

TRIBUNE

27TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION



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- MINISTER OR SECRETARY ?
- BRAIN ROBBERY
- FALKLAND BUBBLE
- TRADITIONAL STUDIES

A LOVELY LOTUS

has bloomed in our ancient Capital of Sri Jayewardenepura Kotte enfolding within its petals the precious Dharmistha gem.

The nation congratulates is Excellency President J. R. Jayewardene and The Hon'ble R. Premadasa Prime Minister on this great achievement, and invokes Heaven's blessings on them to usher the golden era of peace and prosperity, of good will and harmony in this beautiful Sri Lanka – The Jewel of the Sea.

Asoka David

Asoka Cinema,
Puttalam.

TRIBUNE

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

The Government has repeatedly pointed out that Sri Lanka's development has been badly handicapped because of the brain drain—and also because of the brawn drain. The latter can be met more easily because skilled and semi-skilled artisans can be trained fairly quickly. But it takes many years to train doctors, engineers, accountants and other technocrats. There is no doubt that the drain of manpower has brought in increasing dividends in the form of remittances from abroad. In an economy hitched to exports to ensure viability, manpower exports are part and parcel of the methodology of development. The question that arises is whether there should be a policy of complete *laissez faire* in respect of all categories of exportable manpower or whether there should be selective restrictions. In Singapore, for instance, a doctor or engineer of any professional has to serve the government compulsorily for five years and the bond stipulated a payment of 80,000 Singapore dollars for any breach. (The amount was reduced to 60,000 dollars after representations were made). In Malaysia, Thailand and other ASEAN countries there are similar restrictions. Singapore and the other ASEAN countries are regarded as the leading exponents of the "open liberalised" economic policies, and if they can impose such restrictions why should Sri Lanka not do likewise? If this had been done, the Minister of Health would have no need to go around bewailing that so far as doctors were concerned the hospitals were running only at 50% strength. The latest report says that the developing nations provided more than 230,000 skilled workers to the US, Britain and Canada from the early 1960s to early 1970s. It is said that 30 percent of all physicians in Canada are foreign medical graduates and a large number of them are from India and Sri Lanka. According to the UNCTAD Secretariat, 420,000 specialists emigrated from the developing countries to the US, Canada and Britain from early sixties to 1975. According to that report emigrant workers from the developing countries in the US account for 75 to 80 percent of all skilled emigrant labour (37 percent in 1961-1965). As for the revelation by the UNCTAD on "reverse transfer of knowhow, the contribution made by India to the US economy in 1970 through supply of skilled manpower was 697.6 crores of Indian rupees and the contribution of the developing countries as a whole that year was Rs. (Indian) 2,929.6 crores. According to another study, the US produces only 8,000 physicians a year while 12,000 are needed. The shortage has been met to a major extent by foreign personnel. Former UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim in one of his reports on "Brain Drain" said that, deprived of immigrant doctors and nurses from developing countries, "large segments of hospital systems of the US and UK would collapse". He also said that the US, Canada and Britain are actually "receiving a gift from the developing countries worth hundreds of million of dollars a year". It costs about 50,000 dollars to train a physician in the US. Nearly some 7,000 foreign physicians were admitted to the US in 1972. At that rate it would have cost 350 million dollars to train 7,000 doctors had the foreigners not come in. Thus the Western countries save considerable amount of money by obtaining the services of specialists without paying a penny for all the years of their training. According to some estimates the US alone saved about 4,000 million dollars in the period of 1949-1967 at the expense of 100,000 doctors, engineers and scientific workers who who emigrated to the US in this respect. Prof. Richard Titmus of the London School of Economic and Political Science claims that the 150,000 doctors scientists and engineers trained in other countries between 1969 and 1977 enabled the US to save a total of 5,000 million dollars. The economic aid they boast as being given to developing countries is not only returned in the form of money and goods but also in the form of trained specialists.

Coomaraswamy & Traditional Studies

A YEAR AGO, we had occasion to refer to the seizure by the Customs of the book called *A Buddhist Spectrum* by a celebrated Buddhist writer, Marco Pallis. This book was impounded for reasons which were never made clear although public opinion had called for an investigation by the Minister concerned. The most disturbing aspect of this case was the extraordinary spectacle of an important public servant going before one of the highest courts in the land, the Court of Appeal, and stating on oath the reasons for his action, and then going back on his affidavit by publicly advancing quite different reasons for the very same action! Such conduct in a witness-box would almost be tantamount to perjury; with what vigilance does a democratic government committed to righteousness keep a watchful eye on its servants! We wonder if such contempt of court on the part of a senior government official has any precedent.

The book, *A Buddhist Spectrum* was presented in Sri Lanka by the Institute of Traditional Studies as joint publisher with the well-known British firm of Allen & Unwin. "Traditional Studies" is an important aspect of philosophical research initiated in the early part of this century by, among one or two other great figures, Ananda Coomaraswamy. Its overriding significance has slowly gained recognition the world over, and now, with traditionalist scholars working in many countries, the whole question of *Tradition* as it is expounded by these scholars is beginning to loom large in serious intellectual circles. While we Sri Lankans can be proud that an illustrious compatriot, Ananda Coomaraswamy is internationally regarded as one of the greatest of twentieth-century gurus, we must hang our heads in shame for having so obviously failed to honour him in his own country.

Marco Pallis, the author of *A Buddhist Spectrum* was a close colleague of Coomaraswamy and we are indeed most fortunate that he is still active and writing thirty five years after the latter's death. As long ago as 1945, Coomaraswamy said of him that he was one of two or three "ideal" philosophers teaching in the world at that time. It was, then, a book on Buddhism by such a Master that the Government of Sri Lanka thought fit to dishonour although the world at large has done otherwise and Marco Pallis book has already, within a year of publication, gone into other-language editions. All credit therefore to **The Sri Lanka Institute of Traditional Studies** for introducing the book to this Island, and for defending it so resolutely against the gross philistinism of the State. Even more encouraging, we might

add, is the presence of Marco Pallis himself on the Advisory Board of the Institute, and we are indeed impressed to learn that every single traditionalist scholar of any importance in the world has expressed enthusiastic support for the Sri Lanka Institute.

ON THE LAST OCCASION that we touched on this subject, we raised the question whether an organisation devoted to so noble a purpose as the comparative study of religion from a traditional point of view should be officially thwarted in its activities. We were then referring to the action of the Sri Lanka Customs. **The question we now ask is this: what concrete encouragement and support has the Government given this Institute—we mean of course the present Government in whose period of office the Institute has come into being—an Institute which seeks to further, with the blessings of all the finest experts on the subject in the world, a field of study to which a great Sri Lankan has already made a magnificent contribution? The answer to our question must sadly be in the negative for while it is true that we have a Ministry of Culture, this kind of serious endeavour scarcely qualifies for its support; a disinterested study of wisdom is hardly likely to yield political benefits on the side.**

We present on our cover the likeness of Ananda Coomaraswamy which everyone knows. We hope that the powers-that-be will take note of our comments and our plea, for we do no less than call upon the Government to acknowledge immediately its tardiness by aiding the **Institute of Traditional Studies**. No greater honour can be done to the name of Coomaraswamy than that the work to which he devoted the best years of his life—and we refer here not to his scholarship in Indian Art but to his outstanding exposition of *The Perennial Philosophy*—should be "enshrined" in however modest a fashion on that very road in Colombo which bears his name. It is on Ananda Coomaraswamy Mawatha that an Institute of Traditional Studies should be sited.

Having said that we must however conclude on a note of caution. It is not for the State to decide how best to aid such a highly specialised venture, but to ask the Institute to name its most pressing needs. When these have been ascertained, the State should seek to fulfil them expeditiously and with no strings attached. A venture such as this must be totally free of bureaucratic or political interference. There is no time to dilly-dally, with the world-wide interest already created, the opportunity exists to make Sri Lanka an international centre for Traditional Studies and that great opportunity must not be missed.



Quality & Film Focus

Sir,

I have read with considerable interest numerous columns and letters regarding the quality of cinema fare and the excessive amount of violence and sex in cinema lately. Particularly disturbing are the comments attributed to National Film Producers regarding the banning of certain "types" of films. "Quality" is such a nebulous term that I am surprised that anyone can try to use it with a straight face. I, like everyone else, know what a "quality" film is, but I certainly would not believe that more than a small portion of the population would agree with my views. I also know what violence and sex are, but I doubt if I can determine whether there is too much or too little of either to make any film a "quality" or "not quality" film.

Let's take a few examples. "Taxi Driver" is a quality film. It was also probably the most brutally violent film to screen in Sri Lanka this year. It also addressed numerous adult themes and was definitely an Adults Only movie. *Should we have kept it out?* "Jaws" is a quality film. Technically superb, pure Hollywood. A big box-office hit, but a terrifying and gruesome movie. A lot of people may never go in ocean again. *Should we have kept it out?* "Enter the Dragon" is a classic of the karate film genre. No great moral value and just a lot of kicking and swingling, extremely violent, but I do not think as powerfully violent as "Taxi Driver". Huge box-office hit. *Should we have kept it out?* "Five Angry Women" is pure exploitation. An Adults Only film that had good box-office and very little redeeming social value. The people seem to have found it highly entertaining, but I would never call it a quality film. *Should we have kept it out?* "Countess Dracula" is exploitation with a little horror thrown in. It might scare a few people, but I doubt it will harm anyone. I think it was perfectly worthless and a waste of foreign exchange too. *Should we have kept it out?* "The First Great Train Robbery" is a highly entertaining light-hearted look at the perfect crime. The crook gets caught then gets away. Some people might say it romanticizes crime and could teach criminals some new tricks. I would not call it a "quality" movie but it certainly was highly entertaining, technically excellent and a great period piece. *Should we have kept it out?* "The Other Side Of Midnight" is a deeply engrossing movie with some nudity and sex in it. It has some very adult themes and has been a box office success. Some people say its the sex, but I think it's the story. A superbly crafted movie and highly entertaining, but not "quality" in my book. *Should we have kept it out?*

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Almost any list of films can be selected and you will have the same problems. "Quality" is such a subjective term that it can sometimes be used as a weapon. I would venture to say that on the films named above you could find some people who would call each of the above a "quality" film, and none of the films would get the vote of everyone. I happen to think the Censor Board does a very good job with a very difficult responsibility. Everyone could suggest improvements, but its not possible to please everybody in such work.

The present clamour by interested parties for restrictions on Western films with violence, sex and other adult themes is, in my view, unwarranted. Cinema is entertainment and is still the major source of entertainment for the vast majority of the populace. Before preventing someone from spending his hard-earned money on selected films one should be very certain about the reasons for limiting such freedom.

Colombo,
April 8, 1982.

AN AVID FILMGOER

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THE NATIONAL FILM CORPORATION AND PATRON FACILITIES AT CINEMAS

Sir,

When a cinema organisation puts out an announcement in the daily papers and periodicals it is usually an advertisement blurb of a forthcoming attraction laced and scalloped in rich and glamorous language. However, recently Mr. Anton Wickremasinghe, Chairman of the NFC, published an announcement in the daily papers, and in the *Tribune* of 27th March 1982, which did not herald the advent of a fantasy in celluloid, but instead it was a notice on "Patron Facilities in Cinema Houses" where he has threatened that he would either suspend the supply of films temporarily or acquire those cinemas which have failed to conform to the minimum patron facility requirements laid down by his Corporation. In the same notice he has also stated that he has received many complaints of malpractices at cinemas which would be dealt with severely if proved. He has informed the general public that his Investigating Team "is at the service of any person who has a complaint" and at the same time he has stated that any complaint from the public should be made to him. Whilst commending the Chairman of the NFC for his deep concern about patron facilities at cinemas, it would be more appropriate if he, in the first instance, sets about clearing the Augean stables in his own Corporation, and sets the norms for minimum facilities and service to his exhibitors. **I believe the Chairman is aware that there are also many complaints of poor facilities and malpractices at his Cor-**

poration. According to a newspaper report of the recent interview Mr. Gamini Fonseka had with the President, Mr. Fonseka had suggested to His Excellency that the officials of the NFC should be called upon to declare their assets.

In regard to poor facilities the Chairman must take the "mea maxima culpa" upon himself for failing to provide his Operations Branch with a sufficient amount of Tamil and Hindi films. I have been to this branch in connection with a benefit show, and I have seen for myself how some of the outstation cinema owners are kept there for hours, and eventually sent away disappointed I am told that the position today at the Operations Branch is worse than it was before due to the fall in Tamil releases during the past few months. In the same issue of the *Tribune* of 27th March, Mr. James Benedict has drawn the attention of the public eye on the woes of exhibitors, and has requested the NFC not to sacrifice the exhibitor as a scapegoat, and to give him his slice of the cake as well. And quite rightly so because after all the NFC earns the largest part of its revenue through its exhibitors. Then again in the *Tribune* of 27th March, Mr. J. E. Osiris in his letter to the Editor on "Film" whilst blaming the NFC for having not imported a single good Hindi film for the last several years, and whilst frowning at its insipid selection of Tamil films has pointed out that comfortable chairs, clean toilets and filtered water in a cinema would be purposeless if it did not screen entertaining films. As stated by him a person does not go to the cinema to invade the toilet or sip filtered water, but to relax through an entertaining film which the NFC has very often failed to provide. To insist that a cinema must provide patron facilities, clean toilets and filtered water without the NFC providing it with good films (I am referring to Tamil and Hindi films) is as ridiculous a situation where for instance the C.T.B. provided comfortable seats, filtered water and clean toilets in its buses, but did not provide the vehicle with sufficient fuel.

In the *Tribune* of the 20th March 1982 writing to the Editor on "Indian Films" Mr. C. S. de Silva severely criticises the NFC for its horrible selection of Tamil films, and the total blackout on Hindi films, and goes on to state that although cinema owners have all along been criticised for various reasons now the cannon of criticism has to be turned at the NFC for its inertia and indifference. The NFC must not hide its own sins of commission and omission behind a screen of pretentious concern for the comfort of the public. It must rather provide the public with good films on the screen. Being the sole authority in Sri Lanka to import and distribute films it has undoubtedly an imperative duty to do so. In my letter to the Editor which was published in the *Tribune* of 20th March and in *The Island* of 1st April 1982 under the title "Tamil Films" I have suggested what I have considered to be a more democratic method

in the NFC's future selection of Indian Tamil films, instead of depending on 3 retired officials, who seem to have an aptitude for selecting the junk and the flops. A cinema owner Mr. Asoka David has suggested that the Indian box-office draws should be viewed on the video-cassette in Sri Lanka by a committee consisting of exhibitors and NFC officials and that the films selected by this committee should be negotiated for either by the NFC direct or by persons capable of doing so. I believe that if the proposals made by me or by Mr. Asoka David are implemented, not only would the Indian box-office draws flow into Sri Lanka, but the country would also be saved of a considerable amount of foreign exchange in the region of Rs. 45,000 spent each time on the NFC's team during their stay in India.

