

# Sri Lanka TODAY

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*Cover Picture : Sunflower*

# Sri Lanka

INCORPORATING "CEYLON TODAY"

*Today*



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## The Right to Rule till 1977

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ON 22nd May, 1974, two full years will have elapsed since the Constitution of Sri Lanka was adopted by the people of Sri Lanka acting through the Constituent Assembly established by them. So also will the Republic of Sri Lanka complete 2 years of its life.

The precise position which the Constitution holds in the history of our Country should be made clear at this juncture when an effort is going forward to confuse minds in respect of this matter. The Constitution of Sri Lanka, which we shall for convenience call the Republican Constitution is not merely new ; it marks a sharp break from the past and gets the Country on to a new road. It inaugurates a new era marked by the sovereignty of the people. In fact the people of Sri Lanka have never previously been sovereign throughout their long history.

The Constitution marks also a similar sharp break with the past in respect of the form of the State. Historically, Sri Lanka has known

no other form than that of monarchy. This is the first and only time Sri Lanka has known a republic.

### **New Beginning**

THE above features of the Constitution suffice to show that for the people of Sri Lanka it marks and constitutes a new beginning. The need to underline this fact today arises from the untenable effort of interested parties to represent the first National State Assembly of the Free, Sovereign and Independent Republic of Sri Lanka as a continuation, indeed a mere continuation of the Soulbury Parliament. This is sought to be done by harking back to the General Elections of 29th May, 1970, with a view to claiming that the life of this National State Assembly is governed or determined by the provisions of the Soulbury Constitution.

Let us clear out of the way certain matters. A Parliament under the Soulbury Constitution was entitled to a maximum of only 5 years; and if the Soulbury Constitution were still operative, the life of the Parliament elected in May, 1970, would have terminated in 5 years. However, the whole point of the matter is that the Soulbury Constitution was thrown into the dustbin of history by the people of this Country on 22nd May, 1972. On that day, by the act of the people functioning through the Constituent Assembly of their creation, the Soulbury Constitution and the political and legal relations it represented ceased to exist; and with that cessation, the Parliament then extant under that Constitution also simply ceased to exist. It is by reason of these facts that the general provisions of Chapter IV of the Constitution had to be enacted as the means of taking over from the pre-republican period laws, rights, duties and obligations and the like which would otherwise have ended with the old regime.

### Creation of Constitution

IT is necessary to have a firm grasp of the fact that the Parliament elected under the Soulbury Constitution of 30th May, 1970, ceased to exist on 22nd May, 1972. The moment this is got clear, the question will naturally and automatically arise as to how the present National State Assembly came into existence. The answer is that it is itself a creation of the Constitution. This creation is to be found in Chapter VIII under the Sub-Heading "The First National State Assembly". Herein appears Section 42 where it is stated clearly in Sub-Section (1) as follows:—

"The Members of the first National State Assembly shall be—

- (a) persons who were Members of the Constituent Assembly immediately prior to the commencement of the Constitution . . . . .".

Now, it should be remembered that the Members of the Constituent Assembly were also Members of the last Parliament under the Soulbury Constitution. They came to that Parliament either by election or, in the case of a few Members, by appointment of the Governor-General functioning under the Soulbury Constitution. It will also be remembered that all these Members of the last Parliament under the Soulbury Constitution were summoned to a meeting at Navaranga-hala in June, 1970, by the Prime Minister for the express purpose of setting up a Constituent Assembly consisting of the individuals thus summoned. The Constituent Assembly was thus distinct from the Parliament of the day. It was a separate entity which drew its authority and power direct from the people and not from the Parliament under the Soulbury Constitution.

### Entitled to Continue

IN Sub-Section (5) of Section 42 is the further express constitutional provision that determines the maximum life of the first National State Assembly:—

"Unless sooner dissolved, the first National State Assembly shall continue for a period of 5 years commencing on the date of the adoption of the Constitution by the Constituent Assembly".

Accordingly, the present National State Assembly is entitled to continue till 22nd May, 1977, unless sooner dissolved.

It is perhaps useful to remind ourselves that the first Prime Minister under the Constitution was also appointed by Section 43 of the Constitution which reads as follows:—

"The holder of the office of Prime Minister immediately before the commencement of the Constitution, shall be the first Prime Minister under the Constitution and assumes office as Prime Minister upon taking the following oath before the Members of the National State Assembly present at that time".

Perhaps it will be apposite to point out that this oath, which is like the oath taken by the Members of the National State Assembly and by all officials, is an undertaking to "be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Republic of Sri Lanka" and to "uphold the Constitution of Sri Lanka"; the Soulbury oath of allegiance was to the Queen. The two oaths are incompatible.

### The Procedure

IT may be useful here to remind ourselves of the procedure by which the Constitution, once it was adopted and enacted by the Constituent Assembly of the people of Sri Lanka was brought into operation. On 22nd May, 1972, after the Constituent Assembly had completed its work with its President placing his signature on the original of the Constitution, the Constituent Assembly in fact stood dissolved. There were, of course, present at that point of time at Navarangahala the members of the National State Assembly which had by provision of the Constitution itself come into existence immediately upon the adoption and enactment of the Constitution. It was in their presence, as well as in the presence of the large gathering at Navarangahala on that occasion, that the first Prime Minister under the Republican Constitution assumed office upon taking the oath prescribed in the Constitution.

The first act of the Prime Minister upon this assuming office was to nominate the first President of the Republic of Sri Lanka who there and then assumed office by taking the prescribed oath "before the Members of the National State Assembly present at that time" (Section 25).

The first act of the President upon thus assuming office was to sign the Proclamation summoning the National State Assembly to a meeting to be held that very day. This meeting of the National State Assembly was duly held on that day. At that meeting the Speaker of the National State Assembly was elected and every Member of the National State Assembly took the oath of allegiance to the Constitution before the National State Assembly as provided in Section 31.

In the meantime the Prime Minister had selected her Ministers and the Cabinet members had taken their oaths before the President. All State Officers including the Judges, duly took their oaths as prescribed in Chapter 15.

The Cabinet met before the National State Assembly met and in fact appeared before the National State Assembly as a Cabinet. The Constitution had come into full operation. The Republic of Sri Lanka and the key institutions had been launched effectively on 22nd May, 1972, itself.

# The Foreign Policy of Sri Lanka

THE United Front Government can claim an impressive record in the field of foreign relations. It has played an active part in the affairs of the Asian region and at international levels where in fact it has made original contributions. It is a common place to observe that the objective of a country's foreign policy should be the pursuit and promotion of its basic national interests and therefore the particular form of a policy should be the one which will best serve its interests.

In fact, foreign policy has been defined as enlightened self-interest in which one's country's interests are combined with the wider needs of the international community. From that point of view, the United Front Government in Sri Lanka has been pursuing a policy of non-alignment in its foreign relations. The policy is based on ideas expounded by the late Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike who was one of the first statesmen to advocate dynamic neutralism and co-existence as a basis for international relations. The basic features of the policy were described by the Prime Minister of the United Front Government at the opening of Parliament on People's Victory Day (14 June, 1970) in the following terms:—

“My Government will pursue an independent foreign policy guided by Ceylon's national interests and based on—

- (a) non-alignment with any military or power blocs ;
- (b) the principles accepted at the Bandung Conference of 1954, the Belgrade Conference of 1961, and the Cairo Conference of 1964 ;
- (c) opposition to imperialism and colonialism, both old and new racism ;
- (d) support for all measures in furtherance of world peace and disarmament ;

- (e) solidarity with and support for all national liberation struggles against imperialism and colonialism ; and
- (f) the maintenance of friendly and mutually beneficial relations with all States that respect Sri Lanka's independence.

