power packed punches to grab the 'stuff'. The story is set in Florida, where Jacky is on official leave from the Navy to inveigle a 'has been' dice king Charlie, now a sober truck driver to make a comeback and clean the casino tables that keep whirling apace to the whirlwind action that follows. While a mischievous twinkle in the eye is Terence's forte, it is the rocky ruggedness of 'Bud' that scores in the fisticuff fiesta that come aplenty. With their gloves off, this pair explode on the screen with a 'sixes and sevens' take off to pile up a crackling ribtickler for the family.

James N. Benedict

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TALKING POINTS

HOTELS—Bottled Drinks, Charges, Staff Salaries

By Veritas

Hotels Must Grow Their Own Vegetables And Fruits. A recent decision of Government that will be welcomed by the middle class and lower middle class people of Colombo (not that these class distinctions exist any more with the spiralling cost of living) is the decision that *All Hotels having more than Twenty Five rooms should grow their own requirements of vegetables and fruits.* It was also decided that land for this purpose should be provided to such Hotels (presumably on lease). The Ministry of Agriculture has been entrusted with the task of implementing this decision.

We hope that the Secretary for Agriculture will quickly take steps to implement this decision rather than wait for studies and surveys. The Tourist Board should have a list of all hotels in Sri Lanka with 25 Rooms

and more. The Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture should call all these Hoteliers together in one lot or in batches and work out a scheme with them to grow their own requirements of Fruits and Vegetables. These Hotels plus the Restaurants (especially the Chinese Cafes) and the Foreigners (both diplomatic families and the families of the "expert" or consultant" breed—which is proliferating day by day) appear to be snapping up all the Vegetables and Fruits in the better-known markets of Colombo. Apart from this, their needs and requirements are a sure insurance for the market stall owners and *mudalalis* to jack-up their prices. The daily requirements of these Hotels and the foreigners ensure the need of the blackmarket and insure the high prices.

Mineral Waters — Unjustified Price Hike?

A talking point among all big Hoteliers is the sudden increase imposed by the manufacturers of the price of a bottle of *Table water* or *Mineral water*. A bottle that until recently cost only 35 cts. will now cost Rs. 2.35. No good reason has been given for this huge increase. A 5-star hotel will now have to spend almost a Rs. one million a year for their bottled water which they offer to their hotel guests. Price control—it appears—does not apply to bottled water—although it does apply to aerated water. This is an area where the Government should act—even though it may be an area which really does not affect the common man.

Export of Bottled Water. While highlighting this increase in the price of bottled water, we hear of a proposal by a Foreign firm to bottle and export water from some of the Water Falls in the Nuwara Eliya Hatton region. The water there is so good that it can be compared to the famous bottled water for which France is so well-known. The Nuwara Eliya water, the tests reveal, can even be sold as gripe water.

Hotel charges Not in keeping with Services and Facilities offered. Another talking point in the Hotel and Tourist industry of Sri Lanka is the recent jacking-up of all hotel occupancy charges. During the past 3 years—despite much talk, plans and proposals, very few new hotels have come up in Sri Lanka (especially in Colombo). Ncr has there been—with a few exceptions—any noticeable increase in the number of rooms of existing hotels. On the other hand, all Hotels have increased their room rates and now US \$ 60.00 is the average going rate for a room in a Colombo Hotel. At today's rate of exchange, this works out to almost Rs. 1,020/—per day and this without the service charge of 10% and also without even breakfast. (Tour groups of course, get concessionary rates).

Before things get out of hand and there is a free for all in the fixing of room rates, the Tourist Board should step in and ask that sanity prevail. It is also rumoured that outstation neighbouring hotels are also under-cutting each other in the absence of minimum charges etc.

Hotel Staff and Bank Staff — Highest Paid. The other talking point—and here we mention this

not by way of criticism but as a mere comment and for the record—is that *Hotel staff and employees* in the *Banking sector* are said to be the best-off in Sri Lanka today. They are the highest paid and enjoy the best perks or fringe benefits if you only discount the Air line staff some of whom get free travel for themselves and their immediate family as part of their terms of employment.

It is said that even a peon in a Bank now gets upto Rs. 1,000/—per month with his normal overtime entitlement and any employee of a big hotel should clear at last Rs. 1,000/—a month. For instance in the *Oberoi and Inter-Continental* we are told all employees (from room boys to waiters and above and below) been a veraging at least Rs.1,700/—per month (inclusive of these service charge but exclusive of tips) for the past 2 years. This is mainly because as a general rule the service charge that is collected is pooled every month and divided equally between all employees. It is also said that dealers in motor-cycles (Yamaha, Honda, Suzuki etc.) have had their highest sales to Bank employees and Hotel staff. A knowledge of English (although not insisted upon by the State banks) appear to be a pre-condition of employment in any Hotel—so that if you want to join the “Jet-set” in our Employment Field, one must learn English, at least be able to speak it.

* * *

SOUTH KOREA

835 Loss Civic Rights

Tokyo, November 22,

The Chon Du Hwan junta Nov. 12 released a list of 811 persons who would be barred from political activities over the next seven years and eight months until June 30, 1988 for allegedly involvement in political corruption and social disturbances in the past under the “Special Law for Political Renovation.”

Almost all of the “national assembly” members are on the list, except 16 who are members of the “Legislative Council for National Security.” According to the announcement by Kim Chung So, Chairman of the “Political Renovation Committee”, 811 include 210 members of the recently dissolved “national assembly”, 254 ranking officials of ruling and opposition disbanded political parties and 347 persons on provocation for security-related offenses and others.

Former lawmakers blacklisted included 68 DRP members, 60 NDP members, and 75 of Yujonghoe who were supporters of the late dictator Pak Jung Hi. Eleven reporters sacked in the recent clean-up drive are also on the list. Kim Jong Pil, former president of the Democratic Republican Party (DRP); Kim Yong Sam, former president of the New Democratic Party (NDP); and Kim Dae Jung now on trial on sedition charges, are also on the list.

So were such prominent names as Chung Il Kwon, former “premier”; Paik Doo Chin, former “national assembly” speaker; Pak Joon Kyu, Kil Joen Shik, Shin Hyong Shik, Tae Wan Sun, and Choi Young Hee from the DRP and its sister floor group Yujong-hoe. Included from the dissolved opposition NDP were Lee Chul Seung, one-time leader of the party Shin Du Hwan and Yu Chi Song.

Former “home minister” Ku Ja Choon, former “ambassador” to Japan Kim Chun Nyom, former mayor of Seoul Kim Hyon Ok, and former KCIA director Lee Hu Rak were also on the list. Also purged were Kim Tae Hong, former President of the Journalists Association of Korea, Mrs. Kim Dae Jung, her eldest son Hon Il, the Revs. Moon Ik Hwan and Lee hee Dong. Political party members listed separately from lawmakers included 63 members of the DRP, 68 members of the NDP, 98 members of the splinter Democratic Unification Party (DUP) and 25 members of the United Socialist Party. According to the announcements, the committee initially screened a total of 7,066 people having connections with what it terms past political corruption and various social disturbances. Blacklisted persons will be banned from any political activities until the end of June, 1988. They can neither be members of parties nor run in elections for public offices.

The “Political Renovation Committee” Nov. 15 announced an additional list of 24 former politicians and “government” officials to be purged. This brought to 835 the number of persons, mostly former parliamentarians and other prominent politicians, barred until June 30, 1988 from entering “presidential” and parliamentary races or organizing or joining political parties. Among those were Kim Jong Rak, elder brother of former DRP leader Kim Jong Pil and former lawmaker Kim Chin Bong, who once was a top aide of Kim Jong Pil. Also included were former ambassador to Canada Han Byung, Ki, who is a son-in-law of the late strongman Pak Jung Hi, former finance minister Kim Yng Hwan former Seoul Mayor Yang Jaik Shik, former commerce-industry minister Lee Nak Sun, and one-time officials of the presidential office and the KCIA.

A series of extensive purification campaigns conducted by the Chon Du Hwan military junta, which include the purging of many political figures, appear aimed at allowing Chon to set up an infrastructure enabling him to run south Korea unchallenged until at least 1988. The aim of this sweeping purge is clearly in uprooting any source of future trouble in his plan to perpetuate himself in dictatorial power.

An immediate objective is to punish both parties to the struggle between Pak Jung Hi and his followers and the democratic forces in a bid to portray him as neutral and clean, although he is a loyal disciple of the late strongman. By purging the long-time associates of the notorious “yusin” regime Chon tries to appease the smoldering grievances of the people; and by eliminating the democrats, he is determined to please those domestic and foreign interests fearful that revival of democracy would harm them.

A seven-year-and-eight-month ban on their political activities means that they will be unable to be involved at least in two "presidential" elections, each coming at every seven years, the first slated for next year—in short, a 14-year purge. This ban will guarantee an unchallenged victory for Chon in the two "presidential" elections if nothing happens until then.

The latest charge means that at least a similar number of people must come in to fill their jobs of the purged, forming a strong power base for Chon—a new inner circle.

Both Syngman Rhee and Pak Jung Hi resorted to all conceivable bloody and clever means to remain in power and suppress democratic Opposition, only to meet the miserable ruin. The same will be the lot of Chon.
—Peoples Korea, Tokyo

PARTIAL LIST

Disqualified Notables

The following is the list of prominent persons on the list of 811 whose political activities will be banned for nearly eight years unless their cases are reviewed and reversed—Ed.

Kim Jong-pil, former president of the DRP; **Kim Young-sam**, former president of the NDP; **Kim Dae-jung**, former opposition politician; **Chung Il-kwon**, former National Assembly speaker; **Koh Heung-m**, former National Assembly vice speaker; **Rhee Hyo-sang**, former National Assembly speaker; **Park Joon-kyu**, former DRP chairman; **Lee Chul-seung**, former NDP president; **Paik Too-chin**, former National Assembly speaker; **Chol Young-hee**, former Yujong-hoe chairman; **Tae Wan-son**, former Yujong-hoe Chairman; **Lee Hu-rak**, former National Assembly member; **Lee Min-woo**, former acting NDP president; **Hwang Nak-joo**, former NDP floor leader; **Kim Yong-ho**, former DRP floor leader; **Choi Young-choul**, former DRP spokesman; **Park Kwon-heom**, former NDP spokesman; **Yang Chan-woo**, former DRP secretary general; **Park Han-sang**, former NDP secretary general; **Lee Tong-won**, former chairman of the National Assembly Foreign Affairs Committee; **Dong Hoon**, former assistant to the DRP president; **Moon Poo-shik**, former editor of the "Democratic Front"; **Min Byung-kwon**, former assistant to the DRP president; **Chun Ye-yong**, former acting DRP chairman; **Koo Ja-choon**, former minister of home affairs; **Kim Chung-yum**, former Presidential secretary general; **Kim Tae-hong**, former chairman of the Journalists' Association of Korea; **Kim Hyon-ok**, former minister of home affairs; **Mun Ik-hwan**, Presbyterian minister; **Suh Nam-dong**, former Yonsei University professor; **Song Kun-ho**, former managing editor of the Dong-A Ilbo; **Lee Sae-ho**, former Army chief of staff; **Lim Sung-nee**, former chancellor of Choongang University; **O Won-chol**, formerly a senior Presidential secretary; **Mrs. Lee Hee-ho**, wife of Kim Dae-jung; **Han Wan-sang**, former professor Seoul National University; **Kim Chi-yol**, former minister of home affairs; **Ko**

Jae-il, former minister of construction; **Kang Chang-sung**, former director of the Korea Maritime and Port Administration.



Govt.

Notices

The Land Acquisition Act (Cap. 460) As Amended By The Land Acquisition (Amendment) Act, No. 28 Of 1964

Notice Under Section 7.

Ref. No. 3/61/207
J. 76 L. 860

It is intended to acquire the Land/Lands described in the Schedule below. For further particulars please see Government Gazette No. 119 of 12-12-80 (Part III).

Schedule

Name of Village etc.:— Metiyagane village in Udukaha West Korale, Dambadeni Hatpatuwa West D.R.O's Division, Kurunegala District.

Name of Land:— Getaowita Watta, Mahawewa Kumbura, Mahawewa Kumbura and Mahawewa kumbure Pillewa, Iriyagolla Watta, Fiscal Watta, Mahakumbure Pillewa, Kahatagahakotuwa.

Plan and Lot No.:— Lot Nos. 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128 and 129 in Supplement No. 9 in F.V.P. 239.

H. M. W. Chandraratna

The Kachcheri, Kurunegala. District Land Officer,
25th Nov. 1980 Kurunegala District.

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

Ref. No. 3/69/21
J. 76 LH. 628

It is intended to acquire the Land/Lands described in the Schedule below. For further particulars please see Government Gazette No. 119 of 12-12-80 (part III).

Schedule

Name of village etc.:— Piduma village in Yatikaha Korale South, Kuliypitiya D.R.O.'s Division, Kurunegala District, North Western Province.

Name of Land:— Maxiwatta alias Paragahapitiya Watta

Plan and Lot No.:— Lot No. 200 in F.V.P. 1948

H. M. W. Chandraratna

The Kachcheri, Kurunegala. District Land Officer,
25th November, 1980. Kurunegala District.

MOENJODARO

Saving A Unique Civilisation From A Second Death

by A. B. Rajput

Mr. A. B. Rajput, formerly Curator, Delhi Museum of Archaeology in India, and Director of Films and Publications in Pakistan, has been closely associated with research and writing in the fields of archaeology and social anthropology in Pakistan.

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MOENJODARO is undoubtedly a part of the human heritage and the point to emphasise is that no attempt has so far been made to launch an effective "Save Moenjodaro" campaign for mobilizing national effort and resources.

Therefore, if nothing is done to save it immediately, all excavated remains of Moenjodaro will crumble down, and one of the most unique examples of the heritage of mankind will be lost for ever.

ONE of the most sensational discoveries which belied all existing theories about the prehistoric past of the Asian sub-Continent was made in 1922 at an obscure spot located along the old bed of the Indus in the heart of Pakistan.

Known locally as MOENJODARO, or the 'CITY OF THE DEAD', the place yielded to the archaeologist's spade unique remains of a highly developed civilisation centred around the two metropolitan towns of Moenjodaro in the Larkana district of Sind, about 260 miles north of Karachi, and Harappa in the Sahiwal district of the Punjab, interspersed by numerous smaller settlements along the Indus and in the adjoining Baluchistan and Bahawalpur areas. The standard of urban life and opulence achieved by these bygone people of the Indus Valley, gave ample proof of a civilisation which had for all intents and purposes achieved its zenith of cultural and economic progress as far back as 3,000 years before the birth of Christ.

Fifty years later, it was at the same site that on 23rd February, 1973, a group of distinguished archaeologists from all over the world gathered together to exert their collective wisdom to save these priceless remains from impending destruction. A seminar was organised by UNESCO which drew up a 13-million dollar plan to save this unique legacy of ancient civilisation from the ravages of the Indus and the perennial floods. The occasion was also the fiftieth anniversary of the discovery of Moenjodaro.

Moenjodaro—the most spectacular of ancient cities of the world—once kissed by the mighty Indus, raises its hoary head today above the surrounding desert waste and proclaims its past splendour with the tongue of the scorching Sind simooms. It seems to have passed through several stages of construction and destruction for seven

layers of the city structures, one upon the other, have so far been traced. But through these changes is maintained the continuity of one and the same civilisation.

