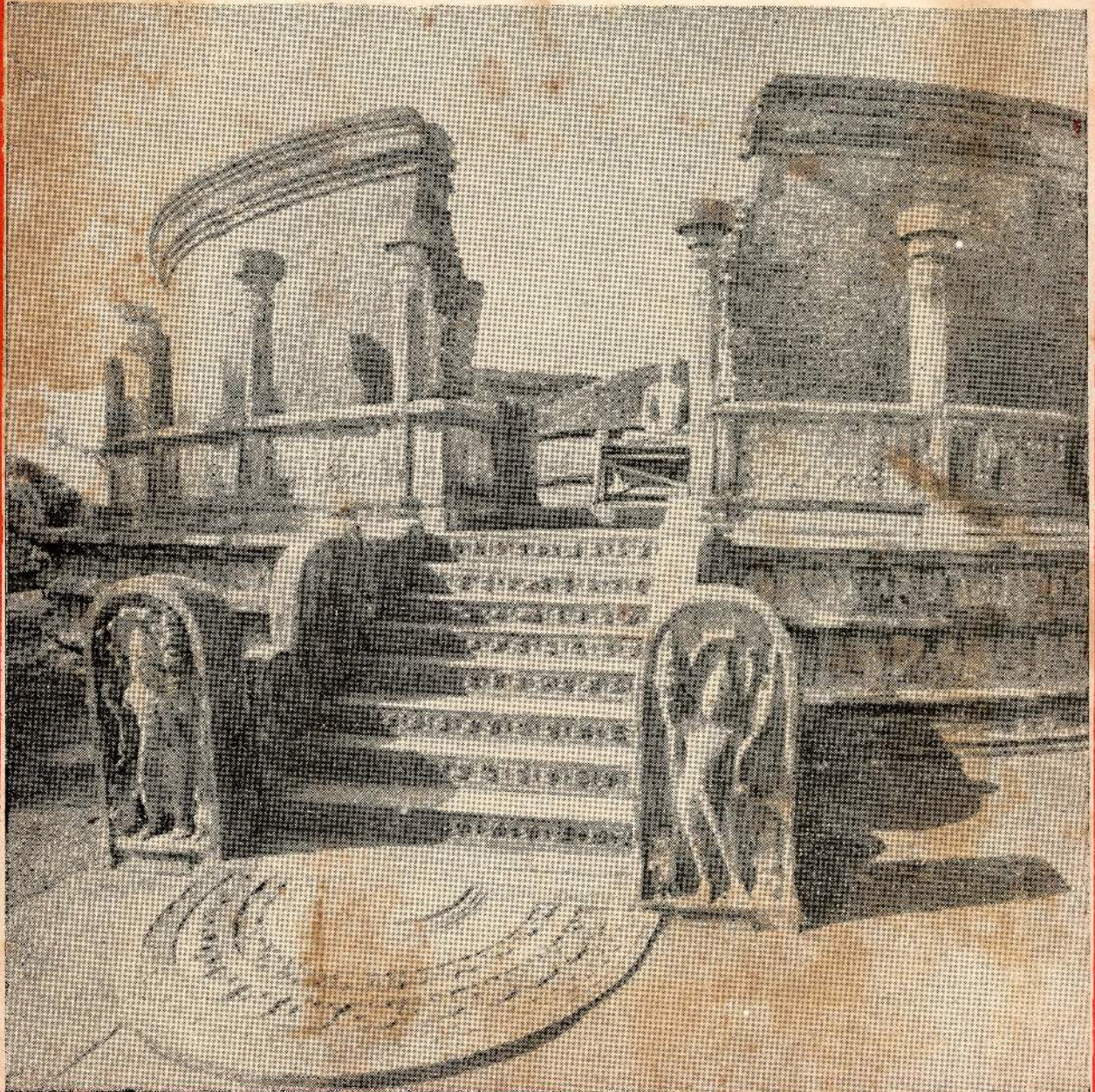


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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

WITH THE NEXT ISSUE on April 24, we hope to have a new cover design to mark a new phase in the history of *Tribune*. Founded in 1954, it has been continuously published for over 27 years. It will soon be in its 28th year. *Tribune* has passed through several phases as a journal of Sri Lanka and World Affairs. At the start, and for a long time thereafter, one of its main functions was to expose the malpractices and corruption in the Establishment of whatever party or coalition that was in power. In this period governments have changed five or six times. Some of the most telling expose stories that ultimately hit the headlines in this country were first mooted in the pages of *Tribune*. For some time now, the daily and weekly papers published by the Parties in the opposition have concentrated solely on exposing the acts of commission and omission of the ruling party. More recently the two new dailies had endeavoured to outdo all other papers picking holes in certain ministries and departments no doubt to compel the UNP to recognise the merits, usefulness and virtues of Upali Superman and when this failed, these papers are now on a reckless campaign to denigrate the Jayewaedene government and thereby promote the fortunes of a SLFP. *Tribune* has, as its readers will have noticed, begun to shift the emphasis from a mainly *expose* journal to one which besides enlarging its traditional analytical surveys of current political trends (both in Sri Lanka and abroad) to develop new features like the *Tribune Spotscope* and the *Tribune Agricultural Digest*. Readers, we hope, will find the new *Tribune* features interesting, readable and useful. *Tribune* will also continue to raise questions that expose malpractices as and when necessary or draw special attention to some of them already under public scrutiny. As announced elsewhere in this issue, there will be no issue of *Tribune* next week because of the Sinhala and Tamil New Year. The public holidays this year come in a way that will result in a kind of semi-paralysis of work schedules. We take this opportunity of wishing all our readers a bright and happy new year. ON THE COVER we have a picture of as well-known landmark in one of our ancient capitals. Many people in this emerald isle of blessed fame are still fond of talking about the glories of the past and unfortunately only about them alone. It is no doubt invigorating to draw inspiration from what our ancestors had done but it is even more important to see what the present has in store and what has to be done to end the hardships that afflict many people today. With the next general elections virtually around the corner, *Tribune* now thinks it necessary to start going round the country to get a feel of what people are thinking and saying. Last weekend *Tribune* was invited by the proprietors of the International poultry franchise for Sri Lanka (H & N—Mel Farms) to visit their operations in Nattandiya. It was not only interesting but it was an object lesson in productive activity to examine the inner working of one of the largest parent stock poultry breeders in the island. We learnt many things: why broiler meat was short in the market, why eggs have gone up in price, etc, etc. One of the main problems, if not the most important one for poultry farmers today is the cost of feed and this can be remedied only if the ingredients like maize are produced in larger quantities here—and this can easily be done if the proper incentives are offered to the farmers. We also took the opportunity of driving around the Nattandiya and Kuliypitiya areas to renew old contracts and examine trends that have emerged in the last four years. Whatever else has not happened, there has ostensibly been tremendous developmental activities in certain fields especially in construction. People are better dressed and the shops are full—and people appeared to have money to buy the goods that were on the shelves. More about this later.

Free Trade in Blood

DAILY PAPERS recently highlighted stories about a blackmarket in blood in and around Colombo's hospitals. *The Ceylon Daily* on March 24, 1982 had a prominent headline **BLACKMARKET BLOOD** and said: "The Health Ministry has cautioned patients and their relatives not to fall into the clutches of unscrupulous persons who are now involved in a market to black market blood supplies urgently needed by patients..." *The Ceylon Daily Mirror* on the same day under the headline **BLOOD MONEY; RS. 300 PINT** had a more detailed story; "The Ministry of Health has received several complaints from patients in the General Hospital Colombo who require blood that they are their relatives have been approached by persons from outside the hospital who informed that there was a shortage of blood but that it could be obtained for considerations which have gone up to Rs. 300 a pint on certain occasions. This extortion of money is usually done from relatives of patients, in a when they cannot find blood donors hurry. The Public will realise that blood stocks have to be replenished and for this purpose donors have to be found. However, the Ministry states that in case of emergencies blood could be issued and replaced later. The Ministry advises the public not to fall victim to these unscrupulous persons but to come directly to the Central Blood Bank and contact the Medical Officer on duty if they are unable to find a donor. Every effort will be made to obtain blood for their patients especially if it is urgently needed".

No one need be surprised about this blackmarket in blood in Sri Lanka. It is now a world wide business. The poor have been exploited through the ages and their blood has been sucked by a few who became wealthy. It is a matter of history that weak and non-war-like countries have been robbed of their gold and their natural wealth. This reached a high water mark in the colonial era. There has also been the draining of brain and brawn power. Precious metals and minerals soils, uranium and diamonds etc. etc. have been taken away.

But now thanks to medicine, human blood has become an exportable merchandise. The western market, which has so often rejected the various goods of the poor countries, is now saturated with blood—in the most proper sense of the words—as it has never been saturated with the gold, uranium and oil of the poor. An obscure, well organized network, based in some western countries has agents who—as the French weekly *L' Express* has reported—frequently go on trips, to Latin America, the favourite area of the red gold vampires. "Here, the starving people do not shed their blood for their country. Instead, driven

by hunger, misery and poverty, they sell their blood for the bread necessary for their living. Such operations are carried on with extreme discretion, but the moving revelations cannot always be avoided by the blood traffickers".

A European commentator has pointed out: "In 1972 it was found out that Luckner Combronne, chief of the famous Haitian Tontonsmacoutes Guards was selling the blood of the unemployed in Port-au-Prince to three laboratories in the United States at a high price. For a long time, Latin America—*D' Express* points out—has been supplying the blood market, which has become vaster and more complex, with its illicit profits and intricate links. The roots of the traffic, are to be found in all the countries on the American continent, in Africa and the Middle East, and branch out in South-East Asia drawing on the great collective misery.... The terms of this trade point to staggering realities. In areas where the per capita monthly income is not higher than one hundred francs—Dr. Pierre Cazal, director of the Transfusion Centre in Montpellier (France) says—the coming of the blood collectors is considered a gift of the gods. Those suffering from famine receive fifty francs for one blood-letting and, if they prove to be understanding nobody prevents them from giving blood several times a month".

In an Asian country—the same French doctor says—"I saw a number of people queueing up in front of a centre for blood-letting, at seven o'clock in the morning. Before the operation was to begin, a stout male nurse rejected some of the candidates. It is the medical check up—my hosts motivated. In fact, the male nurse rejected those who would not give him half of the sum they were to receive.

The blood traffic is carried on according to the classic ceremonial observed by the multinational societies. Blood can be drawn off in a country, treated in a second country, used for transfusions in a third country, and so on—says Dr. B. P. Mocre of the General Laboratory of Reference in Toronto (Canada). This kind of business is highly profitable. There are however, some difficulties, Malnourished, the inhabitants of the poor countries are often anaemic But this problem can be solved. The collectors, who act in the interest of the rich countries, take due precaution to leave the red cells where they are (through plasmapheresis), as it is plasma they are after. Let the well-nourished nations make their red cells themselves. What they want is plasma, a substance indispensable to modern medicine. The blood multinational societies try to keep a balance between supply and demand. It is even said that the have a secret plasma stock exchange in Montreal which should pump out but not too much: the exchange rate must not go down. Their only concern is not to infringe the law of profit. A radical minded commen-

ator stated" Because it seems that, to the modern vampires of neo-colonialism, the poor people's blood differs very little from other goods." In this connection an article in the *Washington Post* (14/10/81) by Jim Brooke entitled IN BRAZIL THE POOR SELL VITAL ORGANS AND BLOOD IN STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL. We publish below extracts from the article.

"The advertisement in a newspaper read: 'Cornea for sale.... Please call working days.: The price was the equivalent of \$ 40,000. In this city where the wealthy lavish millions on plastic surgery, the poor try to make ends meet by selling their kidneys and corneas..... It's very simple—on one side you have the man who has money but no vision, and on the other side is me: vision, but no money, said the man who placed the advertisement and identified himself as Rubens. 'The more people think about it, the more normal it will become, he said. Since extraction of a living person's cornea will cause blindness in that eye, people donating corneas usually do so by signing permission for the extraction to take place after death. Two months ago, the Brazilian Red Cross sponsored a national campaign to solicit such cornea donations. But squeezed by a 100-percent rate of inflation and spreading unemployment, Rubens and dozens of Brazilians recently began to place their kidneys and corneas on sale for immediate delivery through newspaper classified ads. "The economic situation is critical—three years ago I lived better than now on half my salary today", said Rubens, who supports his wife and child on \$300 a month earned working at Rio's international airport. Rubens calculates that if he gets his asking price he will have enough to pay for his sons' education and secure a future as a partially handicapped. Listed under 'medicine and health' in classified columns, the kindley and cornea notices often contain such phrases as: 'financial problems,' 'Best offer', 'urgent' 'good health', 'perfect vision' and 'young'. The offers to sell organs is a new wrinkle in a longstanding controversy over the still generally legal practice of the poor selling their blood to supplement their incomes. Health officials have condemned the black market in vital organs, but there appears to be little they can do about it, since under Brazilian law the sellers cannot be punished.

Edelberto Luiz da Silva, legal adviser to the Minister of Health, said that a doctor who takes an organ from a living person, for later resale faces up to 10 years in jail and can be barred from practicing medicine for 10 years. Local urologists said they would refuse to perform an organ transplant with a donor if they knew that the organ was bought. The problem is that once buyer and seller reach agreement, neither is likely to say a sale is involved. Another problem, specialists say, is the high chance of rejection. To determine compatibility and expensive series of immunological tests is required. About 75 percent

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of blood used in Brazilian hospitals is supplied through commercial blood banks, usually located in the impoverished outskirts of major cities. Regular donors are often unemployed and undernourished and receive \$ and a bowl of soup for about a pint of their blood. Patients in hospitals pay about \$ 60 for the same amount of blood. Government health studies show that about 30 percent of the blood obtained commercially is contaminated with hepatitis virus, and 10 percent with an agent that causes an incurable illness that slowly attacks the heart. Blood transfusions are the largest cause of hepatitis in Brazil. Former President Ernesto Geisel recently contracted the disease from tainted blood. Brazilian law prohibits the export of blood, but critics have alleged that up to 75 percent of blood collected commercially in Brazil is reprocessed and marketed overseas, primarily in West Germany and the United States. "Brazil is today the largest exporter of blood in the world", said Nelson Senise, a Rio doctor who has written extensively on blood banks here.

Last year a documentary film on the blood business provoked a national debate. Entitled "Down to the Last Drop", the film recreates a factual incident of an unemployed Rio resident who died of anemia after selling his blood to feed his family. Following the publicity surrounding the move, Sao Paulo banned commercial blood banks, and the federal government joined the Brazilian Red Cross in a campaign to spur voluntary donations at state health centres. 'If 4 percent of the Brazilian population donated blood, the commercial banks would disappear', a Red Cross official said. In Rio, the blood banks are still doing a booming business, with some estimates of traffic running as high as 10,000 liters (2,500 gallons) a day. In the suburban slum of Madureira, the Natal blood bank faces the local railroad station, used daily by thousands of working class commuters. Another blood bank is across from the downtown terminal. People have admitted selling blood to pay that train fare worth about 10 cents. Last year, the government created city inspection teams, but a recent visit to the Natal bank found little evidence of the cleanup. The dirty waiting room was bare except for a price list: \$ 3 for Rh positive \$ 4 for Rh negative. Clinics charge that the employees who handle the money also handle the needles. In this bank an open box of medical tubes sat next to the cash box. The director refused to answer questions. He wore a T-shirt inscribed 'Portela', and the bank owner, Osmar Jose do Nascimento, is the son of the former president of the Portela samba association. Last year, health official charged that Mr. Nascimento coerced samba dancers into giving blood to finance their costumes for Rio's carnival. Mr. Nascimento brushed off the charges, saying: 'A donation (of blood) wouldn't even cover the cost of a pair of shoes'.