## Peaceful Approach

THE foreign policy of the Sri Lanka Government since then has therefore been an application of these principles to the various problems and situations which have been encountered in the course of its international relations. The essence of non-alignment is non-involvement in power blocs or military alliances which have the effect of polarising nations or setting one group against the other on a basis of military and power rivalry. Non-alignment is opposed in principle to basing relations between States on a footing of military or political competition as it gives rise to serious tensions which could ultimately lead to confrontation and conflict. Basic to the idea of non-alignment is the conviction that the human race cannot afford another international conflict because of the destructive nature of the armaments at the disposal of nations. Therefore no efforts are too great which are aimed at eliminating the causes of war, because the alternative is universal destruction. For this purpose, the non-alignment approach is that nations should divest themselves of the idea of conflict and war as a solution to international disputes. Besides, military alliances could lead to the dissemination of what originated as a local dispute into an international conflagration. Non-alignment believes that the efforts of nations should be to localise such disputes and settle them through peaceful means before they are

universalised out of proportion to their significance. Thus the primary objective of non-alignment is to induce an impartial and peaceful approach.

### **Economic Problems**

MOST Non-aligned countries are faced with serious economic handicaps as a legacy of their colonial experience when their economies were distorted to serve the interests of their foreign masters. Therefore, the principal endeavour of the non-aligned countries is the advancement of their economy and the raising of the living standards of their people. This calls for massive programmes of agricultural and industrial development whereby the economies of these countries could be geared to these objectives. In these efforts, the developing countries are seriously hampered by adverse patterns of international trade which are detrimental to their commodities, shortage of skills and capital, lack of foreign exchange, inadequate investment and other crippling limitations. Due to these economic disabilities, the political independence of these countries is being jeopardised and hence the attainment of economic viability and independence is no less important to them than freedom from military alliances. Efforts are therefore being made by the nations concerned, through economic co-operation or through initiatives of the U.N. and other International Agencies, for measures to be taken which will assist in their economic advancement and enable them to overcome these disabilities.

Sri Lanka, along with other nations, has been active in this regard and a notable instance of such initiatives is the UNCTAD where developing countries have taken concerted action to highlight their problems and attempt to resolve them by negotiations and consultations with developed nations under the auspices of the United Nations. Non-aligned countries are also exploring schemes

for economic co-operation through utilisation of their own resources. At the meeting of the Non-aligned Summit at Algiers in September, 1973, the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka drew attention to the fact that the developing Non-aligned Nations are essentially agricultural communities with pockets of industrialisation here and there.

### **Special Fund**

AGAINST that background and the very low productivity of agriculture in these countries, she said that it should be possible to think in terms of a Special Fund for agricultural development not necessarily centralised in one institution, but on the basis of co-operation with the existing financial agencies. She also suggested that it may be possible to devise means by which fertilizer is produced in the developing countries themselves and supplies made available to other Non-aligned countries which do not produce fertilizer on the basis of concessional payment arrangements. She also mooted the idea of a clearing house for information on agricultural practices.

At a regional level too Sri Lanka has been directing her efforts towards the promotion of economic co-operation. One of Sri Lanka's initiatives at a regional level which has had an impact beyond the geographical limits of the region with favourable responses from among the entire international community is the Prime Minister's proposal of a World Fertilizer Fund made at the 30th Sessions of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE) in Colombo on 27th March, 1974. That proposal, which envisaged the financing of a Fertilizer Fund by countries which have benefited to a great extent from the rising prices of their major exports has been greeted with enthusiasm not only by the oil exporting nations but by many developed nations as well. The Prime Minister had also suggested that the Fund should have access to other resources on a world-wide basis including what she called a "Food Tax" fixed at half per cent. of the

value of all exports. The proposed fund had promising responses at the 6th Special Session of the United Nations in New York. Thus, on the economic side, the policy of non-alignment is directed at efforts towards economic advancement in concert with other developing countries through the medium of bilateral, regional or international action.

### **Non-alignment**

AN outstanding feature of the policy of non-alignment as pursued by Sri Lanka is the support of the United Nations. Non-alignment like the United Nations is dedicated to the preservation of peace, understanding and goodwill among nations through peaceful means. Peace cannot be preserved through power blocs and military alliances, as history has proved time and again, and to the extent that their groupings detract from the peace-keeping function of the United Nations, they represent retrograde steps which generate the very tensions leading to war. Non-alignment therefore has a vested interest in the United Nations, because their edicts and objectives are identical. This does not amount to any uncritical endorsement of the United Nations as it stands and functions today. Non-alignment is only too aware of the limitations and comparative ineffectiveness of the United Nations on occasions and of the apparently widening gap between its performances and aspirations. Yet it is the best there is. As Mr. Bandaranaike himself said, "if we look at it from that angle the only lifeline of humanity today is the United Nations, with all its defects."

In recent times, the initiatives of the Sri Lanka Government in foreign relations have been focussed on two areas which have in fact earned for the country recognition and prestige in international circles. These are Sri Lanka's initiative in the Sea Bed Committee at the U. N. and her advocacy of the proposal of a Peace Zone in the Indian Ocean. For the last 4 years, Sri Lanka has

played a very prominent part in the deliberation of the Committee of the Sea Bed, the Chairman of which is Sri Lanka's Permanent Representative to the U. N., Mr. H. S. Amerasinghe. The objectives of this Committee are to consider ways and means of harnessing the vast resources in the oceans of the world and ocean floor for the collective benefit of mankind in a manner which would enable their equitable use by all States irrespective of power and size, and prevent their monopolization by big powers. The Sub-Committee have made impressive progress in their endeavours and a major achievement was the adoption in 1971 of a Charter setting out the guidelines for the use of the Sea Bed and the Ocean Floor. If their further efforts are successful it would open a new chapter in the economic advancement of the world as it will make available virtually boundless resources for the use of mankind.

### **Peace Zone**

SRI Lanka has earned recognition for its role in pursuing the proposal for the establishment of a Peace Zone in the Indian Ocean. This idea was first proposed by Sri Lanka's Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, at the Summit meeting of the non-aligned powers in Cairo in 1964 and subsequently it was sponsored by her again at the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference in Singapore in 1971. In October, 1971, the Prime Minister personally presented it at the 26th Session of the U. N. General Assembly in New York. The proposal as advocated by Sri Lanka envisages the Indian Ocean area becoming a zone which will be free of the military activities and presence of big powers in a state of rivalry and competition and the elimination of armament installations maintained by them in this area. The Indian Ocean area will thereby be secured for lawful commercial activities and other peaceful pursuits by outside maritime users and the States of the region.



The advantages of this proposal envisaged by Sri Lanka are many sided. It will be a contribution to the objective of world disarmament as it will render a major area, which is also politically a very sensitive one, free of tension and threats to world peace originating from international rivalries. It will equally insulate States of the region from the effects of great power rivalries in their midst and enable them to proceed with programmes of their economic development unimpeded by the impact of foreign threats. It should provide an opportunity for great powers and other maritime users to contribute to the collective economic advancement of this region through exploitation of its natural resources for the benefit of the people of the region. Thus the Indian Ocean area, instead of becoming a battleground of nations, could be a theatre for collective action by them for economic advancement of mankind in accordance with U. N. objectives.

### Substantial Progress

THE proposal has made substantial progress since its adoption in the Agenda of the 26th Session of the General Assembly. At that Session, a resolution was adopted spelling out the objectives of the proposal and calling for consultations among the various parties concerned. At the 27th Session in 1972, further headway was made when a resolution was adopted with 96 votes in favour for appointing an ad hoc committee of 15 members to examine the proposal and study measures for its implementation. One of the encouraging features in this connection is its increasing acceptance in the world community including nations which previously held reservation and also the interest shown in the proposal in other parts of the world and the emergence of similar peace zone ideas in such areas.