GREAT BATH: "Efficiency", wrote Sir Mortimer Wheeler—who was responsible for conducting the major excavation work at Moenjodaro after Sir John Marshall in the early fifties, "is the word which should sum up visitor's impressions when he goes round the excavated ruins of the town. He may miss the fortifications that run round the place but his eyes will at once catch the raised up mound in front, the height of which indicates the position of dignity and rank of the people who lived there." This is the location of the citadel, massively fortified with a thick wall of mud-brick, 40 feet wide, but tapering upwards to a height of 30 or 40 feet, and faced on the outside by a skin of baked brick to protect it from the rains. The building level of the citadel within the walls is raised 30 feet above the plain by an artificial platform of mud-brick-and-earth—a device of safety from river inundation quite common in those days. Here one finds the Great Bath, the nucleus of which is formed by a tank 30 feet by 23 feet, with bitumen-covered brick walls and flooring. It is provided with steps leading down to the water, a promenade and compartments for the bathers. Ingenious arrangements for filling and emptying the tank are also provided. The Great Bath, no doubt, was meant for some noble ceremony now less known than imagined.

One may also witness a large pillared hall close by where people assembled either for worship or for participation in some social or political function. The cloistered court next to it perhaps served a similar purpose. These and other remains of the citadel bespeak of the nobility that had the privilege of living there.

From the citadel one views down below the settlement of the town proper. A broad street, some 33 feet wide, lined with rows of shops, runs straight for a mile. Cross-roads, cutting at right angles, divide the town into great oblong blocks, each 400 yards in length and 200 or 300 yards in width.

The buildings are, as today, of the courtyard plan built of burnt brick set in mud mortar. The bricks are of the large modern size. No stone is used, and the absence of any kind of ornamentation is conspicuous. But every building is provided with a bath-room, connected with drains leading the dirty water and refuse into the soak-pit. Along the streets run the covered drains that were kept clean and tidy: an arrangement which gives credit to the municipal efficiency of the town.

THE TOWN, Inside the town, one meets with a number of objects of antiquity that are now on display in the museum at the site. One can witness a pile of human skeletons—obviously speaking of mass murder, or some serious catastrophe like a flood or earthquake. Among these dead persons four distinct racial types have been identified. They were all inhabitants of this town, perhaps merchants or landlords.

Wheat and barley, which formed the staple diet of the people, have been found in Moenjodaro. Cotton

was the main cash crop. Meat was in plenty, while fish was obtained from the river or the sea and abundantly eaten. Other articles of trade were shell-fish, wool and a variety of precious stones. Among the animals, the people of the area had domesticated the elephant, camel and ox for their service, but they did not as yet know the horse. Wheeled cart was the chief means of transport on the land, while boats plied in the rivers and the sea.

The weapons of warfare comprised axes, daggers, bows and arrows, and spears of bronze and copper, but none of iron. Obviously, they had a knowledge of copper-bronze technology, since during this age only bronze and copper, and a few stone implements, were in use. Hence this period is technically called the Chalcolithic Age.

PEOPLE. The people of Moenjodaro had a distinctive dress. Of the men, the poorer classes wore only a loin-cloth. The priests and officials of high rank dressed themselves in embroidered cloaks. Many of them wore beards and the seniors shaved the upper lip.

The women usually wore a short skirt held by a girdle adorned with beads. The body was bare above the waist save for necklaces of clay, stone beads, blue faience, green jadite, or even of gold. The ladies of rank and fashion wore fan-shaped head-dress.

Apart from dress and objects of ornamentation, great artistic skill of the Moenjodaro people can be seen in the seals of various sizes made of steatite, stone or French chalk. These seals bear exquisite engravings of animal like the humped bull, unicorn, tiger, elephant and rhinoceros. Some of them also depict mythological figures and illustrate lesser known feats of heroes. The engravings are a proof of highly developed artistic skill of the Moenjodaro people.

Potter's craft was also developed to a remarkable level, and specially their production of painted pottery speaks highly of their achievement.

SEALS: The precise use of the seals is unknown, but the fact that they are perforated at the back, suggests their being worn round the neck on a string. If the legends inscribed on these seals could be deciphered, their use would have become clear, but this is still the greatest enigma of this Civilization.

But there are certain seals which are no doubt of religious character. One such seal shows a *Pipal* tree in front of which a worshipper is kneeling down with a composite animal figure beside him and a row of men following behind. Again, there is a seal with a unicorn coming out of the trunk of a *Pipal* tree. In another seal a snake is shown being worshipped by a man. But the most remarkable is the one in which a human figure is shown surrounded by wild animals. The man is three-faced and is seated on his heels with knees apart, wearing a three-pronged head-dress. His eyes are half closed, as if in a trance, looking to the tip of the nose. The whole posture suggests a Yogic *asana* (pose) of the later day and as such this representation may be the forerunner of the Hindu god Siva.

RELIGION: Some idea of the religious beliefs is also gleaned from the clay toys and figurines found at Moenjodaro and Harappa. Among them we find little statuettes with folded hands. From the find of conical and round objects, phallus worship had also been surmised. But the most prolific are the figurines of Mother-goddess, the worship of which was very common among people of the ancient civilisations all over the world.

This complex civilisation, as represented by the city of Moenjodaro, flourished before the advent of the Aryan in the sub-Continent, and the evidence so far available shows that some time about the middle of the second millennium B.C., it came to a sudden end. This was also the time when the Aryans were pouring into Pakistan in several waves of invasions.

Moenjodaro still presents an enigma for the archaeologist and the historian, because nothing is yet known about the identity of its inhabitants, their language, or the origin of their highly developed culture which extended from the foot-hills of the Himalayas and the Hindukush in the north and west respectively, to the Thar Desert in the east and the Arabian Sea coast in the south for well over a thousand years.

GRAVE THREAT TO MOENJODARO. This premier site of the Indus Valley Civilization is gravely threatened by the ravages of the perennial floods, the ever changing course of the Indus, the continuously rising level of the sub-soil water, and the high content of salt in this area. This was, in fact, the subject of immediate attention for the world of archaeology at the Pakistan Government's initiative to hold a Seminar in 1973 under the auspices of UNESCO at Moenjodaro.

The Master Plan for Moenjodaro, drawn up with the assistance of UNESCO experts was prepared by the Pakistan authorities in August, 1973, at an estimated cost of US \$7.5 million.

The Plan included:—

- (i) Lowering of the water-table by a system of tube-wells, in order to avoid the continuous decay of the structures by the mineral salts in underground water coming up by capillary action.
- (ii) Control of the Indus river by the construction of spurs and connecting shanks to prevent erosion of the site by the river.
- (iii) Plantation of salt-tolerant plants and bushes for de-salinisation of the area, and landscaping.
- (iv) Conservation of structural remains of the site.

The Plan, like other UNESCO projects to preserve important sites of historic and cultural value, was revised and cleared by the ECNEC (Executive Committee of National Economic Council) of Pakistan Government. The revised plan is now to cost approximately US \$14 million for the first phase of the Master Plan, of which Pakistan will share the expenses to the extent of 1/3, while 2/3 of this will have to be shared by UNESCO.

POOR RESPONSE. The position of funds so far received by UNESCO for the 'Save Moenjodaro' campaign, has been quite disappointing. The total inter-

national contributions thus collected make only a modest sum of \$1.2 million, of which the UNESCO has agreed to release a meagre sum of \$0.4 million for the year 1980-81.

The work for the conservation and sub-soil water control at Moenjodaro has already been taken up on the basis of the funds available to the Authority. In this connection the Pakistan Department of Archaeology has done conservation work of the main structures during the last two years at a cost of Rs. 7 million (\$700,000), and the Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) has undertaken construction of disposal lines for the underground water at a cost of another Rs. 7 million (\$700,000) from out of the funds placed by the Pakistan Government at the disposal of the "Authority for the Preservation of Moenjodaro" a Government-sponsored independent body with headquarters in Karachi.

The work of boring of a number of tube wells around the site, according to the Master Plan, will be taken up in hand within the coming six months.

In any case, the work has to continue according to the Plan since some of the significant and important portions of the city have already been lost for ever. However, if nothing is done now to save it immediately, all excavated remains of Moenjodaro will crumble, and one of the most unique examples of the heritage of mankind will be lost for ever.

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KAMPUCHEA

On The Road To Recovery

By Bernard Melunsky

Bangkok, November 20,

Though some Kampuchean might be surprised to hear it, the international organisations that launched an operation to rescue the country from starvation decided the emergency is over. Subject to assessments of the likely overall food deficit for 1981 and to the agreement of major aid donor countries, the aid agencies will reduce their aid programmes, relief sources say. The agencies are the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). The possibility of ending an emergency aid programme and replacing it with more normal development aid stems from the general view of relief officials that the country has made the jump from catastrophe to the bottom rungs of recovery.

Last year, great chunks of Kampuchea were struck by famine. This year, aid from the international organisations and other sources including the Soviet Union as well as Kampuchean resourcefulness kept the bulk of the population from starving. Kampucheans survived the long months after the skimpy mid-year harvest by living on other foods—manioc, maize, sweet potatoes, beans, fruits, fish and even leaves and roots.

What happens from now on depends largely on the results of the main end-of-year rice harvest—planted with an influx of over 70,000 tons of rice seed brought into the country as part of the relief effort. A special team from the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) is currently touring Kampuchea to assess the likely harvest and estimate the overall food deficit for 1981. The deficit should amount to between 50,000 and 300,000 tons, relief sources say. So curiously, if the second figure proves correct and Kampuchea is sent enough rice to bridge the gap, it will have to receive more than the 250,000 tons pushed in by the joint ICRC-UNICEF emergency operation this year.

Nevertheless, there is general optimism—stemming both from indications of Phnom Penh Government policy and from reports that serious malnutrition has become fairly rare in Kampuchea. Relief sources predict that some Kampuchean provinces, will produce surpluses. Transferring the surpluses to deficit provinces is a logistics headache but one that can be overcome. The sources also believe that the Phnom Penh authorities have decided to repeat what they did last year and allow farmers to keep the bulk of their harvests for eating.

If a reasonable harvest is achieved, then sources are hopeful that the rice diets of most people will rise from the present bare subsistence levels. However, even at these levels Kampucheans have survived in much better shape than the world feared. —Reuter

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LONDON LETTER

● IMF's Loan To Pakistan

● Iraq-Iran War

London, November 26,

The IMF has granted the biggest loan ever made available to a developing country to Pakistan—amounting to 1,268 billion SDRs, i.e., about \$ 1.7 billion. It is a three-year arrangement described as a "medium-term balance of payment support for structural adjustment to Pakistan's economy". This loan is 445 percent of Pakistan's quota of 285 million SDRs. This grant came on the heels of 1,250 billion SDR arrangement for the same purpose to Turkey. There is not the slightest doubt that strings are attached to both loans—through the IMF device of "conditionalities" some of which Pakistan has faithfully followed ever since General Zia ul-Haq assumed power three years ago.

A commentator has stated: "Pakistan now joins Sri Lanka in the South Asian region in allowing the IMF a freer hand in influencing domestic politics. Apart from the specific objective of spurring the present some economic course of a country in a vital strategic region during a highly uncertain period, the Fund evidently expects this set of inter-related policies to

serve as some sort of model. The new kinds of pressures that will probably be applied to countries in a vulnerable economic situation and saddled with serious balance of payments problems cannot go unnoticed or unfelt in the rest of the Third World. The ingredients of the package favoured by the IMF are now fairly well recognised—a relatively untrammelled development of the private sector, a more open attitude to foreign capital, a tireless emphasis on exports and fiscal 'discipline' which essentially means a slashing of social programmes representing concessions to the needy (such as urban food subsidies or broadened health care) that are considered "inefficient".....".

This loan to Pakistan is undoubtedly a reward for services rendered to Western policies in regard to Afghanistan and also for acting as a check on India. Pakistan has also co-ordinated the efforts to streamline the Islamic "arc of crisis" against the Soviet Union. It has also further extended its co-operation with China against the Soviet Union and India.

The Iran-Iraq conflict, however, has created problems for the Islamic world and Pakistan. The Islamic perceptions about this conflict appear to be different from what the West and China seem to feel. According to diplomatic and newspaper circles here in London, Washington and Peking regard the Iran-Iraq conflict as a "positive factor" in the overall long-term perspectives in the Persian Gulf. There is also not the slightest doubt that they feel that the prolongation of the war is to their advantage.

Chinese analysts have pointed out: (1) that the Iran-Iraq war will ultimately weaken the Khomeini regime which has not been favourably disposed to Peking; (2) that this war will help the US to strengthen its foothold in the region and thereby counterbalance Soviet influence in the Arab world; and (3) that as a result of the Gulf War, Western countries and Japan will become interested in intensification of exploration and extraction of oil in China to find new sources of additional supplies of oil.

Commentators have also pointed out that during a recent trip to the US, Chinese deputy Prime Minister Bo Yibo and also during the visit to China of the US Under-Secretary of Defence for Research and Engineering William Perry, the Iran-Iraq war was believed to be one of the main items for discussion. It is said that there was mutuality in the understanding of the situation that stemmed from the continued prolongation of the war. Such prolongation was obviously to the advantage of the geo-strategic imperatives of the USA and China. It is for this reason that Pakistani circles in London say that China has secretly funnelled arms to Iran through Pakistan. It is suggested that this would help to ease the existing tension between Iran and China and help to placate Khomeini and prepare the ground for a Chinese-Iranian rapprochement. How far all these moves will succeed in winning over Khomeini or the Islamic fundamentalists to the West and/or China is hard to say, but there is not the slightest doubt that Washington has decided on having a US

permanent military presence in the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf areas.

An AFP report from Washington datelined November 25 had stated: The US must bolster its naval presence in the Indian Ocean to protect oil routes, according to John Tower, future chairman of the influential Senate Armed Forces Committee. 'I attach first priority to re-building our navy so that we will be capable of maintaining a full-time presence in the Indian Ocean without drawing down on our commitments in Europe and Asia', the Texas Republican Senator said here yesterday during a meeting with reporters. Mr. Tower said he believed the US navy needed two additional aircraft carriers, each with a normal complement of escort vessels. The navy now has 13 carriers, more than any other nation. He said Mr. Reagan's administration will strengthen the US military forces, which he said were in a state of "dangerous inferiority" to the Soviet Union.

Senator Tower, who has been widely picked up as President-elect Ronald Reagan's choice for Defence Secretary said the US at present would be unable to stop a Soviet overland invasion of Iran. But a strong US naval presence in the Indian Ocean might dissuade such an incursion."

The London magazine *Africa* has pointed out that although the Pentagon had suggested the creation of a "Fifth Fleet" it has officially not yet come to existence. But a huge fleet, two aircraft carriers included, has nevertheless been in the waters in this region from the very beginning of the Iranian crisis.

According to *Africa*, the current showing of US "muscle" cannot be considered a reaction to the Iranian and the Afghan developments, because it is known that the plans of the current US policy of intervention were drawn as early as 1977. It was then that the Pentagon had wanted the formation of a Rapid Deployment Force (RDF). It is the kingpin of the basis for the Carter doctrine, that is, the increase of the US military potential in order to spread the American influence over the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean areas. Formerly it was a matter of 110,000 US soldiers. Today the presumable strength of RDF is 300,000. Ten to twenty billion dollars is likely to be spent for RDF equipment in the coming five years.