WILL INFLATION AND THE HIGH COST OF LIVING DRIVE OUR POOR IN SRI LANKA

(AND THERE ARE NEARLY TEN MILLION OF THEM) TO SELL BLOOD AND THEIR VITAL ORGANS FOR CASH AS IN BRAZIL AND OTHER THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES? IN A FREE LIBERALISED ECONOMY EVERYONE IS ENTITLED TO TRADE IN HIS OR HER BODY ESPECIALLY IF THEY CONTINUE TO BE POOR. AND IN SRI LANKA THE RICH ARE GETTING RICHER AND THE POOR POORER.



QUESTION TIME

Hatchery, Fertiliser, Coconuts

KARANDAGOLLA : *A reader from Colombo, has written ".....now that you have a section on agriculture and animal husbandry, why not adopt a series of features similar to the under-mentioned as included in "The Island" of 27/3/82 in its column ON THIS DAY in 1977 One of the largest hatcheries in Asia with a 150,000 egg capacity, was opened at the Karandagolla poultry Research Station, Kundasale. All the ancillary equipment and vehicles for the farm have been provided by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) as part of its technical assistance program to this country...." Anything in Sri Lanka, it is always the largest in Asia. What I would like to know is the current capacity of Karandagolla. What did CIDA provide in 1977? Where is the equipment today? How much is idle? Perhaps your Kandy readers can enlighten me?"*

We would like information about this Karandagolla Poultry Station and Hatchery. *Tribune* will also endeavour to get whatever information it can for publication.

SURCHARGE : *A farmer from Anuradhapura has raised a few questions about the fertiliser prices. Why has the government suddenly imposed a surcharge of 30 % on all fertiliser prices? Is it true that there was no increase in the world prices of fertilisers? Was it done to cover the "losses" incurred by the mismanagement of the Ceylon Fertiliser Corporation? Or is the story that the surcharge was laid on to cover the losses incurred by the White elephant of a Urea Factory at Sapugaskande true?*

Preliminary inquiries by a *Tribune* Investigator reveal that the surcharge was government's method of meeting the recurring and ever increasing losses of the Urea Factory? That our investigator has been told by farmers that this 30% increase in fertiliser prices will reduce production and undermine productivity. A small coconut grower has given figures to show, that at the present prices of fertilisers and the current prices of coconut products, it would cost him about three-fourths of the value of his annual crops to fertilise his trees; that what will be left over will not

be enough to cover labour charges, administration, fuel, and other costs; that he had no alternative but to reduce the quantity of fertiliser below the minimum level or not apply any fertiliser at all.

The losses on state-managed big estates will increase or a few that are making profits will cease to be profitable. But it is the small owner of coconut or tea or rubber who has been most adversely affected. The subsidiary food crops farmer is even more distressingly placed. The floor prices were low enough even at the pre-surcharge period, but today floor prices are unrealistic and meaningless. The paddy fertiliser alone is subsidised. And the paddy mixture will not suit other crops even if this subsidised fertiliser is "illegally" applied to other crops. Moreover the paddy farmer will be tempted to sell his subsidised fertiliser to the black market—a blackmarket newly created by the 30% Government surcharge to pass the white elephant losses of the urea factory to planters, agriculturists and farmers and ultimately to the consumer.

No better way of increasing the cost of essential foodstuffs grown here could have been conceived by government. It is wrong to subsidise the UREA factory at the expense of the farmer and the consumer.

WHY? *Why has the bottom dropped out of the coconut oil market? How far are the explanations given by the Minister of Coconut Industries in Parliament on March 11, 1982 at adjournment time correct? In answer to a question by the Member for Attanagalla, Lakshman Jayakody, who is knowledgeable in these matters, the Minister in a meandering reply said:*

"Sir, I am thankful to the Hon. Member for Attanagalla (Mr. Lakshman Jayakody) for having raised the matter on the Floor of this House. I am more happy because he is concerned about the coconut prices which are dropping. Earlier I heard from the same side that the prices were going up. I was asked why the coconut prices were going up and whether there was no method by which I could give the consumer coconuts at a cheaper price. Now I am having the other side. I am really happy because I knew the hon. Member is very conversant with the markets. He is a concerned about the coconut industry. He is a good planter and he knows the coconut trade. And I am sure that he knows why the coconut prices are dropping, though he asked the question here today. The situation is not so bad as he thinks it is going to be. My statement will have to be a little long because the coconut industry is very vital to the people of this country....."

Mr. Deputy Speaker : We will have to stop at 8 p.m.

Mr. Harold Herath : I have got only three minutes to answer.....

Mr. Lakshman Jayakody : There is one question I have asked. Let him answer that. Will he enter the market to buy copra?

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"Where these markets are concerned, I must say on the Floor of this House what happened during their regime. They banned the export of all coconut products from this country and we lost our traditional buyers. It was with great difficulty that I had to go round and retrieve some of the markets. Now some of the markets have been retrieved. For his interest without lengthening my speech, I will quote from the "Public Ledger" of 7th March—Commodity Week. This is a highly acceptable journal in trade circles. It is stated here that "in 1979 Sri Lanka coconut oil fetched an average price of US \$ 1,000 per metric ton and desiccated coconut around US \$ 1,300 per metric ton. The CIF price of coconut oil in UK for March and February, starting from 1.1.82, from US \$ 500 is had dropped on 10.3.82 to US \$ 467.50."

This year we are expecting around 90,000 tonnes of coconut oil of which 40,000 tonnes was to be exported at the current low prices and with the increased price of inputs locally, it has become difficult for anybody to export coconut oil. In fact CDA incurred a loss of Rs. 2 million by releasing 2,000 tonnes of coconut oil below the purchase price. This was done to make available the CDA tanks to purchase oil during the glut season. In order to boost up the producer price, either the world market price will have to go up or there must be a mechanism to buy the oil and copra at prices remunerative to the producer. This will mean a government subsidy to the producers.

"BCC is continuing to buy copra at Rs. 1,400 per candy. But this does not work up to producer price of Rs. 1,450 per 1,000 nuts. Now Sir, I would assure the Hon. Member for Attanagalla that there is a committee that is sitting on this duty structure and I think we are meeting tomorrow. I will be having a report next week. I will be taking all possible steps to see that the market is kept at least at this level, because as a coconut planter myself I feel the prices today are too low and in fact we may have low production of coconut by the end of the year and next year owing to the drought and the high prices of fertiliser. The reason for this sharp drop is due mainly to an increase in the production of coconut oil as well as other vegetable oil. The Public Ledger of 6th March has an article under the caption "what's wrong with coconut oil?" and I quote below from that report. "Philippine Coconut oil production has risen sharply in recent season after a temporary setback in 1979 caused by bad weather. Last year's output is estimated to have risen nearly 26% and 1982 production is currently expected to gain a further 9½% to reach a new peak of 1.4 million tons. Not surprisingly this has resulted in some pressure to increase export sales but before this could be done, prices had to be adjusted to more realistic levels. In the European markets, coconut oil has for some months carried a disproportionately large premium against the other bulk edible/soap making oils. In the past few weeks, coconut has been pressured

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to come more into line with the continuing fall in meat, vegetable oil prices which has characterised 1982 to date. Prices this week have dropped to a new low of about 500 attracting a fair volume of buying interest at the cheaper levels." The Philippine production is estimated to go up from 1.07 million to 1.4 million tonnes in 1982 and overall world production from 2.7 million to 3.2 million." (*Hansard* Vol. 19 No. 12 pp. 1962-65).

Many readers say that the Minister's answer does not help them to understand why coconut prices have dropped. Can anyone tell us?

Sherlock Holmes



FILM FOCUS

OCIC: Tarzan

The Office Catholique International du Cinema (OCIC) held its annual "Salutation" to local cinema at the Ramakrishna Hall on 27.3.82 with the Honourable Minister of Trade, Lalith Athulathmudali, as the chief guest. Since the OCIC is the only religious body in Sri Lanka which keeps abreast of the Cine media—so aptly termed this year as the "Pulse of our Times"—this column feels that *Tribune* readers would be curious to know more about what this organisation stands for. They are (a) Educational and Pastoral action IN and BY the cinema (b) To be a centre of Information, Study and Stimulus for the film Apostolate of Catholics all over the world (c) To an ever increasing extent be a platform of Theological Research a kind of pastoral awareness in the field of cinema (d) To be an International bond of Cooperation with the film professionals (e) To be directly at the service of the National Catholic Office wherever they are established, to help them in their action of forming consciences, promoting the best films, fostering cooperation and mutual help between countries, and to represent them within International Organisations, Government, Ecclesiastical, Professional and cultural.

Father Earnest Porutota is the National Director of the OCIC in Sri Lanka. He welcomed those present at the Film Festival, followed by the Rupavahini Television chief M. J. Perera who gave the keynote address. Naturally he was at pains to draw a promising parallel on the healthy relationships that will emerge between TV and cinema in the coming years. without one media making serious inroads into the aims of the other. The chief guest drove this point home and allayed fears that TV might throttle the Cinema by drawing a very appropriate comparison to the period when Cinema was born and loomed as a patent threat to Drama and the Stage. Well he said, "over the years, this initial fear has given way to a lively balance, where cinema and drama have coexisted to fecundate each other".

Then followed a very warm and heartening item on the agenda, when recognition was given by way of medals to the old stagers who kept the cinema alive during its nascent and formative years. It was a very sentimental moment when they "tottered" up to the stage to receive their tokens to resounding ovations. The awards time was then chimed in for the cine creations of 1981, and three films in alphabetical order, *Beddegama*, *Sagarayak Meda* and *Soldadhu Unnahe* ran close for the presentations. The last named edged *Beddegama* out as the best directed film (a split decision, with which this column respectfully agrees to disagree) "for a disturbing (?) directorial effort, dedicated with creative detachment to the probing of the intimate lives of a handful of down and outs in life, cast mercilessly upon the shores of the conventional social life in such a way, as to monument the unending privation of the flotsam and jetsam of the Third humanity".

The Best Actor Salutation was very deservedly earned by Joe Abeywickrema for an "efficient and cinematic representation of two characters, one in total contrast to the other, with a sustained appeal and an undiminished believability while maintaining continued audience interest in themes that pulsated with palpable humanity for his roles in *Beddegama* as *Silindu* and in *Soldadhu Unnahe* in the title role". The corresponding awards for the best female performances were shared by Veena Jayakody and Malini Fonseka, the former for a "moving cinematic presentation of a patent image of the eternal woman, becoming manifest in a strictly indigenous context, buffeted about by wayward, alternating destinies as Deepa Moladanda in *Sagarayak Meda* and to Malini "for a profuse and fertile display of massive histrionic resources that enabled the convincing portrayal of three major characters, distinguished by a superior and talented cinematic presence that would be memorably etched in the film experience of a wide variety of cinema audiences in *Beddegama* as Puchi Menika, *Soldadu Unnahe* as Pema Akka (the prostitute) and *Induta Mal Mitak* as Nisansakamala. The best film theme winner was H. A. Seneviratne (*Soldadu Unnahe*), best script writer A. J. Gunawardena (*Beddegama*) and the best cameraman Sumitha Amarasinghe (*Suryakantha*, *Induta Mal Mitak* and *Aradhana*). These citations might receive stiff opposition in the Sarasaviya and Presidential Awards to follow this year, but since the OCIC adheres strictly to the norms it sets out for awards, with strict directions to its jury perhaps, the conclusions must be accepted, although these might not strictly reflect Box office and Mass appeal, for according to an OCIC spokesman, they are not meant to be. Even this column for that matter has its reservations, while bowing to the OCIC Jury decisions.

ADHISTANA (Determination) Sinhalese: A very absorbing cine creation of Satischandra Edirisinghe.

this film is built around, and within the sacred precincts of a Buddhist Temple, where a young monk is touched by a grave scandal—the accuser (Nadiaka Gunasekera) being one scorned in love, and stooping low to betray him, falsely, Emerging orphaned from the unhappiness of a traumatic home, the priest was one who renounced the world to tread in truth and piety, the path of the Enlightened One, under the guiding hand of the Mahanayake of the Temple. Sympathy, with a touch of oedipus complex turns him innocently to his childhood friend, an innocent attachment which boomerangs on him devastatingly, leaving a trail of gossip and horror in the village, that keeps snowballing with a paternity riddle. With the mounting hostility, the monk disrobes himself and leaves the temple determined to vindicate his vocation. The confrontation with his accuser was a moving sequence, the sequel to which was the proving of his innocence with the rural folk who were swept by the scandal, remaining to worship at his feet. Veteran actress Dinawaka Hamine and Wimal Kumar de Costa gave convincing performances, together with two monks who remained unnamed. A bold film, that every Buddhist and others should see, before casting the random stones at their priesthood, in the mischievous hope that at least some of the mud would stick, a modern trend in these material times. There were shades of "Deviyani Obe Kohida" in this story. A very good film.

TARZAN THE APEMAN (English): The much talked about M. G. M. release, directed by John Derek and shot in Sri Lanka (Kandy and Trincomalee) leaving a dust of controversy that prevailed for a few days. Borrowed from the characters that were spun by the well read Edgar Rice Burroughs, many liberties are taken however with the emphasis shifting from the muscle bound Tarzan—the white Lord of the Jungles—to the sex appeal of Jane (Bo Derek) with an eye at the Box Office. A Safari led by Richard (Cassandra Crossing) Harris enters Tarzan territory in the Darkest Continent, with a pretty bait in Bo Derek as Jane. But for the swings and the calls of Tarzan which are retained with novel camera effects, much of the encounter is on the beaches where roams a toothless lion and Jane in whom Tarzan takes a founding interest. Much of the adult stuff in the film is in the closing sequences, when a topless half clad Bo indulges in a spot of horseplay with Tarzan and his Chimpanzee, to ply up her charms for what her husband/director John Derek was after in hard cash. To those who would bow to the beauty of Bo, and take in Sri Lanka's scenic splendour too simultaneously—for one gets in the way of the other often—this film is well worth a visit. Watch out of course for the ham performance of a fine actor like Richard Harris, a Tarzan who remains but an excuse and the local actress Akushla who does precious little, but for adding a touch of local flavour. Everyone in the cast appeared to be in a hurry—it was the mosquitoes in Sri Lanka Bo is reported to have said—but

none has spared a thought for Edgar Rice Burroughs who surely must have been turning in this grave!