The Prime Minister who led the Sri Lanka delegation to the Commonwealth Heads of

Government Meeting at Ottawa in August 1973 drew attention to the Indian Ocean Peace Zone proposal and commended it to the Commonwealth countries as a worthwhile initiative to support because the Indian Ocean was a key area of the Commonwealth. In their final communique at the end of the Conference, the Heads of Government noted the progress made with regard to the proposal and expressed the hope that the deliberations of the Ad hoc Committee appointed in 1972 by the United Nations would receive the support and co-operation of all the States concerned. The Prime Minister focussed attention to the proposal again at the Fourth Non-aligned Summit at Algiers the following month with promising results.

### Big Impact

IT is clear that Sri Lanka's proposal as advocated by our Prime Minister has produced a significant international impact. It is a tribute to the originality as well as sincerity of the idea. Apart from its long-term value as a means of providing the foundations for security in the Indian Ocean area, this proposal will at this juncture have a material bearing on various trends which are visible in this area. In recent times, there had been signs of increasing great power activities in this region, signified by their interest in the establishment of bases and the general presence of foreign military vessels in these oceans. Besides, recent developments in the Asian sub-continent have given rise to tension and created an atmosphere which could be conducive to such trends. In this context, the proposal for the Peace Zone has an immediate relevance as an approach to current problems.

This brief survey of certain features of the foreign policy of the United Front Government of Sri Lanka during the period in which it had been in power has revealed a steadfast adherence to the principle of non-alignment.

Sri Lanka, in fact, and our Prime Minister personally, holds a special position in this regard in that not only does the non-aligned policy derive inspiration from the late Prime Minister but the present Prime Minister, Mrs. Bandaranaike, has become one of its foremost exponents and today she is in a unique position of being one of the few heads of Government who have been associated with all the non-aligned Summit conferences which have been held — in Belgrade in 1961, Cairo in 1964, and Lusaka in 1970. The validity of non-alignment as a policy has been vindicated by the trend of recent events and not, as many imagine, been called into

question. If at all, the need for it is more urgent now when the threat of great power rivalries is beginning to cast its shadow over the Afro-Asian region.

Sri Lanka looks forward to the continuing implementation of these policies in the future and the realisation therefrom, not only of its own national objectives of happiness and advancement of its people but in the wider interests of its region and the international community.

*(Prepared by the Publicity Division, Ministry of Defence and Foreign Affairs Republic Building, Colombo 1, May, 1974.)*

# The New Legal System of Sri Lanka

NIHAL JAYAWICKRAMA

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IN 1833, a British lawyer by the name of Cameron devised a legal system which he thought would suit the needs of the new Colony, and the British Sovereign impressed that system by Royal Charter. Thus was transplanted in an essentially feudal agricultural society in the Orient a structure which had been fashioned to suit the requirements of industrial England on the era of the Reform Bill. And in the Audience Hall where the King of Kandy had held court barely fifteen years earlier, there appeared a strange phenomenon garbed in scarlet and ermine and a mane which visibly stirred as the hot tropical air seeped through. Before him the simple Sinhala villager crouched in bewilderment and heard strange unintelligible sounds which he could not then comprehend but which we now know represented the majesty of British Justice.

A hundred years passed. The Crown Colony was transformed into a Dominion and a Duke of Royal blood sailed across the ocean to stand witness as the Union Jack was gently lowered. He brought the gift of British Democracy, planted it on our fertile soil and expressed the hope of the King of England that His subjects will tend these institutions with love and care. His subjects did not fail Him—at least, not as far as British Justice was concerned. They kept it intact in its pristine purity. Regardless of the stamp and the post, the Fiscal still trudged to the furthest corners of the Island carrying in his shirt pocket the summons of the court.

The village became urbanized, but the Rural Court remained. Education replaced patronage, but the juror still depended on his wife's property for his right to sit in judgment on his fellowmen. Liberal and enlightened thought found expression, but manhood continued to rot within prison walls. And as the years rolled by, a singularly privileged legal profession held to ransom the unfortunate commoner who, enmeshed in an antique labyrinth with its tortuous passages and cavities, groped for justice until doomsday.

The first attack came in 1957 in the wake of the great social upheaval that followed the emergence of S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike. His fiercely nationalistic Justice Minister, the late M. W. H. de Silva, resuscitated the traditional role of the village elder in maintaining peace, harmony and good neighbourliness in the village home. The Conciliation Boards for which he then laid the groundwork have helped to extricate the common man from the stranglehold of an intricate and archaic court procedure. The most recent statistics speak for themselves. In 1970 of a total of 28,286 disputes referred to Conciliation Boards, 14,526 or 51.3 per cent were settled. In 1971, of a total of 32,944 disputes, 16,823 or 51 per cent were settled. In 1972, of a total of 47,199 disputes, 28,352 or 60.1 per cent were settled. In the last three years therefore, 59,701 potential cases between at least 119, 402 potential litigants have been resolved right at the source in accord with the traditional genius of our people.

Nearly fifteen years and four general elections later, the next significant change took place when the highest court of our land ceased to be held six thousand miles away in the rarefied atmosphere of London. The establishment of the Court of Appeal of Ceylon under the Court of Appeal Act, No. 44 of 1971 not only made the right of appeal a reality which could be seen, felt and exercised, but also ensured that our law would be interpreted and authoritatively stated not by the Privy Council in England but by our own, our native judges.

In 1972, with the proclamation of the free, sovereign and independent Republic of Sri Lanka, Sinhala replaced English as the language of the courts and the litigant suddenly realised, understood and appreciated the majesty and the commonsense of the law and became the central figure of the courtroom drama.

Between 1972 and 1974, in the first two years of the Republic, there was formulated and implemented by the first "elected" Justice Minister of Sri Lanka, Mr. Felix R. Dias Bandaranaike, the most comprehensive and extensive programme of legal reform undertaken in this century. Its objective is set out succinctly in Section 2 of the Administration of Justice Law, No. 44 of 1973 as being to achieve simplicity and uniformity in procedure, fairness in administration, the elimination of unjustifiable expense and delay and the just determination of every judicial proceeding.

The court structure has been rationalised to serve the needs of the present decade, with trial courts scattered throughout the country within easy reach of the villages, exercising jurisdiction subject to one appeal

to the Supreme Court which sits in Colombo. The second appeal was abolished as it held out no meaning to over 20,000 litigants who had waited in vain for several years, some from as far back as 1960, in the hope of exercising their right of first appeal.

In Criminal Procedure, many concepts and ideas have been borrowed from the developed world to ensure that a criminal trial is less in the nature of a game of cricket and more in the character of a search for justice. The pre-trial court proceedings have been abolished, and instead the Director of Public Prosecutions exercises supervision over criminal investigations by the police and decides whether or not to indict at the end of each investigation. Copies of all relevant statements are provided free of charge to the accused, thus relieving him of the task of having to spirit them away with the help of an obliging police constable or KKS. The average pre-trial non-summary proceeding usually dragged on from nine to twelve months, and not only wasted judicial time and public funds but also drained the accused person of all his resources. Today, a major criminal trial is concluded within three to six months of the date of offence. The provisions relating to bail have been revised to enable accused persons to be released on personal bail pending trial, thus clearing up the prisons and turning the professional bailman out of business. In recognition of the principle of individual liberty, remand pending trial has been restricted in those exceptional cases in which it is ordered by Court, to 15 days in the case of minor offences and in the case of major crime, to maximum periods of three months pending investigation, three months pending consideration of the material by the DPP and 45 days pending

trial. Women have become eligible to serve as jurors, and so have young men devoid of property but blessed with education. Summons and other legal documents are sent by registered post and in respect of certain statutory offences, an accused person may even plead by post. A plea of guilt or a confession is considered relevant in determining sentence, and an accused person who remains silent when confronted by a prima facie case will probably suffer the logical consequences of such conduct. An accused who absconds may find himself being convicted during his hibernation. Doctors, analysts, radiologists and other professional witnesses are not required to make a daily trek to court, but are permitted to submit their evidence by affidavit. A person fined by court will find attempts being made to recover that fine from his salary or wages or by the seizure and sale of his property. In the event of default, the State will not feed him while he idles within prison walls, but will instead require him to perform unpaid service for the community. First offenders and short-term prisoners will be spared the experience of prison life and will instead have their sentences suspended while society gives them another chance to redeem themselves.