Citing official sources, *Africa* drew attention to the fact that in conformity with its new strategy, Washington was trying to establish a "security zone" spreading from East to California. The centre of this zone, in the opinion of *Africa*, is the Diego Garcia military base on whose modernisation the Pentagon plans to spend one billion dollars. The Diego Garcia base can already service US aircraft carriers, submarines carrying polaris and poseidon missiles, and B-52 strategic bombers.

The magazine also referred to the fact that the new bases in Kenya, Somalia and Oman were another step in creating the "infrastructure" for new US strategy. The United States is likely to spend 200 million dollars on the re-equipment of these bases. In

exchange for offering its territory to US bases, Kenya will receive weapons and fighting equipment to the value of 30,000,000 dollars in 1981, while Somalia will get military credits to the sum of 45,000,000 dollars and a 127,000,000 dollar economic aid.

Also according to *Africa*, the United States has persuaded Egyptian President Anwar Sadat to agree to permit another base in Ras Bonas. Washington it is reported, has planned to spend 400 million dollars on the modernization of this base to make it a RDF springboard which will handle US aircraft and 18,000-men troops. *Africa* points out that these undertakings are part of the long-term programme of increasing the US air forces surface presence in this area. *Africa* concludes that gunboat diplomacy which Washington has made the corner-stone of its new policy, hinders the realization of the idea to make the Indian Ocean a zone of peace.

All these developments are taking place in the backdrop of the Madrid Conference on European Security. Reports (*Reuter*) indicate that the US continued to hurl new verbal attacks on the Soviet Union for its human rights record and Afghanistan intervention. "But despite the tough wording of the latest US statement, to which delegation chairman Griffin Bell drew a parallel between now and the pre-World War II situation in Europe, passions seemed to be cooling at the Madrid detente meeting. Delegates wound up their initial statements to plenary session and the conference is due to move into more detailed committee discussion next week on security matters, economic co-operation and human rights.

"In a statement, Mr. Bell rejected the Soviet contention that its human rights record and military intervention in Afghanistan were of no concern to the security conference. The argument that such matters were insignificant when weighted against the overriding importance of peace and detente had been heard 45 years ago, said the former US attorney-general in a speech issued to the press. The answers given then, as now, was that human rights and the sovereignty of States didn't really matter. But it turned out they did matter, a great deal. Must we relive those historical experiences in order to learn from them, he asked. While Mr. Bell voiced some harsh criticism, he did not go as far as his delegation co-chairman Max Kampelman, who on Monday said the United States was being forced back to a programme of rearmament because the Kremlin had endangered detente. He said the United States hoped forward movement could be achieved on detente at the Madrid meeting but added: in the current international climate not much in the way of new growth can be expected."

In the meantime, the Labour Party, under the leadership of Michael Foot has started a vigorous campaign to debunk the policies and programmes of the Thatcher government. How far he will succeed in mobilising the growing discontent in the country into a national upsurge against the Conservative government is yet to be seen.

Tribune Correspondent.

JOURNEY TO INDIA—6

by S. P. Amarasingam

Airbus To Delhi

The plane to Delhi (on Wednesday, September 3), was an Airbus. This was the first time I had travelled on a wide-bodied jet. I enjoyed the trip, because apart from anything else, the seat was comfortable with enough room to stretch my legs. The flight was via Hyderabad where there was a halt of half an hour. I did not leave the plane, but took the opportunity to do more reading.

I made a few notes about the role of international news agencies. It was one of the topics for discussion at the conference on the MacBride Report. Rosemary Righter (a development correspondent for the *Sunday Times* of London) had further pointed out: "The Western perspective also distorts by employing a cultural shorthand that irritates Third World readers, who find their governments too easily labeled Marxist or Right-wing, their one-party political systems dismissed as dictatorships, and organised liberation movements simply called terrorist. Most foreign correspondents tend to look for the same handful of news sources or to find the same problems in several countries that have little in common. Also, the concept of neutral reporting has its drawbacks. Between the pressures of the market and the emphasis on fact, there is a strong temptation to stick to stories that can be cleanly pegged to particular events. Much Third World news simply does not fall into this familiar category.

"To the structural and stylistic problems of cultural bias are added sins of commission and omission. The Western press is accused of concentrating on coups, disasters, and shallow political reporting. In doing so, it neglects the overriding concerns of the developing countries; poverty, illiteracy, rapid population growth, and the lack of investment resources. When Western journalists do cover these issues, critics charge, they judge success or failure in Western, market-oriented terms. Furthermore, foreign correspondents allegedly distort the news by emphasizing irrelevant detail, by ignoring context, or by deliberately focusing on the failures of societies that are following development strategies contrary to Western capitalist interests. As Gerald Long of *Reuters* explains it, 'the prevalent school of journalism throughout the world is a journalism of exception. In other words, you don't report that everything is fine in Pakistan today. You report that there has been an air crash'. Foreign coverage is expensive, and no agency consistently covers all regions. However, a story that is factually correct can still seriously distort the image of a country, if it is the only story to have appeared on the international wires in weeks. There is no equivalent of 'community news' to balance it.

"That the agencies take the brunt of these criticisms is unfair, for little of the social and economic material they provide is used in Western newspapers. The

national press of any country is parochial. Worldwide, only a quarter of the total space available is devoted to foreign news. "If Third World demands centered only on more access for their own views to the world market, much could be done to make the international news flow more reciprocal without sacrificing the principles of freedom of expression. But those principles are themselves under hostile scrutiny. A growing number of governments have come to look on the media as development tools, which should properly be controlled by the state. In the name of a number of concepts that ironically originate in the West—national sovereignty, self-determination, national identity—governments are demanding the right to exercise sovereignty over information, internationally as well as nationally, Chen Chimutengwende, a Rhodesian journalist who works in London, outlined this position: 'We must have planned development, and the role of the media has to be planned too. Its role must be strictly defined for maximum contribution to development. A nation in a hurry to develop is like a nation in a state of emergency; freedom to criticize must be restricted by government according to its priorities. And our priorities are collective rights and the well being of the nation as a whole, not the individual human rights you cherish so much here.....'

WHAT SHE SAID is not new, but coming as it did from someone in the Western world, it lent credibility to what many of us had felt and said for a long time. She had gone on to say: "Third world resentments—often exaggerated, often prejudiced, and seldom backed up by a convincing array of cases—are nevertheless too well-founded to be dismissed. The developing countries are demanding not only more sympathetic reporting of their affairs by others, but an independent voice as well. The principal forums for these political arguments have been the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and the non-aligned movement...."

This brought the problem straight to the UNESCO which had interested itself in the matter from the year 1970. And in addition to the UNESCO the non-aligned movement also picked it up. I had with me a sheaf of papers of what the UNESCO had done from 1970 right up to the publication of the MacBride Report and also all the resolutions adopted by the Non-aligned Movement.

But before the conference on the MacBride Report, CHOGRM—2 was on my hands and on my mind. This summit was due to begin the next morning September 4, at 10 a.m. The Madras dailies on the plane had interesting pieces about this meeting, but one piece in the *Indian Express* caught my eye. It was entitled JRJ: NO TAMIL PROBLEM. It was datelined Bombay, September 2, and was by Dom Moraes. The enterprising young journalist had succeeded in getting an interview yesterday afternoon shortly after President Jayewardene had landed in Bombay. It was an interesting piece and it merits reproduction: "This afternoon, the President of Sri Lanka, Mr. J. R. Jayewardene swept up to the Oberoi Towers in Bombay in a cavalcade of cars. Mr. Jayewardene is in the City until Wednesday afternoon,

when he will leave for New Delhi to attend the conference of Commonwealth Prime Ministers between September 4 and 8. When I saw him at the presidential suite at the Hotel, looking over the Arabian Sea on the one hand and the highrise ghettos of Bombay on the other, he looked even sprucer and fitter than he had looked when I saw him last year in Colombo, and he was then 73. He does, he informed me in Colombo, exercises designed by the Canadian Army to keep fit, for about half-an-hour after he rises at 6 a.m. every day. They certainly seem to work.

"Mr. Jayewardene has not been to Bombay since 1969. 'The City has changed,' he said. I asked him if this was, in his opinion, for the better or the worse. 'I don't know', he said rather evasively. 'I only saw it on my way in from the airport,' but it seemed to me that his kind and very wise eyes flicked a rather sad sideways look at the panorama of sea, rocks, and skyscrapers visible through the windows of the suite. But he seemed pleased to be back in India, which he last visited in order to tour Buddhist shrines in 1978. A quiet man, he is not much of a traveller; his library in Colombo, in which he used to take refuge, has now been donated to his country. 'The Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference,' Mr. Jayewardene said, 'is to discuss a number of issues which have relevance to the various countries involved; in our case, these issues involve drug smuggling and regional development. Of all that I promised the people of Sri Lanka in 1977 when I was first elected, 90 per cent has been done. Our development schemes have gone ahead, in the Mahaweli Valley project which is to fertilise the dry interior of Sri Lanka) and in other projects, at the pace we visualised. Unluckily, our economy has become, in the words of foreign experts 'overheated'. Development is going ahead, but prices are also rising sharply as a result. However, they are rising all over the world, and is not a development that has taken place purely in Sri Lanka. This is really the 10 percent of promises I have made that I have not been able to fulfill: to bring down the cost of living.'

"He paused, and in answer to a question, said in his gentle way, 'Why do you ask me about the Tamil problem in Sri Lanka? As I see it, there is no problem, and no Tamil problem. The people of the Northern and Eastern Provinces (which are mainly Tamil) complained of educational, developmental and employment hindrances from previous governments. We have implemented schemes to counteract this. According to our new Constitution, Tamil is the second language of the country. These problems are being slowly solved.' This is such a stock answer to any difficult question put to a national leader. Still Mr. Jayewardene wore such a look of paternal benevolence as he made it that I could not bring myself to gainsay him. 'As for the recent riots' he said, 'they were overpublicised. Some people made a breach in the security near the Presidential residence opposite the State Bank of India office, if you recall.' I didn't but said I did. 'Well,' said the President, 'they threw some stones. One shot hit an

MP, who was quite badly hurt. But as soon as the security came back, all of them dispersed.'

"On my way out, I stopped at the Oberoi desk to ask if Mr. Jayewardene had asked for anything special during his brief stay. 'Well' said the official I talked to, 'we've given him a super deluxe bar.' I pointed out that as far as I know, the President of Sri Lanka, a part from a few sips of white wine at lunchtime, does not drink. 'Hmm', said the official aggrieved, 'that's his lock out isn't it?'...."

Dom Moraes had made a mistake in calling the Conference a meeting of Commonwealth Prime Ministers. How the sub-editors of the *Indian Express* let this pass beats me, but it showed that sub-editorial vigilance is not what it was in the Indian papers. Specifically, the conference was Commonwealth Heads of Governments Regional Meeting (CHOGRM) of the Asia and Pacific Region. There was a formidable list of Presidents, Prime Ministers and a King to attend the meeting.

The plane touched down at Palam airport a little after 10.30 a.m. My old friend Jag Mohan was at the airport to meet me. His is a friendship that extended very nearly thirty years. I had first met Jag in 1950 or 1951 in Colombo when he had come to the emerald isle in search of love and adventure. He had a full measure of both although not in the way he had planned. He stayed in the island until 1954 working in the *Times of Ceylon*. During that time he had produced his first book of poems and he had also helped me to put together my first book *Rice And Rubber—The Story of the Ceylon-China Rubber-Rice Agreement*.

Over the years our friendship had grown. When I met him in Bombay in 1957 he was married to Sarla and had a bouncing baby girl Neelima. Then he moved to Delhi and was for many years (until 1977) was executive editor of the AICC paper *Socialist India*. Each time I have been to Delhi he was my philosopher, friend and guide.

And this time too it was the same. In spite of the distance that separated us a strange destiny has held us in a strong bond. He is one of the very few persons with whom I have maintained an unbroken correspondence. My friendship with Jag Mohan is something I must someday write about—it will be also a story of Sri Lanka and India in this contemporary era.

With Jag around I had no problems with the airport taxi-drivers. In any case, the Delhi taxi-man is an angel compared to his Madras counterpart.

Soon we were speeding into the city.

NEXT WEEK

- o TALKING POINT
—Men Who Matter
 - o CHRISTMAS STORY
—Woman, Child & Food
-

GRAMA SASTRA—31

—Scribblings On Uva Villages

by Gamiya

Ruralia Abandonata—2

"**Divide and rule**"—is the usual charge that an anti-imperialist flaunts in the face of Imperialism, and it is true that this particular ideology has had nefarious influence in the world. How sorry workers were, when they felt they had left out the peasantry. What a firm purpose of amendment the '71 youth made when they discovered to their dismay that they had left out a so-called minority group in the hill-country, and the urban proletariat and working man. Today, they have advanced because of their wholistic approach.

A good lesson for those who sincerely wish to be the *Voice of the Voiceless*. (Bulletin no 1, Aug. 1980) Some of those writing to this new magazine do have very deep sincerity, but they must have a **wholistic approach to a problem that arose from 'divide and rule'**. Here is a string of hopes:

"The aim of — is to bring a new lease of life to the people through education geared towards effective community action. Its objective is to liberate the people as a whole and each individual from economic slavery and oppression....we work towards the liberation of estate people as well as of villagers.(p.5)

Then the pious hope narrows down a little:

"the problems of the estate-workers include the following (8 problems listed) so one important service to estate workers is to make them aware of their situation" (p.5)

And then, the tongue does not lie even if the mouth is a little awry:

"50 seminars a year are scheduled....Our goal is the total liberation of the estate workers. (p.6) (all underling ours).

I have known and seen these things in operation. Their bark is stronger than their bite. A very mild form of rehabilitation and hope is given to them and the pace is slow and wonderfully non-violent and so, anyone would like it. What worries us is that the whole has become part and the totality has settled down for partiality. Listen, my good Master, Sir, unless all men are free you yourself are not truly free. Unless you fight and work and die for the bulk of the Sri Lanka population (i. e. for all its several million) a small part in the central hills will get tired of your little game and everybody else's game. Total human development for a few and 'to hell with the rest' (even if that 'rest' is the vast majority) is poor diplomacy and puerile journalism.

The surest way to liberty for the villager and estate worker is to know that many people from NEWS (north-east-west-south) wait to pounce on him, some in the name of similarity in language

and cultural patterns, others in the name of finance, still others in the name of politics.

Under whatever ticket, the oppressed—be they worker, peasant, tinker, tailor, soldier, sailor, cigar-merchant, pawn-broker of Uv.a's towns (sucking dry the little money of the estate worker), AND also of the unwary schoolboy of the estates who strays into town schools only to hear the word "maden" (gonna) from irate teachers of another home will save themselves.

Unless you have a wholistic approach, you and I will all perish. It is not SOCIO-ECONOMIC development we seek or want, it is TOTAL HUMAN development, which includes all of the whole man, and all of all men—surely not the greatest good for the greatest number, but all the good for all. USCOD? No. It should be Uva Total Development: for each for all.