JAMES N. BENEDICT

FILM CORPORATION

Tamil Films

Sir,

I refer to the letter of Mr. Asoka David published in your issue of 13th March 1982. He states that, "you do not have a single Tamil imported film in hand, and according to the information I have had, the chances of even a few films trickling in the near future is also far remote". This year we have received eight new films and Letters of Credit opened for a further fourteen new films which should be received next month. Reference to the Tamil Film selections over 100 synopses of new films were received last year from over a dozen Producers and Suppliers. These were scrutinised by our delegates—Dr. K. S. Nadarajah and Mrs. Lakshmana Iyer and short listed to 45 films for viewing in Madras: from this list, they selected 22 films. On the question of seeing Video Cassettes in Colombo, this was also suggested by Film Exhibitor's Guild at their last meeting with us. We had however thought of this earlier, but at the Madras end, there appears to be certain technical difficulties. We are pursuing the matter very carefully.

Anton Wickremasinghe
CHAIRMAN

National Film Corporation,
224, Baudhaloka Mawatha,
Colomb 7,
26th March 1982.

LETTER

Horticulture

Sir,

It was interesting to read the letter sent to you by the S/A.D & R on 28.12.81, which you have been kind enough to publish in your journal—*Tribune* of January 16, 1982, Vol. 26, No. 18 issue, annexing thereto the reply that was sent to him by the Deputy Director of (Farms & Horticulture) the Department of Agriculture. I am glad that the Secretary Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne had been very sensitive to public opinion and press reports and had acted promptly, giving wide information on the procedures adopted by the Department. I would also like to point out here that the Secretary of A. D. & R has even rectified the omission made in the first year by dropping Mannar District, as qualified for any subsidy of fruit

crops and has assured us he would include Mangoes for Mannar District under this year's subsidy scheme. Unlike any other Government official or Secretary, he has travelled widely to meet the farmers, discussed their problems and taken suitable remedial measures wherever possible. When he visited Mannar District, he had seen for himself that large acreages of land in Mannar are left barren and idle for want of water. Perhaps, he might have not been informed that the Tube Wells project in Mannar is very successful and that it is possible to bring a large extent of land under such Fruit crops cultivation, through this lift irrigation system. Perhaps, all these years, the farmers had been concentrating only in paddy and subsidiary crops, due to lack of marketing facilities for other crops. In view of the great demand for the fruit items in the export market I am sure that more people would take up to this cultivation as well, in time to come. For instance, along the Aruvi Aru coast or banks, vast acreage of lands could be brought under such fruit crops cultivation, where there is a perennial supply of water. Hence, if Bananas too could be included in the subsidy scheme for Mannar District, it would go a long way in encouraging the cultivators to plant more bananas. It is hoped that the Secretary would take steps to consider this matter as well, not only Mannar where there are plenty of places with Redish Brown alluvial soil are found which are suitable for bananas growing, even in the adjoining districts of Vavuniya, Mullaitivu and Kilinochchi, these fruit crops grow very well and could be a successful cultivation.

I wish to say something about Cashew as the Deputy Director of Agriculture had touched on this crop as well in his reply to S/A D & R. Not only the Cashew fruits which would be of a great use in making many exportable items, as well for distilling Fenny—a highly palatable alcoholic drink, much in demand in the world market, even as the nuts have a great demand. Though it is true to a certain extent that the people do not want to take up to this Cashew cultivation as the gestation period for a tree crop of this nature is 5 years, yet it is not the only reason, as presumed by the A. D. A. There are vast potentials to expand Cashew cultivation in Mannar district especially and in the Norrh in general. Since it is one of the drought resistant plants, and that vast acreage of lands are still idle for want of irrigation facilities, cashew would have been an ideal crop. In Mannar, Cashew grows wild in most places. Why then it is not harnessed to make the best use any make it an exportable item?

In my view, it is because of the discrimination shown to this crop by the Government. To put it more frankly, when all other export tree crops are given a subsidy of over Rs. 2,500/- per acre, Cashew is given only a pittance subsidy of only Rs. 600/- per acre and there is no uniform treatment to this crop. The Cashew Corporation which spends over Rs. 8,000 to produce one acre of Cashew and

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maintain it for five years till the trees start yielding, had been resisting any attempt to give more subsidy to this crop, perhaps to maintain the monopoly. For instance, it is quite clearly said in the scheme devised to grow fruit crops on subsidy basis, that the subsidy is worked out at 32% of the actual cost of production.

On this basis, the subsidy given to Cashew does not work out even 6% or 7%. If this position could be remedied, certainly there will be much response from the public and that the nation too will stand to gain in many ways. After all, this increased subsidy would not be a burden to the State, since the amount to foreign exchange that could be earned from this crop and the employment opportunities that could be created, would offset any other disadvantage, which any one could bring forward. A simple example would be that one acre of Cashew at the present prices would yield Rs. 8,000 per acre after 5 years and this figure would go up to three or four times as it grows up to 20 years—when there will be Rs. 40,000 per acre alone. However, the prices are bound to rise up very soon. If India could make a good head way from this crop, why not Sri Lanka? It one could look at this problem from the national point of view and not a narrow point of view, Sri Lanka would have progressed long ago.

I learn with great pleasure that the Export Development Board had now come to the rescue of Cashew cultivation, by encouraging individuals who are

interested in Cashew growing to form into Joint Stock Companies, when the Board could arrange increased financial facilities and even lands from the State to grow such export crops. Such a pilot company is now in progress in Vavuniya and it is hoped that this experiment would be extended to all other Districts. I congratulate the Chairman of the Export Development Board for this bold attempt and wish him well.

With regard to restriction placed on the import of improved variety of seeds and plants from abroad, where research had gone to a much advantage stage, I feel that there should be some laxity in the procedure. I cannot wholesale agree with the views expressed by the A. D. A. on this matter. If genuine certificates that such plants and seeds were virus-free could be produced, why all these restrictions? At least why Sri Lanka cannot follow the footsteps of India, which is prepared to share with us, the benefits of their research in these fields? I suggest with all earnestness, Sri Lanka should learn from India and thereby reduce much of our expenses on research.

V. Shanmuganathan,
Hony. Secretary.
Cadju Plantation Association

69/1 Bazaar Street,
Vavuniya,
22nd March 1982.

"... It is to the credit of the people of Ceylon that during two thousand years and more they obeyed this decree and continued to pay their homage to one who was a brave man and just and humane ruler".
—G. P. Malalasekera in *The Pali Literature of Ceylon* Colombo, 1928 p. 25.

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March 21 - 27**DIARY OF EVENTS IN SRI LANKA
COMPILED FROM DAILY NEWS-
PAPERS PUBLISHED IN COLOMBO**

CDN—Ceylon Daily News; *CDM*—Ceylon Daily Mirror; *CO*—Ceylon Observer; *ST*—Sunday Times; *SO*—Sunday Observer; *DM*—Dinamina; *LD*—Lankadipa; *VK*—Virakesari; *ATH*—Aththa; *SM*—Silumina; *SLDP*—Sri Lankadipa; *JD*—Janadina; *SU*—Sun; *DV*—Davasa; *DP*—Dinapathi; *CM*—Chinthamani; *WK*—Weekend; *RR*—Riviresa; *DK*—Dinakara; *EN*—Eelanadu; *IS*—Island; *DI*—Divaina; *DPR*—Information Dept. Press Release

SUNDAY, MARCH 21: President J. R. Jayewardene yesterday stressed again that general elections would be held in 1983, and that the Presidential elections would be held the following year, when the people would be able to make their choice of their next MPs and their next President. Sri Lanka's earnings from invisible exports have increased from Rs. 625 million in 1976 to over Rs. 10,000 million in 1981, this is a direct result of the unification of the exchange rate and the economic reforms initiated in 1977—*SO*. The two feuding factions of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party yesterday made official announcement of unity following a seven-month-long dispute. The families affected by the lack of water in the Mahaveli H area are now found to have been victims of officials mismanagement rather than that of the drought. Scores of youth, picked off the city streets are now found working under virtually slave conditions in fish wadiyas situated along the Western coastline—*WK*. The General Manager of the Ceylon Electricity Board Mr. H. S. Subasinghe said yesterday that there was no immediate need for a power cut—*IS*.

MONDAY, MARCH 22: Colombo was pelted with 67 millimetres of rain for three hours between 8.30 a.m. and 11.30 a.m. on Sunday, following fairly heavy showers on Saturday night suggesting a welcome end to the dry weather. The Social Services Ministry expects 12,000 metric tonnes of wheat flour from the FAO for drought relief work here, Mr. T. G. Gunasekera, the Secretary to the Ministry said—*CDN*. Hardly twenty four hours after an official unity announcement, newer cracks appeared to surface in the Sri Lanka Freedom Party yesterday; while the accord itself caused apprehension among some senior stalwarts who have backed Mrs. Bandaranaike, her announcement in Ratnapura that her erstwhile deputy, Maithripala Senanayake, and four others would not be taken back to the reunited SLFP also set off ripples of dissent. The Government is to set up a new unit under the Ministry of Mahaveli Development called the Mahaveli Economic Authority. This year's devastating drought has forced

the Government to place immediate orders for the import of 200,000 tons of rice—*SU*. The Kuwaiti Fund has approved 45 million US dollars as aid for the down-stream development of the accelerated Mahaveli project; this will give a further impetus to this development program which is now going apace, according to Mahaveli Ministry sources—*CO*. In view of the increase in the consumption of fuel the first and second class train fares are to be raised; this information was expressed at Jaffna by Mr. M. H. Mohamed, Minister of Transport—*VK*. A senior officer at the Buildings Materials Corporation has stated that the Corporation will close down five of their showrooms which are at Mannar, Kilinochchi, Galigamuwa, Wekanda and Ratmalana; the Corporation has spent Rs. 660,000 only for Rupavahini advertising it is noted—*DI*. The Fertiliser Corporation will come under the President Mr. J. R. Jayewardene from the 17th of April and the Chairman of the Corporation has been asked to resign his post—*ATH*.

TUESDAY, MARCH 23: The commercial banks are making a tidy packet from commissions on inward remittances flowing into the country from expatriate Lankans working abroad; with remittances last year up to Rs. 4,400 million against Rs. 2,518 million a year earlier, the income earned by banks converting foreign drafts and cheques into Sri Lanka rupees has also grown. President J. R. Jayewardene said yesterday the government would give every child in Sri Lanka an opportunity to learn English. Prime Minister R. Premadasa said on Sunday that the UNP must be given credit for the JVP's moving away from its old revolutionary course to seek power democratically by the ballot—*CDN*. The prestigious American Express Bank joins a long list of foreign institutions making large donations to the Mahapola Higher Education Scholarship Fund launched by Trade and Shipping Minister, Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali. The price of wheat flour will be reviewed in May this year; this has been decided by the Ministerial Committee appointed to stabilise the prices of essential consumer goods—*CDM*. The fighting among the factions of the SLFP flared again yesterday with a swipe taken at Anura Bandaranaike and Maithripala Senanayake by senior politbureau member and former powerful Cabinet Minister Hector Kobbekaduwa. The terrorists who have been forced on the defensive during the past few months struck back yesterday killing a police officer in front of the Vaddukodi Hindu College in Jaffna. Government is to introduce tighter controls in the formation of new companies; for this purpose a new Business Names Act will be introduced in Parliament, Trade and Shipping Minister Lalith Athulathmudali said yesterday. The decision to import 200,000 tons of rice from China and Pakistan was taken by the Government in view of the uncertainty of a successful Yala cultivation, Agricultural Development and Research Ministry Secretary Ranjan Wijeratne said yesterday. All state manufacturing

Corporations are to be shut down for two weeks next month for industrial maintenance and to conserve electrical energy to ride over a shortfall that is feared at the end of the month—*SU*. It is expected that the problems faced by Tamil speaking people living outside the Northern and Eastern Provinces for having registration of births and deaths made in Tamil will be solved very soon—*VK*.

WEDNESDAY MARCH 24: The Food Department has moved to bring down sugar prices with immediate effect and government imported sugar will be available to the consumer at Rs. 15.10 a kilo against the previous price of Rs. 15.50. President J. R. Jayewardene yesterday directed Mr. D. B. Nihalsinghe to submit a report to him today on the shortcomings in the local film industry. Banks countrywide have been alerted to keep a sharp eye for counterfeit five-rupee notes following the detection of three such notes at Panadura, Kalutara and Matugama recently—*CDM*. The latest trend in Sri Lanka's share market is that it is moving in a big way towards the rural areas; Taj (Lanka) Hotels Limited which had plans to collect Rs. 88 million by the issue of shares yesterday found themselves over subscribed to the tune of Rs. 93 million; over 25 percent of the shares were bought by rural folk living in heavy rice and agricultural producing areas—*CDM*. A "distress relief fund" is to be set up for the benefit of all university students; details relating to this proposal will shortly be presented to President J. R. Jayewardene by Deputy Higher Education Minister A. R. M. B. Attanayako. The biggest ever Muslim conference to be held in Sri Lanka, the 15th century Hijra International seminar on "Universality of Islam", will be ceremonially declared open by the President J. R. Jayewardene on Friday March 26 at the BMICH—*SU*. A top engineer of the Ceylon Government Railway has informed President J. R. Jayewardene that Rs. 3.5 million worth of locomotive spares ordered nearly two years ago are still lying unused in the Railway stores. The Government of India has been urged to negotiate with the Sri Lanka Government to seek a final solution to the problem of Stateless persons of Indian origin. A delegation of Sinhala film makers yesterday asked President Jayewardene to jack up the price of tickets for all foreign film by 25 to 30 percent and place restrictions on the import of English films—*IS*. Out of the 31,000 who obtained the minimum qualifications for university admission this year only 17,000 have so far applied for forms for admission; applications for admission will close on March 31 and no further extensions will be given. Dr. Stanley Kalpage, Chairman, University Grants Commission said—*CO*. While 400 candidates have applied for employment through the Job Bank, the Ministry of Finance has appointed other people to the Central Bank, and 88 such vacancies have been filled—*DIV*. The Kelaniya University will be closed until the 26th of April due to the spread of cholera in the area—*DV*.

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THURSDAY, MARCH 25: President Jayewardene told his Ministers yesterday that he was keen that gambling should not be advertised. Cabinet approved a draft convention for the avoidance of double taxation between the government of Sri Lanka and the government of Finland, Belgium, Romania and USA. Employees of all Government Business Undertakings are to be given the same legal status as other Government employees—*CDM*. As the Government moves head-on into election year, the Department of Information which deals directly with the Government's propaganda set up, is to be streamlined to portray a down-to-earth image sans the decorative plugs and ornate blurbs which have been discovered to be counter productive; a top level conference was held yesterday and presided over by State Ministry Secretary Douglas Liyanage and attended by press secretaries of ministries and officials of the Information Department—*SU*. Moves made by a Cabinet Minister to have passports issued on National Identity Cards to those who are not in possession of birth certificates could lead to widespread malpractices and result in those who are not citizens being issued with passports, informed sources in the Department of Immigration and Emigration say. 450,000 kilos of tea worth little over six million rupees purchased for export by Sri Lanka State Trading (Consolexpo) Corporation is now decaying according to reliable sources; the tea has no buyer now—*IS*. The Government has decided to restore ayurveda to its ancient high standards by improving methods of treatment which are now a mixture of both ayurveda and western medicine—*CO*. The Government will soon decide on issuing application forms to those who left school after 1977 to apply for employment through the Job Bank—*VK*. The Commissioner of Prisons Mr. J. P. Delgoda has proposed to start a work programme to give every prisoner a training in education and industrial or technical work—*DV*. The CWE will distribute goods to all cooperative stores for the coming Sinhala Tamil New Year; chillies, bombay onions, dhall, dry fish and some of the items imported for the purpose; the Salu Sala will also have plenty of materials on sale for the session—*LD*.