In the field of Civil Procedure, similar innovations have been introduced in an amendment to the Administration of Justice Law which is now before the National State Assembly. The notorious Roll has been replaced by a series of automatic steps which will be taken by the parties within prescribed periods without the intervention of court. The American concept of the pre-trial conference has been introduced to enable the ground to be cleared for the trial of the relevant issues. The parties are required to tender before the date of trial the evidence of all their witnesses in affidavit form. This will enable the parties

to go into court with their eyes wide open, in full awareness of the strength or weakness of their respective cases, without the need to play a game of hide and seek with each other. It will also cut the time consuming court proceedings drastically by eliminating altogether the examination-in-chief of witnesses. Execution proceedings have been streamlined and any defiance of the judgment of court will be met with either an insolvency order or contempt proceedings.

Many other significant changes are also now in force. Written submissions are required to be filed in every appeal within a prescribed period and appeals are thereafter listed for disposal, not at the convenience of counsel as in the past, but in the order in which they have been filed. The District Court no longer requires the heirs of deceased persons to keep displaying themselves at periodic intervals, sometimes for as long as twelve years, while it attempts to administer the deceased's estate. This work is now performed and completed by the Public Trustee in his regional offices within the upper time limit of two years prescribed by the new law. The duplicity of the legal profession which required the unsuspecting client to pay two sets of fees on each occasion has been abolished and we no longer have advocates and proctors but simply attorneys-at-law who are free to undertake any type of legal activity within their competence.

It will perhaps be inaccurate to claim that winds of change have blown over Hultsdorp dusting away the cobwebs of a past decade. In truth and in fact, a typhoon has swept across the legal firmament taking with it the debris of a century, but leaving behind a very fertile base upon which new concepts, traditions and institutions will surely take root. But the measure of justice administered by our courts and the independence and integrity of our judges have always remained constant and, despite the changing

circumstances, will so remain. "Not all the guns of the garrison levelled at their lordships would intimidate the court", said Chief Justice Carrington in 1804 to General Wemyss who was brought up on a charge of contempt and had appeared with his staff, wearing sidearms and bayonets. In 1937, Chief Justice Abrahams questioned the deportation order of Mark Anthony Bracegirdle and said: "The Crown takes its stand upon what it submits are the unquestionable absolute powers of the Governor, and it is our duty to say that these powers are limited. The Governor's order was made without authority. The arrest and detention are illegal and Mr. Bracegirdle must be released". In 1972, in the face of angry rumblings in the national legislature and

what he considered was an attempt by its members to trespass on his territory, Constitutional Court President T. S. Fernando spoke thus: "The duty of interpreting the Constitution is ours and ours alone. To interpret it, we have to first understand it. For that understanding we have to rely on our own judgment. Any other course of action involves an abdication of our functions. It therefore follows that our duty by the Constitution and the People in whom Sovereignty resides is to continue to perform the function which the Constitution enjoins on us. That we intend to do". There is no reason to believe that Chief Justice Tennekoon and his colleagues and those who in the years to come will succeed them will speak a different language.

# Culture, State and The People

HEMASIRI PREMAWARDHANA

*Secretary, Ministry of Cultural Affairs*

IT has now become a truism to say that the year 1956 marked the beginning of an era of significant social and cultural development in Sri Lanka. Under the leadership and direction of the late Prime Minister, Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, the Government took several important and far-reaching steps which gave effect to the recognition the State accorded to the role of culture in the nation's development. A portfolio was created for Cultural Affairs and a Department established to implement Government policy on culture.

While the needs of other religions were given due attention particular emphasis was laid on Buddhism, the religion which had fashioned and moulded the way of life, thought and action of the larger majority of the people of Sri Lanka for 2,500 years.

An Academy of Letters—the Sri Lanka Sahitya Mandalaya—was set up in order to promote and foster literature written in the national languages. A National Theatre Trust was established to promote play-writing, play-production and the theatre-going habit. A National Book Trust was set up to provide better reading material to the general reading public and in particular to new-literates. The National Book Trust also provided a mobile library service with the objective of promoting the reading habit among the people. The Arts Council of Ceylon which had been functioning earlier reoriented itself to the needs and aspirations of the people in its activities concerned with the promotion of the indigenous arts and crafts.

## **Meaningful Steps**

IT would be seen that in the years immediately following 1956 the State took a large

number of steps of a very positive and meaningful nature to give effect to its policy of cultural development. A climate was created in which traditional arts and crafts and indigenous artists could flourish with a sense of dignity and self-respect, and with a sense of pride and freedom all of which has been denied to the arts and artists during the period of colonial rule.

During the decade commencing in 1956 the nation sought to re-establish its identity and its personality through a search and re-examination of the values enshrined in traditional culture as reflected in the literature and the arts belonging to the past. The need for such search and re-examination became necessary at two levels internally within the nation itself, and internationally in the context of the country's relations with the outside world.

Internally the events of 1956 brought to the fore a host of social and cultural forces which had hitherto been deprived, degraded and neglected. There had been a socio-cultural division of the nation into two contrasting groups—the one English-educated Western-oriented upper middle and middle class, mostly, and, the other Sinhala educated, tradition-rooted, lower middle class, working class and peasant, mostly. A choice ought to have been made at the time of the departure of the colonial regime in which direction the nation should proceed but the leadership which was western-oriented and elitist and had no sense of identity with the large majority of the people failed to make such a choice.

### National Goals

IT was in 1956 that a choice was made and the choice was an affirmation, a reassertion, and a reinforcement of an identity which the nation had lost due to the inattention and neglect of the colonial regime and also to the attitude of the local elitist leadership which succeeded the colonial rulers. The re-establishment of the national identity also necessarily involved the aspects of national goals and objectives in the fields of social, economic and cultural development. The measures introduced by the government in 1956 and the years immediately thereafter were the outcome of the working out of the cultural implications of the choice made by the people.

On the international level too the nation had to take into account the fact of its true identity, its goals, objectives and aspirations in relation to the rest of the world. Here it was a question of readjustment and a balancing of national and international needs. It was necessary to preserve a sense of the past—not the colonial past but the traditional past—but at the same time also realise the need to keep in tune with the scientific, industrial and technological advancement going on apace in other parts of the world. In the sphere of culture there was a need to exchange and create mutual understandings, strengthening old bonds and ties and creating new friendships on the basis of equality, mutual respect and in a spirit of give and take. There also had to be a sense of balance and harmony in the acceptance or rejection of external cultural influences.

### Cultural Resurgence

WE can now see that the initial years of the cultural resurgence or renaissance were necessarily devoted to the search for forms and models in literature and the Arts which were capable of reflecting the national identity, national goals, objectives and aspira-

tions. The general and natural tendency then was to seek for these forms and models in the traditional culture and in the traditional arts and rituals. The rediscovery, resurgence, revitalisation and the glorification of the traditional national dances and rituals—such as Kandyan Dancing and Low Country (Ruhunu) Dancing, the search for a national system of music based on the folk tradition—are significant examples of the serious and conscious efforts made by the nation to re-establish its true identity in the local and international context. The State accorded its patronage, and more importantly created institutions which were financed from the national revenue, which assisted, guided and co-operated with individuals and organisations in their efforts in cultural development.