LETTERS

Sir,

Daring, Defiant, Disgraceful

I think it is high time we called a halt to the escalating violence that is being meted out to the innocent people of this country, in a land which believes in: "hatreds are never appeased by hatred but by love alone" (Dhammapada). This violence is structural, planned in Colombo and in some regional headquarters.

Let me explain: I came on a Potuvil-bound bus and got down at Siyambalanda at 7 a.m. sharp and the Potuvil bus went on its way. From 7 a.m. till 1.10 p.m. there was no bus for the thirty to forty people waiting to go in the direction of Ampara. Ampara is not only the so-called town of Ampara. Am-para is a road of 35 miles, and large numbers of families live on this road from mileposts one to ten, and even up to seventeen and twenty. Side roads serve the people of Muttukandiya, Buddama, Pallewela and other villages, too numerous to mention. There were babies-in-arms, mothers-to-be, old men, peasants, young men in the prime of life. There was also a boat-owner from Potuvil with plenty of guts and bravado, defending the Government to the hilt but by 11 a.m. his enthusiasm for the vote and for power had waned sadly. When at 12.10, the Badulla depot bus dared to take a turn without stopping, the people begged of it to stop. The already harassed driver and conductor—there were milling crowds inside the bus already—stopped to say: "no more to be taken in until Ampara. Only Ampara tickets please get in". (But he had forgotten that this was Am-para the entire road must be served. It contains the backbone of the country's peasantry, whose lands are on paper, whose defiance is not over, but whose patience is limitless).

Potuvil road is full of gemmers and gemming and so many buses go that way. Potuvil buses passed Siyambalanda six times. That means, six buses from morning, but no buses to Ampara. Buses passed this important

junction to Maskeliya, to Colombo, to Badulla, two to Matara, on trade missions, marriage-missions; many traders from present Ruhuna are married to people of former Ruhuna, and there is also economic wedlock, unequal in the extreme. You can go by bus from town to town, from city to town, but try going from village to village and you are doomed. You will have to find friends or make friends so that you can pitch your tent for the night in some remote place which no gem-merchant or middleman or government official or Ministerial personnel ever reach. It's like the sun's rays on Kermadec trough. It never gets there. This is disgraceful, and is violence uninhibited against the poor countrymen (I mean people from the countryside). Why don't all you people come out and listen to the curses. Better than any set of vaskavi (cursing verses). This collective utterance-mantram-style must surely have its effect sooner or later. At the rate we feel, sooner rather than later.

To those who rant and rave, in season and out of season, that it is the "people who brought us to power and we are responsible to them", we say that they seem to have forgotten that Democracy is a process, a constant reference to the people who are the Power. People means power. In fact ugly scribbling-over in Colombo and elsewhere must be responsible for the change of name of *Siyambalanda* (Government of the People) to a highly emasculated, drooping name called *Siyambalanda*, tamarind government! This is dictionary imperialism. Even *Obbekotuwa* (Fort opposite the armies) has been quietly changed by central planning, to *Obbegoda*. This seems quiet calming, no-trouble, but conscience pricks when the People who are the power are left aside in the democratic process. The election is not a once-for-all, done-and-finished thing *in facto esse* as the Latins would have it. It is *in fieri*, thing, a process. Otherwise there is no meaning to referendums and plebiscites.

No one likes violence, especially this type of violence, unthinkingly, perpetrated on the rank and file of the people of the country in village, estate and other less favoured areas.

A leader in the government has his face plastered all over: the plaster, with the words: "build the village to build the country". Not enough. Both processes must go together: "build the country to build the village, and build the village to build the country". That is a fuller truth. Of what use is it to have all you want in the City, when a sop to Cerberus is given to a few villages, and whole hordes of them, violently and systematically left aside in the reckoning, as I saw for myself that day on Ampara when about 18 youths, a few mothers and old men came around me (they thought I was a teacher because of my spectacles) and said: "You must help us: please write and we will sign a letter. This is not unusual. Please do write. See, this baby has to be taken home early from hospital, and how can I walk to the 7th mile post in this blazing heat?"

She described beautifully the actual set up of officialdom: "*Owuntahithak papuwak na*"—they have no

heart, no soul, no mind. She had not realised that in many cases, it had descended very low: "headquarters, in the saddle".

A bus every half hour, or every hour from Siya-bal-anduwa (look up the oldest maps and you will see this) to the tenth or twelfth mile post will be of immense help. After all, these are also people, as much as (or may be even more) than the huddled thousands in Colombo and attempting if even for a brief while to enjoy all life's amenities in one single stroke, while the going is good, for they know that we are notorious for changing pillows for a headache.

Side show: the cadjan shed of a "Siyambal-anduwa" eating house had never seen a price control man. One bunch of *thambili*, and it was sold for these prices each: 3/50, 2/00, 2/75, 2/50 all from the same bunch, and all the same size. No Health Inspector ever sees the large, filthy bins at the entrance, with dirty water, and no one sees the jug of enamelware (unwashed) that descends into it for water "to make tea"... and no wonder the hospital is half full of sick babies and sick workmen who come to slake their thirst? Disgraceful.

Michael Rodrigo

Sevaka Sevana,
Bandarawela.
4th November 1980.

—O—

Sir,

Place Of English

There is a great deal of substance in the request for making English a medium of studies in Sri Lanka — re-introducing it in a manner, that was in vogue earlier. Trial has been given already to the system of having Sinhala and Tamil as media of studies and the country has had sufficient experience of the results. It would be now reasonable, fair, and practical, to give the people and the student population the alternative benefit of having, at their option, in the future, the opportunity of utilising any of the three languages, Sinhala, Tamil or English as the medium of instruction. Nothing is lost by giving such an option. It cannot be denied that there is a feeling that English could be restored as a medium of instruction. It is harmless if people are given the option, without making any particular medium as such compulsory for the entire scheme of studies in the curriculum. It is best as far as possible to avoid any element of compulsion in any matter at this stage of our national evolution. This arrangement for option could be tried for some time, at least till the next Parliamentary General Election. Such a procedure will be in keeping with the ideals of Democracy, and the real and permanent needs of the people and their welfare in the fullest manner.

It may be mentioned when considering the use of commercial, medical, industrial and other material purposes, but it is also of equally great benefit for religious and cultural purposes and to facilitate international

contacts in every direction which is an indispensable requisite of contemporary human existence.

It is further submitted that English could well be made one of the official languages of the country as a supplementary and complementary manner with many beneficial results to the individual, to the nation and to the entire world community. Such provision could jointly serve very well the cause of individual national and world welfare to promote which we as individuals and as a country are morally and otherwise obliged.

S. Sivasubramaniam,

103/2, Hultsdorf Street,
Colombo 12,
10th November 1980.

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Sir,

ISRAEL

As an Israeli, I was very glad to read your article, "Israel prospered" by Mr. V. Buvanandaram (October 4, 1980 AIR MAIL Edition), dealing with one of the many scientific progresses that Israel has made. For many years Israel helped other Third World countries to enjoy her scientific development, till those countries under heavy Arab pressure cut their relationships with Israel. I hope that Sri Lanka will start a new era of cooperation with Israel.

On the other hand, I, as a Jew, felt very upset to see that the author repeated an old and false accusation: that the Jews killed Jesus. A more accurate look at historic facts will prove to you that Jesus was killed by the Roman Empire, by the decision of Pontius Pilatus the Roman Governor of the Land of Israel (called by the Romans, Palestine); and the crucifixion carried out by the Roman soldiers occupying the Land of Israel and oppressing the Jews. In the 1960s even the Roman Catholic Church, which for many centuries made official such accusations did declare them false and not based on what the Bible states.

Ruban Gajer

Department of Civil Engg.,
University of British Columbia,
Vancouver, Canada V6T 1W 5.
October 27, 1980.

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NEXT WEEK

- o MAHAWELI—A Review
by R. Kahawita
 - o THE EARTHWORM—Its Importance
-

Bamboos And Ghosts

by **Bwana Rafiki**

The Lunumidella tree cost over Rs. 2000/ to saw up and the planks Rs. 375/- to transport and as they were 1/2 inch thick their transport required no permit. The planks are for building rowing boats. The man who bought the bamboos turned up and was handed the two letters for the local government officials who had not issued him a permit. He was hoping to have the bamboos removed the same day. I went with the Lunumidella to Colombo and took with me king coconuts and an old photograph which my sister wants copied. I dropped in at the Slave Island church, that most hidden, though visible of churches.

When I arrived back on the estate I was greeted with the news that the three hundred bamboos which were needed for building had not been removed after all. The senior of the two local government officials had been sticky about the permit. So it was back to district headquarters to ask for another directive, our second, and I had with me this time the man who had bought the bamboos. The cardinal factor was that the bamboos had been cut and if left on the estate would rot. I found that my five yards of firewood had been sold. Firewood is cut into pieces a yard long and stacked a yard high and each yard of this is called, in Sinhalese, a cube, which I suppose must stand for a cubic yard.

Once again I have jumped the gun as regards dates. It was on Monday that I received a letter informing me of the Visiting Agent's coming visit on Friday. Tuesday was a holiday *poya*. On Wednesday, as I have related, I had to go to district headquarters about the bamboos I had sold and I did not get to Colombo until the banks were shut. That night I returned to the estate in expectation of the pick starting on Thursday. As not enough pickers had turned up, it was postponed to Friday but one thing and another delayed me getting to Colombo again until after the banks closed. Tomorrow, I shall have to get the money for the advances and for the coming week and return to the estate half-way through the V.A's visit and the start of the pick.

We have taken on a new hand who will be resident, and he arrived with his family. This has required a shift around, the factor moving to one half of a larger house, and the new family taking over his. The man says he can milk, but I do not want to put him in the dairy section just yet. He bears a Burgher name but he also uses a Sinhalese one, and the name we call him by is distinctly Irish. We seem to have a haunted house on the estate. The family that occupied it earlier bore with the noise and the ghostly activity, but the man was a milker and did not leave his wife until 4 a.m. The present occupier of the house has to be away from his wife pretty well the whole night and he says his wife is terrified.

Well, I hope I have settled the matter of the haunted house by sprinkling holy, that is blessed, water all over

it within and without, and by remembering to offer up my own Mass and Holy Communion for the man who died in it over three years ago, and giving a Roman Catholic priest an offering for another Mass to be said for the repose of the man's soul. I also arranged for the woman in the nearest house to that to sleep there with her child so as to allay the other woman's fears for a night or two and so restore her confidence as well as give her some rest. It was a tactic I adopted when I had to sleep for a time in a supposedly haunted room in an otherwise empty farmhouse in the north of England. I asked that my fellow farm hands be allowed to stay with me the first night.

Of this week, the last day that I write about was an exceedingly odd one. To start with I woke up with the conviction that I must take a certain man on the estate to Colombo to have a statement of his recorded beyond all shadow of doubt. Then my thoughts started to become complicated. I wanted to pay a visit first to the chief town of the district. Next I was so much in two minds as to what I should do, I could not give the man himself a straightforward answer as to where I wanted to take him. Next I was being reduced in mind to a state of futility, a vacuity complete, a despair cushioned I suppose only by what we call the theological virtue of hope. All this had interesting repercussions, a lesson, of which more another time.

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TOPICAL

Religion And Corruption

By **Rev. Dr. W. L. A Don Peter**

(From an address at the Graduation Ceremony at Aquinas College, Colombo, on 24th November 1980).

Not long ago an American professor of religion, Professor John Ros's Cartero of Colgate University, brought out a book on religion in Sri Lanka with chapters contributed by a group of Sri Lankan members of the four great religious traditions in this country—Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam and Christianity. I was invited to write the chapter on Catholicism which I did. The book was entitled *Religiousness in Sri Lanka*.

Admittedly there is a religiousness in our country which strikes especially the visitor from secularized Western society. Our traditional culture is predominantly religious, as evidenced by the remains of our ancient architecture, sculpture and painting, our classical literature, our social customs, our rites and ceremonies. Sri Lanka takes pride in being the country that has preserved Buddhism in its purest form, and preserved also the precious religious heritage of the Pali canonical scriptures. Today too there are numerous temples, mosques and churches throughout the country. Ministers of religion, in their distinctive robes, are a familiar sight. There is legal provision for the teaching of religion in schools. Religious ritual often forms part of

even civil functions. Our constitution lays down that it shall be the duty of the state to protect and foster the Buddha Sasana, while other religions are assured of their freedom. As a result of all these, there is an atmosphere of religion, a religiousness, in our society. There aren't many countries in the world where a similar religiousness prevails.

CORRUPTION IN PUBLIC LIFE. But, in spite of all that, does religion really reach our inner selves and lead us to righteous living? The ideal of a *dharmishta* society has of late been loudly placed before us. A postage stamp keeps reminding us of it all the time. But how *dharmishta* or righteous are we? Righteousness and religion go hand in hand. A religious man will surely be righteous. But the fact is that however religious our society may seem to be, righteousness is a sparse commodity among us. Would it be an exaggeration to say that our society is reeking of corruption, dishonesty and thieving of every description? Corruption has in fact become a way of life with us. Dishonesty leaves the conscience undisturbed. "I steal, you steal, he steals; all of us, high and low, big and small, steal; so why worry about it?" seems to be the way we feel about it. We have reached the stage when we no longer regard it as evil. The only evil is to get caught. We are a people blessed with intelligence, but we are also adepts at using it the wrong way to do the most crooked things. We have produced crooks of international notoriety, but we have also innumerable pocket editions of them. A few sprats may get caught now and then, but the sharks escape, and they know how to escape.

It is not infrequently that people are put to great inconvenience in getting things done especially by the public sector. It is not seldom that they must with indifference, callousness, lethargy, discourtesy and arrogance on the part of officials. The old practice of public officials referring to themselves as 'your obedient servant' has vanished and with it seemingly also the spirit of courteous and prompt service. Public officials seem to forget that they are in fact servants of the public and are being paid by the public. We meet officials who act as if they are the lords and masters and the public their servants. Rarely is a letter acknowledged today. The citizen is denied even the doubtful consolation of being informed that "the matter is receiving attention." To get a thing done effectively one has to have recourse to one of two things — influence or bribe. It is the 'open sesame' that will get a cold and indifferent official to smile and go into action, that will produce a file allegedly lost or misplaced, that will quickly cut through red tape, that will get your work done promptly without your having to come repeatedly until you give up in disgust, that will produce passes at public examinations or bring forth bogus certificates, that will get a child admitted to a school. But of course a bribe is not always called so. Bribe is a disreputable term. It has other labels, even respectful ones.

HAS RELIGION FAILED? How do you explain so much corruption in a society that professes to be religious? Has religion failed? It is not that religion has failed, but we have failed religion. We have failed to

be honest even in the practice of our religious faiths. We have not guided our lives by the religious teachings we profess. What often passes for religion is outward demonstrations of religious practice, mere ceremonial, or observance of tradition. The founders of the religions we profess will surely not approve of the way we treat their teachings. If the Buddha, Mohamed, Christ or the sages of Hinduism were to come among us, they are sure to decry so many of the things we do in the name of religion. They are sure to tell us that the success of their religious teachings is to be measured, not by the number or grandeur of the temples and churches we build or by the solemnity of our religious functions and festivals, but by the transformation religion makes in our inner lives, in other words, by the extent to which religion makes us righteous. They will certainly condemn the hypocrisy of our external show of religiousness without inner purity.