FRIDAY, MARCH 26: The chronic and continuing late attendance of minor staff at the Colombo General Hospital, one of the world's biggest, is costing the taxpayer at least Rs. 2 million a year, a senior hospital administrator has reported to the Health Department—*CDM*. Colombo continues to maintain its status as the world's largest tea auction centre; last year a total 199.5 million kilos of tea was sold in 49 sales—*CDM*. More than 100 highly lethal fragmentation grenades were discovered by Security Forces in a raid on a terrorist command centre in Vavuniya yesterday; the locally-turned out grenades, made of G. I. pipes, have been described as "anti-personal explosives" which cause as much maiming as they kill. The country's tea production is estimated

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to fall by nine million kilos for the first quarter of this year, a drop in production as great as what was experienced in 1980, which was considered one of the worst years for tea. The state Timber Corporation is to venture into the cultivation of fruits and subsidiary crops—*SU*. The Government expects the Aid Sri Lanka Club to pledge at least 500 million US dollars which is about Rs. 10,000 million in assistance for the current year; the Aid Sri Lanka Club which is convened under the auspices of the World Bank is scheduled to be held in Tokyo on July 7 and 8—*CO*. A senior official and six others have been interdicted or sent on compulsory leave in the Food Department as several lakhs of rupees were short in a stock of sugar being sold. The Department and the police are now investigating into this fraud—*DV*. The President Mr. J. R. Jayewardene has given instructions to the Commissioner of Co-operative Development to take firm action against all malpractices in the corporatives.—*LD*.

SATURDAY, MARCH 27: The forsting is off the private bus cake with the number of these buses up nearly fourfold in two years operating costs rising, and the police stamping down on overloading and other offences. An era was brought to an end at high noon yesterday; Parliamentarians of various political hues bade adieu to the present House which had served as their sanctum for over fifty years. US assistance to the accelerated Mahaveli scheme has been increased by \$ 40 million under an agreement signed yesterday by Finance and Planning Ministry Acting Secretary Dr. Chandirapal Channugam and US Ambassador John H. Read—*CDN*. There was a marked drop in the number of new vehicles imported into the country in 1981; according to statistics maintained by the Department of Motor Traffic only 5,760 new motor cars were registered last year compared to 6730 in 1980 and 10,848 in 1979—*CDM*. Sri Lanka is to sell a further 20,000 tons of rubber to China in order to make an emergency purchase of 120,000 tons of rice; Trade Ministry Secretary Lakshman de Mel and Food Commissioner N. Pulendiran have already begun negotiations in Peking for this purpose. Parliament met for the last time in the good old House yesterday and proceedings came to a close with a Presidential proclamation proroguing the 52 year-old House and summoning the new session of Parliament at Sri Jayewardenapura on April 29 at 10.15 a.m.—*SU*. The bearer bond scheme initiated by Finance Minister Ronnie de Mel has not only been a failure but has cost the Government Rs. 1 million; 50,000 bonds printed on special security paper is lying idle with no takers; the Central Bank sources were tight-lipped as to the exact amount spent on printing. A suspect who was absconding in connection with the robbery of Rs. 75,000 from a post office at Semmady, Jaffna, was arrested by the Jaffna Police yesterday after three months—*IS*. At the International Islamic Conference held yesterday, President J. R. Jayewardene said:

"Muslim of this country are our friends and they are our partners; I will not permit any harm being done to them". *DV*.



WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

March 20-26

ASIA

INDIA: The visit to India by Soviet Defence Minister Ustinov and military officials was seen as a further confirmation of an alignment between Soviet Union and India. In view of this the proposed visit to Pakistan by a high-powered Chinese delegation also including a military official, was considered to be a signal to Soviet Union and India that China was still firmly behind Pakistan. A report presented in Parliament showed that India was busy shopping around the world to update her military ware. In a television interview with BBC, Premier Indira Gandhi said that India was not pro this country or that but was certainly pro-India and each issue was considered on its merit and in the national interest of India. Premier Indira Gandhi who was on a six-day visit to Britain for the opening of the eight-month long festival of Indian art and culture, invited British businessmen to invest in India. She was confident that India can face up to any industrial competition as India has developed her own infra-structural base now. Defence Minister R. Venkataraman told Parliament that India was considering the purchase of an improved version of the Soviet-built MIG aircraft. **PAKISTAN:** As fresh social unrest increased in Pakistan its military administrators have determined not to relax the martial law, but to enforce it more strongly and postpone all ideas of return to democracy. Military authorities have recommended that newspapers must stop publishing political news as they were responsible for the spread of unrest in the country. A high powered Chinese delegation led by Vice Premier Ji Pengfei arrived in Pakistan for talks. The visiting Chinese delegation has pledged to support Pakistan against foreign aggression and interference. **AFGHANISTAN:** The celebration of Afghanistan Day in the Western countries especially in the United States was condemned in Afghanistan. Anti-American rallies were held in Kabul and other cities denouncing the interference of America in Afghan internal affairs. **BANGLADESH:** Lt. Gen. Ershad of the Bangladesh Army seized control of the Government of Bangladesh. He adduced corruption in public life and a power struggle in the ruling party as reasons for the takeover. The move of the army was not a surprising incident as it was claiming for a share of power since the new Government of President Sattar took over

office four months ago. But Ershard has denied this charge and quoted as saying that he could have walked into the office of the President when Gen. Zia was killed and run the country. Martial Law administrators have listed several crimes punishable with death penalty; life returned to normal towards the end of the week; reminiscent of Pakistan's military laws Bangladesh too has banned agitational activities including political meetings, demonstrations and strikes. Former Ministers and Government officials will go on trial in military courts on corruption charges. The new military government vowed that it will pursue non-aligned policies of the previous government. **JAPAN:** The Prime Minister Zenka Suzuki said that Soviet President's appeal to develop mutual confidence between the two countries was not a new idea. US Defence Secretary Weinberger has urged Japan to increase her military spending. This was necessary in view of the patrolling of the Air Space and sea lanes up to 1,000 miles. **CHINA:** The Soviet leader's appeal to end bitter hostility between the two socialist giants has not made any impact on the Chinese. China wants Moscow to alter its policies and show the willingness to end hostilities by deeds and not words. **ISRAEL:** Israeli military authorities imposed curfew on the town of Ramallah in the West Bank as strikes organised by the Palestinians led to violent demonstrations. PLO has warned Israel that the dismissal of two mayors in the occupied West Bank would have serious implications. They have also decided to sustain the protests in the area against the Israeli administration. **IRAN:** According to the Iranian news agency IRAN, the Revolutionary Guards have spoiled an attempt made to overthrow Iranian Government including plans to bomb the residence of Ayatollah Khomeini. In an interview with a Swiss Television President Khomeini said that Iran was not internationally isolated; instead it was enjoying increasing influence "among the healthy and independent peoples". **LEBANON:** An Iraqi diplomat was shot dead in Lebanon by unidentified assailants. In a fight between Shiite Moslems and supporters of Iraqi Baath party 11 people lost their lives.

EUROPE

UNITED KINGDOM: Bus and underground train fares have been doubled in London following a court decision outlawing a subsidised transport policy of the Greater London Council. British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington admitted that Western diplomatic pressure has not made any dent in the Afghan situation. A Northern Ireland politician, James Molyneaux, said that the CIA may have been the real force behind the murders of provincial people attributed to Republican guerillas. Britain will not respond to Saudi Arabia's call to increase the price of her North Sea oil. The one year old Social Democratic Party's candidate Jenkins won a by-election to Parliament. This was a major blow to Premier

Thatcher's Conservatives, who held this Hill head Seat since 1918, the Labour was pushed to the third place **POLAND:** Polish authorities did not allow the Solidarity Union leader Welesa to attend the christening ceremony of his two month old daughter. But nearly 30,000 to 40,000 members of his Union were there to demonstrate their support to Welesa. It is reported that Trade Union leader Wesesa and his wife were offered one way tickets out of Poland. It was unlikely that Welesa would opt for a voluntary exile. Foreign Minister Czyrek said in Parliament that Poland would not yield to Western pressure to grant political concessions at home. He admitted that Western sanctions have been harming Poland's ability to repay the huge debts to the West. **SWITZERLAND:** One of the twenty major baby food companies of the world, The NESTLE Company has agreed that its powdered breast-milk substitute would not be advertised in any form in developing countries. Consumer groups have been protesting against this substitute for breast milk, prepared under unhygienic conditions, have been the main cause of death of infants. **WEST GERMANY:** The relaxation of the "areas of tension" regulations concerning the sale of military weapons has run into controversy in West Germany. The Pacifists and Civil Right Organisations have condemned the new regulations and said that military exports to third world countries would have devastating effects and could contribute to Third World genocide. **SOVIET UNION:** President Brezhnev appealed to China to normalise relations with Soviet Union. Soviet President said that Soviet Union has never denied the existence of a socialist system in China and had no territorial claim over China. He blamed external forces for keeping Soviet Union and Japan apart with mutual suspicions. Soviet Union denounced NATO's decision to go ahead with its programme of modernising its nuclear missiles; their decision "runs counter to the interests or peace and the lessening of tension."

AFRICA

EGYPT: President Mubarak said that Egypt would not cede a single inch of its territory as a result of border disputes with Israel. **SOUTH AFRICA:** Dr. Treurnicht leader of a group of 15 expelled from the Premier's Government party for his ultra rightist views, has launched a new party called the New Conservative Party of South Africa. He was supported mainly by Afrikaans who were opposed to P. W. Botha's policies of power-sharing with non-whites.

AMERICA

UNITED NATIONS: More than 1,400 mayors from 34 countries, including Mayors from Athens, New York, London, Budapest, Moscow, Rome have appealed for the immediate release of all political prisoners detained under South African apartheid

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laws Security Council was expected to debate the Nicaraguani charges of threatened US invasion next week. UNITED STATES-Washington has rejected any "global showdown" over El Salvador with Moscow. President Reagan has again reiterated that the US must counter the military momentum favouring Soviet Union if it were to survive. The US Congressional Committee has approved a bill to establish a radio operation called Radio Marti. This radio would beam US radio broadcast to Cuba. The defence Ministers of NATO have dismissed Soviet's freeze on development of nuclear missiles West of Urals and said that would only help to perpetuate a Soviet monopoly on medium range missiles. NATO will also proceed with its plan to put new missiles in Europe next year. *EL SALVADOR*: The El Salvadorean guerillas charged that US was planning to invade their country. They said a negotiated settlement as suggested by Mexico would help to ease tensions in the country. *NICARAGUA*: Honduras has requested OAS to convene an urgent meeting to discuss Nicaraguan border violations. *GUATEMALA*: The army has taken over control from President Romeo Lucas Garcia. Guatemala was also plagued with leftist guerilla activities as the other Central American countries. *CANADA*: Quebec Province has decided to oppose to the last the handing over of the new constitution to Canada. Besides boycotting the ceremonies held in connection with the formal handing over by Queen Elizabeth II the Government of Quebec Province will also stage demonstrations during the Queen's visit.



AFGHANISTAN

Party Congress

A national conference of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) took place in Kabul in March. The tasks and importance of this forum are described by its delegate, a celebrated Afghan Poet and Prose writer, Member of the PDPA Central Committee, Deputy Chairman of the National Fatherland Front, Minister for Affairs of Tribes and peoplehoods of Afghanistan, Suleiman Laig.

Kabul, March 22: A national conference is the biggest and most representative forum of the NDPA since the April Revolution. It gathered in Kabul. Present were delegates of party organisations from all the provinces, and major cities, as well as of all nationalities and tribes represented in our party. There were workers, peasants, office employees, intellectuals, representatives of the national bourgeoisie, officers, servicemen of the Afghan armed forces and the

people's militia, among the delegates. Problems discussed at the conference and decisions it passed were also of a nation-wide character. One can say with confidence that the programme of action which mapped out the party's general line, as well as its strategy and tactics in the drive to build the new Afghanistan, is of principled importance for the whole of the Afghan people. While drafting the programme of action and the ensuing practical policy, the national conference attached priority importance to simple and clear-cut aims—making people happy and their homeland prosperous. These aims are understood well by the masses, and express the essence of the April Revolution and of the entire activities conducted by the PDPA.

SOME POLITICIANS AND THE MASS MEDIA IN THE UNITED STATES and a number of Western European countries are trying to present the April Revolution as alien to the national interests of the Afghan people, as something imposed on them from outside. Meanwhile, in reality the April Revolution came in the wake of struggle waged by many generations of the Afghan patriots for a better and happy future of their homeland. As early as the beginning of the 20th century, prominent Afghan democrats urged working for national cohesion in the interests of overcoming backwardness and ensuring the country's progressive development. Their efforts towards attaining these noble aims, received a mighty impetus from the October revolution in Russia and subsequent cardinal changes in the world. It was at that time that the Afghan people upheld the independence and political sovereignty of their homeland as a result of stubborn struggle against the British Colonialists. But the forces of imperialism and reaction did not reconcile to their defeat. They staged a plot which threw Afghanistan back into the dark middle ages for a long time. Now the enemies of the Afghan people are trying to act in the same way. An "Undeclared War" which the imperialists, Chinese hegemonists and local reactionaries have unleashed against the Afghan people, remains an indisputable fact. They continue making attempts to export counter-revolution into our country in a bid to restore old feudal orders which are a source of suffering and misfortune of the Afghan people, and a brake on its socio-economic progress. However, these attempts are futile. Large sections of our population are resolutely coming out in defence of the gains scored by the April Revolution. The national party conference has graphically confirmed this once again. Mass rallies and manifestations in support of the programme of action it adopted are taking place all over the country. 100,000-strong manifestation in Kabul vividly demonstrated the unity of the party and the people.

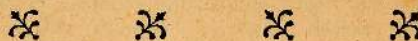
ALL MAJOR TRENDS of the party's socio-economic policy have been reflected in the programme of action. It gives priority to the development of

agriculture and improvement of the living standards of the peasants who account for 85 percent of the population. In this question the party proceeds from premise that only by eliminating the feudal system is it possible to meet the interests of the peasants and ensure the upsurge of agriculture. The country's economic development and the raising of the living standards of the whole population cannot be ensured without this. The new agrarian relations are now taking shape in the Afghan countryside. They are only aimed at creating such conditions of work in agriculture, which would meet the principles of social justice and the sacred canons of Islam. In the process of land distribution, new previously unused lands are being given to peasants in view of the scheduled large-scale irrigation and land reclamation work. Land possessions of big feudals and landlords are also being cut in favour of peasants. Just distribution of water is ensured by a new law to this effect. Through the Bank of Agricultural Development the state is granting the peasants loans for the purchase of seeds, fertilizer and implements. Peasant cooperatives have become widespread. By uniting in cooperatives peasants are jointly overcoming their difficulties, and liberating themselves from the fettering dependence on the rural rich.