### Significant Steps

IN 1970 another very significant step was taken by the government in the field of cultural development when it set up a Ministry of Cultural Affairs. It is the responsibility of this Ministry to direct, co-ordinate and supervise the activities of the various departments which came under it. Taken together these departments—Cultural Affairs, National Museums, National Archives and Archaeology along with the Sri Lanka Cultural Council which has replaced the Arts Council of Ceylon, the Sri Lanka Sahitya Mandalaya, the National Theatre Trust and the Lanka Bauddha Mandalaya Fund—enclose a greater portion of national cultural activity. A further significant step was taken in 1972 when a sectoral sub-committee for Culture and the Mass Media was set up under the sectoral committee for Social Overheads, which functions under the National Planning Council.

With the creation of the sectoral sub-committee for Culture and the Mass Media an important step has been taken to include



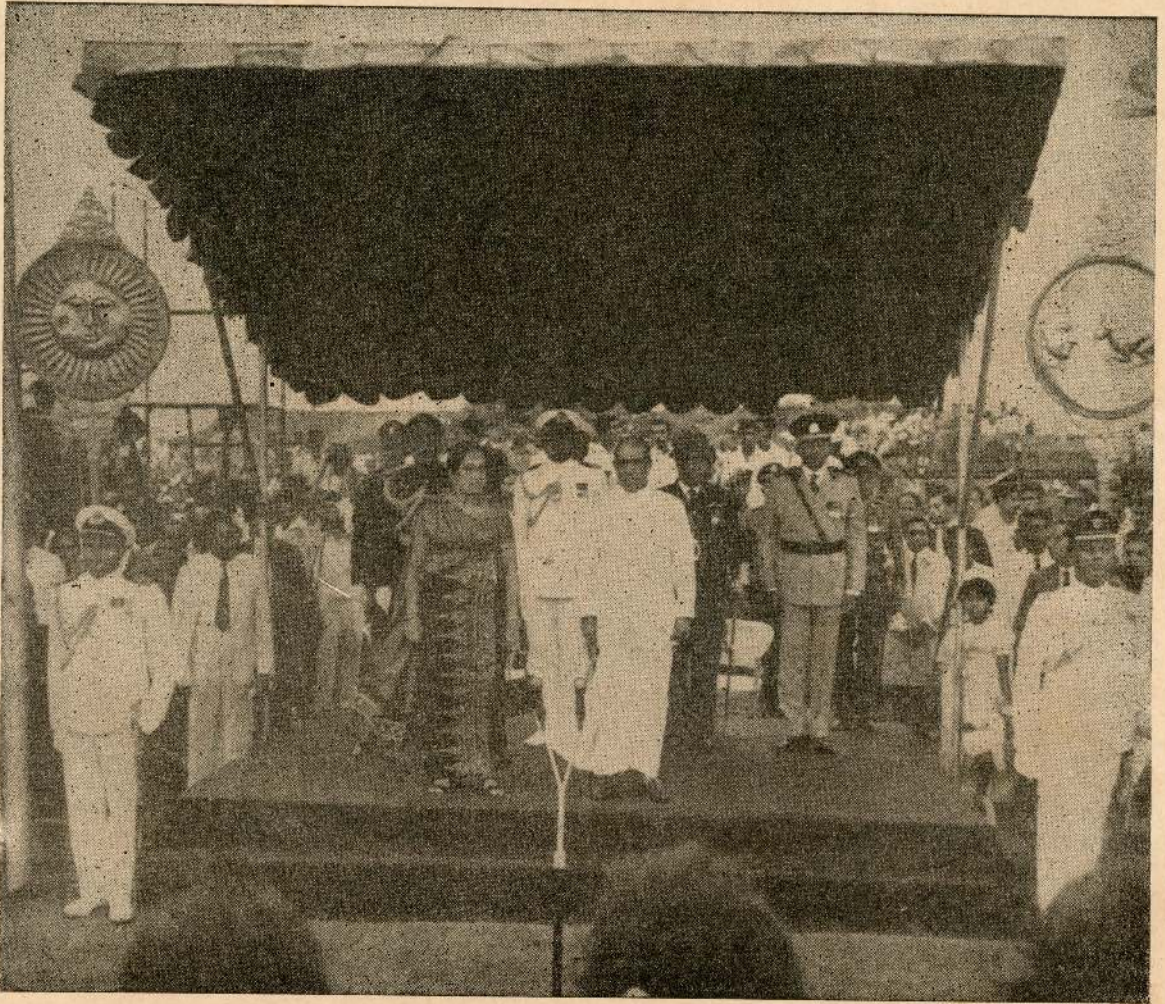
culture in the planning and programming of national development. The State has thus recognized the necessity for a balance between the imperatives of economic planning and the need to preserve the quality of life, particularly the need to achieve a harmony and balance between economic progress, material advancement, social well being and cultural development in terms of national goals and objectives, popular aspirations and hopes and the requirements of the international context.

### **Intensive Search**

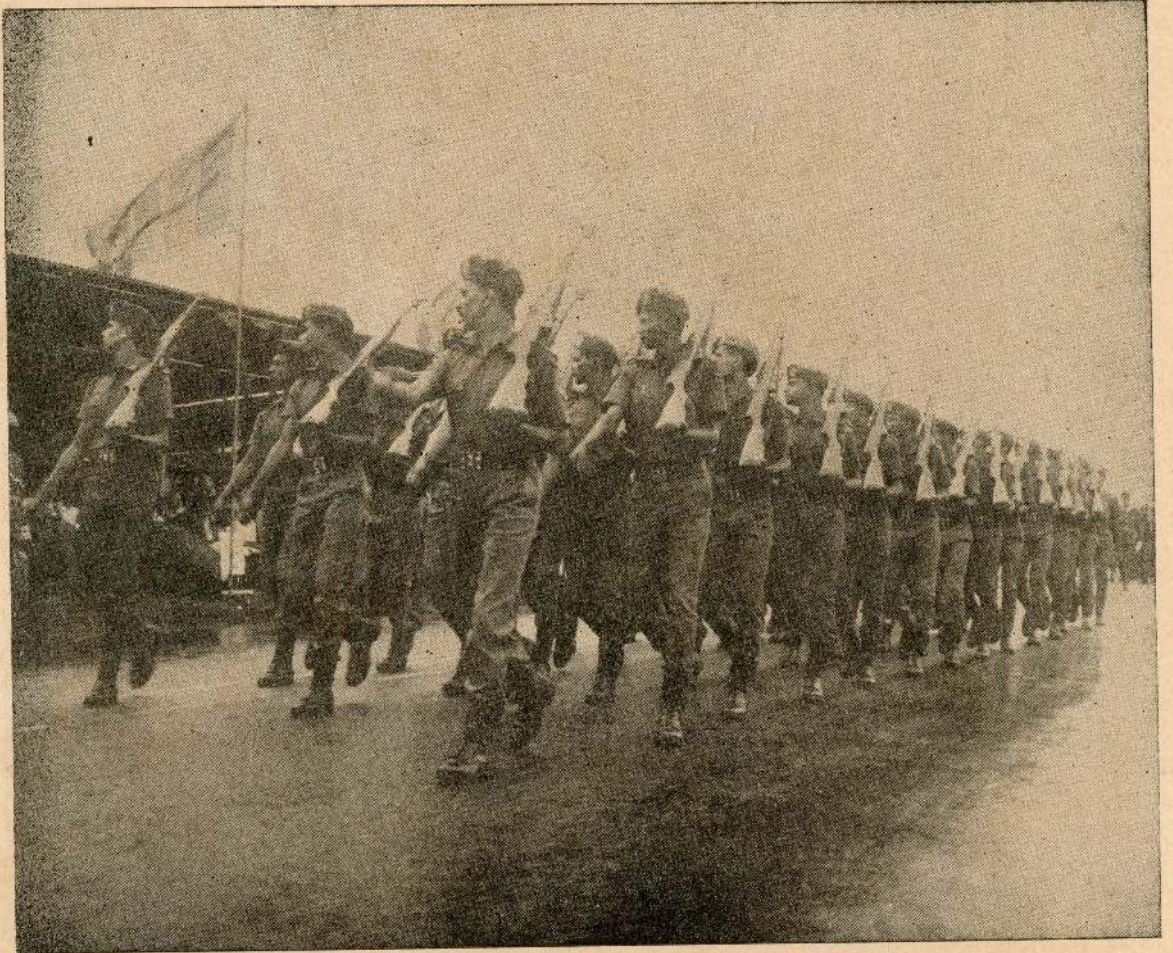
THE 1970s have been marked by an increased search for forms of cultural and artistic expression in terms of the past, the present and the future. Bold experiments in Drama & Theatre, in the novel, in painting and sculpture, in music and dancing have been conducted by creative artists who have been responsive to national goals and