What has all this got to do with education, you might ask. As educators and educationists we have necessarily to be concerned about public morality. We educate for life, not just for rupees and cents. We want the children and youth we educate to live and grow up in a morally healthy atmosphere. It is a basic principle in educational psychology that the child is affected by its environment. Today we are much concerned about the physical environment. Special laws are being passed in some countries and great sums of money being spent by governments and international bodies to prevent environmental pollution. Shouldn't we take pains to prevent also moral pollution of the society in which our children have to grow up? Making moral education a compulsory school subject or imposing a code of ethics on schoolchildren, as is being contemplated, will seem hypocritical and is not likely to be of much benefit as long as children have to live in a society steeped in corruption.

CURBING CORRUPTION. A conscious and concerted effort will have to be made by the government, religious bodies, social workers, educators and all public-spirited men to stem the tide of corruption in our society. More stringent legislation if necessary; severe punishment of offenders, big and small, whatever their political affiliation; efforts to create a public awareness of the need to cleanse our society of corruption; vigilance and effective action on the part of those in authority to see that servants of the public serve the public honestly, promptly, impartially and courteously—these and other measures should be availed of to fight this evil. As an educator, I appeal, in the name of the young, to all who love our country to do all they can to purify the moral environment in which our future citizens are to be brought up.



Humble Bumble Bee

by Heribert Weihonig

WEST BERLIN research scientists led by Professor Randolph Menzel and Jochen Erber of the animal physiology department at the Free University have taken a fresh look at the bee. Their aim was to probe bee behaviour and ascertain the links between bees' ability to learn and remember facts and the way in which their nervous systems work. In other words, they aimed to find out which parts of a bee's brain are associated with learning and feats of memory. Bees as they fly from flower to flower prefer flowers of species. They disregard neighbouring blooms that differ in colour, shape and scent. They do even though other bees make a beeline for them. It is not as though other varieties of flower were taboo for all bees.

Aristotle, the Ancient Greek philosopher, knew in the 4th century BC that bees recognise the colour of flowers and the scent they emit. In 1910 Karl von Frish, the German entomologist, carried out simple experiments in Munich to prove bees were capable of remembering facts. He also probed the flight language of bees, pioneering work for which his name is justly famous. So the behaviour and performance of bees (in terms of sensory physiology) are well known and have been extensively researched.

Yet although everyone benefits from the bees' amazing learning ability, little is known about the way in which they accomplish their feats of learning. The Berlin team first established the degree of accuracy with which bees selected the type of flower, the nectar and pollen of which they specialised in collecting. They checked the pollen collected in the pollen sacks attached to their rear legs and discovered that it was exclusively from a single variety of flower. Per outing a bee may well ransack up to 500 blooms, yet it never makes a mistake.

BEES ARE SO RELIABLE and so easily trained to respond to certain stimuli that they are well suited for experiments of this kind. They were brought into contact once only with sugar water or some other stimulus, such as colour or an aroma, to learn more about how their nervous system works. So their behaviour did not depend on the size of the reward (unless, that is, it was below a certain threshold). A bee that was given a short reward was then tested to see how it responded to further stimulus. Immediately afterwards it proved highly accurate in judging its response.

During the following two minutes, however, accuracy declined drastically, reaching a minimum three minutes after the initial reward. Then, oddly enough, its accuracy of response gradually returned, settling down at approximately the initial level. This strange relationship between commitment to memory and time is also found in other animals and man. The events that establish a link between stimulus and reward take time to sink in. It can take seconds, minutes or hours. The process probably runs through several stages, with another part of the brain serving as the memory in each.

It is easy to imagine the facts first being registered in a sensory memory, let us say, from which they will fast disappear if there is no reinforcement, or reward. If there is reward, the data may be committed to a short-term storage facility the existence of which is indicated by the high percentage of correct decisions by the bee immediately after its reward. The temporary decline in accuracy and subsequent improvement in performance suggest a consolidation phase in which the facts are transferred to the longterm memory. Storage and evaluation of sensory perception; find expression in electrical activity by certain nerve cells in the brain.

SCIENTISTS WERE ABLE to establish the identity of these cells by measuring the electrical activity. This was no easy task even though the bee's brain consists of a "mere" 850,000 nerve cells. The first task was to find out what sections of the brain are responsible for this storage work. Bees were trained to respond to a specific stimulus. They stretched out their probosces as soon as one of their antennas came into contact with sugar water. This is a natural response. They were strapped into position in a metal tube and their antennas then sprayed with flower scent, followed by a small dose of sugar water they eagerly lapped up with their probosces. Then responded in the same way almost without exception when later sprayed with pollen that was not followed by a dash of sugar water.

So a single session, as it were, was enough to train bees to memorise the response. Field observation indicated that bees behave in the open air in much the same way as under laboratory conditions. Such experiments can also be conducted with tiny electrodes attached to the bee's brain and registering electrical activity. They reveal that most nerve cells in the part of a bee's brain where most of the memorising seems to be done are multimodal and supplied by several sensory perception systems. A cell may respond to a flash of light by reducing electrical activity, yet the same cell will step up activity in response to an antenna sensing scent.

Jochen Erber discovered that some of these multimodal neurons, or nerve cells, show a close connection between the number of training sessions and changes in response patterns. After training they step up spontaneous frequency and show greater sensitivity to scent and sugar stimuli. These findings tally with other scientists' findings in snails and molluscs. As a rule only multimodal neurons can change their responses, and Professor Menzel feels multimodality is a prerequisite for this ability. There appear, however, to be two categories of neuron, one capable of change and the other static and thus unable to be trained. This has also been ascertained in vertebrates and man. Scientists suspect it may be a major natural switchgear principle. By combining rigidity and flexibility and linking groups belonging to each category nature is felt to be capable of setting up a complex switchgear mechanism.

courtesy: German Tribune, 16/10/80

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A Prime Minister And Dairy Development

By Dr. V. Kurien

This is a continuation of the speech made by Dr. V. Kurien at the Seminar on Dairy Development at the BMICH on December 12, 1978. This is the third instalment.

So, the Co-op grew and grew and then one fine morning I had a phone call saying the Prime Minister of India wanted to come to Anand—had accepted our invitation to come to Anand to declare open our Modern Cattle Food Compounding Factory. At the time our Prime Minister was Mr. Lal Bahadur Shastri. We were very happy the Prime Minister was coming and then the Chief Minister of the State of my state—by the time Bombay State had been divided into Gujarat and Maharashtra and he said the Prime Minister is coming here but he has sent a strange request—he had sent word that he wants to spend the night in a village. Kurien, can you arrange this? You know, our Prime Minister—I do not know what your's is Sir—but our Prime Minister, after they become Prime Ministers don't spend a night in a village and this Prime Minister send this word down. I told the Chief Minister, Yes, I will, but if you are going to send 300 policemen to that village, it is no use taking him down to that village to show him a Police Camp. Then he said, no no you discuss it with the Home Minister and the discussion was that there should be no policemen there but he said security has to be satisfied—there are always mad men in any country — and so he promised that there will be no Policemen in the village but he was going to surround the village with Policemen after the Prime Minister went there and he made me promise that no one shall know the P.M. was going to a village, then he is safe because no one knows he is there.

So as the P.M.'s cavalcade came to Anand his car was diverted to a village and had arranged with a farmer that he was to receive two important foreign guests and would he cook the original Indian meal and feed them and spend the night with him and he had agreed. "Why these foreigners wanted to come—all these foreigners are mad", he said. So about an hour before the P.M. was due I went there to the village and I took with me what you call the "Collector", he is the head of the District—probably you call him District Commissioner and I gave him a sealed envelope. He opened it and said he will take the instructions. I took him to the village. He wanted to take his peon with him because he said without the peon how am I the Collector and I persuaded him not to—so I took him to the village and I told him this is where the Prime Minister is coming—you are the head of the district. You receive the P.M.....and this is the host and

I then told the farmer, Your guests are the Chief Minister of the State of Gujarat and the Indian Prime Minister whereupon he promptly broke into tears and broke down—I consoled him. I told him they are ordinary people but for the Grace of God he may have been a Prime Minister not to get worried—they are good people, just trust them and treat them as human beings. So he said O.K. Then I said, I am going back to Anand. He said, why what about you being here. I said no, my wife is at home there is a guard of honour in front of my house, there is the Minister of Agriculture waiting to receive the P.M. There are all sorts of people there, I can't leave my wife alone to face the music—I better go and hold her hand. Somebody has to tell at the right time the P.M. is not coming here and they are not going to like it. Well to cut a long story short the P.M. went to that village, he walked from hut to hut all alone, he sat down with the farmers, he was like a bird released from a cage—I feel rather sorry for Prime Ministers. He sat down with the farmers and he asked them all sorts of questions and he was moving from hut to hut, he collected a group of kids—he was in his element and at 2 o'clock in the morning he was still walking and then he is always accompanied by a doctor—he had a problem with his heart, the doctor said, Sir, I must now insist you go to bed and he was forced to go to bed at 2 o'clock in the morning.

Next day after he visited the Co-op and came to the Dairy then he was staying in my house and before he left he opened the Cattle Food Compound Factory and then he said, come here and he made me sit down and said now tell me Kurien, I have looked at your village, there are no vast pasture lands, the rainfall comes once a year for three months of a year it is not spread throughout the year, I have looked at your cattle, they are not so good, I have looked at your farmers, they are good but nothing special. Where I come from Uttara Pradesh the cattle are better but still there is nothing else—how come there is an Anand here, how come there is no Anand elsewhere in India—what is the secret? So I said to him the secret is organisation, trust in farmers, leaving it to them, guiding them, Government should guide, supervise, control, rectify but if government tries to do then it makes itself ridiculous.....Then he said to replicate Anand. You better form a separate body. Government will form a separate body Kurien, you must head it. I said I will head if it's headquarters are at Anand and that too if you are not paying my salary. I want to remain an employee of the farmers and if you will agree I will head that Institution and that is how the National Dairy Development Board of India was set up in Anand's Headquarters and I was nominated by the Prime Minister as it's First Chairman. I continue to be it's chairman, reappointed all these years and the Dairy Board now tries to replicate Anand.

Now, one more thing I must talk to you about Anand for the benefit of the Director of Agriculture/Animal Husbandry particularly. Dairy development is not putting milk in a bottle, it must be to increase the production of milk and therefore its consumption. All these cannot be done except by unified systems

where the processing and marketing sales, the input giving the Veterinary Aid, the A.I. all this is done through one organisation in a joint effort—now let me explain this in Anand. We have in Anand our Vet. Dept. of the farmers, we employ 55 graduate veterinarians in one district, we have 90 stockmen, we have 900 village first aid workers one in each village, in each village there is a first aid box and all these people are employees of the farmers of the Kaira Co-op Milk Producers Union. Once a week our Veterinarians visit the village, treat all the sick animals, free of charge, but on call 24 hours a day is our mobile Veterinary Clinics and within 4 hours of being asked, a Vet. will call at the farmer's doorstep for which he has to pay Rs. 15. If we do that free, even if the animals sneeze he will send for the Vet. So we charge Rs. 15/- though it costs us perhaps Rs. 100/- to send the Vet.

But this is not a charge on Government Exchequer. This expenditure is met with the difference what the farmer gets and what we charge the consumer and, therefore, as the quantum of milk increases, the number of Veterinarians increases and, today, we have as I said this rather large veterinary aid which treats quarter of a million cases a year. Each of our Vets—and I am not sneezing at Government efforts at all, please don't misunderstand—Each of our Vets does in one year, treats more cases in one year, than his counterpart in Government is required to do throughout his lifetime and these boys are extremely skilful, it is staggering to watch them operate. They will perform modern science at the villager's doorsteps. They are amazing people.....Then we have an Artificial Immunisation Scheme. We have 55 bulls of our own, the prime bulls, born out of artificial insemination from the champion milkers of the area and these bulls' semen is collected and taken to the villages and insemination done by the first-aid worker of the village. The charge is only Rs. 50/—.

You said about barefoot Veterinarians. Well, we have already 15 days all that it takes to train a man who knows how to read and write, how to inseminate and within 3 months he can do it as well as anyone, however much highly qualified he may be, but this is done under the supervision of our Vet. who visits once a week, he will do 1/4th of a million artificial insemination per year which is staggering. Then we have our Fodder Department, we have our Extension Department we have our village Society Supervisory Department. We have India's largest cattle feed compounding factory making 350 tons of cattle feed per day for distribution. So the whole of this is an integrated complex—all owned by farmers.



DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION

Batticaloa District—1980

By K. Kanapathipillai

THIS IS PERHAPS the first time in the administrative history of Batticaloa that the Development Information has been made available to the people of Batticaloa in a tangible form. It is therefore, nothing but fair that the Government Agent of Batticaloa has to be congratulated for this, his true endeavour. Time was when the taxpayer, the common man, was kept in the dark as regards the developmental projects handled by our colonial masters. Today attitudes have changed. The imperialistic secrecy as regards income and expenditure connected with development projects has been completely annulled. The murky cloud that once tended to overhang all Governmental activity has cleared, and now a perfectly social climate prevails over each and every development project. Since the people, as partners in a Government, have a right to remark them, to talk about them, to have a share in the State policy, to suggest ways and means of improving them, the G.A. has thought it proper to have copies of the development information posted to almost all those citizens who are or seem to be interested in it.

Having gone into it one would not fail to note that there are certain aspects of development that appear to have suffered glaring neglect, and that there are others where improvement has taken place. It would seem that observations, reasonable and just, will not be out of place here.

Irrigation: Sufficient and satisfactory work has been done and is in progress. The Rugam Scheme river division—Mundanai Aru—merits a good deal of attention to be focussed on it. As it is, the drainage and irrigation channel are one and the same; and that is the river bed. This is a very unsatisfactory state of affairs not obtaining in any advanced scheme of irrigation. There are two extremes. The flood and drought hazards should certainly be obviated. The Mundankumaraveli spill cum regulator and the permanent closure of the Kiranpulchenai river deserve immediate attention. These should have earned top priority.

Agriculture: Much work has been done: Here is one subject that must be given top priority. Belt reforestation in strips of a quarter of a mile in width right across all paddy lands is a dire necessity. This will help to improve the weather and also climate. It will improve soil fertility as well. The application of harmful fertilizers to paddy crops and to vegetable crops will definitely prove to be an environmental pollution hazard. Instead compost and farmyard manure and human waste may be processed, recycled and utilised.

Highways: Good work has been done. The people are satisfied to see the much-commented upon Valayiravu bridge taking shape. It is hoped that it will be completed by the end of 1981.

Batticaloa Town Improvement: Work in this section has two aspects: (a) Cyclone Rehabilitation and (b) Urban Development Authority Town Improvement. The UDA proposal and the project appears to have suffered an inordinate time lag.

Post and Telecommunication: Very good progress may be said to have been recorded. The new Post Office building is an architectural achievement, but for the frayed-edged glass screens of the counters. The direct dialing telephone service recently installed is a boon.

Health Services: Good progress may be noted. Batticaloa General Hospital needs the following staff: Psychiatrist, E.N.T. Surgeon, Radiologist and a fully qualified eye-surgeon. The nursing school needs a lecture hall. The new sterilization machine has not been fitted. It needs an operator.