Nevertheless, I understand that the Chairman, NFC, his Consultant Mr. George Wickremasinghe, and his General Manager Mr. Ratnayake have flown to Madras recently on another films purchasing spree. Their achievements are still to be seen, and I hope they will not repeat the mistakes of the past, and bring any more unpleasant surprises to Sri Lanka. I gathered from an article in *The Island* of 29th March 1982 that almost 125 English films came into Sri Lanka every year. As against this number of English films I understand that the NFC released only 15 imported Tamil films in 1978, only 8 films in 1979, only 15 films in 1980, and only 26 films in 1981 and even among these few releases there was quite a number of bad eggs too. All along the NFC had been releasing only 3 prints for each Tamil film, and after repeated agitation from its exhibitors the NFC increased the number of prints to 5 from March 1981. My Tamil cinema exhibitor friends tell me that a reasonable number of Tamil releases for a year should be in the region of 40 films. In his open letters to the Chairman NFC which were published in the *Tribune*, and in his letter to the Editor "Small Cinema Owner" which appeared in the *Tribune* of 27th March 1982, cinema owner Mr. Asoka David has described the predicament of the small exhibitor in the predominately Tamil speaking areas of this country who has to depend entirely on the NFC which is scarcely concerned about his needs. With the few Tamil films that had been released during the last 4 years, one could easily understand the sorry plight of the small cinema owner having to cater to a preponderance of Tamil speaking audiences. The attitude of the NFC towards these exhibitors still remains an unsolved mystery, when it has been the sole importer for Tamil films, and unfettered by any foreign exchange restrictions!

The Chairman of the NFC has not been fair both by his exhibitors, and the Tamil and Hindi cinema going public in this country, and this has resulted in every Western cinema house in Colombo running to packed houses. It was the Tamil and Hindi films, which laid the golden eggs for the private sector

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and it is ditto today with the NFC even without the Hindi "goose". Undoubtedly cinema owners whose eyes are glued only on the box-office should be frowned upon and exhibitors who indulge in mal-practices should be severely dealt with, but it is of paramount importance that the Chairman of the NFC must take immediate steps to clean the dusty cob-webs of corruption strung around his Corporation. He must search for the wolves in sheeps, clothing lurking within the 4 walls of the NFC and gun them down. He must buckle himself to the task of lubricating and streamlining his organisation, and be ready to offer a fair deal to all his exhibitors. The courtesy and the smiles poured on the plush cinema owner must also be extended to every one of his exhibitors, no matter however small he may be.

Padua,
Pandaterruppu,
Jaffna, 6th April 1982.

J. ANTHONYPILLAI

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NGUVU

A Week's Routine

By Bwana Rafiki

A funny sort of a night was what I had for I woke up with the clear impression of the face of a man I had seen the evening before but whom I had been unable to place at that time and whom I now associated with someone at our local police station. It was important to me in identifying the group of men who were with him at the time. At 5.30 a.m. I could hear people astir and I asked for my morning tea which came in ten minutes. I was up betimes when my diminitive niece aged seven now growing fast came to my room to announce that the family were off to a Mass somewhere, in case I should wish to join them. It was for the family dead, each mentioned by name, and preceded by the names I supposed of some friends of the donor of the Mass, I mean the payer of the stipend for that mass, who was my cousin, We all went.

Just before starting this new paragraph I was asleep about two hours during which all the remaining oil in my lamp had been used up and the wick smoked when I blew it out. During that sleep I had eerie dreams of a kind to which I am almost a stranger and one of which had to do with a strange emanation from this room. I got up feeling sleepy still, on the very dot of twelve. When I had gone to meet my cousin the evening before he was ready to leave for the airport and left it seemed to me in five minutes or so of my arrival. Truly God had brought me there in time for I had made two calls on my way and thought his aeroplane would be leaving nearer midnight. After

he had left I played while still standing in the garden with the cousin with whom he had stayed some music my mother and I had composed and which she had written down. I missed my bus to the estate by about five minutes but I got there yet before midnight.

The second delivery of poonac within about a year arrived next morning, four bags of parings or *kurutu*. It is really richer I am told than ordinary poonac and cattle do not take to it easily. We were without it for a day. The heat in the middle of the day is appalling, much worse when you have to face going out into it, but not so bad as that once you are there. Unless it turns sultry and dull, we shall have to face this heat day after day for another month and a half. We were loading cowdung yesterday, I personally supervising, when I could, the unloading of it into half circles that were cut months ago round coconut trees. It is spread inside the half circle as soon as it is unloaded. I like being there to see that the job is done properly for the trees should not need manuring again with cowdung anyway for another two years. I was called away from time to time, once to take two men round some teak trees that I have for sale. One had been five months earlier.

Our carpenter and I chose out and cut down at once five young teak trees to make six posts to replace those in the milking shed. Two of the old posts will do and three more came from some stout branches that had been left behind by the man who bought our teak last. Another lot of people came to look at my teak but what they said they would pay for it was ridiculously low. Earlier in the day a man had come to find out if I would sell him tall coconut trees. I asked him to come back on another day when I would have more time to look into the matter. I think there are some tall trees that had better be cut down but they will need careful choosing out. When I came to write *Nguvu* after dinner, I began to feel weary as is my wont. After I had started writing and the feeling came on, I at once retired to bed where after falling asleep, whenever I awoke, the feeling of sleepiness precluded my getting up for hours.

Well, I managed to stay out of the red at the bank although I was overdrawing my account. It was accomplished by an inter-family transfer. I am now just too sleepy to carry on. I have returned to this after four hours on my bed during which I was well bitten by mosquitoes whose bites still smart. I had a gentle morning, my main task done, and nothing much to do until I left Colombo. In the midst of the morning my cousin turned up, of the other sex this time, and feeling as I was doing and had been feeling for some time I said right before the family and a fellow national of her's by marriage, Thanks heavens you are in Ceylon. Then I went on to say, You look harried, and to my sister who was sitting before her looking cherubic, something like, and you do not look as if you have a worry in this world. Both remarks

provoked contrary answers. Anyway I was very glad my cousin was in Ceylon. She reminds me of old times.

This morning we buried a heifer calf a year old which must have died within half an hour of my seeing it sick for the first time the evening before and had moved so that its back would have some support while it was lying down. Two hours later the calf was quite stiff. My nephew arrived later in the morning and we had to call a man from the village junction to pick some *gong-tamilis*, which are half way between a coconut and a king coconut, to take to Colombo. We despatched more coconuts than our wont and sent them with the husks on so that they would keep longer. Someone also remembered to send some jak and there were a few sarsup too. In the midst of all the stir I quite forgot to inquire if lunch was ready and they, that is my nephew and the chauffeur went off without any. An old milker who had run away with his wife turned up with three children, the youngest a month old. I decided not to give him back his old job.

February 2, 1982.

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FILM FOCUS

Double Standards?

IN REVIEWING the box office buster "The Other Side of Midnight", this column was the first to raise the question of Double Standards that appeared to exist at the Censor Board level. This is what it said, "Film Focus however places a poser to the Censors at this point—whether some of these sequences would have been winked out by them in Sinhalese and Tamil films too, and if not, why have such double standards been adopted." Having got that bit off its chest, this column had hardly rested its pen when pat came a rejoinder from the Chairman, Public Performances Board (PPB) that "Double Standards would continue in the assessment for release of western and other films for public viewing, depending on the permissiveness or cultural values in the countries, where each film originated. It was admitted that varying norms were being applied in the release of films, which to this column appeared contrary to why the PPB was constituted from a fundamental point of view, and one that was not so ridiculously conceived. If one were to extend this argument *ad nauseam* to other fields like Television right in the midst of our homes, and the "herrenvolk" concept in clubs that is being freely aired about, then the Sri Lankan basics of film censorship would be a very sorry one indeed. This column therefore minces no words in stressing that Double Standards should not be condoned in matters of morals in any society, particularly in a Dharmista oriented one.

This column therefore takes its hat off to the Editor of *The Island* (12.4.82) for being very forthright in his views on the rather goofy statement of the PPB spokesman, which at the time of writing it being retracted in small doses. The following is what *The Island* said, taking the words right off the thinking of this column "How can the PPB argue for applying one standard for Hollywood potboilers and another for indigenous vulgarity. It would appear as if the staid luminaries of the PPB are in the grip of a worse *malaise* than double standards and have surrendered to intellectual confusion. What is necessary is to judge whether sex and violence in the cinema has been imaginatively handled and are central to the whole experience which a film is trying to project. If they are not, the censors have every right to use their scissors liberally, and certainly the fact that it is a foreign film should not be valid consideration. What is important is for the PPB to appreciate the intention of the film maker and respect the intelligence of the audience. If the PPB passes any trash just because it emanates from foreign sources, it will be demonstrating residual traces of a colonial mentality. In the light of all this, we cannot understand, where double standards come in. If sensitivity is the criterion of every film—local or foreign, must be judged by it. Some films will of course have to carry "Adults Only" tag, but here again the criteria will have to be the same. The Sinhala Film maker has the right to expect for himself, the same treatment which the PPB extends to the foreigner if the film is to be for an adult audience. No amount of pious talk about our culture, heritage etc., can obscure the truth".

This column is of course curious to know whether the views of the Chairman were official and collective and how many in the PPB concurred with him. Even if a split majority were resonant with his way of thinking, then it behoves those at the TOP to reconstitute the Board forthwith. This by no means is a puritanical pronouncement but the only panacea for the over-permissive film fare that is trickling in somehow.

NETWORK (English): There could not have been a better time than now for this United Artists Production to have broken in on the local contemporary scene, for it takes on the subject of TV with a devastating impact. Set in America where even assassinations have proved awesome mediawise, with TV cameras capturing them alive or getting down to the incident with a fanatical frenzy, this excellent film, weaves a web of all the TV combines in the USA and condenses it to project the rat race in this media to rake in the shekels, however questionable the means may be. As a beleaguered TV news anchorman, Howard Beale (Peter Finch), on whom the years have mellowed him to a depressive state of mind, he breaks in on a routine and regular programme to announce his imminent suicide, before millions of viewers of his very next appearance. He becomes fanatically incoherent at

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very subsequent News programme and becomes a prophet of doom initially clogging his own network. These outbursts which would have bust up any media, are quickly cashed on by a female dedicated programme executive (Fraya Dunaway) of the powerful TV network to dole out sensationalism of a rare and unusual kind which goes against the grain, but gives the network a clear lead in popularity and dollarwise too. She overreaches however between the Beale Blaze by sandwiching live Terrorist Programmes and having an intermittent cold and frigid affair with her one time idol Max (William Holden), a co-TV Executive who carries a conscience and a married hangover on his guilt ridden sleeve. The sky eventually crashes on her highly ambitious infallibility, when she ditches Max with business precision and uses the Terrorists to fatally eliminate the Beale charisma. So much for the story, but some excellent performances glittered the film, with four of them earning effortless Osiares—Fraye Dunaway (Best actress), Peter Finch (Best Actor), Beatrice Straight as Max's wife (Best supporting actress) and Paddy Cheyufsky (Best screenplay). Actors Robert Duvall and the late William Holden strained every nerve to illuminate the story. Sad to say however that this brilliant film sagged at the Box office and has made a hurried exit from the Metropolis. This film has been aptly described as a devastating satire on the latent Power and the fearful possibilities of Television—hence all

connected locally with this nascent media must make it a must. With exceptionally rare histrionics and dialogue this Sidney Lumet creation was a winner all the way.

POLLATHAVAN (Tamil): This M. V. Srinivasan directed film is colourful South Indian escapist fare. An over dramatic Rajni Kanth—usually helpless in histrionics without his cigarettes in a title role, is the crowd puller as a widower, who turns wicked (Pollathavan) to avenge the death of his attractive wife (Sri Priya). And while all this is trotted out in flashback, that brilliant actress Lakshmi roles a foster-mother, who while bed sitting for Kanth's motherless daughter, lends him also a sympathetic ear to subdue his revengeful moods. There were a feast of fisticuffs and a skiing encounter in James Bond style with other Western styled intrusions which make this film an out of the ordinary one, with a couple of popular songs added on.

FUTURE WOMEN (English): Its "Amazonian" challenging Man's hegemony on Earth, but only temporarily. An excuse for the excessive "exposures" that earned it an adults only tag—the bait that had it running for many more weeks than it deserved. Take it only on borrowed time.

JAMES N. BEND/CT.

"... 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.

THE TOMB OF ELARA

at
Anuradhapura

with Appendices and Notes

by

Dr. James T. Rutnam

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MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING & CONSTRUCTION

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Chairman
National Housing Development
Authority.

26th April, 1982.