aspirations. The State itself has taken the initiative to bring culture closer to the people and make it more meaningful by establishing cultural centres in the rural areas—thus democratising and decentralising cultural activity. In an effort to make the lot of the creative artist better and to improve his status in society the Ministry of Cultural Affairs has taken steps to establish co-operatives of writers, dramatists and traditional craftsmen. A dialogue has been established between the State and the artists in order to understand their problems and to attempt to solve them.

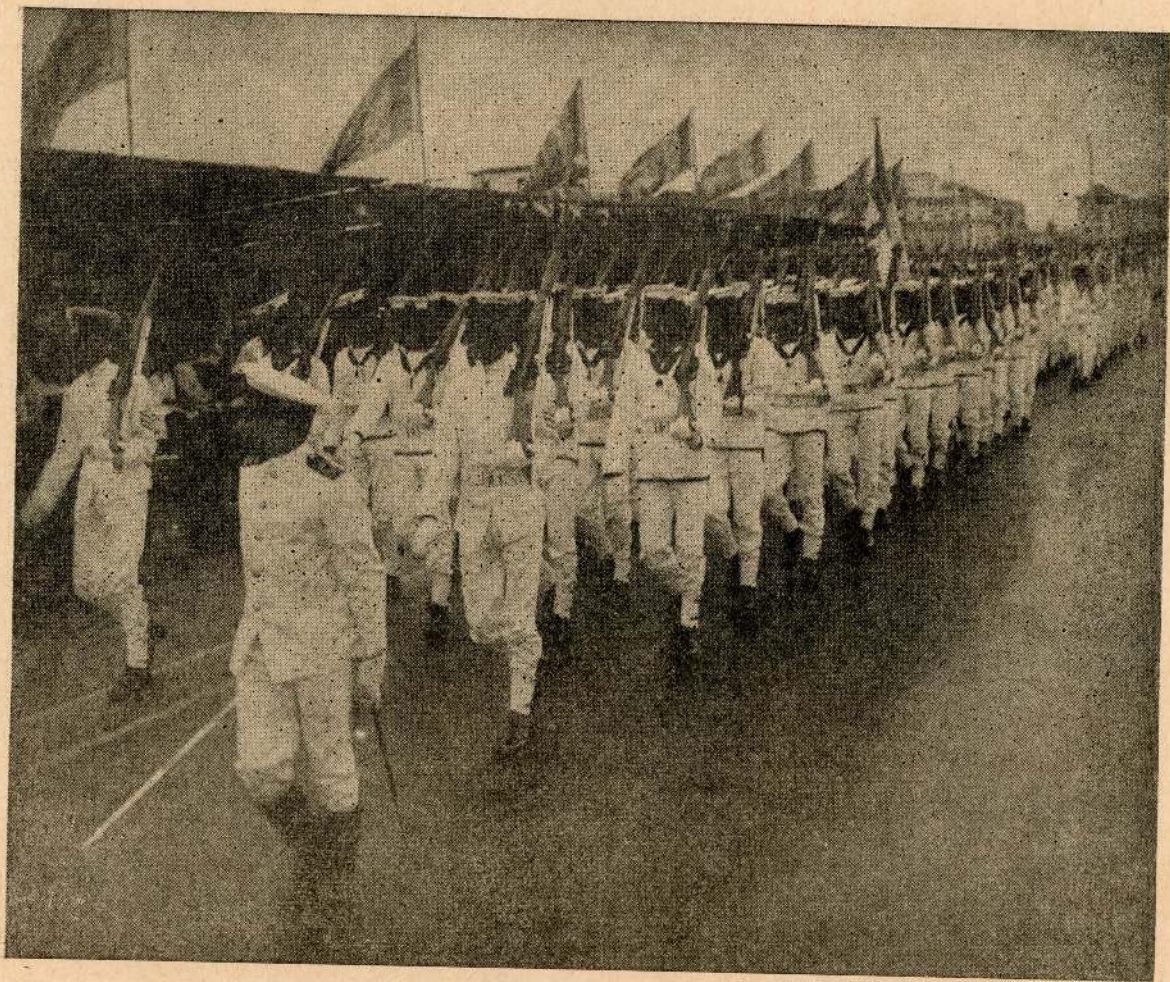
Cultural development in the years to come will be marked by more decentralisation with concomitant participation in culture by the people, more facilities and services for artistic creation and expression and the achievement of a wise balance between economic imperatives and cultural values.



*The President, Mr. William Gopallawa, and the Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, take the salute at the parade of the Armed Services on Republic Day.*



*The Sri Lanka Army at the Republic Day parade.*



*Members of the Sri Lanka Navy step out smartly at the parade of the Armed Services on Republic Day.*



*The band of the Sri Lanka Police participate in the Republic Day parade.*



*Boy scouts join the Republic Day parade.*



*School girls turn out smartly at the Republic Day parade.*



*A band from a girls' school at the Republic Day parade.*





*A band from a boys' school at the parade.*

# Sri Lanka : An immensely Cinematic Nation

D. B. NIHALSINGHE

• General Manager, State Film Corporation

TAKING into consideration her size and her population, it would be stated that Sri Lanka is an immensely cinematic nation. There are 367 cinemas in the country with a cinema-going adult population of about 3,000,000 people. This is a very high ratio for this part of the world. The film production industry of the country is now over 25 years in existence and now boasts of a production of about 40 to 50 feature films an year. India has about 3,000 cinemas for a cinema-going population of about 200 million.

During these 25 years the domestic production have gone through many trials and triumphs. It has seen the best of films and the worst of films, and now an era has dawned with the formation of the State Film Corporation, which it is hoped, would ultimately lead to the enhancement of the quality and quantity not only of the best films produced, but also of the average ones as well.

The majority of the films produced in any country obviously falls far below the quality of films which are normally desired by the intelligentsia. The success of Hollywood lies in its essence in the high average of its average product than of its best. The film industry of any country will produce good films and its best films under the most difficult circumstances. The challenge lies in the quality and quantity of its average product—i.e. the films that the majority of the people come to see. It is an inescapable fact that films do serve a sociological purpose, and that in the long run the films cannot rise above the taste of the people for whom they are made.

The best of the films that the country has produced have won laurels in international festivals all over the world. More than

anyone else, one name stands out in Sri Lanka in the cinema world—that of Lester James Peiris, who not only pioneered the development of that class of cinema which put Sri Lanka on the world map, but also by his sincerity and dedication has before him a record of production which a very few cinema artists in the world could equal.

Among the outstanding films which the artists of this country have produced are :—

REKAWA  
GAMPERALIYA  
GOLU HADAWATHA  
RAN SALU  
NIDHANAYA  
AKKARA PAHA  
PARASATHUMAL  
SATH SAMUDURA  
DAHASAK SITHUVILI  
WELIKATHARA

Of the above films, GAMPERALIYA has won the 'Golden Peacock' at the New Delhi International Film Festival in 1964, and NIDHANAYA has won the 'Silver Lion' at the Venice Film Festival in 1972.