Education: The cyclone rehabilitation work has not been completed. Only 19% of the work has been completed. The children are exposed to the slings and darts and vagaries of the weather.

Rural Development: Encouraging progress has been made. More textile centres have to be established. Thus many more women can be found employment. Hand pounding of rice to be encouraged, since this practice produces better quality rice and provides employment to women folk.

Sri Lanka Transport Board: There is tangible improvement in the transport service. Mini-buses, wagons and vans have fulfilled the need. The Central Bus Stand building is innocent of any architectural pretensions. Can't something be done to give it a face-lift?

Co-operative Development: Cyclone demolished MPCSS buildings have been repaired. A real achievement, despite the vandalistic activities of the looters so patent in the wake of the cyclone. It will be advisable to have all distribution stores converted into proper consumer co-operative societies.

National Water Supply & Drainage Board: It is high time the Batticaloa Town Water Supply scheme is put on a better serviceable base. The proposed two numbers 150,000 gals. water towers have to be completed early, lest the town water supply becomes inadequate to meet the needs of the town. Already there is a drastic cut in the water supply.

The water supply augmentation has stayed stagnant in the offing of development for several years: the days of the late premier Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike. Can't something be done to give it a push and make it take a forward step?

Land Commissioner: The youth scheme at Thumpakerni is commendable. Many more such schemes may be started.

District Population Committee: Very commendable work has been done. The Family Health Project sponsored by the central YMCA Committee is an unqualified success. The work has to continue; but funds are a

problem; and the work is in suspense. This project is a must, and the people must co-operate, failing which carking pains and stalking famine and malnutrition and child neglect will be the result. Already land-hunger has proliferated several cases of land-grabbing. Bloc surveys of existing privately owned puranic lands is a dire necessity to put an end to land disputes and encroachments on crown lands.

Animal Husbandary and Veterinary Service: It is high time that the lagoons, Kalappuwas, and Liwayas are utilized for duck, fish and prawn rearing. In this region the duck population is very low and needs be increased a thousand fold. This District should be in a position to boast of at least a lakh of ducks and treble that number of poultry; and every household should have a couple of stall-fed improved breed of cows. Here is good protein food; and why not avail oneself of it? Fresh water fish culture and saline water prawn culture are just now only in the offing. They need encouragement and development. The Fisheries Department can very well make a new departure and concentrate on fresh water fish and prawn production.

Water Resources Board: Has a fresh field to explore. The areas to the west of the Batticaloa lagoon and the rest of the red-earth region is lacking in sub-surface water during the season of drought, that is from April to September. If the sub-surface impervious layer of rock is bored through it will be possible to release artesian streams. This is a project that will be amply rewarding. Wind-mills can help to bring the water to the surface.

The Coconut Board and Fisheries Department have helped restore the two cyclone affected industries. They are being successfully resuscitated; and progress is phenomenal.

Integrated Development Programme: If at all any district deserved to come under the Integrated Development Programme, it should be the Batticaloa District since it has had the bad effects of the recent cyclone, and remains yet under-developed. It is the hope of the people of this District that something more tangible will be done to restore it to its pre-cyclone status. The cyclone rehabilitation appeal has become more a dirge than a reasonably humble request.

Voluntary Agencies: These voluntary agencies have been attending to cyclone rehabilitation work in the district. They deserve the thanks of the people for their inestimable service: SEDEC, Sarvodaya, Redd Barna; Norwegian FPC; West German FFHC. The following clubs have also done yeoman service: Rotary Club, Lions Club, YMCA and Vicent de Paul.

This is what the people think.

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What's Going On?

New Delhi, November 30,

Reports coming out of Pakistan indicate that the public and the politically conscious forces are clamouring for the restoration of democracy there. The impulse has been given by the recent amendments to the country's constitution introduced by the military administration of Zia ul-Haq. The constitutional changes have gone still further in limiting democratic rights and considerably curtailing the powers of the judiciary. Thus civil courts are now barred from cases which question the legality of martial law, and these used to be the sole open forum of protest against the arbitrary rule of the military in the conditions of strict censorship. The powers of field court-martials have been expanded on the other hand. These developments are seen as another proof that the military government is seeking to perpetuate its regime. At the same time political debates have been banned in lawyers' associations which are traditionally the most active social group in terms of politics.

THE ADMINISTRATION'S MOVES have provoked a storm of protest on the part of the democratic public and more than once the protests took the form of anti-government demonstrations and manifestations. Leaders of political parties have not stood on the sidelines. Last July at the Lahore so-called conference of representatives of the public opinion the leaders of the five political parties which make up the Pakistan National Alliance demanded that the government keep its promise and hold free general elections, restore democracy, rescind martial law and oust the Zia ul-Haq administration. The conference threatened the government with a campaign of public disobedience if the demands were not met.

That was not the first conference of representatives of the public opinion, held by leaders of right-wing parties. In 1980 a number of similar meetings have been held with the tacit agreement of the authorities, and these were attended by Afghan counterrevolutionary emigres. This time however the former allies of the military administration took advantage of the opportunity to criticize the ruling junta. The most severe criticism was voiced by Gafoor Ahmad and Farooqi of the Jamaat-i-Islami who until very recently were known as zealous advocates of co-operation with the military and served on Zia's cabinet. The tougher control over virtually every sphere of the country's political, social and economic life, exercised by the military has shown even to such politicians how great is the gap separating the administration's promises and its deeds.

In an attempt to gain time and to distract public opinion, the ruling cabal has allowed a debate in the press on the conformity of constitutional rule to the Islamic principles and has called upon the politicians to express their views on the future structure of power

in the country. While extending the invitation to take part in the discussion the President made it exceedingly clear that he himself favoured strong centralized power and believed that Presidential government was the most consistent with the principles of Islam.

THE RESULTS OF THE DISCUSSION fell short of Zia ul-Haq's expectations. For over two months the leaders and major functionaries of all the main political parties unanimously declared in newspapers and magazines that they wanted to maintain the tradition of parliamentary rule in Pakistan and spoke against any amendments to the country's constitution. They also called upon the administration to hold early general elections and transfer power to a civilian government. The majority of the political figures were of the opinion that any further military rule would only aggravate the protracted political crisis through which the country is going. Thus one of the most experienced politicians, the leaders of the Pakistan Democratic Party and the vice-president of the Pakistan National Alliance, Nawabzada Naserullah Khan, described the present domestic situation in Pakistan in an interview to the *Nawa-i-Waqt* as a gravest crisis since the creation of Pakistan and went on to warn the authorities against the possible repetition of the events of 1970.

As is known at that time the reluctance of the military to part with power led to a most serious domestic and external crisis which resulted in the secession of East Pakistan and the establishment of Bangladesh. Thus, the right-wing opposition also saw that the event may take a dangerous turn fraught with far-reaching consequences for the national interests of Pakistan. It is noteworthy that in the course of the discussion Zia's views failed to win the support of even such religiously-oriented parties as Jamaat-i-Islami, Jamiatul-Ulema-i-Pakistan and Jamiatul-Ulema-i-Islam whose organisational structure resembles the presidential form of government as their leaders concentrate all power in their hands.

CENTRE PARTIES came to see the light even earlier. The biggest centre party Tehrik-i-Istiqal keeps insisting on a date for general elections. They party's president Asghar Khan has repeatedly proposed a united front of political forces for the restoration of democracy in Pakistan and expressed readiness to co-operate for the sake of that objective even with ideological opponents. It should be noted that it was he who sent a letter in April 1977 to the chiefs of armed services spelling his dismay over the results of the general elections and asking them to throw out the Bhutto government and impose martial law. While Asghar Khan is kept under house arrest his party is making vigorous efforts to harmonize its actions with other groups and builds up opposition to the military regime. The wife of Asghar Khan who leads the woman wing of the Tehrik-i-Istiqal called for a working meeting with the Pakistan People's Party and some other groups. It is probable that the two parties and the National Democratic Party will phoreta off orts. It is noteworthy

that Tehrik-i-Istiqla. and the PPP hold generally realistic views on the question of Pakistan-Afghan settlement and the situation obtaining around Afghanistan.

THUS THE OPPOSITION to the military regime is gaining ground. Despite the administration's efforts to forge links with the people through its stooges in the local government, the attempts to create an appearance of some liberalization of the regime by establishing a federal advisory council made up of representatives of the main professional groups, the protest movements against the arbitrary rule, against the antidemocratic military laws which have deprived the masses of their elementary rights and constitutional guarantees, is growing. In the last few months alone major anti-government protests have taken place in Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore and Multan; there were strikes and related unrest in Pakistan's largest textile centre Faisalabad. Despite careful preparations for the eleventh foreign ministers meeting of the Islamic Conference Organisation held last May the authorities were unable to prevent undesirable and unpleasant for the military phenomena. Thus on the opening day of the meeting each delegate received an appeal of the Pakistan Revolutionary Front which stressed that the Zia regime had no right to speak on behalf of the people of Pakistan. Against that background the pronounced trend for joint moves by the main political parties indicates that the military regime will find that the main troubles are still to come.

—Tribune Correspondent



MULTATIONALS DEVOUR

Mexico's Tuna

By A Special Correspondent

THE RECENT "TUNA WAR" between the US and Mexico was a successful attempt by US-based multinational corporations to monopolize Mexican waters and tuna resources. The 200 mile limit of these waters is abundant in tuna and is becoming a prosperous market for these corporations. Under former President Echeverria, Mexico passed a law stating that only Mexicans could travel or fish within the 200 mile limit. This law was designed to prevent the exploitation of Mexico's ocean resources by other countries. However, Mexico lacked sufficient vessels to fish in the waters. The navy was even unable to adequately patrol the water to enforce the law. As a result, foreign ships were able to explore and fish within the 200-mile limit.

Echeverria's successor, Lopez Portillo, kept the law on paper, but US and Japanese companies continued to exploit these waters. **Ralston-Purina**, a US-based multinational, used up to ten large ships to catch Mexican tuna. When smaller Mexican companies lobbied to force Purina to share their profits, the multinational pulled its ships out of the water. Within days Lopez Portillo ordered the Navy to search and capture any foreign ship that came within the 200-mile limit. The *Marie-Marie*, a San Diego tuna boat, was captured.

Tuna and nets were confiscated; the owners were fined \$ 13,000. Six more San Diego tuna boats were captured the same way.

IN RESPONSE to the Mexican government's action, the US government declared an embargo on all tuna crossing into the US from Mexico. The Mexican government continued to defend the waters within the 200-mile limit. A section of the Mexican national bourgeoisie was fighting to wrest a small portion of their economy from US domination. On July 18, however, the Mexican government granted concessions to explore and exploit the ocean resources within the 200-mile limit to two Mexican corporations, **Pescatun** and **VISA**. Thus Mexico's tuna industry was handed to two huge corporations.

Mexican law forbids foreign corporations to own more than 49 percent of a company in Mexico. Thus Pescatun is, in reality, a marriage of convenience between a Mexican bank with branches in California, and representatives of Raiston-Purina. Together—for the paltry sum of \$ 1000—these parties incorporated under Mexican law to form a company that will now operate 10 boats and five helicopters. Through Pescatun, Purina exploits Mexican tuna. The Mexican government has even granted the company substantial tax concession.

CANNERY INDUSTRIES will soon be developed in Ensenada and the Tijuana border region where labor is cheap. The tuna will then be exported to the US. **VISA**, the other company to receive a government concession, is linked to Mexican, Japanese, Spanish, Italian and French companies. In their first year their profits were around \$ 240 million. Last year, profits, soared to \$ 545 million. **VISA** also finances universities, store chains, lumber yards, food canneries and a wide variety of other businesses.

Within the 200-mile limit, the tuna-rich first 60 miles are restricted to Pescatun and VISA. The remainder, from 60 to 200 miles, can be fished by small fishing boats in addition to those from Pescatun and VISA. But conditions for the smaller fishermen are almost impossible. Each time they want to fish they must pay for government permits, as well as per-ton fees for fish caught. Most fishing boats normally catch from 60 to 1200 tons of tuna, or from \$ 3,720 to \$ 7,380 every time they fish. The concessions allowing Pescatun and VISA to fish without permits is part of the process of concentration of wealth into fewer and fewer hands. Small fishermen are being pushed out of the market, while Mexico's natural wealth is being reaped by multinational corporations.

Mexico is both rich in natural resources and has a large impoverished population that lives on the verge of starvation—the result of the domination of the Mexican economy by US imperialism. When it is in their interests, supranational financiers supply vast sums of money to build roads, power plants, and other infrastruc-

tural projects, creating an environment in which multinational corporations can set up shop. The border area, especially, is being industrialized. Canneries will be built to benefit international investment in Mexican tuna.

LAST LABOR DAY, Mexico's president, Lope Portillo, told the Mexican people they must unite against US companies; he swore he would prevent the "disorderly exploitation" of Mexico's tuna resources. At the same time, he made deals with multinational corporations allowing them to reap the wealth of the ocean. He claims that industrial development will create jobs and improve the standard of living of the people. But foreign corporations—who are responsible for this industrial development—have no lasting interest in developing Mexico's domestic economy.

The process of industrialization now under way only provides temporary jobs for the workers, leading eventually to unemployment because of technological advances, or shops running away to even more depressed and economically undeveloped areas of Latin America. The profits from these industries, as with the tuna, goes into banks in New York and Switzerland. The Mexicans are left with the massive burden of international debt.

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THE COCONUT TRIANGLE

In Colombo Seven

By R. Kahawita

We are gone crazy.

Have you heard of any Government organization establishing a Coconut Seedling Nursery in Colombo Seven on land fetching around 200,000/—per perch, even at that it is not available, because the Municipal Corporation and the Government owns around sixty percent of the land, built and buildable within the Colombo Municipal limits—Yes, it is a coconut seedling where one could purchase the seedlings and transport them to the "Coconut Triangle". In the good old days, when we were sensible, there was the Coconut Research Institute at Lunuwila where one could purchase at a subsidized price the seedling one needed to rehabilitate the coconut growing industry. All those acres may have been abandoned to give way for model villages, twenty houses in each village, for floriculture, animal husbandry, industrial estates and what, not, except for coconut. So in despair the Research Institute has moved its nurseries to valuable land in Colombo Seven. Living in Colombo is expensive so the seedlings are sold at 4/— each. It is unbelievable. We would not have believed it if we did not stumble into it today in response to an application to purchase plants.

On an application for seedlings for October, December planting I was given 49 seedlings around Rs. 4/ per seedling to be collected from the "above nurseries"

said the letter. In my innocence I was going to collect the seedlings from the Lunuwila Seed farm as I have been doing since 1950. When I read "the above address" I checked the address it Read:— Officer-in-charge, Coconut Nursery, Agricultural Research & Training Institute, Wijerama Mawatha, Colombo 7.

So from 2.30 p.m. to 4 p.m. I was in Colombo Seven in search of the Coconut Nurseries. On speck, I stepped into the Agrarian Research Institute (another white elephant) and inquired—"Yes, please inquire from the Administration section upstairs." I went upstairs in search of the Administration section, I found it and within I inquired no one was able to tell me of the "Coconut Nursery in Colombo 7". Finally I encountered a knowledgeable youngster, who said, "there is one but that organisation had nothing to do with us." "But there is an officer who calls in the morning to collect his letters", "He has no office in the Agrarian Services building but I was informed that the Officer-in-charge had a 'tukeran-shed' as an office adjoining the nursery." He gave me directions how to get there, but I landed myself in the Kitchen Department of the Hostel—Hostel for whom?—the inmates were ignorant.