April 4 to 12

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, APRIL 4 The Government has decided to revive the Mayura Group of factories where 6,500 employees lost their jobs with management collaboration from the textile firm Tootal Ltd. from the United Kingdom: Mr. Ronnie de Mel, Minister of Finance and Planning, and Mr. Wijepala Mendis, Minister of Textile Industries, have evolved the scheme of collaboration to give new life to the group of companies which closed at the end of last year. The Land Reforms Commission has to date released Rs. 7,502,580 to be paid to the shareholders of 12 Public Rupee Companies, whose estates were nationalised in 1974—*SO*. The Government is negotiating with an American company to set up a giant fertilizer plant which will feed the local market as well as foreign markets in the region—*ST*. Sri Lanka's inflation rate, currently between 17 and 18 percent will rise to 50 percent by the end of the year; this is the grim warning star Minister of Finance and Planning, Ronnie de Mel, and the Governor of the Central Bank, Dr. Warnasena Rasaputram, has given the Government. The GCEC is keeping under close observation a situation of labour unrest in the Ekala Industrial area following the closure of a garment factory on account of a strike. A graphite pneumoconiosis and tuberculosis syndrome has exploded in the graphite mines of the country endangering the lives of nearly 3,000 people—*WK*. In an effort to help co-operative societies which appear to be helpless against the forces of an open market economy, the Minister of Food and Co-operatives Mr. S. B. Herat has proposed that State Corporations should provide substantial quantities of their produce to Co-ops; the sale of such produce should be exempted from the Business Turnover Tax, Mr. Herat has proposed—*IS*

MONDAY, APRIL 5: Coconut Industries Minister, Harold Herat yesterday announced a price support scheme to insulate coconut producers here from the effects of the current slump in international coconut oil markets; he explained that this price support scheme was designed to ensure that the producer, particularly the smallholder, would get an economic

price of Rs. 800 to Rs. 1,000 per thousand nuts—*CDN*. Sri Lanka's diplomatic missions in India have been asked to be very careful when issuing visas to Indian nationals wanting to attend the World Hindu Conference to be held in Colombo on April 21; both the High Commissioner's Office in New Delhi and the Deputy High Commission in Madras have been told to ensure that smugglers and racketeers do not use the Colombo conference as a pretext to gain visas easily. The Marketing Department which has been running at a loss for many years will be reorganised to achieve its objectives and put on a viable footing thereby eliminating waste and loss; the Minister of Trade and Shipping Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali has obtained the Cabinet approval to go ahead with his reorganisation scheme—*CDM*. The Government of Japan is studying a request from the government of Sri Lanka to finance modernising of the airport. Medical Institutions set up by Government are to be run by private companies; Cabinet last week appointed Minister of State Anandatissa de Alwis to report on hospital administration in consultation with Health Minister Gamani Jayasuriya. Settlers in the Mahaweli H area who have sublet their lands and are found guilty of continuous absenteeism stand to lose their land titles; a cancellation of the titles will be made possible through the enforcement of the Land Development Ordinance in this area, officials said. Ministers and other VIPs will soon lose the privilege of breezing through Customs without having their baggage inspected; this issue was taken up for discussion by the Government particularly in view of the recent attempts at smuggling gold and watches through the VIP lounge—*SU*. Anura Bandaranaike, Deputy Leader of the SLFP (M) group, says that despite a resounding defeat at the Politbureau meeting last Wednesday, Maithripala Senanayake continues to confuse the issue by talking of irrelevancies and half truths. British militant leftist Ted Grant (67) on whom the Immigration authorities had served a deportation order, left for home by a British Airways yesterday—*IS*.

TUESDAY, APRIL 6: State security authorities are deeply concerned about the loss of 4,000 sticks of dynamite from a work site at Lunugamvehera in the southern province. A powerful gang on motor cycles has been responsible for a series of hold ups resulting in the theft of about Rs. 1 million; a senior police official said. A Rs. 27 million-rupee factory to produce four tons of dried soya milk powder a day will be built at Maha Illuppallama soon. Finance and Planning Minister Ronnie de Mel said yesterday that the French government had agreed to fund the proposed Nilwala Project up to Rs. 350 million—*CDN*. A constantly weakening pound sterling and extremely selective buying are major contributory factors for disappointing tea prices and the widening of the price concerting between the different categories of teas offered of the Colombo auctions. An Austrian Trade and Economic delegation yesterday indicated the

possibility of investing on projects for improving Sri Lanka's energy, tourism, hotel business, railway services and housing etc.—*CDM*. The Anil Moonesinghe group of the Lanka Sama Samaja Party has renewed its efforts to get the LSSP to accept the resolution defeated at the Central Committee and Politbureau meetings that the party must enter into a United Front with Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike's faction of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party; this group is now trying to have a special session of the party convened to consider this resolution—*IS*. President J. R. Jayewardene will for the first time address Parliament at Sri Jayewardhanapura at its ceremonial opening on April 29—*CO*. While giving evidence for the first time before the Special Presidential Commission yesterday, the First M.P. for Pottuvil, Dr. M. A. M. Jalaldeen said that his elections expenses were not met by any of his relations and that he carried on his work with the funds provided by the Party; he further said that propaganda meetings were organised by the local election committees—*DP*. About 250 workers who were employed by the Village Development Council to work at the KKS Cement Factory were suddenly dismissed—*EN*.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7: On the recommendation of Dr. Nissanka Wijeyeratne, Minister of Justice, Cabinet approved in principle the establishment of a scheduled public service for the legal services under the Judicial Services Commission in terms of the provisions of the new Constitution. On the recommendation of a Cabinet sub-committee it was agreed that a common agricultural fund be set up for subsidiary food crops to enable a floor price scheme to guarantee continuing production when prices fall owing to seasonal gluts. The Ministers yesterday approved a new electricity tariff protecting ordinary domestic consumers from high power bills but imposing penal rates on affluent society using power-guzzling appliances. The Supreme Court in a judgement delivered yesterday dismissed with costs the appeal by Mr. Sarath Muttetuwegama and other respondents in the Kalawana Election petition against the order of the Court of Appeal rejecting their objection on the question of security—*CDN*. President J. R. Jayewardene in a Pre-New Year official tour of the Nuwara Eliya district, will ceremonially inaugurate the first step of presenting title deeds (Pooja Oppu) for Temple lands under the Swarna Boomi scheme on Saturday April 10 at the Nuwara Eliya esplanade. The Government of Sri Lanka has decided to grant full diplomatic status at Embassy level to the Mission of the Palestine Liberation Organisation in Colombo—*CDM*. Co-operative societies claim that they have not yet been supplied with their stocks of foodstuffs by the Co-operative Wholesale Establishmet for distribution during the aurudda. More than half of the academic staff of the Kelaniya University have sent in their resignations following a controversy over the appointment of an acting Vice Chancellor to the

University, Higher Education Ministry sources said yesterday. The Singapore government has started investigations into a number of agencies believed to be involved in the illegal recruitment of labour from South and Southeast Asia, a senior Labour Ministry official said today—*SU*. District Development Councils will shortly receive a massive influx of funds in addition to being conferred with statutory powers now vested with Government Agents; an administrative service called the District Service will also be established; these decisions were taken at Monday's meeting between the Government and the TULF chaired by President J. R. Jayewardene—*IS*.

THURSDAY, APRIL 8: President J. R. Jayewardene said yesterday that farmers were earning bigger incomes than they did about five or six years ago; that was due to the open economic policy of this government. The Registrar of Companies has reported a scramble to incorporate new companies before the fresh Companies Act, which will make company flotation more expensive than at present, becomes law—*CDN*. Mr. Maithripala Senanayake, Leader of the SLFP's Maithri-Anura Group yesterday removed his Deputy Leader Mr. Anura Bandaranaike from the group while Mr. Anura Bandaranaike claimed that he has removed Mr. Maithripala Senanayake its leader from the same group. The Minister of Justice Mr. Nissanka Wijeyeratne has recommended to the Government that the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act No. 48 of 1979 should be amended to make provision for the imposition of life sentences even for persons who are charged with murder under the Penal Code but who are tried under the Provisions of the Terrorism Act—*CDM*.

FRIDAY, APRIL 9: Both factions of the Maithri-Anura group were at the Maligakande Magistrate's court yesterday when Mr. Basil Rajapakse of the Anura group sought an interim order under the Primary Court Procedure Act to enter SLFP headquarters—*CDN*. Over 50,000 minor employees will have their salaries increased by Rs. 382/- a month shortly; this follows representations made to the Salary Adjudicating Board by Mr. M. M. Seneviratna, General Secretary, Sri Lanka, United Federation of Trade Unions. The Minister of Lands and Land Development has taken up the position that if water is to be exported the prospects in the international market should be ascertained and the best investors and the most favourable offers accepted. The Ministry is reacting to a proposal by an American based firm for permission to export water from the Kalu Ganga to the Middle East—*CDM*. The Ministry of Transport Boards warned yesterday that any attempts to disrupt the bus service during the festive season would be dealt with severely; this warning was issued following reports that certain unscrupulous elements might try to cripple the bus service—*SU*.

SATURDAY, APRIL 10: Sri Lanka has contracted to buy 150,000 metric tons of rice from China and a further 30,000 M. T. from Pakistan on what the trade said yesterday were "extremely advantageous terms". The return on funds employed by the Bank of Ceylon has dropped by fifty percent, its Chairman, Mr. Nissanka Wijewardene said on Thursday. President J. R. Jayewardene will present over 1,000 land grants to the peasants in Nuwara Eliya under the Swarnabhoomi movement, at a ceremony opposite the post office this afternoon—*CDN*. A target of 40 extra class rooms each year for the next few years will be built by the Education authorities to meet the heavy demand of student accommodation in Colombo. An International Hindu Cultural Research Centre and Library is to be set up in Colombo shortly; a Hindu Cultural Museum will also be set up; this was revealed by the Minister of Regional Development and Hindu Cultural Mr. C. Rajadurai—*CDM*. Urgent negotiations to make up the massive shortfall in funds for the continuation of the Victoria reservoir project are to be initiated by the Government: the deficit which is running into several million dollars is to be sought from the project's principal donor-Britain. The ruling United National Party is stepping up its preparations for general elections; its latest exercise is the setting up of district level committees to assess the progress of development work in each district and to identify areas which require priority consideration in the coming months—*SU*. Customs have warned all government authorities that politicians and corporation officials using the VIP lounge at the Katunayake International Airport should cease. A high-ranking Police Conference will be held on the 6th under the chairmanship of the Inspector General of Police Mr. Rudra Rajasingam in regard to the setting up of the Home Guards—*DP*.

SUNDAY, APRIL 11: President J. R. Jayewardene said yesterday that the people would have to choose very soon whether the best method of government was democracy which prevailed today and where people are enjoying freedom or a dictatorship with violence and bloodshed being the order of the day; the President was addressing a public meeting that followed the distribution of land grant deeds where he also presented the first ever land grant deed to a temple in Nuwara Eliya. The All-Island Committee members of the SLFP summoned for a meeting by the Anura Group unanimously ratified the decision that the two factions of the party should unite; the meeting was held yesterday at the Horagolla Walawwa and was presided over by the Interim President Mr. Anura Bandaranaike—*SO*. According to the Exploration Division of the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation the Government has made a request to the UNDP's Energy Fund to help finance a reconnaissance seismic survey in deeper waters up to the 200 mile economic zone. The Sri Lanka Women's Bureau in the Ministry of Plan Implementation has launched self-employment

training in income generating projects for women in low-income families in Colombo and suburbs—*ST*. President J. R. Jayewardene yesterday launched a scathing attack on the JVP policy charging that their leaders are bent on leading the people on the path that is alien to Sri Lanka's culture and religious beliefs. A high-ranking Government official assigned to probe two recent multi-million rupee transactions of a Ministry has found fault with a Minister for allegedly circumventing procedures. Government is to introduce immediate legislation to provide adequate safeguard against all occupational injuries and diseases to employees both in the public and private sectors—*WK*. If the SLFP would suffer by Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike being the president of the party she would resign forthwith to safeguard the party. Mr. Anura Bandaranaike pledged when he presided at the All Island Working Committee meeting held at Horagolla yesterday morning. The Government will not withdraw or allow the Prevention of Terrorism Act to lapse; the TULF's request to let the Act lapse when it expires on July 19 this year has been turned down by the Government—*IS*.

MONDAY, APRIL 12: The rice purchase deals concluded with China and Pakistan earlier this month will enable the government to ensure that the rice price will not climb to unacceptably high levels during the latter part of the year authoritative sources said yesterday. Japan has agreed to provide Sri Lanka an outright grant of US dollars 2.7 million drought relief assistance, the Japanese Embassy announced in Colombo—*CDN*. Government is now actively considering sending consignments of tea to the recently begun afloat auctions; the first consignment is likely to be sent next month. The Main Street in Pettah, hub of the city's commercial world, will soon be opened for traffic; hawkers who are presently occupying the road area are to be relocated in the Manning Market area according to City Mayor, Sirisena Cooray—*SU*. The Lanka Sama Samaja Party which first proposed the idea of a united Left May Day this year, is on the horns of a dilemma. The LSSP does not know whether to hold its May Day with the SLFP (S) or the SLFP (M). To make things worse it is faced with the threat of a major split if it does not team up with the SLFP (S) on May Day. The Tamil United Liberation Front will attend the ceremonial opening of the New Parliament Complex at Kotte on April 29 this year—*IS*. The Department of Railways has announced that rail tickets will not be issued at the Talaimannar Harbour for travel to India but that they will be issued at the Colombo Fort Railway Station—*DP*. The TULF has appointed a Committee to prepare a scheme for the development of the Kilinichchi electorate—*VK*.



THE FOREIGN SCENE

VOA COMMENTARY

Falkland Dispute

Washington, April 14: The dispute between Argentina and Britain over the Falkland Islands continues, as does the American endeavour to help both sides reach a settlement. This is no easy diplomatic task, and its achievement is not helped by propagandistic statements from other quarters. US Secretary of State Haig, over the past several days, has undertaken an extraordinary exercise in shuttle diplomacy, flying back and forth between London and Buenos Aires with a single overriding purpose—to explore ways to avoid an Argentine-British armed conflict. These efforts which President Reagan has said will continue, underscore the American determination to do everything possible—with understanding for the feelings and positions of both sides—to facilitate communication between Argentina and Britain, so that ideas can emerge which both countries can examine in the context of conciliation.

The American role in this potentially dangerous situation is in full keeping, it should be emphasised, with the United Nations Security Council's urgent call for negotiations between the disputants. In this case, feelings run so high on both sides of the dispute that it was clearly proved necessary for a third party—friendly with both Britain and Argentina—to serve as a focus for communication and the exchange of ideas and proposals. The United States willingly accepts that role for the sake of preserving peace. It has come so at other times and in other places and will continue to do so whenever it feels such efforts are imperative.