FOR THE FIRST TIME in the centuries-long history of our state, the government is taking concrete measures to ensure the equality of all peoplehoods and tribes inhabiting Afghanistan, and to grant them equal opportunities for all-round development. Under previous regimes, the way of solving the nationalities question boiled down to giving national privileges to some peoplehoods and tribes at the expense of the others. Now all national privileges have been abolished. All nationalities and tribes are being granted and guaranteed equal opportunities of taking part in public and state affairs, in political life and in carrying out revolutionary transformation. This is borne out, in part, by the national composition of our conference. Material and cultural progress of all is a common goal for all nationalities and tribes. This aim is contributing to their rapprochement, cooperation, understanding, friendship and fraternity. The programme of action adopted by the national conference, lays special emphasis on the resolve of the party and the revolutionary authorities to proceed, both now and in future, from the recognized and respected historical, religious and cultural traditions of Afghan peoplehoods and tribes, as well as from their national customs and morals. This line guarantees the development of all the best which the cultural heritage and traditions of all Afghans have. It should be also noted that, recognizing the role and importance of Pashtun tribes in the history of the Afghan state and in defending its borders, and respecting their traditions, customs and way of life the PDPA and the Afghan government are pursuing the policy of trust, peace and co-operation vis-a-vis them.

This policy is in line with the principles and ideals of sacred Islam and steams from the National and democratic essence of the April Revolution.

—Bakhtar.



SOVIET VIEW

The USA's War To The Last Afghan

By A. Zatsepin

FEW PEOPLE know that for the majority of the leaders of Afghan counter-revolution even Afghanistan's ex-King Zhair Shah and President Mohammad Daud who replaced him were too "Left". Burhanuddin Rabbani, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, Seibatullah Mejaddi and many others fled the country as far back as the 1970s. Nobody in the West was interested in their destiny until a revolution took place in Afghanistan. However, after April 1978 they started to be referred to as "genuine representatives of the Afghan people" and to receive generous financial and material aid. It is these people that were placed at the head of striking formations of Afghan counter-revolution, formed and armed by the USA and its allies. After the Soviet Union, in reply to numerous requests of the DRA government, rendered that country the necessary military aid in rebuffing aggression from outside, the hopes Rabaani and others like him to return to Afghanistan were dashed to the ground. But the USA and its partners continue to help, even to a greater extent, the most reactionary elements, rejected by the Afghan people who have decided to do away with their feudal past.

By order of their leaders, bandits, who are being smuggled into Afghanistan, poison school children with nerve gas, blind them and cut their hands. They behead teachers to keep the people in eternal fear. They burn crops in the fields, blow up bridges and electric transmission lines and destroy irrigation systems to deprive the Afghans of light, water and bread. These people have become an obedient instrument in the hands of those forces which make profits from the tears and the blood of the Afghan people. The USA has already spent hundreds of millions of dollars to maintain tension around Afghanistan, and it is ready to spend more to preserve the "Afghan question" as a pretext for justifying its militaristic course. Using its powerful propaganda apparatus, the West deliberately presents a distorted picture of events concerning Afghanistan and of its home and foreign policies.

Afghanistan needs peace to build a new society on principles of humanism and democracy. The

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DRA Government repeatedly made proposals on normalising the situation in the region. Instead of giving a concrete answer to peace proposals of that country, the organisers of the undeclared war against the DRA have intensified their propaganda ballyhoo around the notorious "Afghan question" raising it at many international forums. "Day of Afghanistan" is another action aimed at misinforming the world public, within the framework of the propaganda war against the DRA. Not long ago Abdul Sattar Shalexi, ex-Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Internal Affairs of Afghanistan under King Zhair Shah, returned to Afghanistan. He was in emigration since 1973. Abdul Sattar Shalexi has decided to place his experience and knowledge at the service of the Afghan people. Explaining his decision to come back to his country, Shalexi said: "I have analysed the policy of the US administration towards my country. It is aimed at destroying the Afghan people. Official Washington is not at all interested in their problems. Its only aim is to wage an undeclared war against Afghanistan to the last Afghan"—APN.



BITER BIT ?

U S A's Sanctions

THE AMERICAN COMPANY Fiat-Allis North America Inc. is on the verge of bankruptcy, according to the *Wall Street Journal*. The company has found itself broke as a result of the position taken by the authorities who have refused to give it permission to export its products to the Soviet Union. Thus, the company has been deprived of a contract of vital importance for it. The authorities made documentation for bulldozers which the company intended to sell the USSR "a bone of contention." The Administration claims that this documentation discloses "the newest know-how" which fell under the "sanctions" imposed by Washington. Meanwhile, everyone can see that demagogical speculation about alleged "know-how drain" is just a cover for the attempts to make trade an instrument of political dictate and blackmail. Henry Reuss, Chairman of the Senate-House Joint Economic Committee, recently said that the Reagan Administration attempts to use trade with the USSR and other socialist countries as a weapon of political pressure undermined trust in the United States, could have grave financial consequences of unprecedented dimensions and also widen the rift in the Western community.

By announcing its notorious sanctions, Washington "punishes" not only American companies but also American workers. Normal development of trade and economic relations with the socialist countries could have created hundreds of thousands of jobs in the United States. This is not unimportant in a country

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where unemployment has hit ten million people! John Block, US Secretary of Agriculture, recently described the embargo imposed by the previous Administration on grain exports to the USSR as a fiasco. He said that the United States had paid dearly for that embargo which led to a sharp fall in the price of grain and the American farmers have not yet recovered from those losses. Washington's current "sanctions" are part of its policy of confrontation which produces bitter fruit for the United States, both in the economy and in politics—



VOA COMMENTARY

The Brezhnev Proposal

US officials have responded to Soviet President Brezhnev's proposal for a moratorium on Intermediate Range Nuclear Missiles in Europe. Brezhnev's offer of a unilateral moratorium on medium range missiles in Europe is a propaganda gesture only slightly different from others he has made beginning in 1979. What his latest proposal amounts to is an offer to consolidate a position of clear advantage, of monopoly in the kinds of weapons that threaten Europe the most. He has built and developed a force of 300 SS-20 mobile missiles, each with three warheads. All of Eastern Europe, therefore, is under threat from 90 nuclear warheads that can be launched with great accuracy from secret, shifting bases. The NATO alliance, on the other hand, has no comparable land-based missiles in Europe that can reach targets in the Soviet Union. A moratorium or freeze at this point is, as one US official put it, like freezing the score three quarters of the way through a football game when one side is ahead 50 to one. Brezhnev almost concedes the unfairness of his proposal when he says he is also ready. In his words, "as a sign of goodwill" to go further and carry out a vague unilateral reduction in certain unspecified nuclear weapons in Europe.

But even the Brezhnev moratorium turns out to be less than a moratorium—because the Soviet President couples it with a threat of escalation. If NATO proceeds with its plans to modernize its own nuclear force, Brezhnev says he would take retaliatory steps which the says, again with some vagueness, would put the United States under an analogous threat. As a propaganda gesture then, the Brezhnev proposal is transparent. And even as a starting point for bargaining, it does not attack the central problem—which, as President Reagan points out, is not to freeze nuclear arms but to reduce them. Reagan's proposals of last November 19, include a plan to eliminate together ground launched intermediate-range missiles from Europe. There is a treaty draft to do just that on the table at the US-Soviet Geneva

talks. The treaty would give Brezhnev the big concession he wants—cancellation of NATO's planned force of Pershing II and ground-launched cruise missiles. But it would also require dismantling Soviet SS-20s and other medium-range missiles, a force which has changed the European strategic balance and now gravely threatens the continent's peace. Geneva is the proper place for Brezhnev's next gesture, the proper place for real negotiations.—USICA.



TASTE OF PARADISE

The Coming Elections

By Jayantha Somasundaram

IF ALL GOES WELL we should have both the parliamentary and presidential elections within the next twenty months. Not only will these be the first national elections of the Second Republic, but they will also be our first presidential election and our first national experience with proportional representation. Interesting and exciting to say the least. The forthcoming elections are also significant for a reason outside the merely constitutional. They will occur in a situation where Sri Lanka is taking on the district configuration of a neocolony. What does being a neocolony imply in today's context? It means our secure incorporation within a global system that is controlled and dominated by the North—the US in particular. It means our total dependence on foreign funds for our existence and survival. It means a cultural subservience which is reinforced by the media, tourism and consumerism. *J. R. Jayewardene* is the scion of what in colonial times was referred to as "first class goigama families". And these were people who willingly and gladly cooperated with the British conqueror. As late as 1902 when John Ferguson of the *Ceylon Observer* attempted to agitate for constitutional reform, the S. C. Obeyesekeres and James Peirises were too much a part of the colonial structure to support such agitation. While other colonies witnessed violent and militant struggles against the conqueror, the Ceylon National Congress and the United National Party were totally subservient. Today a generation later the US quite candidly acknowledges that they are enamoured with Jayewardene's UNP government. Old sins have long shadows. Old habits die hard.

Not only ideology but expediency prompts the Government to depend totally on the US and its allies. On its own admission the government is financially bankrupt and its financial delinquency has given goose pimples even to its patrons at the World Bank. The country is paralysed by foreign experts and keeps afloat by foreign investment and assistance. It is increasingly made a cog in a global system that is

admittedly unjust and unfair to the poor and the weak. It is buffeted by international currents that it has not the strength or power to stand up to. That in a nutshell is what it means to be a neocolony. There are profound political implications that spring from this pitiful situation. Since they have invested both their money and their reputation in Sri Lanka, the Government's foreign friends are anxious about what takes place here. It is unlikely that good humour will enable them to shrug off reversals that befall their interests. The era when US warships steamed into Third World ports to crush democratically elected but unfriendly governments is not necessarily an outdated scenario, especially now that Regan is on stage. After all the US doesn't maintain its overseas fleets in Asia and the Pacific merely to provide clientele for our prostitutes.

On the other hand the approval of the US and the industrial powers of the North is also construed by the existing government as proof of its local viability. If the shrewd investors from across the seas are coming over here, then they must be convinced that the present government is invincible. *J. R. Jayewardene* and his government just may think that they have the world neatly sewed up in their pockets. But no one is infallible—not even the US State Department. Or else we wouldn't have a Cuba, Angola, Vietnam, Iran, Nicaragua, El Salvador.... So it is still anybody's guess what the elections are going to throw up.



PREJUDICES DIE HARD

But Die They Must

K. Kanapathipillai

OUR CHILDREN are caught in stupid prejudices and that mad hurry called life; and so are we adults. In every one of our institutions, social, religious, educational and political, we have pre-planned and pre-fabricated institutions; that is frameworks into which we make an endeavour to force our children and even ourselves.

Our homes, our schools, our places of worship, our society and our state: *mathru, pithru, achchariya* and *adhidhi*; (mother, father, preceptor and society)—all these are institutions of conformity, rigidity and regimentation. And we, at every stage of our growth and development, are entangled and ensnared in them. Our thinking powers have been circumscribed and our expansion has been limited; and the outcome of it all is that we are not what nature would have intended us to be. We are not free. We have become no more no less than a bundle of prejudices. We have been governed and controlled by sheaves and sheaves

of preconceived notions. There is the prejudice of the home to begin with; and the child has this massive wall, this "graha" (home) fortification all around him. What we erroneously have designated as his rich heritage—his traditional ties and his family bonds—his "graha dharmā"—have laid seige to his developing, evolving and expanding "anubhava": his creative urge to be and to become; to wit, his expanding self. He is no more what nature would have intended him to be. His thinking has been curbed. He has been cramped mentally and crippled physically. He has no more the creative spirit that he had been endowed with by nature. He has been ensnared in a meaningless environment of separatist trends and false values.

Under the darkening shadow of age-old superstitious notions, of bigotry, of putrid tradition and cankerous, religious and cultural and racial conformity of the parents and the rigid principles and conditioning of his home, the child grows into an enormous deformity; his limbs and body crippled, his mind sunk in a maelstrom of confused and confounded ideas. He has been cast into the mould of his childhood as designed and patterned by his parents, his tribe and his race and the other members of his family, pathetically caught in their smothering and cramping wishes.

IT IS NO WONDER a child of six that had been compelled by his father to pray at regular hours asked his mother this very pointed question: Mum, is there no religion where you need not have to pray? Thereafter comes the school. It is the child's second prison house. The "shades of the prison house begin to close upon the growing boy." He feels and even discovers the difference between the home and the school. Here he notes the separative spirit prevailing. The human in him is no more. He has become a monstrosity. He has been labelled as the Sinhala child, the Tamil child, the Muslim child, and the Burgher child. He has other distinctions: hair-splitting differences. There comes the Buddhist child, the Hindu child, the Musim child and the Christian child. And yet, some more differences creep in, and impinge and have their impact on the plastic mind of the child. The notions of superiority and inferiority, of a superior ruling group and an inferior group of second-rate of third-rate citizens, of a state language, a national language and a tongue that has fallen from grace after having been a status insignia for nearly a century and half.

Yet further distinctions, diverse and divergent elements, invade the child's zone of thinking, as of the engendering of values in the child's mind. They are the cruel and the cynical and the narrow, but yet realistic notions of rich and poor, the haves and the have-nots, the high and the low castes; of the true and the false faiths, of the chosen and the cursed tribes, of status, and of rank, of an exclusive in-group and an outcaste splinter category. In the

school itself and even in the church and much more in society, the child has to contend with numerous divisive trends all of which conspire for the splintering of the "greatest of the whole". He is torn between notions and ideas, between ideals and ideologies, between faith and scepticism. He is no more that "greatest of the whole", that natural unit, that integrated whole being that nature's principle of precision should necessarily have designed him to evolve into. He has turned out to be a hopeless conglomerate of confused thoughts and confounded congeries of feelings. His cognitive and conative capacities, his willing and his wanting, his pristine loves and his primal hates, his sensations, volitions, ideas and his feelings, to wit, his likes and his dislikes. All these that go to from his "self" have been put into disarray. His true creative spirit, his "elan vital" has been pinioned on to the rack and turned and broken; crushed, massacred, mascerated and dismembered. He is no more one. He is a multitude. He is a jumbled mass of flesh and of carnality and its attendant tears and cares.

AND NOW HE ENTERS SOCIETY, not whole in body and mind, but maimed in self and battered in spirit. In the school and in the Halls of Learning he is in no way placed in a wholesome atmosphere. There, knowledge has been compartmentalized. And what a medley of events and mosaic of information confront him. Further, confusion sets in. The disintegration of his being and becoming process is taking him to a condition of regress. The martyrdom of man, it would seem, has become an interminable process. It goes on from early childhood into the phase of adolescence, and has gone for into the adult stage. The Halls of Higher Studies have posted him into one of the several departments that a University has been parcelled out into. He is in one of these. His thinking and feeling powers have been curtailed; and in consequence he has become a physicist or a chemist a mathematician or a biologist, an engineer or a doctor, a hotchpotch arts man or a lopsided economist or a political scientist. Literature and arts and philosophy have been relegated to the realm of crazy guess-work areas of knowledge. And out of the portals of these Halls of learning men and women emerge; not as whole human beings but as mangled forms: tired and tattered, frustrated and emaciated, awry in phygionomy, cranky and crochety in mental development and physical growth. In point of fact the entire zone of this being process has been disturbed and distorted.