Anyway a coconut nursery is something one could not hide in a hay stack. The vast acreage of seedlings is there, but with no access, no office and no officer-in-charge, I hope to go on this adventure of finding Coconut seedlings in Colombo 7 again to plant in the wilds of Maho. Ah what a tragedy is being enacted to this beautiful country of mine under the Guise of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. This story is unbelievable if I was not the actor.

To me this is a very serious affair, there is no other better way of sabotaging the present Government.

My first reaction is—in true tradition of the UNP—the UNP is for the Colombo Seven buddies, we have set up a coconut nursery next door to their bed rooms, so that they can stroll along in their pyjamas and order the plants. Or may be the seedlings are meant to plant in their spacious lawns etc. to cover the area in excess of the 20 perches allowed under the ceiling on housing legislated by the previous Government, come rain or sunshine, we are following meticulously this law, tightening every loop hole to torture further, those who are suffering under the iron heel of the previous Government.

All our nominees, appointees, stooges, hangers—on want to be in Colombo, so all the Institutions, Agricultural Training and Research, Coconut Nurseries, Artificial Insemination, Family planning, Coconut Rehabilitation, Buying, Selling, Distributing so on and so are all in Colombo. Even all our representatives are in the city, except the few Opposition members, who are in the interior, playing havoc with our popularity.

The coconut nursery in Colombo, may be the follow up of the "Home Garden Service" in Colombo Seven, now handed over to the Water Resources Board,

as the Officer-in-charge said "For efficient Management." We do not see the relevance between Water Resources development and vegetable growing in the city.

The irony of it is, I have to come to Colombo from Maho to buy tomatoe, chillie and vegetable seedlings—nothing of these are available in the so called Agricultural Centres in the rural areas. We suppose, like all Public Officers, the Agricultural Officers too want to live in Colombo. So it is difficult to staff Agricultural Centres, so the migration into the city. We will not be surprised, if we were to be asked to demolish the houses in the City and plant coconut in that space. There are enough seedlings for this in Wijerama Mawatha Colombo 7 for this.

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POINT OF VIEW

Nilwala Ganga

—disaster ahead—

By S. A. Wickremasinghe

A flood production scheme suggested by French experts from Paris estimated to cost 2 1/2 billion rupees will bring doubtful benefits to about 12,000 acres of paddy fields in production today.

Our local experts appear to have approved this scheme, the implementation of which will result in irretrievable damage to the river basin and colossal wasteful expenditure both for capital construction and for maintenance thereafter. The scheme is intended to protect from flood damage some 12,000 acres of paddy fields now yielding about 150,00 tons of paddy in spite of periodical floods.

The total cost of the scheme is estimated at Rs. 2,565,000,000 and maintenance to cost annually Rs. 36,866,000. The cost of power to operate 14000 Kw of installed capacity is Rs. 8737000. The foreign share of the cost is 74% of the total: pumping equipment alone will cost Rs. 500,000,000 which involves 16 pumping stations and 57 pumping units to pump out flood waters from the paddy fields to the river over the flood bunds.

The low yields in Matara district and in all the other rain-fed cultivation areas are not due to flood damage but due to lack of water during the cultivation seasons. The remedy is to provide irrigation water through water conservation and water control which in turn would eliminate the tendency for floods and soil erosion. The French experts appear to work on the hypothesis that flood waters are a major evil and that modern technology must be harnessed to drain all the flood waters and the displaced alluvial soil, as rapidly as possible, to the sea.

This French plan includes:— (a) deepening and broadening the river bed for about 20 miles; (b) cons-

truction of 15 miles of high flood bunds to prevent the river from overflowing the banks; (c) mechanised pumping of flood water over the banks into the river; (d) constructing a by-pass channel near the river mouth about half a mile long, 150 ft. broad and 10 ft. deep. This channel through Pallimulla and Kotuwegoda will displace a large number of families. About half the flood volume is expected to flow through this channel to the sea thereby preventing flood levels upstream from rising to dangerous levels, for example to ten feet in Akuressa town; (e) a rock-fill weir to divert water to the by-pass; (f) sea works to build a jetty at the mouth to prevent sand-bar formation; (g) Readjustment of the river bed, starting from the weir and extending upstream for about 3 miles, and regular dredging and checking every 2 years in order to prevent blocking of the flood outlets to the Indian Ocean by large scale erosion and deposits at the mouth.

The French experts envisage the grave possibility of heavy erosion and deposit formation when attempts are made to increase the volume and velocity of discharge of flood water. The only way to prevent obstruction is to encourage the discharge of displaced soil to the Indian Ocean. This process of erosion and deposit formation and dredging will continue indefinitely adding to the already existing washing away of soil by wave action round the entire sea coast. The proposed elaborate and prohibitively extravagant flood protection scheme with bunds and a by-pass will not effectively increase paddy yields. The determining factor for poor yields is the lack of irrigation facilities during the cultivation season.

The ideal solution is the damming of the main river and Hulanda Ganga at Bimhamara for hydro-power, irrigation and partial elimination of floods. With dams across the Digili Ganga and Kirama Ara the elimination of floods will be complete. The government has obviously rejected this proposal because of the problem of the catchment area that will be inundated by the reservoir. In the circumstances the alternative method to increase paddy yields is not flood bunds but reservoirs on all the 4 tributaries and also on the main river at a higher elevation, where the inundation will make much less displacement of settlement. With such an alternative the hydropower potential will be very much reduced but irrigation facilities can be improved and uncertainties of rain-fed cultivation will be eliminated and flood damage effectively reduced.

Surveys were carried out on Siyambalaganga, Hulandaganga and Digili Ganga several years ago. It is very strange that the Kirama Ara has escaped the attention of both foreign and local experts in the past although this tributary drains nearly half of the catchment area of the entire river basin. Nilwala Ganga basin has 45000 acres of paddy fields and the average yield is about 57,000 metric tons per year. The yield can be doubled by improving cultivation practices. This is possible only by providing water control through proper irrigation facilities.

The ideal solution with maximum benefit to the national power supply is the Binhamara Dam across the Nilwala Ganga and Hulandaganga which will yield about 50,000 kilo watts of electric power. With the harnessing of Kirama Ara and Digili ganga flood damage will be completely eliminated. The decision to inundate Teldeniya for the Victoria High dam has set the example for others to follow. Maskeli Oya and Mahaveli Scheme have demonstrated that flood waters are the greatest national asset provided they are harnessed for hydro-power generation and irrigation. It is criminal to allow flood water to flow into the sea untapped for human welfare.

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AFTER REAGAN

Soviet-US Relations

By Masood Ali Khan

Moscow, November 23.

SOVIET-US RELATIONS ARE BEING reviewed and their future prospects examined in view of the Republican victory in the American elections. Here Soviet Union's policy of detente and peace is being reaffirmed and the main emphasis is on the demand that all that has been achieved so far in the field of arms limitation, relaxation of tensions, international co-operation and understanding has to be preserved and taken forward. Everything cannot be restarted, every gain cannot be thrown overboard due to the United States election fever. Leonid Zamyatin, head of the international department of the central committee of CPSU, said in this connection that everything cannot be started from scratch because there will be a new president and administration in the USA.

And *Pravda* pointed out that the SALT II treaty has been the result of seven years' labour in which both the Republican and Democratic administrations of USA took part. Those who now in Washington are attacking this agreement in such a frenzy are actually cutting the branch on which they sit. In today's international situation it is very important to preserve and not squander the capital of business like co-operation which was accumulated by common effort through long years in the interest of all mankind, the paper says. And Zamyatin pointed out that Soviet-US negotiations and exchanges can be conducted only on an equal basis. Hence the results of SALT II negotiations and other mechanisms and understandings arrived at way back with Republican and Democratic administrations cannot be just pushed aside. International relations would be impossible if every four years due to US election everything had to be started all over again and previous agreements were not adhered to. But western media continue to create illusions on this score. They are plugging the line that SALT II can be 'renegotiated' and that even Soviet Union would be willing to do that to meet Ronald Reagan's demands.

On November 14 in Moscow a meeting of experts of the USSR United Nations Association and the US United Nations Association was held on Moscow on the problems of disarmament. Relations of USSR and USA and prospects of SALT, problems of European security and international conflicts in various regions were reviewed. Discussion was frank and at times heated but business like on the whole. Both sides tried to clarify differences and better understand each others point of view. Some people in the US group like General Brent and William Scranton, former governor of Pennsylvania and US ambassador to UN, and Helmut Sonnenfeld who worked in Nixon and Ford administrations are people close to Reagan. They had not brought any message from Reagan and said they were not speaking on his behalf. But it was obvious that they were exploring. Main attention was paid to analyse Soviet-US relations. Question of arms limitation and SALT II treaty was taken up. But next day inspired reports appeared in the West and VOA broadcasts attributed to Scranton and others that the Americans "got the impression" that Soviet side "expects from the United States some proposals and amendments to the text of SALT II treaty". It is obvious that this was being done to create illusions in America that somehow the Soviet Union will accept Reagan's plan to bury SALT II and "go ahead to SALT III", etc.

But here immediately this canard was rejected. An official denial by the head of the Soviet group Vitali Zhurkin said that there was no such thing. The Soviet side explained to the Americans that the treaty had been signed. And the Soviet Union resolutely objects to its revision in any form and is against a new round of negotiations. Even Scranton had to admit that the western report was wrong about the impression the Americans got. The Soviet side proceeds from the fact that the treaty already exists and we have to proceed from this fact. The American side expressed opinions and proposals regarding the possibility of introducing changes in the already agreed and signed treaty, but the Soviet participants came out against changes.

Another question is that of so called "linkage" of arms limitation and SALT to other problems. Reagan has said that negotiations on SALT be tied with Soviet policy in different regions of the world. Soviet observers point out that all those who have a sense of reality are anxious at such an approach.

Everything in the world can be tied into one huge knot but will it be possible to unite this gigantic knot, *Pravda's* Yuri Zhukov asked. If the idea is to lessen tensions and strengthen peace, then it would be logical not to complicate the talks but to do everything to make them constructive and advance them faster forward.

At the Madrid meeting of the participants of the Helsinki conference on European security and co-operation the Americans have followed the same tactics of obstruction and are trying to involve the questions of Europe's security and co-operation with all sorts of irrelevant and farfetched questions. What has Afghanistan got to do with Europe and its security?

We are told that detente is indivisible, peace is inter-linked etc. But, say, if the other side were to raise questions of American interference in Iran, support to Shah's regime by direct involvement of CIA and other agencies and US support to Israeli aggressors, etc. or arms build-up in the Indian Ocean and Gulf, will it not fall within the review of last five years' developments since Helsinki? Or on human rights—what about US support to the Pinochet junta in Chile or to Israel's suppression of the Palestinians or the support to remnants of the Pol Pot butchers in Kampuchea, or say Britain's military rule in Ulster or support to the dictators of South Korea by USA.

Soviet Union is calling for a business like and constructive approach to the implementation of the Helsinki accords and their review, and this is what the whole peace-loving world expects. Soviet Union is not being provoked by tactics, subterfuge and futile polemics and shows readiness for consideration of any serious proposals and endeavours for detente and peace. The dangerous tendency of intensification of military confrontation in Europe which is being heated up by aggressive and war-mongering circles of USA and the west has to be blocked. As the Soviet leader of the delegation deputy, foreign minister Leonid Ilyichov said at the Madrid meeting, the important task was to raise insurmountable obstacles in the way of this dangerous tendency and to give a deep and stable character to the policy of detente.

Some people under the pretext of "indivisibility of detente" seek to transfer seats of tensions that arise in other areas of the world to Europe. They try to draw the Madrid meeting into discussing issues which have nothing to do with it. Soviet Union attaches importance to all sections of the final act of Helsinki conference. And a turn back from Helsinki should not be allowed, there should be no marking time but advance forward on the lines of consolidation of European security. And Soviet Union is going to put forward its proposals on these lines at the Madrid meeting. One of the important and main thing could be the acceptance of the idea of convocation of a conference on military detente and disarmament in Europe. Its procedure, venue and dates could be fixed. This would be an important advance of the all European process begun at Helsinki. There are opponents of this idea but in spite of them the proposal is making headway and gaining support.

—New Age.



IN U.K.

A Debatable Victory

By Iqbal Singh

London, November 18,

WHETHER Michael Foot's victory in the Labour leadership contest in the second ballot on Monday is a victory for the Left or the Centre must be a matter for debate. The proof of the pudding will come with the eating

and will take time. What is beyond all doubt, however is that his election as party leader is a defeat for the right both within and outside the Labour movement. It had literally left no stone unturned to ensure the election of the rightist Denis Healey with the clear calculation in mind that once elected it would be possible to secure his re-election under any new electoral procedure that emerges from the special conference next January, if not actually to block the process of democratisation of the system for the election of the party leader, which has so long been the jealously guarded preserve of the parliamentary party which is well to the right of the movement as a whole.

In the event these tactics proved to be counter-productive and the efforts of the media to oversell Healey as the only man capable of giving a fight to the Iron Lady finally cooked their favourites' goose. However, rightward the centre of gravity of parliamentary party may have shifted in recent years, there is still sufficient residual self-respect even in the parliamentary Labour Party not to allow the Tory establishment to pick its leader for it. This partly explains why in the final count Foot's majority turned out to be somewhat more substantial than even his optimistic supporters had expected—139 to 129.

The frustration on the Right at Foot's success is acute. It is reflected in the largely hostile editorial comment led by *The Times* which describes Labour's choice as "an unmitigated folly". The *Daily Telegraph* sees the rejection of Healey as tantamount to rejection of "all prudence" caution, disguise and dissimulation, the hampering ratiment of apparent moderation." It is being argued that by opting for Foot, the Labour Party has condemned itself to the role of a permanent and relatively feeble opposition and abjured the role of an alternative Government at the next election. It is even being suggested that at least a dozen or more Labour MPs may defect.

This remains to be seen, though it seems unlikely. What is certain is that if they did, they would be out on a limb as talk of a centre party emerging under the leadership of "prince over the waters". Roy Jenkins, seems pure moonshine—at least for the relevant future. In this connection, it is significant that the rightwing "Gang of Three" who had worked hard for Healey, met after the discomfiture of their mascot but decided not to make any statement about their intentions. On the contrary, one of them, William Rodgers, spokesman on defence under Callaghan's dispensation, was careful to avoid giving the impression that a parting of the ways had been reached and even made some ingratiating noises towards the new leader on the BBC.

This likelihood, therefore, is for a more subtle and insidious strategy to circumscribe any move towards a more radical Labour policy in consonance with the Blackpool conference decisions to be followed. Healey stated that he was prepared to serve under Foot and would seek election as deputy leader. His election seems a reasonable certainly as a consolation prize as well as a balancing device. It is also being sug-

gested that the shadow cabinet may be packed with rightwingers to them in the new leader in the name of collective leadership. This strategy may well succeed. But it will depend as much on how willing is Michael Foot to yield to the temptations of pseudo-statesmanship as on the ability of the Left to build on its success in the battle of succession to Callaghan. In his brief replies to questions after his election, Foot was positive only on one thing: stressing the need for unity. On other matters like nuclear disarmament he was ambiguous and would say no more than that he wants to bring disarmament into the centre of national debate. His caution was predictable and is understandable. It does not necessarily imply repudiation of his earlier commitments much less instant conversion on the road to possible preferment. He is unlikely to develop overnight the reflexes of a cold warrior like some of his predecessors.