No one at this point can predict the outcome of the Falkland Islands dispute. However, one thing is quite clear: provocative statements from any quarter do not serve the cause of peace. Thus, it is especially regrettable that the Soviet Union, for reasons of its own, has not found it appropriate—after initial and welcome statements of neutrality—to take sides in the dispute—issuing bombastic statements about what it calls British neocolonialism with respect to London's position on the Falklands. Such expressions from Moscow are cynical to the core. They illustrate the Soviet Union's frequent willingness to stir abroad, troubled waters wherever and whenever there seems to be some tactical advantage in doing so. Beyond that, Moscow's talking about neocolonialism, in

the face of the Soviet record in places as far apart as Eastern Europe and Afghanistan, suggests considerable hypocrisy. Avoiding tragic military confrontation, and finding a way out of the crisis that serves the dignity of both Argentina and Britain, requires delicate, persistent and purposeful diplomacy—not propaganda fuel from the outside that could make matters even more dangerous than they are at this point—USICA.

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SOUTH ATLANTIC

British Fuss

By A. Maslennikov

London, April 12, 1982: At the time of writing, a huge British naval force is sailing full steam ahead into the South Atlantic. Argentina's action in establishing control of the last remaining British colonial possessions in that part of the world had come as a bombshell. For the first time since the Suez crises of 1956, both Houses of British Parliament have held an emergency session. It was marked by scathing criticisms of the government's foreign policy and demands for the immediate resignation of the Foreign and Defence Secretaries, which came not only from the Opposition but from many of the ruling Conservative Party as well. The debate has shown once more that while steering the nation's foreign policy along the lines of anti-Sovietism, heightening tensions between East and West, and chasing the phantom of Britain's imperial grandeur which has gone never to return, the present Conservative government is more and more clearly losing the ability to make a realistic assessment of the international situation, and appearing to be amazingly deaf to the fair demands of the peoples of the developing countries. This has been palpably demonstrated, in particular, by Britain's stubborn refusal to comply with the UN resolution on the decolonisation of the territories she administered in the South Atlantic, and by the deliberate stalling of negotiations on these matters with Argentine.

It is the same imperial approach that one detects in the current search for a way out of the present predicament. Having sensed the ground slipping from under the government's feet, Prime Minister Thatcher has preferred to sacrifice one of the most authoritative Cabinet members, Foreign Secretary Carrington, in order to save the rest of her Cabinet and the basic guidelines of her policy. In subsequent days, the measures against Argentine have been supplemented by the freezing of Argentine assets in British banks, the imposition of an embargo on trade with Buenos Aires, the requisitioning of a number of freighters and liners for military shipments and, finally, the declaration of a naval blockade of the Falkland (Malvinas)

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Islands, which was to come into effect at midnight, April 11. At the same time, London has brought mounting pressure to bear on its EEC and NATO allies to get them to apply punitive measures against Buenos Aires. All this military and diplomatic fuss has been going on parallel with a noisy chauvinistic campaign in the right-wing British press and the publication of all kinds of "opinion polls" designed to prove that the majority of the British people are supporting this course towards an armed confrontation with Argentine. Spokesmen for the government itself have been declaring that their objective is still to find a peaceful solution to the present conflict. Yet at the same time, there have been an increasingly persistent threatening take-it-or-leave-it note in their pronouncements. Defence Secretary Nott and the newly-appointed Foreign Secretary Pym declared during another debate in Parliament on April 7 that Britain was prepared to use armed force if diplomatic methods failed to resolve the conflict. Britain's refusal to negotiate the future of the Falkland (Malvinas) Islands with Buenos Aires before the Argentine troops have been withdrawn, has been stated and restated by Prime Minister Thatcher herself over the last few days. Many British commentators write that London's actions pursue the aim of exerting pressure not only on the Argentinians themselves but also on Britain's allies in the North Atlantic Treaty, in the first place on the USA, to gain their support. Over the past week US President Reagan has been in constant contact with its main NATO ally—the Thatcher government. Simultaneously, Secretary of State Alexander Haig made a trip to London and Buenos Aires with a view, as was said in official communiques, "to offering friendly offices" to the governments of Britain and Argentina in the search for a peaceful settlement to the conflict.

But the role of a so-called "honest broker", which the leaders of the US administration are trying to play in public, engenders confidence neither among the parties to the conflict nor among the observers here. London hopes, not without grounds, that in the event of a military venture unleashed by Britain in the South Atlantic, considerations of the global NATO strategy would inevitably gain the upper hand in Washington, and the White House will have openly to side with Britain. That is why official London is acting now with demonstrative aggressiveness. Actually, secret military-political cooperation between London and Washington is in full swing already. British newspapers write that British armed forces are making wide use of the American military base in the Ascension Island in the South Atlantic as a transshipment point and a concentration area for military action against Argentina. The movement of Argentine armed forces, as is reported in the press, is recorded in detail by American spy satellites, and the information obtained is regularly passed on to the British Defence Secretary. Nor has the public missed a report carried in the Brazilian press that Washington

is nurturing a plan to establish its own military bases on the Falkland ((Malvinas) Islands. All this is imparting still more dangerous and sinister features to the present conflict in the South Atlantic. Contours of an extensive conflict between one of the developing countries of South America and the global strategic interests of imperialist powers— allies in the aggressive NATO bloc—are becoming discernible.

It should be said that political circles of Britain are aware of the scale of that danger. Speaking during a debate in the House of Commons on April 7, well-known Labour leader Anthony Benn called on the government to return the sea squadron sent to the South Atlantic, because the "risk of that measure far exceeds possible benefits and is contrary to the aims which the government has the possibility of pursuing on a legitimate basis." "Dangerous shortsightedness" is how the well-known veteran of the British anti-war movement and member of the House of Lords Philip Noel-Baker, described the actions of the Thatcher government. The newspaper *Morning Star* has branded the government's actions as a relapse of "colonial thinking" and hopeless attempt to preserve the "imperial confetti of islands in various parts of the World Ocean".—APN.



ARGENTINA

India's Cautious Stand

By G. K. Reddy

New Delhi, April 15: As the Falklands crisis escalates further in the absence of any tangible moves for a peaceful settlement both Britain and Argentina are keeping India informed of the steps they have been taking for asserting their respective rights even at the risk of a military confrontation. But India does not want to get involved in this controversy by airing its views on the merits of the dispute. This policy of reticence is in marked contrast with the responses in similar situations in the past when no opportunity was missed to take a public stand on such issues even if it was detrimental to its own interests. The farthest the Government has gone on this occasion in response to the British pleas for a strong condemnation of the Argentinian action, was to regret the use of force while pleading for a peaceful settlement of the dispute. In the afterglow of her successful visit for inaugurating the Festival of India in Britain, Mrs. Gandhi seems reluctant to say anything more that might embarrass Mrs. Thatcher in this tricky situation.

But otherwise India has been taking a lively interest in the mediatory moves under way for averting the

danger of an Anglo-Argentinian naval encounter in the Falklands war zone. It is sincerely hoping that the US Secretary of State, General Alexander Haig, will succeed in evolving a mutually acceptable formula for resolving this dispute. It is not India's intention to delve deeper into the origins of this conflict for publicly voicing its views on the rights and wrongs of the British and Argentinian positions. It is looking at this problem in the twin contexts of decolonisation and non-admissibility of the use of force even at the risk of being accused of deploring what Argentina had done which was in no way different from what India itself did in Goa in a similar situation. **As a non-aligned country, it stands fully committed to the Colombo Summit resolution of 1976 stating that the conference, in the special and particular case of the Malvinas Islands (Falklands) supported firmly the just vindication of the Argentina republic and exhorted the UK to continue actively the negotiations recommended by the UN with the object of restoring the said territory to the sovereignty of Argentina and thus put an end to the illegal situation which still persists in the extreme south of the American continent**". At the same time, India has taken due note of the fact that in attempting to reassert its sovereignty, Britain is not seeking arbitrarily to restore the status quo ante through military action but only trying to exert pressure on Argentina to resume negotiations for a peaceful settlement without any preconditions.

The critics, who have been dubbing his cautious stand as an example of excessive equivocation argue that the fact whether Argentina is a democracy or dictatorship has no relevance to the central point of this conflict that it has historically better claims to the Falklands than Britain. But there are others who maintain that a country like the UK with a much more impressive record of decolonisation than most other imperial powers, could not be expected to surrender its responsibility and submit to a *fait accompli* because Argentina was able to accomplish the task through military action. There is no doubt that at the root of this controversy is the expectation of vast oil deposits in the Falklands Basin. Though no oil has yet been discovered, seismographic surveys indicate some undersea deposits in the region. An additional factor is the growing strategic importance of these islands which are the southern-most inhabited area nearest to the Antarctica. The British stand on the present crisis was conveyed to the Government of India by the acting High Commissioner, Mr. Richard Samuel, on the very first day of the Argentinian action. He also handed over a personal communication from Mrs. Thatcher to Mrs. Gandhi that day seeking Indian support for the British position. Today, the Argentinian Ambassador, Dr. Fernando Escalante, called on the Prime Minister to give his Government's version of the events that led to its military action.—*Hindu*.

FALKLAND

E.E.C Dilemma

ROME, April 15: The conflict between Britain and Argentina over the Falkland Islands presents a dilemma for the European Economic Community (EEC), as Britain, a member country, has requested economic sanctions against Argentina. West Germany, France, Holland, and Belgium have embargoed military sales to the Argentine Government but when it comes to an EEC decision to consider the suspension of all military shipments to and imports from Argentina, Britain's nine Common Market partners will be in trouble. Italy, with the largest European investment stake in the south American country, will find the matter particularly difficult. The measures requested are similar to the ones adopted in response to the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. But this time it is an EEC country charging aggression. While the United Nations has recognized the colonial status of the Falklands and called for their decolonisation, it has only "noted" the Argentine claim to them and has dis-approved of the methods used by Argentina in taking them over. For London, the islands are a "dependency" and "an integral part" of British territory. The fact that the UN sees the Falklands as a colony will likely work against Britain in the EEC. The European countries will not want to be identified with colonialism. But the growing anti-EEC feelings in Britain will make her partners wary of further alienating British public opinion.

Italy's problem, which is the result of the large Italian immigrant colony in Argentina, is shared to a lesser extent by West Germany, France both of which have sizable investments in the South American country, and perhaps to a greater extent by the United States, which has hemispheric political and security interests to consider.—*IPS*.

TRIBUNE

Agricultural Digest

CITRUS CULTIVATION—5

To Increase Production

By Dr. Robert M. Pratt

REJUVENATING EXISTING TREES: This programme is based on the assumption that the soil in existing orchards is deficient in everything. Another

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important consideration is that citrus does not tolerate shade.

Clearing: The first step in rejuvenating existing orchards is to clear away all jungle and heavy weed growth especially under the trees. Creepers must be removed from the trees. Taller trees that shade the citrus trees should be removed if practical.

Pruning: All dead wood should be carefully removed with clippers or saws. It is essential that all cuts be made in living bark and wood, the cuts being made flush with the trunk or branch. A flush cut will be callused over the new bark, but if a stub is left it will not heal over. Care must be taken to avoid damaging the bark.

Fertiliser: The following mixture may be used:
Mixture CI

Component	Percent	Source
N	20	Low biuret Urea
P2-O5	6	Tripple Superphosphate
K2O	8	Sulphate of Potash
MgO	3	Epsom Salt

This should be applied at the rate of 1 2/3 pounds per tree in each of 3 applications, in October January and at the end of the dry season. The fertilizer should be spread evenly and thinly around the trees, but not within a foot of the trunk.

Nutritional Spray: As soon as pruning the trees has been completed, they should be sprayed with the following mixture. It is not necessary to obtain complete coverage, but the tree should be sprayed to the drip point. 3 pounds Zinc Sulphate; 3 pounds Manganese Sulphate; 1 pound Copper Sulphate; 1 pound Borax or Boric Acid; 1 ounce Sodium Molybdate; 4 pounds Hydrated lime and 100 gallons of water. A low soluble copper fungicide may be substituted for the copper sulphate at an equivalent rate. The spray may be applied at any time, but is most effective when leaves of the main flush of growth are about 2/3 expended.

Cultural Care: Low growing weeds may be allowed to grow between the trees provided they do not grow tall enough to shade the trees. Intercropping with low growing crops is also acceptable, provided the crop is not close enough to the trees to compete for water and fertilizer. The area under the tree should be kept bare and the tree free of creepers. Before the onset of the dry season, weeds and mulching materials should be allowed to tough the trunk of the trees.

Insect Control: I have not yet observed any citrus insects in sufficient numbers to damage the trees. The biological balance should not be disturbed if it can be avoided. However, if insects increase enough

to cause defoliation or dieback, they should be sprayed with available insecticides according to Manufacturers directions.

References:

1. Camp A. C. et al. 1955 Citrus Industry of Florida. Florida Department of Agriculture.
2. Reuther W. et al. The Citrus Industry, Vol. II 1968 and Vol. III 1973 U. of California, Div. of Agricultural Services.

BUDDED TREES, SEEDLINGS AND CUTTINGS:

In most citrus growing areas of the world, trees are produced by budding the desired variety on the chosen rootstock, cuttings, layers and marcotts are used to a limited extent. In some circumstances it is advantageous to grow seedling trees.

Budded Trees: are used primarily because selection of scion and stock is possible to take advantage of separate desired characterisation. Scion varieties have been selected and tested around the world for characteristics such as fruitfulness, vigor and quality and appearance of fruit. Seedless varieties obviously must be propagated vegetatively. Rootstock varieties are selected for characteristics such as compatibility with the scion, vigor, effect on fruit quality and yield, tolerance to drought or cold, and resistance to diseases. Additional advantages are that budded trees come into bearing earlier than seedling trees and are less subject to producing light crops in alternate years. Budded trees form globular crowns which have maximum bearing surface and are for these reasons more productive than seedling trees.

Seedling Trees: with the notable exception of the small fruited acid lime, tend to grow tall and cylindrical, and therefore have a limited bearing surface. They are slow to come into bearing and are subject to alternate bearing. There is no choice of rootstocks. Sweet orange, rootstock for example is susceptible to Phytophthora crownrot. Seedlings on the other hand, are tolerant of certain virus diseases that affect some stock-scion combination and are deeper rooted than budded trees on the same rootstock, and they are more easily handled by unskilled growers. Limes are grown as seedlings throughout the tropics and perform satisfactorily on their own roots.

Cuttings: including layers and marcotts are used in a limited way for special purpose. Disadvantages are that more propagating material is required than when a single bud is used. Any virus or viruslike diseases in the parent tree will be transmitted. Being on their own roots there is no choice of rootstock possible.