ARMED WITH A HOPELESSLY CLOUDED, muddled and ill-assorted conglomerate of notions of willing and wanting, of hopes and aspirations, of baulked desires and broken hearts; and being thoroughly disillusioned, our University men and women enter society, rather, they enter the world, to find it tantalisingly enigmatic. They confront the riddle of human society. Existence has, to them, put on the

garb of a baffling puzzlement. The phenomenon that man is, has now to face the perplexity that the world is. Society forces itself on his attention much more than ever before, and has become a jigsaw puzzle; All in tatters, all in pieces, with frayed and fluid edges. Man has been jiggered.

In the process of serious talking of peace and disarmament the big powers of the world are arming themselves, and trying out nuclear tests. Man has become a bundle of prejudices and contradictions, and so have the nations of the world. They have become traditionally narrow in their outlook; in their attitude towards other nations. They re not learning and endeavouring to build an enduring and peaceful worked state: sans competition, sans rivalry, sans conflict. They are tending towards' dereliction, destruction, destitution and annihilation. They blow hot and cold in the same breath. Their brains have become brawns; their loves have turned into hatred, envy, suspicion and cupidity. They seek power, the power of self and brawn, fo security and status and of stark egotism, if only because they crage to acquire them and possess them, if even for a breathing space.

Their hearts are drought-stricken and penurious. They have built walls around them: walls of nationalism, patriotism, racialism; tariff walls, self-protective economic walls, such as the European Common Market, and South East Asian Trade Zone. They have lost sight of the great values of right thinking right living, right livelihood and right aspirations which are the only means that would stem the tide of human dissolution and decay that is fast engulfing humanity in its whirls and swirls. And, now what is the way out of this bungle? Man has to lift himself out of the morass of his petty self. We have to unlearn our ways, to rethink, to re-live our lives and to restructure society on the basis of revised and refined values: on loving kindness and on a deep sense of justice governed by the sublime notion ofm agnanimous thinking, magnanimous felling and magnanimous existence.

Is not the future the expansion of the present, and the present attention of the past? And why can't we apply this notion for the greater awakening of the "self" and for the designing of a better way of life?

SINHALA AND TAMIL NEW YEAR

There will be no issue of **Tribune** next week, on April 17, owing to the New Year holidays. The next issue of **Tribune** will be on Saturday April 24.

Govt.



Notice

The Land Acquisition Act (Cap 460) as amended by the Land Acquisition (Amendment Act No. 28 of 1964

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 7

Ref No: 3/61/214
03.J 77 L. 116

It is intended to acquire the Land/Lands described in the schedule below. For further particulars, please see the Gazette No. 185/14 of 26.3.1982. Extraordinary of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

SCHEDULE

Name of Village etc:- Gurussa village in Ihala Otoa Korale, Ibbagamuwa D.R.O's Division, Kurunegala District.

Name of Land :- Meegaha watta
Molagoda watta
Guru Ela watta-Siyambalagaha watta
Guru Ela watta-Mel watta
Mel watta

Plan & Lot No.:- Lot Nos. 106, 107, 110, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 140, and 143 in Supplement No. 9 in F.V.P.1773

Kachcheri,
Kurunegala
March 16th 1982.

A. George
District Land Officer
Kurunegala District.

TRIBUNE, APRIL 10, 1982



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

Reference No : ATH 17/407(A)

It is intended to acquire the land described in the Schedule below. For further particulars please see the Gazette Extraordinary of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. No: 185/6 of 23-03-1982

SCHEDULE

D.R.O's Division : Nugegoda.

Situation : Palle Pattu, Salpiti Korale

Village : Madiwela and Udahamulla.

Name of Land : Ninderawelakumbura
Paragahakumbura
Beliattekumbura
Ambagahakumbura
Puwakwetiakumbura
Pelangahakumbura
Pelangahakumbura
alias Kekunagahakumbura
Godaporagahakumbura
Godaporagahakumbura alias
Kotadeniya kumbura
Halpathkumbura
Kumbukgahakumbura alias
Pelangahakumbura
Millagahakumbura and
Gonakanda kumbura

Lot No : 01 - 28

Plan No. P. P. Co 5530

H. C. Gunawardane
District Land Officer &
Acquiring Officer of Colombo District

The Kachcheri,
Clombo
05.03.1982.

TRIBUNE, APRIL 10, 1982

Notice under section 7 of the Land Acquisition Act (Chapter 460) as amended by the Land Acquisition (Amendment) Act, No. 28 of 1964

ATH No: 17/407 (B)

It is intended to acquire the land described in the Schedule below. For further particulars please see the Gazette Extraordinary of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka No: 185/6 of 23.03.1982.

SCHEDULE

D. R. O's Division :- Nugegoda

Situation :- within the U. C. limits of Kotte and the V. C. limits of Kotte - Galkissa.

Name of Land :- Midellagahakumbura,
Dawatagahakumbura,
Pethigamuwakumbura,
Pothuwilakumbura, Delga-
hakumbura, Harakwelayaya,
Beddegama Mahayaya,
Pelangahakumbura, Pelan-
gahawatte.

Village :- Pita Kotte, Etul - Kotte and Mirihana.

Lot No. :- 01 - 13.

Plan No P. P. Co :- 5501

The Kachcheri,
Colombo
Date :- 5th March 1982.

H. C. Gunawardane
District Land Officer
& Acquiring Officer
of Colombo District.

TRIBUNE

Agricultural Digest

This week we publish the third instalment from the Report entitled **NOTES ON CITRUS CULTIVATION IN THE BIBILE AND MONERAGALA DISTRICTS** By Dr. M. PRATT IN COLLABORATION WITH THE JANATA ESTATES DEVELOPMENT BOARD, COLOMBO. Whatever the criticism that may be levelled at the JEDB in the matter of the plantations it manages, there is no doubt that it should be congratulated for promoting the development of horticulture—in this instance, citrus. This report provides a wealth of information helpful to all interested in citrus cultivation in all parts of the country. Dr. PRATT is from the International Executive Service Corps (IESC).

We also publish a note on the question of **STOLEN TEA** and we invite comments from our readers on this very important matter.

CITRUS CULTIVATION—3

Recommendations

By Dr. Robert M. Pratt

IN MAKING ESTATE PLANTINGS the various varieties and root-stocks must be identified on labels and maps. I am not at this time recommending research planting except for the variety and rootstock trials indicated. Part of at least one orchard should be irrigated for comparison. If citrus production is to prosper, a **vigorous program of research** and extension is necessary, either by JEDB or the Department of Agriculture. Some of the factors to be investigated are: varieties, rootstocks, tree spacing, irrigation, soils, pruning, fertilizer levels and the need for various nutrients, and insect and disease control. **Recommended fertilizers** for orchards may be modified according to results of leaf and soil analysis and field observations of the growth of the trees. **Budded trees** should be grown in the nursery until they are at least 3 feet tall. **Rooting** should be carefully observed and if the plants show signs of becoming root bound, it will be necessary to transplant into larger bags. Budding procedures are

described in the publications I am leaving. The seedling tops should be lopped (bent over) at the time of budding. I recommend polyethylene wraps. If after 30 days the bud is green, the wrap can be slit vertically and removed. As the bud grows it should be kept pruned to a single stem.

At least 10 **demonstration plots** in village gardens should be arranged and fertilizer and nutritional sprays provided. These plots will be used by JEDB to evaluate the results of practices, and will demonstrate to the grower and his neighbours what can be accomplished. This is standard extension practice the world over. The demonstrations must be closely supervised. Trees in estate gardens should be fertilized, sprayed and pruned as recommended (Vide Note 2.) Small orchards should be planted on as many estates as possible to see how the trees perform in different situations. *The lemonlime* reportedly does well at high altitudes. Trial plantings should be made in estate gardens. The fruit is seedless so cuttings or buds must be used. There is a tree in the garden at Bibile Estate that may be used as a source, but it contains tristeza.

MARKETING is not within the scope of my assignment or expertise. I will point out that improved practices will have no value if the cultivator is unable to obtain fair value for his fruit. It is probable that the neglect of the trees began because the fruit was not worth the picking. The profit must go to the grower, not the middleman. The fruit must be paid for and picked up at roadside. **I have been told that local oranges are sour. This should not be the case in a tropical climate. Oranges I have seen in the market in Badulla and Kandy were grossly immature. This is probable the reason for reports of sour fruit. Growers must be trained not to harvest fruit before it is ripe. Oranges and Mandarins will stay green in a tropical climate, regardless of variety. At maturity the colour will change from a dark green to a pale or yellow green and the peel will become smoother and more pliable. The pulp should be sweet and juicy.**

I have recommended lime sulphur for control of pink disease and powdery mildew. If this is not obtainable use a low soluble copper fungicide for pink disease. "Miltox" or "Phytonao" may be tried for mildew. It may be necessary to spray the rough lemon and Rangpur lime seedlings with a copper fungicide to protect against scab. Recommendations suggested include: (1) Practices in existing lime nurseries have been modified to grow larger seedlings and do more careful sorting; (2) Fertiliser mixtures and materials have been ordered; (3) Nursery sites have been selected and soil obtained; (4) Orchard sites have been examined; (5) Two village orchards have been cleared and fertilised; (6) Seed for the nurseries has been ordered.

TIME TABLE FOR FURTHER ACTION :

Nursery seedbeds should be established as soon as the soil can be fumigated and the fertilizer mixed with it and the seed delivered. The seed should be planted as soon as received as recommended Note 2. If the seedbeds are not ready, the seed should be stored under refrigeration at degree 37 - 43-F. Selected village gardens and citrus trees in estate gardens should be fertilized and sprayed as soon as the materials are available. Additional village gardens should be selected, pruned and cleared, and sprayed and fertilized as soon as possible. Lime plantings can be made during this rainy season if the plants in existing nurseries are large enough (12 inches) to sort and replant in polyethylene tubes. Plants in new seedbeds will be ready to sort and replant in 4 to 6 months. They will be ready to set out or bud in another 6 months. Budded trees will be ready to plant out in an additional 4 to 6 months. Buds should be ordered well in advance of need, with delivery date specified (send me a copy of the order and I will follow on it). Experience has shown that methyl bromide fertilizers and pesticides should be ordered well in advance of need. The citrus programme must be assigned a reasonable priority. Oversight will be needed on the part of the Regional Manager, Crop Diversification Officers and the concerned Superintendents. It would be best if a management-level person could be assigned full time to the citrus program. Lacking this, it is incumbent on the Regional Manager to be sure that the other responsible persons are keeping the program moving. I would be kept informed of the progress of the project. I will be glad to offer further advice and information by mail.

To be continued

Tea

How Much Is Stolen ?

There has been a great deal of apprehension that a substantial part of the tea produced in our plantations is stolen. In the Central Bank's *Review of the Economy for 1979*, there was a pointed reference to this question on page 23; "*There were frequent reports of highly organised pilfering of made tea from estates, which were finally exported without paying internal taxes. The general view of those in the tea trade was that these thefts could be as high as 10 to 15 per cent of total tea production. Unless immediate corrective measures are taken, the situation is likely to get out of control.*"

A *Tribune* Investigator asked the General Manager of JEDB, Mr. K. D. W. Ratnayake, for his observations on the remarks in the Central Bank's Review. This is what he said: "Corrective measures are indeed

necessary and I wish to make the following observations which I feel are relevant. If the pilfering is as high as 10 to 15 percent of the total tea production the graph on page 19 of the Review would change. **It will be observed that the production in 1979 should then have been well over the highest levels achieved in 1965 of 227.8 million kgs.** The decline in trend in the production graph would also have changed and at a first glance it gives the impression that while there could have been thefts as high as 10 to 15 percent from individual factories, it seems unlikely that the loss would aggregate 10 to 15 percent of the Island's total tea production. According to the Tea Master Plan, the tea factories by ownership and district are as follows :

Project Area	District	Pri-				Total
		JEDB	SLSPC	vate	Other	
Badulla	Badulla	52	38	22	2	114
Nuwara	Nuwara					
	Eliya	107	70	15	1	193
Mid						
Country	Kandy	48	44	100	1	193
	Matale	0	19	6	0	25
Low						
Country	Kalutara	0	17	4	0	21
	Galle	0	16	52	8	76
	Kegalle	21	1	4	1	27
	Matara	0	22	22	9	53
	Ratnapura	0	61	27	2	90
	Kurunegala	2	0	0	0	2
Total		230	288	252	24	794

The Latest Tea Board figures are, however, as follows :

J.E.D.B.	SLSPC	JANAWASA	PRIVATE	T.R.I.	Total
209	229	5	207	2	652

Mr. Ratnayake then went on to say: "The two State Management Agencies owned about 58% of the total acreage and accounted for 80% of the total production. The Report states that the actual direct share in production from bought leaf manufactured for private small holders would have been slight. The bought leaf manufactured by the J.E.D.B. in 1979 was 7 million kgs. The tea production declined by 14% from 1965 to 1976 at an annual rate of 1.47% and recovered by 6% in 1977. 1976 was the year in which the Plantations were nationalised and it seems unlikely that there could have been an increase in production of 20 to 30 million kgs. after the State commenced management, bearing in mind that no less than 2,000 hectares have been alienated for housing, village expansion etc.

"In addition, about 10,000 acres of tea were given to NADSA for diversification and settlement and the tea production from this area would deliberately be reduced as more and more lands is diversified. A few years back I had occasion to visit some of the refuse tea processing units at Randoebe near Amba-tea langoda and one of the Operators told me that recovered from refuse tea is sold in the Pettah, outside the official auction. The price he was getting was not very much less than what he would have obtained at the official auction. That gives me the impression that the unofficial market rate for the tea is not all that less favourable than the price that can be obtained at the regular auctions, with adjustments for storage, brokerage and ad valorem tax. **Therefore, unlike other stolen commodities, the "fence" pays a reasonable price for the stolen property. Today's auction average for tea is near Rs. 16 to 19 per kg. and if we assume that the 10% of the total production or 20 million kgs is disposed of through unofficial channels at an average price of Rs. 10 per kg., those responsible for organised pilfering should have no less than Rs. 200 million for distribution.**

"From our experience whenever there is pilfering from a teafactory those sharing the proceeds are limited to two or three people and such a vast quantity of money could not possibly accrue in the hands of a small number of people without being evident to those not involved in the pilfering. It strikes me that some of the registered factories may not be sending all that they produce to the public auction in order to avoid the payment of income taxes etc. There may be other factories from which no tea whatsoever reaches the official auctions. The stolen tea obviously finds its way to increase the quantities officially purchased by exporters and it may well be necessary to utilise the inspectors of the Tea Commissioner's Department to carefully scrutinize returns from those involved in the export trade.

"Shortly after the present Minister of Plantation Industries assumed office, he enquired from the Police authorities whether an investigation could be conducted. However, it did not seem possible as they had no evidence to commence an investigation. The 'Frequent reports' that are mentioned in the Review of the Economy obviously need investigation and I should like to know how an investigation could be commenced for it is very necessary for the State Estate Managing Agencies to book the culprits where tea is being pilfered from factories managed by the two Organisations"

Tribune invites its readers and others interested in the tea trade to send us their views on the question of the quantum of stolen tea and on the observations made by Mr. K. D. W. Ratnayake of the J E D B

Tribune Investigator.

PHILIPPINE EXPERIENCE

Miracle Rice - A Problem

By Gudrun Balibor

The revolt against "miracle rice" is growing in the Philippines as yields remain low and costs increase.

THE PHILIPPINES has been exporting rice for the past two years, but farmers and scientists are increasingly questioning the long-term benefits of "miracle" rice introduced 15 years ago. The overall production levels seem impressive. According to the FAO, rice production increased by 2.4 percent annually since 1965 and the Philippines became a net exporter in 1979 after a record harvest of 7.3 million tonnes. For the first time, the previous rice-importing country sold 200,000 tonnes of rice to Brazil, Malaysia and Indonesia. At the same time, self-sufficiency in rice has not helped to improve nutrition in the country. According to a 1981 World Health Organisation survey, 67 percent of all pre-school children suffer from malnutrition. While the Philippines Food and Nutrition Research Institute is recommending an intake of 2,020 calories per person a day, the average daily intake was only 1,670 calories in 1979. The Asian Development Bank has ranked the Philippines together with Bangladesh, India and Indonesia as the worst-fed countries in the region.

The International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) which developed the new, high-yielding varieties has been based in Los Banos, Philippines since it was established by the Rockefeller and Ford Foundation in 1962. As a result the IRRI's work seems to have had a far more penetrating impact on the rice sector in the Philippines than in any other Asian country. President Marcos felt that the rice problem in the Philippines could be conveniently left to the IRRI to solve. The main aim of his food policy has always been to increase productivity and output in order to keep prices down. This has been designed to maintain the living standards of the urban population, which he fears. The IRRI might soon find itself on a collision course with its supposed partners, the Filipino farmers. A recent article in the *Philippine Financial Journal* that "nothing short of a new agrarian revolution" is going to get the IRRI out of the country. And this summer two top Filipino scientists made a savage attack on the IRRI and its agricultural practices. Dr. Burton Onate, president of the Philippines Agricultural Economics and Development Association, said that these practices, which require high energy inputs, have "sapped the energy resources and economic bounties of the Philippines". He has argued that the tenure of the IRRI and similar foreign research institutions should be terminated because they are no more than "conduits for transnational conglomerates".

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Dr. Richardo Lantican, head of the Los Baños Institute of Plant Breeding, argued that the suitable transfer of agricultural technologies from the rich to the poor countries has "made us subservient to the interests of transnational interests", especially in the area of hybrid seeds, fertilisers and farm machinery. The imports of Fertilizers from the industrialised countries increased from 208,000 tonnes in 1967, the beginning of the "Green Revolution" to 735,000 tonnes in 1977. The high-yielding varieties have shown disappointing results, although they are planted on 70 percent of all rice-land. On average, the new varieties have only yielded 20 percent more than traditional varieties in irrigated areas and about 10 percent more in rainfed areas. IRRI studies reveal that their experimental yields of over 8 tonnes per hectare (t/ha) are matched by yields of an average of no more than 2 tonnes at the farm level in the Philippines. Their scientists admit that it would be impossible for farmers to achieve the high yields of 8 t/ha in their fields, and that more realistic estimates of maximum yield for irrigated land would be 5.6 t/ha and 4.6 t/ha for rainfed lowland.

IRRI experts now admit that the yields are highest and most effective for 10 hectare plots with irrigation. Although the irrigated rice land area has been doubled since 1965, less than half of the rice area in the Philippines is irrigated. About 45 percent is rainfed lowland and 13 percent is upland. IRRI experiments have shown that lack of water control is responsible for 23 percent of the difference between estimated and actual yields. Moreover, very few farmers in the Philippines own 10 hectares of land. Most cultivate holdings between one and three hectares. Studies in Central Luzon, the most productive rice growing area, indicate that only about one-quarter of cultivators were owners in 1973, and the rest cultivated their farms in some form of tenancy. And only 76,300 tenants had benefitted from the Land Reform Programme, which was instituted in 1972. The average yield for well-equipped irrigated farms is 3.8 t/ha, but even this figure is far below the yield achieved by IRRI experts. Researchers believe that in some cases the use of the new varieties on rainfed land has resulted in lower net income for the farmers. According to a study by the Farmers' Assistance Board in Manila, on rainfed farms in Gapan, Nueva Ecija, yields rose by only 0.1 t/ha after five years, while at the same time fertilizer input more than doubled from 9.2 to 20.5 kg/ha. Experts say that farmers' inputs of fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides are far below the level prescribed by IRRI. This is said to be a result of "farmers' ignorance of the effects of certain inputs on yield" and "from the unavailability of inputs or cash with which to purchase them when they are needed". According to FAO figures, the price of fertilizer has more than tripled since 1973 but the procurement price of rice has only doubled during the same period. And the cost of living has officially risen by more than 130 percent over the past ten years.

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RECENTLY it was reported that President Marcos intended to reduce the fertiliser subsidy for farmers. Experts calculated that fertiliser inputs would drop drastically, yields would fall and the Philippines would have to start importing rice again. Immediately President Marcos decided to suspend any reduction in subsidy. Despite this, experts at the IRRI do not believe that self-sufficiency levels will be maintained for longer than four or five years. An IRRI scientist said that several local manufacturers of IRRI equipment have had to close down this year because their sales decreased drastically. Farmers cannot pay back the credits they get from the Rural Development Banks to buy the implements. Similar problems with repayments of loans have arisen with the Masangana 99 programme, a major credit package introduced by Marcos in 1973. The programme was an important part of Marcos' efforts to increase food production. Low interest loans and subsidised fertilizer inputs were made available to farmers with irrigated land. Official sources admit that the number of farmers receiving the loans has decreased by 75 percent. The repayment rate for loans fell from 93 percent in the first few years to 46 percent in 1979. The future of farmers could be bleak if they continue to rely on rice cultivation that demands high energy inputs. There are calls for more research into increasing yields from traditional farming methods. The Farmers' Assistance Board, a research and training organisation for farmers, plans to monitor traditional farming methods and to set up a seed bank to preserve traditional varieties in order to break the monopoly of the IRRI.

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TRIBUNE SPORTSCOPE

SPOTLIGHT

The Pakistan Tour

The Sri Lankan cricket tour of Pakistan has ended on a dismal and dreary note with their five-wicket defeat in the final One-day International at the Karachi National Stadium on Wednesday March 31. From all accounts and information reaching us, the tour has not been one to crow about. Of the Three Tests matches and the Three One-day internationals, Sri Lanka was able to only win the second One-day International at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore. Apparently everything went wrong for Sri Lanka from the date of arrival in Pakistan. Their first three-day game against the Board President's XI in Rawalpindi was a complete washout due to heavy rain and not a ball was bowled. With the one and only practice game washed out, Sri Lanka probably became the first country playing Test Cricket to go into a Test match without a single turn up game in which the form of the players could have been assessed.

This tour being the first undertaken after being admitted to full membership of the International Cricket Conference, it was of paramount importance that Sri Lanka put up a good and impressive performance. But sad to say it was a tour that tarnished the image. To begin with if the squad to Pakistan was selected after the game against England, 'Allrounder' is confident that as much as half of these who went would not have been selected.

Men like the skipper Warnapura, Kaluperuma, Jayasekera and Ratnayake were dismal failures. Their berths could have been filled by promising and competent cricketers who were then at the peak of form. From reports reaching us Warnapura has apparently had a very disappointing tour. As captain he was most of the time cooling his heels in the comfort of the pavilion and Duleep Mendis had to substitute. Warnapura's batting, too, was never commendable or inspiring except for that carefree 77 against Pakistan in the first one-day game.

Rodrigopulle the *Times* Correspondent has said that runs don't matter in limited-over cricket. How

true. Test cricket is what the game is all about and Warnapura should have scored and paved the way in the Tests. As skipper, Warnapura should have realised that he had a big responsibility to shoulder. Whenever he was at the wicket he should have made it his business to stay on and guide the other batsmen about what to do in a situation that called for a skipper's strategy. But apparently he has been the leader in the march back to the pavilion. Now that Warnapura has been a flop it might also mean the end of his tenure as captain of Sri Lanka. Since the making of that century against Kin Hughes' Australians he has not done anything of note as a batsman.

On the day of the final one-day international against Pakistan a leading newspaper in Sri Lanka in an article headlined "Bandula injured" and strap line 'Miandad leads Pakistan for last time', said that Warnapura was injured and that he would not play. Above that article were the pictures of Warnapura and Miandad. Now that article indicated that Miandad leads Pakistan for the last time. "Allrounder", going by the presentation of that article wonders whether this could also mean the end of the road for Warnapura as captain of the Sri Lanka team.

Reading Rodrigopulle, "Allrounder" was also able to gather that the umpiring in practically all of the games was very poor and below accepted international standard. "Allrounder" appreciates that umpiring is a very difficult and unenviable job. But speaking to several former Sri Lanka cricketers who had toured Pakistan, we were told that umpiring in Pakistan is not all that good and that Rodrigopulle's acid comments on umpiring were justified. Anyway Sri Lanka's poor performance cannot be attributed to bad umpiring alone. The majority of the players did not play true to their proven ability. Some we understand had a half hearted and lackadaisical approach to the Tests.

However Roy Dias, Sidath Wettimuny, Ranjan Madugalle, Duleep Mendis, Mahes Goonetilleke, D. S. de Silva and Assantha de Mel were tireless triers. Roy Dias, Sidath Wettimuny, Rajan Madugalle, Duleep Mendis and Mahes Goonetilleke showed their temperament and prowess as batsmen and D. S. de Silva as bowler and Ausatha de Mel as a promising allrounder. Rodrigopulle in his on the spot reports for his papers stated that Sri Lanka's fielding was very poor. He also stated rather pointedly that several catches were grassed and that proved costly for Sri Lanka. Any team playing Test cricket must give importance to fielding. Bad fielding can never support a good bowler. "Catches win matches" is a cricket writer's cliché. But if catches are dropped, as was the rule rather than the exception by our fielders on this tour only a miracle can save a side.

Listening-in to the radio commentary on the final one-day game, the commentators said that had it not been for a vital 'drop' by Ajit de Silva off Wasim Raja, Sri Lanka could have even beaten the home team. Most of the Sri Lanka cricketers were also apparently found lacking in many aspects of Test cricket.

Test cricket is a hardgrind with no quarter asked and none given. "Allrounder" was also surprised to read that Warnapura agreed to make the rain washed out third day of the Third Test a day of rest and make the rest day a playing day. If a playing day is wasted out by rain it cannot be helped. Had Warnapura said 'no' to that proposal Sri Lanka could have saved that Test which saw us roughly thrashed by an innings. There is some provision in the rules, but no side is under obligation to switch dates because of bad weather.

Now that the tour is over we hope that the cricketers who will continue to be in the game and not only them but the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka will learn from the mistakes that were made. That calls for a large measure of humility. The Caribbean cricketers are expected around September and we hope the Cricket Board will from now put our cricketers through their paces and see that they have the temperament and play as a team good enough to accept the Windies challenge.

Allrounder

SPORTS CHRONICLE

March 26-31

FRIDAY, MARCH 26: In *School Cricket* the oldest "Big Match" in the hill capital the 76th Battle of the Maroons between Dharmaraja College and Kingswood College will be played today and tomorrow on the Police grounds at Kandy. Dharmarajah have the better of the exchanges in this Series. They have won 30 games to Kingswood's 17 with the rest of the matches drawn. Dharmaraja's last win came in 1980 under Janaka Mendis, but it has been a long time since Kingswood won this Big Match. That was 24 years ago in 1958 under C. Maurice Fernando, who later became the "Daily News School boy Cricketer of the year". The 31st Battle of the Golds between Sri Sumungala Panadura and Moratu Maha Vidyalaya, Moratuwa, will be played at the Panadura Esplanade today and tomorrow. Nalanda College are confident of beating traditional rivals Ananda whom they meet in the 53rd Battle of the Maroons cricket encounter at the Saravanamuttu Stadium tomorrow. Their coach for the last 34 years, Gerry Goonetatne said: "The boys have performed extremely well this season. On the from book Nalanda have the edge as Arjuna Ranatunge is not playing.

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A maiden century by Mohsin Khan laid the foundation for a good day's batting for Pakistan on the third day of the *Third and Final Cricket Test against Sri Lanka at Lahore* today. Test wicket-keeper Rod Marsh has declined the vice captaincy of the *Australian* cricket team to tour *Pakistan* in September and October. The 34-year-old Marsh was offered the vice-captaincy under his Western Australian captain Kim Hughes. He declined the job, which includes a post as one of the three tour selectors, "to give a younger player the experience of being vice-captain. Defending Champions Australia and last year's Runners-up Japan were joint leaders with the identical aggregates of 147 at the end of the First Round of the *4th Asian Women's Amateur Team Championships* for the Queen Sirikit Cup at Nuwara Eliya yesterday.

SATURDAY, MARCH 27: In *School Cricket* For the fourth time this season Kingswood opening batsmen, skipper Lalith Wijeratne and Ramazan Shariffudeen were associated in a century opening stand. Yesterday they put on 101 in the Big Match against Dharmaraja on the Police grounds at Kandy. Kingswood 263 for 5 wickets declared and Dharmaraja 40 for 2 wickets at close of play. D. S. Senanayake MV crawled for 305 minutes and 83 overs to reach 153 for 9 at the close on the first day of their cricket match against Wesley at Campbell Park yesterday. Harsha Alles who top scored on 75 with four boundaries in 270 minutes shared an opening stand of 53 in 93 minutes with A. Perera (15) and a fifth wicket partnership of 56 in 90 minutes with Jayantha Silva (27). Ananda Sastralaya were all out for 77 in their big match against St. Mary's Matugama which began at the Police grounds, Matugama yesterday. In reply St. Mary's made 96 for 8 wickets at close of play. The match will be continued at 10 a.m. today. K. Gamini Perera the dual purpose bowler of Dharmapala Vidyalaya, Pannipitiya on Wednesday raised Peterite Rumes Ratnayake's record of 111 wickets in a season by capturing 116 wickets. Kalutara's cricket fans will get an opportunity to see a Combined Schools team of Kalutara meet St. Peter's College in a 50 overs one-day game on the Esplanade at Kalutara on Sunday March 28 starting at 10 a.m. Rain and a wet pitch saved Isipatana from certain defeat in their match against Dharmapala Vidyalaya, Pannipitiya on the Colts grounds yesterday. In the 90 minute play possible Dharmapala added 10 runs to their overnight 20 for one and declared leaving Isipatana a target of 78 runs in 15 mandatory overs. At stumps Dharmapala's star bowler Gamini Perera with 3 wickets for one run had Isipatana tottering on 22 for 5. The Second Limited Overs cricket encounter between Prince of Wales and St. Sebastian's will be played at the Tyrone Fernando Stadium today at 10 a.m. The Cambrians won last year's inaugural clash by five wickets. St. Anthony's College Katugastota are determined to make it three in a row when they take on traditional rivals Trinity College, Kandy in their Limited Over

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cricket match for the Sri Richard Aluvihare Trophy at 10 a.m. today at Katugastota. The Antonians won the inaugural game in 1980 and retained the Trophy last year. Last year the Antonians scored an easy win helped by a blistering 108 by Marlon Von Haght. Sri Lanka's first Indoor Badminton Hall situated at the Sports Ministry at Independence Square was declared open by Sports Minister Vincent Perera on Thursday. In *Club Cricket* defending Champions and Table Leaders Bloomfield dismissed CCC for 147 and were 22 for 2 wickets at the close of the first day in their Sara Trophy Final Round match at Maitland Crescent yesterday. Maitland Crescent CCC 147 and Bloomfield 22 for 2 at close. Rifle Green Air Force 179 and Saracens 86 for 5 at close. Rifle Green Air Force 179 and Saracens 86 for 5 at close. Sri Lanka were facing an innings defeat in the *Third and Final Crickets Test against Pakistan* at Lahore today. At the close on the fourth day, Sri Lanka had lost five wickets for 95—still 165 behind on the first innings, Pakistan declared their first innings closed at 500 for seven with Zaheer Abbas completing the seventh Test century of his career. Defending champions Australia snatched a one stroke lead over Japan, with a 298 total after the second round of the Fourth Asian Amateur Team Golf Championships at Nuwara Eliya yesterday. They had tied on 147 at the end of the First Round on Thursday.