Meanwhile, questions are being asked about the future of Tony Benn. He has made only a laconic statement though one can be certain that he voted for Foot. It remains to be seen whether he will stand against Foot when a new electoral college is set up and a new election held. He has time to wait for his chance to come as it will. As a leading trade unionist David Bassnet put it, Foot is the leader for today and Benn for tomorrow. That sums up the position neatly. —Patriot

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SRI LANKA CHRONICLE

Nov. 27 – Dec. 3

DIARY OF EVENTS IN SRI LANKA AND THE WORLD
COMPILED FROM DAILY NEWSPAPERS PUBLISHED
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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, NOVEMBER 27: President J. R. Jayewardene yesterday directed the Cabinet to continue with government's policy of looking into the appeals of strikers for re-employment; some 40,000 workers in the government and Corporation sector vacated their posts by keeping away from work on July 18 last. Distinguished attorneys-at-law over 20 years in practice are to be appointed as Senior Attorneys-at-law with similar privileges now enjoyed by Queen's Counsellors; the appointments will be made by the President on the recommendation of the Chief Justice. The duty-free unaccompanied passenger baggage allowance is to be limited to goods to the value of Rs. 20,000

only a Sri Lanka Customs spokesman said yesterday—**CDN.**

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28: The Prima Flour Milling complex in Trincomalee will be ceremonially opened by President J. R. Jayewardene at 3.06 p.m. on Sunday. Several Cabinet Ministers, Members of Parliament and diplomats are expected to participate in the ceremony—**CDN.** The SLFP Balamandalaya in the Attanagalla electorate now want Mrs. Chandrika Kumaratunga, the second daughter of Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike to be nominated for this seat, according to SLFP Politbureau sources—**CDM.** A thousand million rupee project for the development of the city's power transmission and distribution will get underway shortly. Two sugar producing factories at Pelwatte and Nakkala in the Moneragala district, are to be set up by two foreign firms, at a cost of Rs. 2100 million, and Rs. 230 million respectively. The lean season for coconuts has set in, resulting in an almost two-fold increase in the price of this commodity; a coconut now costs Rs. 2.25 to Rs. 2.50—**SU.** President J. R. Jayewardene said yesterday that with a view to bringing up the standard of education of Sri Lanka students to the Universal level, and to bring about communal unity, English will be taught in all schools in the country—**VK.**

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29: The visiting 21-member Swedish Trade Investment Mission which arrived here last week has identified twelve projects for prospective collaboration with Sri Lankan business investors. President J. R. Jayewardene has moved in the matter of centralising all activities devolving on the furtherance of the Muslim community in Sri Lanka by directing the Department of Muslim Religious and Cultural Affairs to take over all such activities, Transport Minister M. H. Mohamed said yesterday. The open-door economic policies of the Government while giving a tremendous boost to tourism and foreign investment had brought with it problems of narcotics and drug addiction. T. B. Werapitiya, Minister of Internal Security and Deputy Minister of Defence, said yesterday—**CDN.** The country's five main opposition parties are expected to back Communist Party nominee Sarath Muttettuwegama for the Kalawana by-election. Tourism in Sri Lanka continues to become a key foreign exchange earner with this year's arrivals expected to exceed the projected target by 254,000 tourists—**SU.**

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30: Diplomatic and political circles rate tomorrow's arrival here of Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister Goh Keng Swee, who will spend over a week in Sri Lanka, as a visit of the "highest importance"; the 38-year-old Dr. Goh, who as Minister of Trade and Industry of the Lee Kuan Yew Government has been responsible for much of Singapore's spectacular economic advance, is being groomed for assuming leadership in that country during the next decade. Any Air Lanka employee caught smuggling will face immediate dismissal, the national airline's Chairman Captain Rakitha Wickramanayake said yesterday. Banking circles in Colombo are agog with the story that the country's lushest account has changed hands

following a decision of the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation to take away the bulk of its business from the People's Bank; as oil imports constitute the country's biggest slice of import expenditure, the decision of the Petroleum Corporation to move its account from the People's Bank to the Bank of Ceylon is of tremendous significance. The Chairman of Prima Ceylon Ltd., Mr. Cheng Tang Man, will hand a cheque for Rs. 3.2 million to President J. R. Jayewardene who declares open the spanking new flour mill at Trincomalee at 3.06 p.m. today; the money which is to be credited to the President's Fund is to be specifically used for children's welfare in Sri Lanka. The cost of house construction in Sri Lanka has increased 30 per cent between October 1979 and September 1980, the Central Bank has computed in a new construction index it is now publishing—**SU**. Inefficient management and the indiscriminate use of water, the most vital natural resources, pose the serious threat of slowing down the country's development process and bringing in its wake serious health hazards—**WK**. As the opposition parties in the Kalawana electorate are engaged in great efforts to contest the by-election there, it is felt that this by-election bears great political significance—**VK**.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1: The issue of revenue licences for motor vehicles for 1981 begins today; fuel ration cards will be issued along with the revenue licences. Dr. Keng Swee Teng, Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore arrives in Sri Lanka today; he is expected to be here for a week—**CDN**. Far reaching changes would be made to the Judicature Act to solve the problem of delays in disposing cases in the High Courts; strengthening the area of administrative control over the High Court judges will be one of the changes—**CDM**. President J. R. Jayewardene yesterday called on members of the non-aligned movement not to interfere in the internal affairs of any country—either by deed or by word. Allegations of maladministration, negligence or neglect of duties by chairmen or directors of public corporations will soon be probed by an Economic Commission; the commission will have powers to impose a sentence of imprisonment on anyone found guilty and recover in the form of a fine, any loss caused to a corporation by acts of negligence. The Sri Lanka Freedom Party's politbureau meets tomorrow to pick its nominee for the Attanagalla seat in Parliament which fell vacant following the expulsion of party leader Sirimavo Bandaranaike from Parliament—**SU**. "The price of flour is rising; however we will be supplying quality flour to the people; the Prima Flour Milling Complex which is being opened today will make the necessary provision for this," said President J. R. Jayewardene—**VK**.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2: The Sri Lanka Cement Corporation yesterday signed a Rs. 414 million contract with four West German firms for the construction of the third stage of the Kanakesanturai Cement Factory. The Employers' Federation of Ceylon has recommended to its membership comprising most of the mercantile sector, an outright payment effective December 1, 1980, of Rs. 70 salary increase; this will only apply in cases where employees of any category are not entitled

to either the Cost of Living allowance according to the rise in the living index or where a cost of living gratuity was not paid, and where the wages/salaries were not geared to the cost of living, Secretary, EFC said yesterday—**CDN**. Merit will be the prime consideration for admission of candidates to the private Medical College now in the process of being established in Colombo North—**CDM**. The initial step on the rationing of fuel was taken yesterday with 7,200 of the 150,000 motor vehicle owners in the city receiving their ration cards with their revenue licences from the Motor Traffic Department unto lunch time yesterday. Singapore Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Goh Keng Swee who arrived here yesterday is due to hold official talks with President Jayewardene today. President J. R. Jayewardene will call a conference of government and TULF leaders shortly to discuss the future of stateless people of Indian origin now living in the northern and eastern provinces—**SU**. Opposition Leader Mr. A. Amirthalingam said in Parliament yesterday that Rs. 2 million set apart for the construction work on the University of Jaffna have not been as yet utilised and that he was strongly objecting to that—**EN**. Opposition Leader Mr. A. Amirthalingam stressed in Parliament yesterday that 75 per cent should be set apart under merit for University admissions; he also said that even if 25 per cent could be set apart for backward districts it would be good—**VK**.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3: Subscribers in all principal towns and several rural areas in the country will have up-to-date direct dialling facilities by 1983, Posts and Telecommunications Minister D. B. Wijetunge said yesterday. Sri Lanka's commemoration of 50 years of Universal Adult Franchise, scheduled to extend over one whole year from Independence Day 1981 to Independence Day of the following year, will centre on six major events and will echo throughout the Commonwealth and world capitals. The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce will hold a three-day international gem auction in Colombo from February 26. Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike last night walked out of a stormy Politbureau session, when it failed to support the nomination of her daughter Mrs. Chandrika Kumararatunga for the Attangalla seat; the majority of the politbureau supported the nomination of Mr. Anura Bandaranaike. Saudi Arabia has agreed to give a soft-term loan of US \$ 20 million to the Sri Lanka Electricity Board to improve the country's electricity supply. The Singaporean First Deputy Prime Minister, Dr. Goh Keng Swee had discussions yesterday with President J. R. Jayewardene and Prime Minister R. Premadasa on the first day of his ten-day state visit to Sri Lanka—**CDN**.



Confidentially

● 3½ Lakh Car ● Rupee Companies ● Faluda

IS THERE ANY TRUTH IN THE WHISPER going round that the big boss of a Government Corporation whose finances are very much in the red and whose operations stink to the high heavens had ordered a luxury car costing Rs. 3½ lakhs? That with the bank balances and bank credits of the Corporation being what they are, the big boss couldn't marshal or roll enough Corporation money to clear the car? That for 3 1/2 months or more (like the 3 1/2 lakhs it cost), the boss could not take delivery of this "official" car? That whilst it is possible that this story may be only an apocryphal parable to illustrate waste and wanton corruption, yet it is good to remember that there is no smoke without fire? That even in the Milky Way up in the high heavens there are major fires and conflagrations when asteroids collide?

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IS IT NOT TRUE that *Tribune* and other papers have been focussing attention on the plight of the shareholders of Rupee Companies? That the hapless shareholders have not received the compensation for the shares they held? That in many cases the shares were the only savings they had and the sudden stoppage of income had reduced them to penury? That a reader has sent us the Annual Report of one such Company, *The Luckyland Tea Company Ltd.*? That this report was presented at the Company's Sixty-third Annual General Meeting held on Friday, 28th November 1980 at 10.30 a.m. at the Board Room of Messrs George Steuart & Co. Ltd., the Agents and Secretaries? That in the certified accounts for the year ending March 31, 1980 the only reference of interest to the rupee company shareholders was that the income for 1980 was nil whilst the expenditure was Rs. 18,091 and the accumulated loss on the Profit & Loss Account was Rs. 66,822—making a total accumulated loss carried forward at Rs. 84,913? That the only relevant information was about how Compensation would be calculated? That the information given did nothing more than create a mirage? That compensation it said would be based EITHER on "1. Profit. Fifteen times Average Profit over previous 5 years as Assessed or Declared. To Profit will be added back (a) Lump Sum Depreciation; (b) Wear and Tear allowance; (c) Replanting Expenditure. Also as a Bonus for Replanted/New Planted Areas a further amount up to Rs. 3000 per acre Tea, 2500 per acre Rubber/Coconut, 2000 per acre Cocoa/Cinnamon etc. Subsidies and Grants for the 5 years prior to vesting will be deducted. There will be an upper limit of Rs. 2,500 per acre. OR Yield: Average yield for 3 years prior to vesting for tea: Over 1500 lbs/acre Rs. 2,500

per acre; 1000 to 1500 lbs/acre 2000/—; 750 to 1000 lbs/acre Rs. 1,500/—; under 750 lbs/acre Rs. 1000; For Rubber Over 1000 lbs/acre Rs. 2,500/— per acre, 750/1000 lbs/acre, Rs. 2,000/— per acre, 500 to 750 lbs/acre, Rs. 1,500 per acre under 500 lbs/acre Rs. 1000 per acre; For Coconut: over 3,000 nuts, Rs. 2500 per acre, 2000 to 3000 nuts Rs. 2,000 per acre, under 2000 nuts Rs. 1,500 per acre. In both methods the following terms will apply: (a) Tax free interest at 8% per annum from date of vesting to date of payment; (b) Four Annual Instalments; (c) Gratuities taken over by Government; (d) Shareholders will be paid their share of each Compensation instalment in terms of the Companies Memorandum & Articles, subject to settlement of liabilities. There could of course be further variations dependent upon the nature of the final Amendments to Bill before it becomes law. On the information now available and summarised above the amounts payable on the Companies Ordinary shares are estimated at Rs. 4/— per share on Compensation and cts. —/50 per share on the Net Interest? That the Auditors' (Turquand Young & Co) concluded thus: "The Company ceased to carry on business consequent to the vesting of its assets as described above and therefore cannot be treated as a going-concern. The balance sheet however, has been prepared on a going-concern basis because of the lack of information relating to compensation on other matters arising therefrom. For this reason only, we are unable to state that the Balance Sheet presents a true and correct view of the state of affairs of the Company as at 31st March 1980"? That shareholders can derive little or no comfort from this Report?

IS IT NOT A FACT that the *Ceylon Daily News* of November 27 had a story entitled MILK BAR SCANDAL — AGENTS SELL CONSUMER MILK TO FALUDA KIOSKS? That the report read: "While thousands of consumers cry out for sterilized and pasteurised milk certain National Milk Board agents unscrupulously push their supplies through the back door to ever mushrooming Faluda kiosks which now dot the length and breadth of the city. Milk is the main substance of Faluda. Owners of these kiosks are allegedly paying milk bar owners handsomely for the supplies which are meant to reach the consumer. These unscrupulous agents of the National Milk Board blithely point an accusing finger at the National Milk Board for short supplies. They say that requests for more milk evinced no response from the Board. What is surprising is that these same milk bars blatantly sell faluda and other drinks using the milk meant for the consumer. A faluda costs anything between Rs. 3.00 and Rs. 5.00. This ill gotten milk is also used by numerous tea boutiques..... Meanwhile, milk bars in many parts of the city and suburbs openly charge the consumer an excess of 5 to 10 cents on the half litre poly-packs which the Milk Board supplies them for Rs. 1.84 a pack. The bars sell at Rs. 1.95 to Rs. 2.00 per pack diddling the customer once again.....?"

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Family Planning means the intelligent use of expert scientific and medical knowledge by married people in order to help them have the desired number of children at the right time.

Is Family Planning Difficult?

No more difficult than eating! Don't forget, you had to learn to eat and you soon became an expert. The same with Family Planning. You will become an expert in no time.

Are Family Planning methods effective?

Yes, very effective, if you use the right methods properly. In some advanced countries Family Planning is so effective the average family has only two or three childrens.

Will Family Planning help my finances?

Yes. Fewer children to feed means more money per person. Less worries in the home means more efficiency at work, therefore more profits, quicker promotion, bigger salary. Fewer babies means your wife can also help to earn.

The result: a Healthier Family Income.

Will my health be affected by Family Planning?

Yes, of course. Fewer baby problems, fewer worries, therefore, better sleep. Fewer mouths to feed, means better food all round. Fewer pregnancies to sap your wife's vitality—

The result: a Healthier Family.

Does Family Planning cause cancer?

According to some "grandmothers", yes. According to doctors and scientists, NO. Believe whomever you like. The truth is Family Planning methods will actually reduce the risk of cancer.

Will Family Planning interfere with intercourse?

Family Planning does not interfere with intercourse. The idea that there will be any interference is a common misconception.

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