RECOMMENDED VARIETIES AND ROOT-STOCKS:

Lime: The Moneragala lime has been

repeatedly described as tristezatolerant. My observations support this. Therefore limes should be grown as seedlings, obtaining seed from the Moneragala area only. *Orange*: Valenica on Rough Lemon, Rangpur lime; Pineapple sweet as a seedling; Bibile seedless on Rough Lemon; Bibile sweet as a seedling; Bible sweet on Rough Lemon, Rangpure lime. (All the above may be budded on weet orange for comparison) *Mandarin*: Ponkan on Rough Lemon, Rangpur Lime. *Rootstock Orchard*: Rough Lemon and Rangpur Lime trees should be grown as future source of seed I suggest 1/2 acre of each.

Notes: Rough Lemon as a rootstock is drought tolerant. It is tolerant to tristeza, but somewhat susceptible to Phytophthora crown rot. It produces vigorous, high yielding trees. Rangpur lime is used extensively in India and Brazil and has been tested in Sri Lanka. It is tolerant to tristeza but not to Exocortis, so should be used with certified budwood only. Sweet orange as a rootstock is not drought tolerant. It is highly susceptible to Phytophthora crown rot. Valenica is the most widely planted orange in the world. It is high quality, nearly seedless and adaptable to a wide range of climate. Pineapple orange is a seedy variety popular in Florida. It has been used successfully in the tropics.

PLANTING DISTANCES FOR CITRUS TREES :

Citrus trees are highly intolerant of shading. Leaves will drop and twigs die back on limbs that are shaded, either by other citrus trees or by other crops. Citrus trees should not be interplanted with taller trees such as Coconut, Jak, Mango or Banana. Intercrops or weeds should be allowed to grow tall enough to shade the trees. Any reduction in leaf surface will result in a reduction in crop. Different varieties of citrus require different spacing. Grape fruit requires more room than oranges. Lime trees require less. If the trees are planted close enough to produce maximum returns when the trees are small, they will soon start shading each other and yields will decline. On the other hand, if they are too far apart, yields will be low and costs high in the early years and there will be a temptation to intercrop to the detriment of the citrus trees.

It is necessary to select a spacing that will produce a sufficient number of trees per acre for satisfactory yields, without making it necessary to prune the trees heavily to avoid shading out. In some areas the trees are planted close, and every other tree removed when they begin to crowd. This is a difficult procedure, because most growers will be reluctant to remove trees before they are already to crowded. In other areas, trees are heavily pruned or heaged to let light in between the trees. Sometimes the trees are double set in the row and the trees are allowed to grow together but bearing surface is lost and it makes it difficult to work between the rows. It is better to prune lightly when the trees begin to touch.

Some possible spacing, with the number of trees per acre are the following :

Spacing	Trees per acre	Spacing	Trees per acre
9 x 11	440	15 x 18	161
9 x 22	220	20 x 20	110
11 x 11	360	22 x 22	90
11 x 15	264	25 x 25	70

Considering the factors discussed above, I recommended that oranges be planted 15 x 18 feet, giving 161 trees to the acre and limes 11 x 15 feet, giving 264 trees per acre. These spacings should give satisfactory yields, with only light pruning required to keep the trees from crowding.

To be concluded.

x x x

MARKET ANALYSIS

Selected Crops - 2

Vegetables : The value of the vegetables imported into the six Gulf States during 1979, remained at approximately US \$ 130 million. According to latest statistics, Dubai's imports of fresh vegetables during 1980 have increased by 50 per cent in weight and 40 per cent in value a clear indication of potential in this field. The value of Sri Lanka's exports of fresh vegetables to the region during 1979 was approximately US \$ one million. Since then there has been a substantial increase in her exports to the region. For example; in 1980 Sri Lanka's exports of fresh vegetables to Dubai alone was US \$ 1.1 million. It would appear, however, that Sri Lanka has yet to break into markets like Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait in a significant manner. The prospects for further expansion of Sri Lanka's share both in volume and value are extremely good. It is felt that Sri Lanka has the potential to led the world in vegetable exports to the Middle East provided continuous efforts are taken to improve the industry on a specialised/export oriented basis.

I would like to make following recommendations in this connection:—(1) To improve the variety of vegetables available for export (as against other competitors, e.g. India), Sri Lanka has a limited variety. (2) To improve the quantities available for export of the varieties which are in great demand, it would be necessary to export vegetables in the correct size, shape and quality as demanded. (3) To be competitive in price. This is suggested mainly to improve on the volume. The current average C & F price of Sri Lanka vegetables is US \$ 1.50 per kilo. The

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freight component is at least 80 per cent of this amount. At this price, Sri Lanka vegetables can barely compete with similar varieties brought into the region by air from other sources. A substantial amount of fresh vegetables come by sea (e.g. India and Pakistan) and road transport and are sold cheaper in the Middle East Market. (e.g. Jordan, Egypt and Syria).

It may be still too early for Sri Lanka to think in terms of sea transport of fresh vegetable exports to the region. There is, however justification for further incentives to be extended to the exporters in terms of additional concessions on freight charges so that they could be more competitive in the market. (4) To organise the export trade in Sri Lanka to ensure that only firms with the correct expertise and facilities handle this product line.

Cut flowers and foliage : Horticultural product-like live plants, foliage and cut flowers have a big demand in the area. Sri Lanka has yet to make any headway in this high potential and competitive field. The response from the local trade in Sri Lanka offers made so far has been very favourable but it would be necessary for the industry to be better organised to compete with the established suppliers. Netherlands dominates the market as the leading supplier to all these countries with a share of around 90 per cent in the cut flowers and foliage group and around 25 per cent market share in the live plants group. Other leading suppliers include Singapore, Thailand, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, India and Pakistan.

The rough estimate of the current value of this product group is US \$ 50 million. As the market is highly competitive and well organised the following priority areas should be given immediate consideration: (1) Providing a wide variety of plants for export—The varieties and quantities currently available are in sufficient. (2) Improve on the packaging necessary for the industry—packaging is the most important element for the success of the business. (3) Preparation of an illustrated export catalogue with complete details of the plants and flowers available for export. This is an urgent pre-requisite and should be of very high standard. (4) Very close monitoring of the quality of the plants and flowers exported. It would be advisable to allow only the companies or individuals who have the necessary expertise and resources to undertake exports. This is extremely vital at least in the development stages.

—*Economic Review, Feb. 1982.*

FOOD

Roots

FEW PEOPLE realize that the original species of virtually all food grown in the North are located in

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the Southern Hemisphere. From over 1,000 crops harvested in North America each year, for example, only three—the artichoke, the sunflower and the cranberry—have this part of the world as their natural home. The parent plants of most food crops are located across a narrow band in the South where the Ice Age halted thousands of years ago. The original species of the potato, for instance, comes from the Andes in South America; wheat originated in Ethiopia and Asia Minor; corn in Mexico and elsewhere in Latin America; rice in Africa and South East Asia. A Soviet scientist, N. I. Vavilov, located 12 acres in the world where the forebears of today's modern plants exist; all are located in the Third World. Food available world-wide today come from the highly domesticated version of the original plants located in these areas. Over the past 100 years, breeders have taken the genes from these original plants located in the South. From their experiments have evolved the contemporary high-yielding varieties which provide our food supplies. But these domesticated species are much weaker than the hardy species growing wild in such places as the plains of Afghanistan or the mountains of Peru.

Although today's food-crop plants grow much more abundantly than the originals, there is a catch. Through years of breeding, most of these domesticated plants have become highly uniform or pure, with little resistance to pests and disease. Their survival depends in many cases on regular additions of genes from their ancestral parents. Without such additions, consequences can be catastrophic. One reason for the tragic Irish potato famine was that early explorers brought back only one variety. Without genetic diversity, the Irish crop become susceptible to disease. As with agricultural crops, flowers and ornamental plants largely originate in the Third World and breeders still return to the South to find new material. The never-ending enthusiasm for the exotic in flowers has a daily stream of planes landing at Heathrow and Kennedy Airports bearing monkey paws from Israel and orchids from Singapore. From a mere five per cent of sales a decade ago, exotic floral imports now make up 40 percent of the US market.

Whether simply sold abroad or patented abroad, it is doubtful that the Third World is reaping the rewards it should from such treasures. It is entirely probable that many of the exotic patents issued in the United States are the result of direct thefts of Third World plants. Reportedly, between 80 and 85 percent of all plant patent referrals to the US Department of Agriculture every year cannot be shown to be new since there is not sufficient data on the species available.

—*Development Forum, March 1982.*

JANATHA ESTATES DEVELOPMENT BOARD

T E A

Production in 1980 was affected due to un-precendented drought, in the 1st quarter.

	1976 April/Dec. (9mths)	1977 Jan/Dec.	1978 Jan/Dec.	1979 Jan/Dec.	1980 Jan/Dec.
1. Cultivated extents—Hec.	58,422	69,664	67,421	67,608	66,805
2. Production in Million-Kgs.	57.6 M	76.5 M	77.1 M	82.7 M	77.4 M
3. Replanting & New Planting of Tea-Hect.	418	446	643	757	718
4. Nett Expend. on replanting & Upkeep of Immature Areas	13.1 M	20.6 M	38.8 M	43.9 M	54.1 M
5. Total Wages to Manual Workers:—					
Male Rs. per day	6/49	6/56	9/73	11/56	14/—
Female Rs. per day	4/95	5/00	7/58	9/28	11/69
6. Tea Price (net Sale average) Rs. per Kg.	9/34	12/88	10/75	12/01	16/78
7. Approx. Revenue to Govt. as Export Duty on Tea Rs. in Million	49.5 M	211.3 M	1,159.8 M	998.8 M	780.1 M
8. Approx. Export earnings from J. E. D. B. production—Rs. in million	Rs.602.0 M	1,283.3 M	2,485.6 M	2,293.8 M	2,585.6 M
9. Total Export earnings of, Sri Lanka (All Products) Rs. in Million	Rs.4,815 M	6,638 M	13,206 M	15,273 M	17,273 M
10. J.E.D.B.share of total export earnings of Sri Lanka	12.5%	19.3%	18.8%	15.0%	15.0%
11. % of J.E.D.B. Tea Extent to National Tea Extent	24.3%	28.8%	27.7%	27.7%	27.3%
12. % J.E.D.B. Tea production to National Tea Production	29.3%	36.7%	38.8%	40.0%	40.4%

GENE-CONTROL AND THE US PRIVATE SECTOR

- 3 corporations hold 8.3 percent of patents on beans.
- 4 corporations hold 48 percent of patents on soyabeans
- 4 corporations hold 36 percent of patents on wheat
- 1 corporation holds 100 percent of patent on eggplant
- 2 corporations hold 100 percent of patents on sweet peas
- 3 corporations hold 100 percent of patents on tobacco
- 2 corporations hold 100 percent of patents on cauliflower.

WHERE OUR CROPS COME FROM

Corn	Central America, Andes
Strawberries	Southern Chile
Spinach	Central Asia
Peaches	China
Aparagus	Mediterranean
Barley	Asia Minor, Ethiopia
Onions	Central Asia Minor, Ethiopia
Potatoes	Andes
Lemons	Indo-Burma
Melon	Central Asia Minor, Indo-Burma

TRIBUNE MAHAWELI FORUM

THE OFFICIAL VIEW

Why Accelerated Mahaweli ?

THE ACCELERATED MAHAWELI DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME was embarked upon with a view to providing solutions to three of the major problems facing Sri Lanka in 1977 viz., acute unemployment, drain of foreign exchange for agricultural imports and shortage of power. While the fiscal and economic reforms, policy changes and other development projects have had some impact towards a solution to these problems, the basic problems still remain. Employment creation in the period 1977-1980 in the organised sector has been about 280,000 due to the several policy changes and economic measures adopted. Shortages of manpower have occurred in the technical and skilled categories as a result of employment creation locally and due to emigration to the Middle East. Additional jobs have also been created in the unorganized private sector, in the agricultural sector and in self-employment.

This high rate of growth of employment in the last three years due to liberalisation policy cannot be maintained at the same level. Annual addition to the workforce is about 125,000. The Mahaweli Programme has already provided employment in opening up of new areas in the Kalawewa region to about 50,000 people in agriculture and support services. The three Headworks under construction at Victoria, Kotmale and Maduru Oya provide employment for about 8,000 persons. Downstream development of irrigation facilities infrastructure and civic facilities also provide a substantial amount of employment through many big and small scale contractors. **The opening out of about 50,000 hectares (123,350 acres) over the next three to four years in Systems C & B will provide permanent employment to about 100,000 persons in agriculture and a further number in support services.**

Policy changes in the Agricultural Sector and the attractive open market prices for paddy and other agricultural crops have led to a substantial increase in agricultural production. Though the volume of rice and wheat imports has decreased, increased world market prices of these commodities result in a substantial drain on foreign exchange resources. Over Rs. 6,000 million was spent on the import of rice, flour, wheat, sugar and dairy products in 1980.

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The new lands brought under irrigated agriculture under the Mahaweli will contribute substantially towards a reduction in the volume and value of these imports.

ANOTHER OBJECTIVE of the Accelerated Programme was to provide electricity to meet the requirements of industry and ruralelectrification. The consumption of electricity in Sri Lanka is one of the lowest for Asia. After a period of sluggish growth in demand for power of 6% in the period 1970-1977, the import liberalisation policies and the development of new industries led to a sudden upsurge in the demand for electricity resulting in an average annual rate of growth of 12% for the period 1978-80. This increased demand together with adverse weather conditions in the catchment areas of Maskeliya Oya and Kehelgamuwa Oya led to severe power cuts adversely affecting industries and commercial activities in 1980. Gas Turbines with a capacity of 60 MW have been installed by the Ceylon Electricity Board and a further 60 MW are being ordered to meet requirements of power till the Victoria and Kotmale Projects are commissioned in 1985/85 and the Randenigala Project a while later. These three projects will double the existing hydro-energy capacity of 1,750 GWh (inclusive of Bowatenne and Canyon).

The areas taken up for development under the Accelerated Programme are in the comparatively undeveloped North Eastern Sector of the Island.

The development of these areas under irrigation and the settlement of a large number of families will change the socio-economic picture of the entire region. As these areas are sparsely populated and the settlers will have to be brought in from outside, it will also relieve landlessness and socio-economic problems of some of the thickly-populated areas of the country.