SUNDAY, MARCH 28: In *School Cricket* an unbroken 48 runs partnership for the fifth wicket by Oshadee Weerasinghe 27 (not out) which included four boundaries and one towering six and Sujeewa Kamalasureya 39 (not out) including three hits to the fence enabled Ananda to be in a stronger position with a total of 122 for loss of four wickets in their 53rd Battle of the Maroons in reply to Nalanda's 107 for 8 wickets declared which began at the P. Saravanamuthu Stadium yesterday. Bad light prevented a close finish in the Matugama big match between Ananda Sastralaya and St. Mary's at Matugama yesterday. Set to make 63 runs for victory St. Mary's were 55 for 9 wickets when bad light stopped play in the 18th mandatory over. The match ended in a draw. St. Thomas College Matara declared at 177 for 9 in their 82 Big Match of the Battle of the Blues in Matara against St. Servatius which began at Matara Uyanwatta Stadium yesterday. The big match between Sri Sumangala and Moratuwa Vidyalaya ended in a tame draw at the Panadura Esplanade yesterday. Sri Sumangala 122 and 173 for 4 dec. Moratuwa Vidyalaya 141 for 9 wickets declared. Dharmaraja set a victory target of 192 runs in 25 minutes plus the 20 mandatory overs, were 75 for 2 wickets at the 10th mandatory over when bad light stopped play in their big match against Kingswood at the Kandy Police grounds yesterday. So the match ended in a tame draw. Kingswood 1st innings 263 for 5 wickets dec. Dharmaraja 1st innings (overnight 40 for 2 wickets continued). In the big match between Dharmasoka MV and

Devananda MV played at Ambalangoda UC Grounds Devananda scored 34 for 3 wickets at close in reply to Dharmasoka's 176. In *Club Cricket* four clubs gained first innings points at the end of the second day's play in the Saravanamuthu Trophy cricket matches yesterday. Saracens gained first innings points over Air Force, Bloomfield did likewise over Colombo Cricket Club, NCC took first innings points from Moratuwa Sports Club and Tamil Union did the same against Nomads. At Police Park SSC 225: Police 137 for 9 at close. At Rifle Green, Air Force 179 and 60 for 1 aicket at close: Saracens 86 for 5 wickets overnight—all out 304., At Maitland Crescent, CCC 147 and 127 for 4 wickets at close, Bloomfield overnight 22 for 2 wickets. At Maitland Place, NCC overnight 155 for 5 wickets and Moratuwa SC 114. At Viharamahadevi Park, Tamil Union over night 217 for 7 wickets: Nomads 172. Fast bowler Imran Khan ripped through Sri Lanka's tailenders to give Pakistan victory by an innings and 102 runs in the *Third and Final Cricket Test* today. Sri Lanka First Innings 240, Pakistan First Innings 500 for 7 declared.

MONDAY, MARCH 29: In *School Cricket* Ananda College, very much the "underdog" pulled off a sensational seven-wicket victory with 15.4 mandatory overs and 44 minutes to spare over Nalanda in the 53rd Battle of the Maroons cricket encounter concluded at the Saravanamuthu Stadium yesterday. Nalanda were shot out for 118 runs in their second innings by left-arm leg-spinner Manjula Thenuwara who took 7 wickets for 19 runs. Ananda left to score 32 for victory in 25 minutes plus the 20 mandatory overs arrived there for the loss of three wickets. The Battle of Matara between St. Servatius and St. Thomas ended in a draw. St. Thomas declared at 177 for 8 and in reply St. Servatius hammered a massive 378 for 4 wickets with an unbeaten 206 by G. Liyanage with 23 fours and 3 sixers. This is a record for the Uyanwatta Esplanade, the previous highest being 168. In *Club Cricket* defending champions Bloomfield nearly 10 points clear of SSC need only a first innings win from their last Final Round match next week against NCC at Maitland Place to retain the Sara Trophy. Bloomfield by beating CCC outright yesterday have 94,210 points, SSC who are lying second with 84,970 points have to beat Air Force outright next week at the Army grounds, and hope that Bloomfield lose, if they are to regain the Trophy. Bloomfield scored the only outright win when they beat CCC by 9 wickets with 95 minutes to spare at Maitland Crescent yesterday. At Police Park, Police who were set 230 runs to win in 180 minutes by SSC, fell short by 26 runs and were 204 8 at the close. NCC, Saracens and Tamils had to be content with first innings points over Moratuwa SC, Air Force and Nomads in their matches played at Maitland Place and Vihara Mahadevi Park respectively. Bloomfield beat CCC. CCC 147 and 178, SSC beat Police: SSC 225 and 143 for 6 dec,

Police 139. NCC beat Moratuwa SC. NCC 191 and 240 for 2 at stumps Moratuwa SC 114. Tamil Union beat Nomads. NCC 191 and Tamils 254: Nomads 172 and 177 for 6 at stumps. Opening batsman Sidath Wettimuny and leg-spin and googly bowler Somachandra de Silva headed the batting and bowling averages for Sri Lanka in their *First Official Test Series against Pakistan* which ended on Saturday. Seventeen teams have entered for the *Nationalised Services Netball Association Knockout Tournament* commencing on 20 April at the Municipal Grounds, play commencing at 2.30 p.m. Sri Lanka will send a Basketball team to participate in the *8th Asian Basketball Confederation Championships* for Boys in Hongkong in October. The *Super Netball Tournament* for the Mercantile sector, co-sponsored by Warner-Hudnut (Lanka) Ltd., and the Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Ltd., has received a tremendous response. Starved of netball for a long time, as many as 36 mercantile firms rushed in their entries for the tournament which begins on Wednesday, March 31.

TUESDAY, MARCH 30: In *School Cricket* St. Peter's College Colombo beat Kalutara Combined Schools by 15 runs in the limited Over Cricket encounter for the Maxie Perera Challenge Cup on Sunday at the Kalutara Esplanade. St. Peter's 179 for 8 in 50 overs, Kalutara Combined Schools 164 all out in 47.3 overs. Sri Lanka and SSC opening batsman Sunil Wettimuny who had a lean season, struck his best form for an International XI led by former England captain Brian Close against Combined XI led by another ex-England captain, Tony Gerig in a *Limited Over Cricket Match played at Dubai* Wettimuny was in sparkling form as he cut and drove elegantly to score an attractive 131 with 5 sixes and 20 fours. Former Pakistan Test cricketer Azmat Rana hit a blazing 130 not out with 12 sixes and 11 fours for the International XI to total 282 in 40 overs. Sri Lanka outclassed Pakistan to win the *Second One-day International* on a faster scoring rate at Lahore today to level the 3-match series 1-all! Sri Lanka chasing a formidable Pakistan score of 239 for 4 in 40 overs, reached 227 for 4 in 33 overs when bad light stopped play for the day. Pakistan 239; Sri Lanka 227 for 4 wickets in 33 overs. *The Netball Fiesta* opens tomorrow. That is the *Super Netball Tournament* for the Mercantile Sector at 3.45 p.m. on the BRC courts at Havelock Park. There are nine matches tomorrow—one A Division and eight B Division—sponsored by Warner Hudnut Lanka Ltd., and the Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Ltd. *The Sri Lanka Motor Cycle Club* has been given the green light to run the Nuwara Eliya Road races on Sunday April 18. Practices commence on Saturday April 17 in this meet for motor cycles only. The classes are 125 CC racing, 250 CC racing, 350 CC racing, 500 CC racing and unlimited. For the second year in succession, Dharamaraja College, Kandy, took the *National*

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Junior Badminton Title. They defeated their hometown team and former champions St. Anthony's College Katugastota, three-nil in the Boys A Division Final of the All Island Schools Under 16 Badminton Championships at St. Anthony's Hall. President J. R. Jayewardena who is also the Minister of Janatha Estates Development Board will be the chief guest at the *Janatha Estates Development Board's inaugural All Island Sports Meet* to be held at Royal College grounds at Reid Avenue on April 2. The meet commences at 1 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31: In *School Cricket* the 19th Big Match between Thurstan and Isipatana will be played at the Sara Stadium this weekend. Vidyarthi College, Kandy, won their cricket encounter against Dharmapala Pannipitiya with 8 overs to spare at the Peradeniya University grounds yesterday. Dharmapala 113 and 106; Vidyarthi 115 and 106 for 5. Mr. B. A. Mendis, Tournament Secretary of the Sri Lanka Schools Cricket Association has called for entries for the under 15 and under 17 tournament for 1982. Entries close on 5 April. The registration will be done after schools reopen on 29th April. In *Club Cricket* at the end of the penultimate weekend of matches, only two clubs are left to battle it out for the Sara trophy—Bloomfield and SSC. Defending Champs Bloomfield are the closest to retaining the title they won last year, with a near 10 points lead over second place SSC. They each have one match to play next Friday. Bloomfield meets NCC and SSC meet Air Force. Bloomfield need only first innings points from NCC to clinch the title while for SSC to have any chance at the trophy, they must win outright, while at the same time hope that Bloomfield lose or be held to a no decision by NCC. Moratuwa SC the third club in the running fell away after NCC beat them on the first innings. Colts assured themselves of the Reheman Hathy trophy with their seventh straight win in the final round. It stretched their lead over second placed Moors by over 12 points. Moors had to be content with only a first innings win over bottom of the table. The *Sri Lanka Schools Team* which is scheduled to participate in the *Asian Women's Invitation Hockey Tournament in Hongkong* from April 3 to 10 will leave on April 3. Teams from Singapore, Thailand and India are to be invited to participate at *Sri Lanka's seven-a-side Rugby Championships* to be held over two days on October 2 and 3 at Londgen Place. Over 200 foot ballers, from various Leagues countrywide were put through their paces at the Sports Ministry by National Coach Joe Ariyapala and Technical Advisor Burkhard Pape. *The rebel English Cricketers* completed their controversial eight-match tour without a victory when a four-day game against South Africa ended lamely in a draw today.



Singapore Gold

DID IT NOT COME AS A SURPRISE that the *Sun* on March 27 should have a headline POLITICO'S BAGS HELD UP? That the report read: "A politico's baggage has been detained for inspection by Customs at the Colombo Airport. Informed sources said the baggage had no keys. The politico has claimed that the keys had been 'taken home' by someone who had left the airport earlier. Customs authorities told *Sun* yesterday that a high-powered team had been detailed to go through the articles in three bags. The politico too is expected to be summoned to an inquiry"? That on Monday, March 29 the *Sun* had another headline GOLD FINGER CASE—CUSTOMS REPORT TO FINANCE MINISTER and the report read: "A top level Customs investigation is underway into the alleged attempt by a politician to smuggle three bags containing bars of gold and wristwatches valued at 2.7 million rupees. The politico had apparently brought the bags on his return to the country from a trip abroad. The detection was exclusively reported in *Sun* last Saturday. Customs authorities remained tight-lipped about the investigations, but *Sun* reliably learns that they will submit a full report to the Minister of Finance shortly. Customs were conducting a routine search of the baggage of incoming passengers when they made the big catch. When the customs men made a move to examine the bags, the politician is believed to have stated that he had no keys. But the Customs insisted that the bags would be detained until they were examined. At the subsequent examination held in Colombo, Customs are said to have found bars of gold and 3,500 wristwatches concealed in the bags. Customs authorities thereafter reported the matter to the Principal Collector. Informed sources said that the inquiry would be carried out by Customs Additional Landing Surveyor Hubert Jayawardena under the direction of Principal Collector H. B. Dissanayake. The findings of a special team of detectives from the CID who were called in to investigate the case will also be incorporated in the Customs report"?

That *The Island* on March 30 ran a headline POLITICO FINED RS. 6 M. ON UNDECLARED GOODS? That the report read: "A penalty of Rs. 6 million has been imposed on a hill country politico for smuggling into the country watches, electrical equipment and calculators in commercial quantities according to informed Customs sources. As reported exclusively in *The Island* of Thursday March 25 under the heading Politico's packages detained by Customs, the politico in question had brought with him three packages from Singapore which were detained by Customs last week. The packages had

been earlier cleared in the Examination room but were intercepted by Chief Assistant Charges Officer Mr. Markandu who suspected they contained contraband because the weight of the packages did not tally with the goods supposed to be in them. When the politico was asked to open the packages, he had told the Customs Officers that the Keys to three packages were with someone else who had left the airport earlier. Mr. Markandu the ordered the three packages to be detained for examination later. At a top level inquiry behind closed doors, a penalty of Rs. 6 million had been imposed and the goods ordered to be forfeited, according to informed Customs sources. Top Customs sources told *The Island* yesterday that they could make to comment on this case because of orders from the Ministry"?

IS IT NOT TRUE that a fine and confiscation would be enough to punish a trader or any other person who has been guilty of trying to smuggle gold and watches? That in the case of a "politico"—especially if the person belongs to a political party in power or even in the opposition—the hierarchy of the Party should take immediate action to deal with the culprit? That this "politico" having been caught red handed, no Party can afford to ignore the matter? That the *Sun* on March 30 under the heading CID QUIZ POLITICO stated: "Detectives of the CID yesterday questioned a politico in respect of gold and wrist watches allegedly found among his baggage by Customs officers at the Colombo Airport last week. This came after a top level inquiry was initiated and a report was called for from the Customs and CID. Investigations are underway to determine whether the gold was the proceeds of any illegal transactions. Intelligence reports have previously indicated that persons involved in the narcotics and gem smuggling networks were bringing in gold out of the proceeds of their illegal operations. Customs Principal Collector H. D. Dissanayake who was contacted by *Sun* yesterday said that investigations into the alleged attempt had not been completed as yet"? That before this issue of the *Tribune* is on the newstands, the political party concerned may have taken the corrective measure to see that the party's image does not suffer too badly as a result of this lapse on the part of one of its politico's? That it is known that Singapore is the centre of smuggling to Sri Lanka? That this has been so far the last four years and even more? That at present in Singapore gold fetches had world market prices around US\$ 300 —\$ 350 per ounce? That in Sri Lanka the price is still at the old level of about \$700 an ounce? That who have gold here say that they want to recover the price they had paid? That this naturally creates a blackmarket and a temptation for smuggling even for politicians?

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