Sri Lanka has also produced some very outstanding short films and this is a matter which is very seldom known. The most outstanding of our short film directors is Mr. P. Hettiarachchi who is the Chief Producer of the Government Film Unit. His record of success in directing outstanding short films begins with the film MAKERS, MATERIALS & MOTIFS which won the highest honour in its class—'The Golden Mercury' first

prize at the Venice International Film Festival in 1959. This was followed up by—

● RHYTHMS OF THE PEOPLE—

- (a) First Honourable Mention  
Karlovy Vary International Film Festival—1961
- (b) Diploma of Merit  
Vancouver International Film Festival—1961

● A CENTURY OF CEYLON TEA—

- (a) 'Golden Mercury' First Prize  
Venice International Film Festival—1970
- (b) Diploma of Honour  
Liepzig International Film Festival—1969

● PADDY PESTS & INSECTS

Berlin—Gold Medal—1974

● PADDY FERTILIZER

Berlin—Bronze Medal—1974

**Short Films**

OTHERS who have produced outstanding short films and won awards are :—

*Mr. Irwin Dassanaike*—also a Film Director in the Films Division for his film *LIVING WILD* which won an Honourable Mention at the Vancouver International Film Festival—1959

*Mr. George Wickremasinghe*—for his films *FISHERMEN OF NEGOMBO* and *KANDY PERAHERA*. *KANDY*

*PERAHERA* won the Silver Cup at the International Film Festival held at Salerno, Italy ; a Silver Medal at the 22nd International Tourist Festival, Italy, and an Honorary Diploma at the 10th Tourist Film Festival, France.

The State Film Corporation has now inaugurated a scheme which include the issue of raw films at subsidised rates ; award of prizes for scripts ; registration of film technicians in order to promote professionalism in film making ; and the reduction of foreign film competition that the domestic film industry has had to face. A National Film Centre which will incorporate the Film Training School for training of film technicians is also envisaged.

Sri Lanka has been a heavy importer of foreign films to feed its wide market. The indications that Sri Lanka films are accepted abroad and that they can find markets abroad provided that they are well made to international standards, began with the sale of the films *REKAWA* and *GAMPERALIYA* for international distribution. Recently other films have also had similar success—namely, the sale of *NIDHANAYA* and exploitation of *RAN SALU*, and the sale of the films *DHEEVERAYO*, *GOLU HADAWATHA* and *WELIKATHARA* for international territories. Also under negotiation for sale at the present time are the films of the Government Films Division.

All this is indicative of a promising future for Sri Lanka's film industry.



*The Minister of Information and Broadcasting Mr. R. S. Perera and the Minister of Health Mr. W. P. G. Ariyadasa, declaring open the seminar for Communication personnel on population issues at the Bandaranaike International Conference Hall in Colombo.*



*The Minister of Information Mr. R. S. Perera and the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany Dr. H. Feilner visit the Films Division of the Government Information Department in connection with the gifting of film equipment by the German Government.*

## News in Brief

### PRIME MINISTER'S MAY DAY MESSAGE

*The following is the text of the May Day message issued by the Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike :—*

IT gives me great pleasure to send a message to you on this which is May Day—a day of historical significance to workers and farmers the world over.

Sri Lanka is today faced with a situation which has been precipitated by many serious economic problems.

All of us must clearly understand that there is only one way of achieving economic independence and freedom from imperialist bonds, of achieving our national sovereignty.

We can see this struggle taking place at different levels in a number of Asian and African countries.

Simultaneous with this struggle for freedom by the smaller nations, the powerful nations of the world who have so far been getting rich by the exploitation of economic resources of the under-developed countries are making every endeavour to preserve their economic hegemony.

There is thus a contradiction in the aspirations of these two types of nations which has led to major repercussions on the economic situation the world over. All countries hitherto enjoying economic benefits began to find their advantageous positions threatened. The capitalist economy itself was faced with a crisis.

It was in 1974 that the effects of this situation began to be really felt.

At a time when the world economic situation was beset with problems, small countries like ours had made certain advances in our attempts towards managing our own affairs. But we have a long way to go and meanwhile the many problems that still need to be solved have caused considerable disruption in our economies.

This is the situation Sri Lanka is facing at the moment. Indeed we have taken significant steps to tackle landlessness, the shortage in housing, the high cost of living, the low rate of production, etc., which act as serious obstacles to the people's march towards a self-sufficient economy. These steps have in turn dealt a strong blow to the old privileged classes. We have also followed to a large extent an independent policy in our trade activities with a view to gradually freeing the country from international economic bonds. This Government has endeavoured to follow the policies laid down in 1956 by the late Prime Minister, Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike. Accordingly in 1972 my Government established a People's Republic based on the sovereignty of the people. We are making every effort to gear the administration and promulgate new laws in order to hasten the implementation of our declared policies.

The United Front Government has taken steps both in national and international fields to build a new economic structure based on the aspirations of the people, whilst at the same time the sovereignty of the people is being strengthened.

Meanwhile it is not a matter for surprise that anti-national groups have begun to actively oppose us. During this period when the old order is changing and when steps are being taken to achieve full sovereignty within an economic frame-work free from the shackles of imperialism, the entire nation has to face certain inevitable hardships in the form of food shortage and rising costs. But instead of uniting to grapple with these problems, certain anti-social elements have used these very difficulties as a weapon to spread discontent and to divide our ranks.

These elements think that the United Front Government which spearheads this struggle towards the people's sovereignty should be toppled in order to preserve the privileged classes and to save the capitalistic economic and political structure from complete obliteration.

People are waging a peaceful and democratic struggle for their legitimate economic and social rights. Those who are enemies of the people are following undemocratic and conspiratorial methods.

Our path to victory lies in strengthening the unity and faith that has always existed between the people and the United Front Government. This is to be particularly remembered on this May Day.

Let us march forward against all forces that stand against the people, irrespective of whatever difficulties we may have to encounter. The United Front under my leadership will not turn back from the march to victory which the people expect from this Government. We shall not, under any circumstances, betray the confidence which the people have placed in my Government.

We shall achieve the full democratic sovereignty of our people, in their political and economic lives. But we can overcome our enemy only with the active support and encouragement of the working classes and the peasantry of this country. Therefore I appeal to all of you to give priority to our economic struggle and to work unceasingly, for it is only through your fullest participation in our efforts to gain economic self-sufficiency that we can achieve peace and harmony in our country.

## MAY DAY MESSAGE OF THE MINISTER OF LABOUR

*The following is the text of the May Day message issued by the Minister of Labour, Mr. Michael Siriwardena:—*

THIS year May Day comes at a time when the Nation is going through a period of great economic hardship. Many reasons beyond our control have contributed to this situation. However, a hopeful feature in an otherwise grim picture has been the patience and courage with which the people of this country have borne hardship. The credit for this goes largely to the workers and peasants who have given the lead to the rest of the country in facing their problems with fortitude and faith in the future. This, no doubt, is due to their appreciation of the special position of confidence workers and their organisations have been given by our Government and the steps taken to improve their lot during the last four years.

The problem of unemployment is one that faces us in all its grimness. A solution to this problem depends on how the economy grows. Government has given land and every other encouragement to landless peasants to cultivate cash crops, thus creating new employment as well as helping economic development. In view of the rise in the cost of living, workers have been given an increase in wages, though however this may still not be adequate to cushion in full the effect of the increased cost of living.

I have lost no time since the assumption of my portfolio in seeking to promote a better understanding between employers and employees. Much has been achieved by this relationship during the past four years, and I hope that in the future too both work and peace would be joined together in this new orientation of employer-employee relationship in this country and thereby create industrial peace.

However, still there are some employers who take undue advantage of the Emergency Regulations. To rectify this position the Government has on my recommendations taken firm steps to effectively prevent employers from invoking the Emergency Regulations to their advantage by empowering the Commissioner of Labour to intervene as Competent Authority and settle any industrial dispute relating to vacation or termination of employment by making an order which will be binding on both parties. This will operate in future as a check on the abuse of an Emergency Regulation provision that was intended to ensure that essential services were maintained and production in work places and the development programmes of the Government were not impaired by work stoppages.

Those with some form of employment should consider themselves fortunate when compared with others who are still looking for employment. It is therefore, needless to say that the burden of nation building rests on the shoulders of the working people. They can make a meaningful contribution only through disciplined and dedicated efforts towards more production. I have no doubt that the workers and peasants will not fail our country at this hour of need.

In conclusion, I appeal to all workers to sink their differences on this day that is dedicated to workers the world over and rejoice and work unitedly for the prosperity of Sri Lanka, our Motherland.

### **Finance Minister's May Day Message**

*The following is the text of the message issued by the Minister of Finance, Dr. N. M. Perera :—*

I accept with great pleasure the invitation extended to me to send a message in connection with the May Day.

Since most of the developing countries had to face major problems affecting human existence and the development of a country as a result of price hikes in the world market and fuel shortage, this period could be cited as an era which affected its progress.

Since the developing countries had to seek assistance from the powerful, developed countries, we too, upto a certain extent, were affected by the inflationary effects.

It is actually, since 1956, that an era of prosperity of the working class, was ushered in. No other previous government had done anything for the betterment of the workers. The working class who exerts their energy and sweat for the progress of a country could be considered as the back bone of this country.

This Government has established a number of nationalised services for the betterment of the working class who extend their physical and mental co-operation for the economic development and the prosperity of this country. Since this Government appreciates their services, they have been given opportunities to lead a better life by granting them better salaries, education, health facilities, etc.

It should be mentioned herein that it was only after 1956 that the trade unions which were established for promoting the working conditions of the workers and safeguarding their Trade Union rights were recognised by the Government.

May Day was also declared a Public Holiday by the Bandaranaike Government formed in 1956. The Trade Union officials were given their due place in society by the present government by providing them with the privileges of availing themselves of higher education through Universities for efficient worker representatives, by obtaining a knowledge of Ordinances and Rules and Regulations regarding their Trade through the Workers Education Programmes. The service



which could be rendered by the educated and skilled workers for the progress of the country is great.

According to the present situation in the world, any country whether small or big cannot stand alone. The entire nations of the world are bound by some mutual understanding. Hence when one country faces difficulties, the other countries too will be affected. When strife arises whether in the Middle East or the Far East we too will feel it. When any country is faced with a famine etc., repercussions of those are unavoidable in our country too. The other countries of the world will face the same situation. This is the reason for the tension throughout the world today. We too have been confronted with certain difficulties. We ourselves have to overcome these difficulties. The only solution is to produce our own requirements as far as possible. Now we are a free, sovereign, independent nation. We do not have imperialist masters in our country to dump the excess produce of their countries or Empire. Therefore, we ourselves have to look into our affairs as any other independent nation does. Since the state of affairs in the world becomes more and more acute, we have to turn our country for the maximum development possible to overcome this difficulty. The Prime Minister realised this situation and 1973 was declared to be the production year. Apart from this, the five year plan was proclaimed to improve scientific development. If the expected targets are achieved, there is no reason for us to fear our future or the worsening situation of the world. Hence it is the bounden duty of the nation to achieve this target.

May Day is the day of deliverance of the working class. There is no other important day for the working class to dedicate themselves to perform their duties towards the nation. This Government was formed on the initiative of the suffering masses of this

country. Although we have been failing to fulfill their expectations as a whole, we are gradually marching towards that target.

It need not be specifically stated that the extremists and reactionaries will reap the harvest if the co-operation of the working class is not extended to this Government. It is the bounden duty of the working class to support the Government through the path of socialism by giving their co-operation. I appeal to the working class of this country, on this important day to endeavour to perform this task.

#### **May Day Message by the Minister of Housing and Construction**

*The following is the text of the May Day message issued by the Minister of Housing and Construction, Mr. Pieter Keuneman:—*

ON May Day 1974, important, difficult, but yet glorious, tasks face the working class of Sri Lanka.

Firstly, the working class must lead the other progressive forces to rebuff decisively the frantic efforts of foreign and domestic reactionaries to overthrow the United Front Government and do away with the many progressive socio-economic measures, such as the land reform and the ceiling on house ownership and income, which this government has introduced within the last four years.

Secondly, it must lead the other progressive forces to find radical solutions to the present food and other economic difficulties, at the expense of the foreign and domestic big vested interests, and not at the expense of the mass of the people.

Thirdly, within the framework of the overall struggle to consolidate political independence, win economic independence and advance towards socialism along a non-capitalist path, the working class must defend and promote their own vital interests in the

fight for better wages and working conditions, and for wider democratic and trade union rights.

Needless to say, under present conditions, the working class can best perform these tasks within the framework of the United Front, which remains the mainstream of the anti-imperialist movement in this country.

In carrying out these tasks, the working class will have to be constantly vigilant against the attempts of the reactionaries to demoralise and neutralise it by demagogic exploitation of the people's difficulties, against attempts to deny the working class its inalienable right to its own initiatives and the promotion of its own interests; and against those who try to sidetrack the workers into ultra-left adventures which reaction can easily smash.

On May Day 1974, as ever before, the workers of Sri Lanka will also re-affirm their strong bonds of international solidarity with the working peoples of the countries of victorious socialism and also with the peoples the world over who fight for peace to abolish imperialist, capitalist and feudal exploitation, to end racism, and to win a bright future under socialism.

I have great pleasure to extend my warm greeting, and fraternal salutations to the entire working class of Sri Lanka on May Day 1974 and to wish it every success in the period ahead.

#### **Gift of Film Equipment by Federal Republic of Germany**

*The following is the text of the speech made by the Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Mr. R. S. Perera, on the occasion of the handing over a gift of film equipment to the Films Divisions of the Department of Information by the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, Dr. H. Feilner, on April 29, 1974:—*

I thank Your Excellency and your Government for the gift of equipment that

has been given to the Films Division of the Department of Information and I have great pleasure in formally accepting it on behalf of my Government.

This gift has been made under the technical assistance programme of your country and includes the following equipment:—

A complete set of equipment for documentary production including Production Vans, cameras and editing equipment.

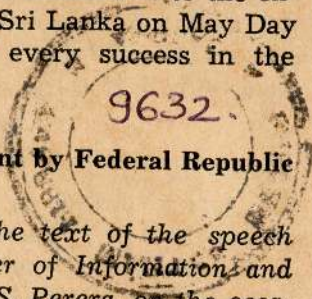
Equipment for the sound studio, which is one of the most modern in Asia.

A Processing Machine, a 35 mm—16 mm. reduction machine, for the laboratory.

In addition, a training programme for Technicians has been instituted. A scholarship scheme was started and already 3 technicians have been trained in the Federal Republic of Germany and 2 more are due to leave shortly. The training of further technicians is planned.

Under your technical assistance programme, we have obtained in 1968 the services of Mr. Paul Zils as Adviser to the Films Division which is under my Ministry. I find that Mr. Zils is due to return shortly to his country at the end of his assignment. I must say that during his stay here Mr. Zils's advice and example have been very useful. His services have also been invaluable in the case of the training given to the apprentices selected under the National Apprentices Scheme. The Sound Section of the Films Division has also benefited by the services of German Sound Engineer, Mr. Gunter Rauch, whose term of office came to an end at the end of last year.

Your Government's continuing assistance to the Films Division of the Department of Information is indeed very encouraging and should help us to improve the quality of our films as well as expand production



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