THE ACCELERATED PROGRAMME : The UNDP-FAO-IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT Master Plan for the development of the resources of the Mahaweli was a culmination of about 20 years of data gathering, investigations and planning by the Irrigation Department and external agencies like the USOM and the Hunting Technical Services. On the phasing of Mahaweli development over a period of 30 years in step-wise implementation there would not have been a substantial impact on Sri Lanka's problems described earlier. It is in these circumstances that the Accelerated Programme, dove-tailing as many of the projects of the Mahaweli as possible into the shortest implementation period, was decided on. After an initial review with the World Bank at the end of 1977 a priority programme of investigations and feasibility studies for five Reservoir Headworks and the associated downstream development of 140,000 hectares (350,000 acres) was tentatively decided on. It was estimated, on the basis of the UNDP Master Plan estimates escalated for inflation and variations in

currency parities, that this programme will cost Rs. 8,000 million at 1977 constant prices and Rs. 11,000 million with provision for escalation during construction.

Detailed plans, designs and estimates, however, indicated that the eventual costs will be substantially greater. The scope of the reservoirs was also considerably altered as a result of the detailed studies and designs with considerably increased storage capacities and power output. The installed capacity of Victoria has been increased from 129 MW in the UNDP Report to 210 MW with provision for further expansion by an additional 210 MW at a later stage. Similarly, the installed capacity of the Kotmale Project has been increased from 100MW to 200 MW. Worldwide inflation which has taken place since 1977 has been high and local inflation, as a result of the considerable investment in the Public and Private sectors, has been higher. The estimated cost of the current programme of construction of the 4 reservoirs, Victoria Maduru Oya, Kotmale and Randenigala, the Minipe Transbasin Canal and the development of 50,000 hectares (120,000 acres) in Systems C & B is approximately Rs. 31,000 million.

Simultaneously with the decision to embark on the Accelerated Programme of Mahaweli Development, discussions were held with friendly countries and international agencies and technical assistance for the engagement of consultants was obtained for five Reservoir Headworks and associated downstream development. An Implementation Strategy Study was also commissioned to review the Master Plan, examine the implications of alternative phasings and to recommend an Action Plan taking into account the technical, financial, economic, institutional and manpower aspects. This study was to proceed simultaneously with the on-going feasibility studies. Feasibility studies which had to be carried out on the different headworks and the downstream development areas as well as the preparation of plans, designs, estimates and tender documents for the headworks involved maximum effort by the different agencies involved.

The Survey Department has carried out surveys covering about 1,500,000 acres, for 1000,000, acres maps produced were on the 1 : 10,000 scale with 5 metre contours: the balance 500,000 acres had maps on the 1 : 5,000 scale with 1 metre contours. The Irrigation Department was involved in geological investigations with a total depth of drill holes amounting to about 5,000 metres. It also carried out detail soil surveys and land classification of the irrigable areas, and engineering material investigations as well as hydraulic model testing. The Central Engineering Consultancy Bureau, the Mahaweli Development Board and the Irrigation Department had to deploy their staff to carry out the studies and prepare the necessary plans, designs and estimates for the major engineering works.

DROUGHT

And Mahaweli - 2

By B. H. Hemapriya

A great deal has been said and written about the impact the 1981 drought had on the areas in the Rajarata irrigated by the Mahaweli (especially those newly opened up). This article provides some background information. The first part approved last week.

BE THAT AS IT MAY, it must be said in favour of the overall design of the Mahaweli Project area that provision has been made for the storage of Kotmale Oya waters and to regulate issues from the Kotmale reservoir for hydro the canals running below designed capacity will not be able to command the areas to be irrigated. Consequently the losses in transmission and evaporation are also disproportionately high. As in all irrigation schemes in Sri Lanka, System H has been designed for 80% probability of success, on the basis of rainfall patterns over a period of power and for irrigation in the North Central Province dry zone. **If the storage in the Kotmale Oya reservoir was available the crisis management in Area H in the current Maha would not have been as critical. In the event, in late January 1982 the following dismal picture of the drought havoc emerged on the basis of reports filed by the Resident Project Managers in System H. The figures refer to acres cultivated in new settlements.**

Galnewa, Kalankuttiya and Meegallewa (H1, H2) 14,690 cultivated, 14,000 drought affected. Madatugama (H7) 6,760 cultivated, 3,380 drought affected. Galkiriyagama (H9) 5,180 cultivated, 1,300 drought affected; Thambuttegama (H4) 16,300 cultivated, 12,000 drought affected; Nochchiyagama (H5) 7,990 cultivated, 7,150 drought affected. Total 50,920 cultivated, 38,160 drought affected. Since then, the MASL has been able to salvage the position by increased diversions from Polgolla led into the Kalawewa and Kandalama reservoirs through the bifurcated canal outlets taking off from the Bowatenna reservoir. It has also been reported that the entire crop in Galkiriyagama (H9) and Madatugama (H7) fed by Mahaweli waters through the Kandalama reservoir can be saved. It is now reported that even in Nochchiyagama (H5) where drought havoc was feared to be widely pervasive, affecting 7,150 acres of the total area of 7,900 acres, that the spectre of crop failure stalks approximately 6,000 acres. In Thambuttegama (H4) however where the total area cultivated was 16,300 about 5,300 or only about 32 1/2 can be saved.

THE WORST DAMAGE will be in Galnewa (H1) and Meegallewa (H2) which includes Kalankuttiya,

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where the total extent cultivated was 14,690 acres. It is feared the crop damage in this area aggravated by late sowing will be almost as high as 80%. Rajangane H 11 and H 12 16,000 acres, which benefits by drainage flows and Kagama—Kattiyawa (h3) 13,000 acres, immediately under the Kalawewa reservoir have not been affected by the drought conditions. To sum up, of the total cultivable area in System H inclusive of Rajangane and Kagama—Kattiyawa which are also in the Kala Oya basin, encompassing a total extent of 95,000 acres, the extent seriously affected by the drought stands at 38,160 acres; of this extent it has been possible to salvage the cultivations in respect of 5,830 acres. In other words the drought ravaged extent is 32,300 acres which is 34% of the whole of System H. *Additionally* the cultivations under Nachchaduwa, City Tanks of Anuradhapura and Huruluwewa were also salvaged by timely diversions from the Mahaweli. A house to house survey has been launched to ascertain the effect of the drought in System H and WFP assistance has been extended to minimise hardship to new settlers. Further WFP assistance has been sought to extend relief over the above those normally eligible. Further, the Department of Social Services has been requested to cover the entire System H area for drought relief. The Government Agents are already in the field to provide relief by extending the Food Stamps Scheme to cover settlers affected.

IN THE MEANTIME, Resident Project Managers have been authorised by the MASL to give job contracts to rectify and maintain irrigation canals etc., to farmers affected by the drought where contracts do not need technical skills. Banks and cooperatives have been directed to relax the repayment of loans and credit till crop damage has been assessed. During the ensuring Yala season it is proposed to give water to H1, H2, H4 and H5 areas as a priority measure over other areas benefitted by the Mahaweli diversion; if drought conditions are not completely over by then. It is expected that heavy rain will fall over the drought-stricken areas during the next South West Monsoon. In support of the benefits of the Mahaweli Diversion, the Maha cultivation in major schemes in the Polonnaruwa and Trincomalee districts, served by the Mahaweli diversion were affected by the drought. Cultivators there, in an area extending over 81,000 acres are expecting a bumper crop. This area includes the following extents—Polonnaruwa District: Elahera 7,828 acres; Giritala 6,992 acres; Minneriya 16,470 acres; Kaudulla 10,508 acres; Parakrama Samudra 19,670 acres making a total of 61,468 acres and in Trincomalee District: Kantalai and Vendarasan Kulama—19,850 acres.

Despite the severity of the drought caused by the failure of the North East Monsoon there is a prospect of harvesting 62,670 acres in System H of a total irrigable area of 95,000 acres as a result of the diverted flows from the Mahaweli, as compared with the near

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total crop failure in all other major irrigation schemes in Anuradhapura district not served by the Mahaweli diversion. A second prospect is bumper harvests in areas benefitted by the Mahaweli in the Polonnaruwa and Trincomalee districts totalling 81,318 acres; a third prospect is Yala cultivation in these areas. These underscore the conceptual validity of the Mahaweli diversion to the North Central dryzone and the benefits of developing 320,000 acres of new land in Systems C, B and C under the Mahaweli Accelerated Programme now in hand.

YALA 1980

The statistics regarding paddy yields in System—released by the Director of Census and Statistics are tabled below :

Area	Managed by	Net Acre- age har- vested	Yield Bu/Net Ac.	Total Ac. prodn. (bushels)
Galneva H1	MDB	6,129.49	54.02	331,115
Tambutte- gama H4	MDB	597.85	56.11	33,545
Nochchiya- gama H5	MASL	596.24	109.19	65,103
Galkiriya gama H9	CTC*	2,663.42	52.25	139,163

*Ceylon Tobacco Company Ltd., Colombo 13.

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TRIBUNE SPORTSCOPE

SPOTLIGHT

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THE MOST ENCOURAGING news to filter through to the local sports scene for a long time was the discussions held in salubrious Nuwara Eliya by President Jayewardene and a high-powered delegation led by the President of the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka, Mr. Gamini Dissanayake, on issues relating to the future of Sri Lanka cricket now that we are a full Test-playing nation. The other members of the delegation who met at the President's House in Nuwara Eliya were: A. C. "Bunty" de Zoysa, IGP Rudra Rajasingham, Daham Wimalasena, Chairman, Petroleum Corporation, Lionel Madugalle, Secretary, Ministry of Sports, D. H. de Silva, Municipal Commissioner, Kandy; E. W. Balasuriya, Michael Tissera and Nihal Senaratne, Secretary and Nuski Mohamed, Treasurer, respectively of the Cricket Board. President Jayewardene who was himself a sportsman and cricketer of repute and who was also the President of the Cricket Board at one time, was very interested in the suggestions made, and, it is understood, gave his blessings to the Board in their venture to improve and develop the game in Sri Lanka.

It will do Sri Lanka cricket a world of good if the Cricket Board could find ways and means to attract international cricketers to play here. The accent must be on attracting some fast bowlers. Plenty of these types are found in the West Indies. Today's game is all about a ball being hurled at a batsman, near jet-speed. Our cricketers must be put to the test against the fastest Test class fast bowling if they are to improve techniques. The Maharaja Organisation, great promoters of cricket in Sri Lanka, was the first to attract overseas players. It must be remembered that they obtained the services of Gordon Parsons, one of the fast bowlers in England. Parsons is now one of the frontline bowlers in English cricket. The recently concluded "Sara" season saw Raju Bhaleakar from India, though not a fast bowler playing for the Cup winning club—Bloomfield Cricket and Athletic Club.

THE HIGH-POWERED COMMITTEE which has efficiency written all over it, is sure to deliver the goods and there is no doubt that cricket in Sri Lanka is in for good times. This Committee will do well to mark as urgent the construction of Test playing grounds in Jaffna and Galle. The International Cricket Conference has requested for more playing venues. The game is now confined only to the district of Colombo. The construction of stadiums in Galle and Jaffna will not pose a challenge to the President of the Cricket Board, Mr. Gamini Dissanayake, who has the reputation for getting things done. To his credit is the construction of the Asgiriya Stadium in record time. As was discussed at this meeting, the pressing need of the Board is finding sponsors to run the next domestic cricket tournaments. Several clubs are finding it extremely difficult to survive a full season due to lack of financial support. The Cricket Board must tap all avenues in an endeavour to help some of the not-too-affluent clubs.

Cricketers and cricket fans alike were disappointed at the announcement after the committee meeting of the Board held on Saturday morning at the Sinhalese Sports Club pavilion that the glamour boys from the Caribbean led by "supercat" Clive Lloyd will not play here in the latter part of this year. The reason adduced for the calling off of this tour was that the West Indies will be sending a team minus their "stars" to Zimbabwe and that it will be a big strain on the finances of the West Indies Cricket Board to send another team with stars to Sri Lanka. However, it must be realized that the West Indies are too powerful a force and we will stand absolutely no chance against them. The Board must pursue negotiations and invite the New Zealanders or the Australians to tour Sri Lanka. The Cricket Board has also done well in deciding to play the next "Sara" season on a league basis, like the English Country Cricket system.

NETBALL : Netball in the country and especially in the Mercantile sector was given a shot in the arm with the conducting of the Super Netball Tourney by Warner Hudnut (Lanka) Ltd., in association with the Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Ltd. Netball flourished to popularity during the time of the late Donovan Andree who encouraged the game in a big way. Later his son Malcolm continued the good work. This game was also kept by the Times Group of Newspapers with annual Miss Netball Contests. But of late very surprisingly this sport was given a back seat and it is to the great credit of Warner Hudnut and the Associated Newspapers that netball has been revived. Large crowds turned up at the BRC and Colts grounds to watch and cheer the lasses of the 36 teams who took part in the tournament which was very well organized. The Organising Committee comprising Mrs. Kaushal Perera, Delrine Slemmermann, Mrs. Ranjini Fernando and Mrs. Asoka Gooneratne

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completed a gigantic task most efficiently and conducted 50 matches in just six days. Well done!

SPOILSPORTS: Two newspapers recently spotlighted Sri Lanka skipper Bandula Warnapura, and apparently dug for excuses to defend him for his poor showing during the recent tour of Pakistan. Now if any pressmen has to be taken note of it must be the Times Group correspondent, Elmo Rodrigopulle. He was the only man on the spot in Pakistan. He has been serialising the tour in the *Sunday Times* and he has been read and acknowledged for his practical and theoretical comments on the tour. The reasons for defending Warnapura, "Allrounder" understands are obvious. One, we are told, is for the sake of good neighbourliness; or is it fence-mending? The other defence is apparently a bid to continue to belong to the world of today.

Allrounder

x x x

SPORTS CHRONICLE

April 9-16

FRIDAY, APRIL 9: In *School Cricket* Ananda, the holders will meet Jaffna Central at the Colts grounds Havelock Park, on April 16 in the Quarter-Finals of the Schools Limited Over cricket tournament for the Chesto Trophy, organised by Maharaja Organisation. The other quarter final games starting on the same day are: Wesley v S. Thomas, Mount Lavinia at the NCC grounds, St. Joseph's v Mahinda at the Bloomfield grounds, and Kingswood v. Nalanda at Vihara Maha Devi Park. All matches commence at 12 noon. The semi-finals will take place on Saturday April 17 and the Finals on Sunday April 18. In *Club Cricket*, the Grindlays Bank cricketers led by Deryck Jansen left yesterday for nearly a two week tour of India where they will be engaged in matches at Madras, Bangalore and Bombay. Hotel Hilton, Kandy, trounced Hotel Hantana by an innings and 43 runs in a cricket match played at Lake View. Hotel Hantana 53: Hotel Hilton 111. Someswaran, Jayawickrema and Co., will meet Hirdaramani A in the A Division Final while Hatton National Bank take on Ceylinco Group in the B final in the *Halls Super Mercantile Netball Championships* co-sponsored by Warner Hudnut (Lanka) Limited and Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Limited at the Colts grounds, Havelock Park on Monday. The *1982 School Rugby Season* "kicks off" on April 24 with Isipatana MV meeting Maliyadeva at Havelock Park in a friendly game like in the previous years, the schools tournament will be conducted in two

Divisions—A Division for the Noel Gratien Memorial Challenge Cup and the B Division for the Tyrell Muttah Memorial Challenge Cup. The 16 men and 13 women shuttlers in the national pools are hard at training for the forthcoming *9th Asian Games* to be staged in New Delhi India in November. South Korea's Duk Hee Lee who beat Britain's Virginia Wade on Monday scored another upset in a *Women's Tennis Tournament* at Hilton Head Island on Thursday when she beat Romania's highly experienced Virginia Ruzici 7-5, 4-6, 6-4 in the Second Round match. A meeting by the *Professional Tennis Council* failed to resolve whether Bjorn Borg will have to go through the Qualifying Round at Wimbledon, the British Grand Slam event he has won five times.

SATURDAY, APRIL 10: The annual Rugby Football Captains game between CR & FC and CH & FC will be played at Longden Place today at 4.30 p.m. CR will be led by Iqbal Musaffer and leading the CH will be Karunasena. *Ranil Abeynaike* is certain to become the first Sri Lankan cricketer to play in the Nat-West trophy (formerly Gillette Cup) Competition in England. Abeyanaike, who plays for Bedfordshire in the Minor Country Competition, is an automatic choice to represent them against Worcestershire at Worcester in the Nat-West Trophy First Round game on July 3. Sri Lanka will send a 13-member team to the *Second Korean Junior Open Athletic Meet* at Seoul on August 14 and 15. *The Amateur Athletic Association of Sri Lanka* accepted the invitation of the South Koreans, which is for 10 athletes (boys and girls) who should be under 19 years on August 1, 1982 and three officials. An invitation for two athletes has been received by the Amateur Athletic Association of Sri Lanka for the Malay Mail Bag Walk, from the Malaysian Amateur Athletic Union to be held on May 23 in Kuala Lumpur over 20 kilometers. Sri Lanka's Asian Games Pool *Cyclists* will have their first Time Trial at the Open Road Race today commencing opposite Randoli SC, Thimbirigasyaya at 7.30 p.m. Thirty players have been selected so far for the Sri Lanka Youth (Boys) pool in preparation for the *Eighth Asian Basketball Confederation Championship in Hong Kong* in October. One hundred and twenty five young men and women from the Panadura Electorate will compete in two *Open Cycle Races* conducted for the fifth year in succession, by the Suhada Recreation Club, Panadura to be held on Tuesday, April 13. Both races will commence at 7.30 a.m. from the Railway Station premises. The route will be Galle Road, Morontuduwa, Bandara-gama ending up at Panadura 10 rounds 150 miles. The women's race will be on the same route-one round. Jahangir Khan of Pakistan added the *British Open Title* to his *World Squash Crown* by overcoming his surprisingly stubborn compatriot Hiddy Jahan

9-2, 10-9, 9-3 in a 77-minute Final in London. *World Boxing Council* Junior Flyweight Champion Amado Urusua of Mexico and Japanese challenger Tadashi Aomori held public sparring sessions to show fans they were prepared for their 15-round WBC Title March at Tokyo's Korakuen Boxing Hall on Sunday. For 27 minutes last night, Bulgarian Soccer Champions Cska Sofia were on the threshold of one of the most astonishing results in the 27-year history of the *European Cup*. Cska led mighty Bayern Munich of West Germany 3-0 in their semi-final firstleg in Sofia and looked redhot favourites to travel to Rotterdam for the final on May 26. Gamin Gunetillake won a Bronze Medal for Sri Lanka in *Weight lifting at the Pakistan National Games* now on at Peshawar. He contested in the Middle Heavyweight class. Austrian Niki Lauda completed a remarkable comeback by winning the *United States Grand Prix (West) motor race* at California today—his first triumph for over three and a half years.

SUNDAY, APRIL 11: In *School Cricket* Coupon No. 12 will be last in the Most Popular Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year Contest and the Most Popular Outstation Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year Contest. Entries for the two contests will close on Tuesday, April 20—the extended closing date is due to the on-coming holidays. Entries will close at 6 p.m. on April 20 and no late entries will be accepted. Both contests are organised by the *Ceylon Observer* and sponsored by the sports-minded people—Bata Shoe Company of Ceylon Ltd. The *Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year*, the Outstation Schoolboy Cricketer of the year and winners of the other allied contests will as usual, be picked by the panel of umpires from the Association of Cricket Umpires (Sri Lanka). The selections will take place shortly. In *Club Cricket* with the hectic cricket season coming to an end *Rugby* took over with the curtain raiser match in the Captain's Game between CR & FC and CH & FC at Longden Place yesterday. CR & FC beat CH & FC 9-3. A fine innings of 111 by Nalanda opening batsman Keerthi Ranasinghe helped Bloomfield to claim a first innings lead of 164 runs over Nomads on the first day of the Donovan Andree trournament match at Bloomfield grounds, yesterday. The *inaugural Soft-ball match* between Zoological Gardens and the Wild Life Conservation Department for the L. T. Canagaratnam Challenge Trophy will be played on the 18th April at the S. de S. Jayasinghe Stadium, Dehiwela. Sunny Mount entered the final of the *Mayor's Cup Soccer Championships* with a 4-2 win against Eleven Youngsters in the semi-final at the Sugathadasa Stadium yesterday. The *Mahagastota Hill Climb* conducted by the Ceylon Motor Sports Club will be held this morning. It is sponsored by Messrs United Ltd. Charis Everts Lloyd beat Pam Shriver 6-2, 6-4 at Carolina on Friday to advance the semi-finals of the *Women's international Tennis Touranment, International Olympic Committee* President Juan Antonio Samaranc

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ch said on April 10 that the IOC rule barring *Taiwan* from hoisting its national flag in sport games is restricted only to the games sites. He made the remark when asked on arrival from Seoul if the IOC rule also applies to streets and other places during the controversial international women's softball games in Taipei in July.

MONDAY, APRIL 12: In *School Cricket*, Manjula Thenuwara proved that his Big Match performance against Nalanda was "no flash in the pan" when he did equally well in the limited over game on the CCC strip taking four wickets for 28. He was once again the "key man"—helping Ananda achieve a superb "double" of winning both the Big Match and the limited overs games against Nalanda. Very few people realise that Ananda's hero walks with a slight limp. Oshadie Weerasinghe took 5 wickets for 7 runs to help Bloomfield to an innings and 150 runs victory over Nomads in their *Donovan Andree Trophy cricket match* at the Bloomfield grounds yesterday. Gemunu House with 706 points emerged champions at the *Inter-House Track and Field Sports Meet* of Kandegedera Maha Vidyalaya in *Viyaluwa* circuit recently. Abhaya House was second with 694 points while Wijaya House was third. The *Mercantile Sector's Super Netball Champions* will be known this evening when Someswaram, Jayawickreme and Company clash with Hirdaramani A team in the A Division and Hatton National Bank take on Ceylon Group in the B Division Finals at 3.30 p.m. on the Colts grounds. The present Anandians proved their superiority at *Rugger* over their former counterparts in their annual fixture with a narrow 22 points (a goal and 4 tries) to 20 (2 goals and 2 tries) win at the CH & FC grounds Maitland Crescent on Saturday. The *English League Soccer Championship* took on a more familiar look as mighty Liverpool moved five points clear at the top with a crushing 5-0 victory at Manchester City yesterday. It was Liverpool's ninth successive League victory and close challengers such as Ipswich, Southampton, Swansea and Manchester United. All of whom have enjoyed spells at the top, will find them difficult to dislodge.

TUESDAY, APRIL 13: In one-sided games in the *Mercantile Super Netball Champions* played on the Colts grounds yesterday, Someswaran, Jayawickrema Maitri Ltd., emerged A division champions while Hatton National Bank took the B title. All along the winners who beat Hirdaramani 17-12 and Ceylonco 22-9 were never seriously challenged as they coursed through to easy victories. At half-time the scores were 10-4 and 12-4 respectively. For the first time in the history of *Tennis* in Sri Lanka an *Island-wide Tennis Tournament* has been organized attracting a large number of players from Jaffna and Colombo. The tournament is sponsored by Lanka Cement Ltd., and will be conducted by the Jaffna

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United Club and Fort Tennis Club from 15 to 17 April. Michael Spinks wore down challenger Murray Southerland, floored him twice and finally knocked him out in the eight round today to retain his *World Boxing Association* light heavyweight title. Craig Stadler squandered a six stroke lead in the last round of the *Masters Golf Championship* today but atoned by beating Dan Pohl to win the title on the first hole of a sudden death play off. *Bjorn Borg's* target this year is the US open the only major tennis title he has not won, his manager Lennart Bergelin said at Monte Carlo today. A team from the *Amateur Weight-lifting Federation* of Sri Lanka now in *Peshawar Pakistan*, participating in the Pakistan National Games have caught the eye of the followers of the sports there. Contesting in the Middle Heavy-weight class, Gamini Gunatileke has already won a Bronze medal for Sri Lanka. Holders Denmark crashed 3—2 to Sweden in their opening match in the *European Team Badminton championship* in West Germany on April 11.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14: The Annual Ranking tournament of the *Bandarawela Tennis Club* was concluded recently. Major Montague Jayawickrema, Minister of Plantation Industries and the President of the Club emphasised the value of club life and stated that the Bandarawela Tennis Club had members from various sections of Society who mingled freely and were good Club men and that what mattered most was that they all played the game well. Ravi Kotalawala overcame stiff opposition to win the men's title in the *Badminton Tournament of Dickoya-Maskeliya Cricket Club* held at the Club's Indoor Courts last Wednesday. Badulla Madya Maha Vidyalaya won major honours at the *Inter School Track and Field Sports Meet of Badulla Education Circuit* conducted by the Education Department and organised by the Circuit Education Officer Badulla Mr. Anton Manchanayake. The *Tyronne Fernando Stadium* at Moratuwa is being given a facelift to bring it up to international standards and stake its claims for a Sri Lanka cricket Test venue. nearly 500 athletes from 16 Grama Sevaka divisions in the Moratuwa Electorate participated in the *Sports meet* held at Prince of Wales Grounds on Sunday 11. *Netball* in the Mercantile sector is now assured of a bright future. Clear proof was the tremendous boost the sport received when Warner Hudnut (Lanka) Ltd., and the Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Ltd., staged "The big Rival"—The Super Netball tournament. starved of netball for many years, no less than 36 mercantile firms joined in at very short notice—and with them came the huge crowds. *Sri Lanka Cricket Board President Gamini Dissanayake* hit a sparkling 53 to help the Nuwara Eliya branch of the National Estate Service Union defeat their Avissawella Ratnapura counter-parts by 69 runs in a 30 over cricket match played at Holy Trinity College grounds at Nuwara Eliya.

FRIDAY, APRIL 16: The second annual *Six-A-Side Soft Ball Cricket Tournament* organized by the Kempton Sports Club invite clubs all over the island this year. The first tournament was conducted only for Colombo district clubs. The tournament will commence on May 22. Closing date of applications in April 29 and clubs should contact The Secretary, Kempton Sports Club, 105, Temple Road, Colombo 10. *The Board of Control for Cricket in India* at its special general meeting in Bombay yesterday has decided to agree to all but two of the playing conditions suggested by the Test and County Cricket Board for the coming tour of England by India's cricket team. The TCCB has suggested a minimum per-hour over rate of 16.25 and a minimum of 100 overs per six hour day. But the Indian Board is agreeable to a limit of only 15 overs per hour. The Indian Board also did not agree to TCCB's suggestion of imposing financial penalties for the side bowling less than the prescribed overs. Instead the Indian Board has suggested a penalty of four runs per every over short of the minimum stipulated. The reigning League and *Knock-out Rugby* Champions, Havelock Sports Club, are in the process of team buiing this season as most of their top players have either "given up" or not available for various reasons. The *Sri Lanka Tennis Association* has sent out invitations to the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand and India, requesting them to send their top players to participate at the 67th Sri Lanka National Tennis Championships which will be worked off at the SLTA Courts at Greenpath in August-September. Veteran Willie Barsenbach retained the *Nuwara-Eliya Golf Club Championships* for the second consecutive year defeating Col. C. Thurairajah in the final, which was worked off over 36 Holes, 6 and 5 at the NEGC Course. Liverpool remained firmly in control of the English League Soccer championship after a 2—0 home win over Stoke tonight. *Former Wimbledon Champion Bjorn Borg* said today he will decided soon about playing in this year's Championships and denied reports he might quit tennis. The Netherlands and West Germany retained their group places while Poland and Iceland earned promotion to higher groups in the *European Badminton Championships* at Boblingen, West Germany yesterday. *World Cup Holders Argentina* were denied victory for the third successive time as the Soviet Union came back to achieve a 1-1 draw at the River Plate Stadium at Buenos Aires yesterday in a warm up match for the finals in June. England staked a strong claim for the *European Team Badminton Title* by crushing Sweden 5—0 yesterday. Scotsman Jimmy McRae completed a hat-trick as he won the Circuit of Ireland *International Motor Rally* for the third successive year when the five-day event ended in Belfast yesterday afternoon.



Evaluation of Sri Lanka Team

SRI LANKA'S TEST CRICKET DEBUT abroad was a bashing by Pakistan. And so our cricketers returned quietly if not sheepishly, without the headlines, crackers and fanfare which they would have received if they had fared better. The cricket fever which engulfed this island only a month ago with our debut in Test Cricket against the visiting English Team has faded all too quickly. What we ought to do now is to take careful stock of the whole business—and critically but objectively analyse performance, team selection weak aspects and seek solutions before embarking on any more internationals. **Generally, our team is seen to have failed primarily on account of poor fielding at key moments of the games, the inability to stay and fight back when at the bottom of the trough. All essential priorities in Test cricket as much as the staying power over the distance and rigours of 5 days cricket. Our jolly non-professional week-end cricketers will have considerable difficulty in keeping their employment and playing 5 day cricket in as much as the problem for the Board of Control to organise 5-day tournaments.**

Sri Lanka's team Manager Anura Tennekoon has made some unusually forthright observations on his return. But, more devastatingly candid have been Elmo Rodrigopulle's first hand accounts in his dispatches to the *Times Group*. *Allrounder in the Tribune* and many others writing in the popular Press have raised many issues and some queries. Much of this is well founded and constructive. And it behoves on the Board of Control to take serious cognisance of these matters, for there surely are a much larger number of equal or better competent and experienced cricketers outside of it, than within it, and their expertise should be mobilised to improve our competitiveness before we embark on any more internationals. Quite obviously, we have the talent, the cricketing skills. That is internationally recognized. We however lack gamsamanship and test cricket perspectives and temperament. And until we have acquired more experience and sophistication in international cricket, our youthful and exuberant cricketers should be spared the massacring which would be their lot if they will be pitted against the mighty West Indies and the more aggressive Australians. **We endorse Mr. Tennakoon's views on these matters and congratulate him on his forthrightness in respect of bad umpiring in Pakistan. He is not alone. Visiting cricket teams to the Indian and Pakistani sub-continent have always had to put up with bad umpiring decisions**

sometimes poor ground conditions, tiring itineraries plus harsh weather, and of course the psychological trauma of mammoth and ultra-nationalistic noisy crowds, unlike anywhere else in the world. Umpires on the sub-continent have to save their own skins.

SEASONED INTERNATIONAL CRICKET TEAMS have been severely tested. In fact it was only a few months ago that the England team was put through the mill in Pakistan and India before coming here to inaugurate our test debut. They are quite candid about this. As a result of bad umpiring decisions it has been mentioned that the ICC is considering appointing international umpires for test cricket on the sub-continent. If they do, who would guarantee their safe return to their homelands all in one piece? The England tour of Sri Lanka left some odds and ends for Sri Lanka's cricket bureaucrats to think about seriously. More so, after the Pakistan debacle. Some decisions of the Selection Committee were most odd to say the least and such bad decisions could well have had deleterious effects on our performance at crucial stages of the games against England and Pakistan. For instance, why was Tony Opatha invited to join the pool if the selectors had no intention of retaining him in the final squad if he performed satisfactorily? In fact Opatha did well enough to be considered for the Test Match against England and would have been most useful on the Pakistan tour with his experience abroad. Then why was Ravi Ratnayake dropped after his indefatigable performance in Kandy and when two pace bowlers are generally considered a sine quo non in limited over games as much as for longer duration internationals. The fact that Asantha de Mel emerged the outstanding bowler on the placid SSC turf indicates that Opatha or Ratnayake could have performed as well, and we may have won the first limited over game too. Ratnayake has now justified his selection in the Pakistan squad.

THE REASONING OF THE SELECTORS to have Rohan Jayasekera keep wickets in the first limited over match against England cannot be understood, because it is well known that Jayasekera gave up keeping wickets not long ago, according to his father, to concentrate on his batting. And Jayasekera's poor performance behind the stumps together with some bad fielding by certain team mates contributed to our losing this match. After this, what justification was there to include him in the squad to Pakistan, unless the decision was not that of the Selectors? In the first one day International against Pakistan at Karachi, Jayasekera was too slow behind the stumps to get Miandad out of the crease when he had scored only 7 runs. Together with Mashin, Miandad went on to pile up a 105 run partnership and won this match for Pakistan. It is now obvious that we needed to have had a stronger batting line up in the 3rd test in

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Pakistan. Surely, Arjuna Ranatunge should have been an obvious choice, despite Imran Khan. Perhaps he would have faced Imran with greater confidence than some of our more experienced players. In fact after Bernard Perera's century in the test trial and the half century against the English team at Asgiriya, he should have been given a place in the first limited over match in Colombo. Or are there other considerations than performance and being "in-form"? Are outstation players and non-Sinhalese at a disadvantage in gaining places in Sri Lanka's NATIONAL Test Team? We hope this type of prejudice will not be allowed to enter the cricket bureaucracy in Sri Lanka. In the past there have been prejudices against players from certain clubs and in one of the worst cricket scandals a Sri Lanka Captain was replaced because he did not belong to the majority community and mind you when, he was at his peak as one of Sri Lanka's best batsman, useful bowler and one of the best Captains the game has seen. Certain of today's selectors will remember this incident.

While on this subject, we cannot of course know the minds of the Selectors but it is difficult to find justification for the exclusion of Sritharan Jeganathan on his allround performance and international experience. If not for his bowling and dependable middle order batting at least because he is undoubtedly one of the best fielders in the game, considering that fielding was the worst department of the game in Pakistan. On the other hand it is difficult to justify the inclusion of a consistently out-of-form Duleep Mendis, because he is Captain of the SSC and as is often said, "*if he strikes form he can sway a match in our favour*". Unfortunately, his halcyon days seem to be over because this "if" is getting spaced further and further apart. And with his receding form, at least to justify his selection and the responsibility of being Vice-Captain, we expected him to settle down at the crease in crucial moments of the game before attempting his now infamous wild hook to square leg. It seems he is simply unable to do this. Remember the limited over games at the SSC. He came in at No. 1 when the bowlers were on top. And straight away he obliged by hooking a catch to a field set just for him. It has happened so many times *ad nauseam*. When an opening batsman goes early then the responsibility to stay is that of No. 1. And Mendis simply has failed to fit in. Besides, remember the catch he ducked right in front of our stand in the second limited over game at the SSC and the continuous berating he got from the crowd thereafter. Sri Lanka won this game in a thriller. But it is for the historians to record that after the Captain Waranapura and Vice Captain Mendis went back it was first Roy Dias who came and played the bowling on its merits and showed there were no hidden tremors in it although Bothan and Willis were getting some lift. And then it was our school boy Arjuna Ranatunge who came in at 40

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odd for three and played like a veteran and put u-
back in the game.

SRI LANKA lost her first official and Centenary Test against England by seven wickets on the 4th day with a sensational collapse of 7 wickets for 8 runs. In the first test in Pakistan Sri Lanka needed 354 runs to win. They folded up for only 149 runs in 174 minutes. On the final day Sri Lanka only had to survive the 20 mandatory overs to save this match. Sri Lanka hadn't 2 batsmen to stay at the crease and score no runs. Geoff Boycott for instance has saved England so many times by defying for hours everything the best bowlers in the world have thrown at him. Certainly, we need stayers, not only stroke players. Sidath Wettimuny, Roy Dias, Arjuna Ranatunge, Madugalle and Mahes Gunatilake have shown some ability to stay, but still not enough for Test Cricket. For instance, Pakistan saved the second test when set a target of 339 runs in five hours but, could make only 186 for 7 and played out time after having scored 132 for 2. While Sri Lanka's lower order batsmen have shown a distinct inability to dig themselves in and to play for a draw, our team in Pakistan have shown an inability to wipe out the tail enders and make a match of it. Both in first and second tests this was evident after our bowlers had got right on top. Whether, this could be remedied by more astute captaincy or whether our bowlers simply failed to exploit the opportunity is for the Selectors to find out. But certainly, it has been reported that bad fielding and grassing catches at crucial moments have turned the matches in Pakistan's favour.

Finally, in the preparation and training of our final squad for any future international series, it seems that practice, fitness and coaching in the field is inadequate. Clearly we have the skills but not the test temperament and the hard professional character essential for internationals. Alas! the days of holiday cricket, cricket for the glory *per se*, scintillating individual performances, and so on have now to give place to a country's win, lose or draw. And obviously our teams have to be brain washed to draw if not to win. Therefore in the preparation and training it would appear our teams need a whole lot of class room therapy. And to cope with problems our touring cricketers will face in the future we need tough managers not only with a good knowledge of the game and international experience, but prepared to take tough decisions. Since, the third day in the third test at Lahore as lost to rain with a Pakistan total 500 to our first innings 186 should we not have taken our rest day on the 4th day and made a draw of this match?

Edes.

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Minister Or Secretary?

IS IT NOT A FACT that the talk of the town during the last fortnight was about a major rumpus in the Ministry of Agricultural Development and Research? That the matter was brought to the surface on April 18 in the Sunday Edition of *The Island* having a front page splash AWARDS OF TENDERS WITHOUT APPROVAL; CABINET SUB-COMMITTEE TO PROBE MINISTRY SECRETARY? That the report read: "For the first time in the history of the country a Cabinet sub-committee has been appointed to probe the actions of a powerful Secretary of a key Ministry. *The Island* understands that this sub-committee comprising President J. R. Jayewardene, Prime Minister R. Premadasa and Minister of Public Administration Major Monty Jayawickrema will probe allegations that the Secretary concerned had awarded tenders worth over rupees five million even before Cabinet sanction had been obtained. One of the allegations made is that he had awarded a tender without even informing his Minister. The appointment of the Sub-Committee to probe allegations against the Ministry Secretary is one of a series of measures recently taken by the government against malpractices and corruption. It is understood that the government wished to probe allegations made against senior officials and politicians as soon as possible. Already an inquiry is being conducted by the Principal Collector of Customs into an alleged attempt by a hill country politician to smuggle goods estimated at rupees two million into the country". That the *Weekend* played the story differently with the headline: THAT TENDER CRISIS: CABINET TEAM TO HEAR MINISTER'S CASE. That the report read: "A three-member Cabinet team headed by President J. R. Jayewardene, will hear the case of the Minister who has been found fault with for allegedly circumventing tender procedures in regard to two multi-million rupee deals. The other members are Prime Minister Mr. R. Premadasa and Minister of Public Administration and Minister of Plantation Industries, Major Montague Jayawickrema, who are the most senior among Ministers. The Cabinet team, it is learnt, has been picked after the Minister in question wrote to President Jayewardene setting out his own position in regard to allegations against him. He is said to have blamed his own Ministry Secretary for the lapses he (the Minister) had been found fault with. This matter is learnt to have later figured at the last Ministerial meeting, where the Minister concerned had reiterated his charges against the Secretary. According to highly placed government sources, the Cabinet team will go into in detail the allegations against the Minister and the charges he has made against his own Secretary. The Secretary

too is to be called upon to appear before the team. The *Weekend* in its issue last Sunday exclusively reported how a high ranking Government official assigned to probe two multi-million rupee transactions of a Ministry found fault with the Minister for allegedly circumventing procedures. He was personally assigned by President J. R. Jayewardene for the probe. In his report to President Jayewardene, the official is learnt to have alleged that the Minister circumvented procedures and committed other alleged irregularities that favoured parties who were not the lowest tenderers for two multi-million rupee projects".?

That whilst *The Island* sought to give impression that the Sub-Committee was set up to probe the Secretary, the *Weekend* story seemed to suggest that the Cabinet sub-committee had been set up to examine the Minister's defence against "findings" by another Inquiring body? That the Minister's defence was that his Secretary was responsible for everything? That this attempt to pass the baby on to the Secretary has, it is learnt, brought forth a series of charges and allegations against the Minister? That even before the inquiry by the high-powered Committee gets under way (expected to start on April 28) the decks are being cleared for the battle? That the *Sun* and the *Daily News* reported last Friday and Saturday respectively that the Additional Secretary to the Minister, Mr. Kunasingham, had been suspended from work and sent to the "pool" by the President's Secretariat? That the popular gossip is that Mr. Kunasingham was the Minister's man in the battle royal that has begun in real earnest? That *The Island* on Sunday, 25th April had a frontpage banner splash RANJAN WIJERATNE SENT ON COMPULSORY LEAVE that read: "The Secretary to the Ministry of Agricultural Development and Research, Ranjan Wijeratne, has been sent on compulsory leave..." following an order made by the President," *The Sun* on Monday, April 26, under the headline RANJAN'S NAME NOT ON LIST of officials authorised to obtain keys of the Ministry of Agricultural Development and Research, from the Kollupitiya Police. That on Tuesday April 27 the President's office issued a special press release that the information published in "certain newspapers" that Ranjan Wijeratne had been sent on compulsory leave was "incorrect" and that he would continue to function in the same capacity as Secretary until the President decided otherwise? That political observers regard this as a "slap in the face" of E. L. Senanayake and an even bigger blow at the credibility of *The Island*?

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"WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY POSTER COMPETITION"

Conducted by the Coast Conservation Division of the Ministry of Fisheries, National Youth Services Council and the Ministry of Education.

Theme :

Poster should be prepared on the following themes:

- Environmental impact of Coastal Erosion.
- Removal of Coral and Sand from Coastal Areas.
- Destruction of Coastal Vegetation.
- Impact of structures sited on the coastline.
- Discharge of effluents into coastal waters.
- Beach pollution.
- Importance of Scenic Coastal Areas.

Grouping of Contestants :

Group A. : School Children below 17 years of age,
on 14th May, 1982.

Group B. : Persons between 17-30 years of age.
(Residents of Coastal Districts are eligible to compete.)

THE CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES IS 14TH MAY 1982.

PRIZES

Group A

Parcels of Books to the value of Rs. 1,000/- Rs. 500/- and Rs. 250/- will be awarded as 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize respectively. In addition certificates will be awarded to the competitors whose entries are awarded the first 10 places.

Group B

Cash, Awards of Rs. 2,000/- Rs. 1500/- and Rs. 1,000/- will be awarded as 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize respectively. In addition 10 consolation prizes of Rs. 100/- each will be awarded on those adjudged as the 10 best entries.

Certificates will be also awarded to the 5 best entries from each district

Arrangements will be made to print the 10 best entries under each category. Winning entries will be exhibited at the exhibition to be held in Colombo on 05th June 1982 in connection with the "WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY."

Coast Conservation Division,
69, Horton Place,
Colombo 7.

ANURA WEERARATNE
Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries.