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The
Senanayake
Affair

Agricultural
Digest

INSIDE — SPORTSCOPE SPECIAL

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

THE E. L. SENANAYAKE AFFAIR will go down to history as a special kind of time bomb destined to burst not once but several times. The UNP High Command had the opportunity to defuse it by principled action but it has refused to do it. Why? *Migara* in the *Weekend* of May 9 in his column *Men and Matters* in a scintillating piece entitled TENDER START TO ANTI-CORRUPTION AS TWO SENIOR CABINET MINISTERS SWAP PORTFOLIOS concluded his account of the much talked of episode thus: "The public are still talking of the Cat in the hat and the official statement—which had only two paragraphs directly with the tender awards. Was it that the Opposition was scoring more points in such an exercise as this? Were they going round the country saying, 'See, did we not say the Government is corrupt and whipping anti-government feelings? It was certainly a delicate case and we are left with the feeling that despite irregularities in tender awards, the Minister, a staunch UNPer who flew down once in 1964 from London to vote in Parliament against the then Press Council Bill which ultimately defeated Mrs. Perdoneraike's Coalition Government by one vote, was not going to be sacrificed for the Opposition to make a hue and cry about. His political clout seems to be still recognized by the leadership as that of a heavyweight. In 1980 then Minister of Plantations Industries M. D. H. Jayewardene, a founder member of the UNP and Party Secretary for 16 years, was virtually sacked within 24 hours of making a critical speech on the Budget in Parliament. But as far as E. L. Senanayake goes it was probably felt that they could not go to Kandy without his support. In contrast." Secretary Ranjan Wijeyeratne, against whom the Cabinet sub-committee consisting of the President, the Prime Minister and the Minister of Plantations, did not propose to take any action, submitted his resignation probably because some of his actions had been questioned by E. L. Senanayake. In regard to the "dispute between the Minister and his Secretary," *Migara* stated: "The Ministry of Agricultural Development and Research, a once mighty empire, a once powerful and vital ministry, has now been reduced to almost an empty shell. Since 1978, it first lost the subject of Lands and thereby the Land Commissioners, Survey and Forest Departments, the Timber Corporation, then it was the National Milk Board, the Livestock Board and most recently the Fertilizer Corporation. It gained nothing in the process. Infighting became the order of the day with the UNP Minister and his UNP Secretary, both ex-planters, neither knowing administrative procedures at each other's throat. Secretary Ranjan Wijeyeratne had met President Jayewardene and tendered his resignation. He has been kept as Chairman of the Agricultural Development Authority but his intimation during the crisis to President Jayewardene that he wishes to work under him might mean a look at the post of Secretary/Chairman of the State Plantation Corporation which comes directly under President Jayewardene. **The public has been led to believe that no blame attaches to Secretary Ranjan Wijeyeratne because the Ministerial sub-committee had proposed to take no action against him. He had resigned on his own.** Minister Senanayake had at no time offered to resign as he should have done. Ministers in other countries have resigned because of allegations of misdemeanours far less serious than those made against E. L. Senanayake. Every time such allegations arose, his Ministry had been deprived of important functions. And now he has been transferred to a junior post. The Cabinet sub-committee has only transferred the Sword of Damocles dangerously poised over E. L. Senanayake's neck to hang permanently over the UNP in a fateful election year. The picture on the cover is a devil breathing fire. The UNP seems anxious to conjure as may such political devils as possible against itself before the election campaign gets going. —*Postscript* **SINCE THIS NOTE WAS WRITTEN E. L. SENANAYAKE HAS RESIGNED, MORE NEXT WEEK.**

The Senanayake Affair

THE ATTEMPT to transform the threatened storm in the Ministry of Agricultural Development and Research into a farcical spillover in a tea cup has not added to the Government's credibility. The public will find it difficult to reconcile the holier-than-you statements and communiques stating that no charge of "corruption" has been established and that whoever was suspect had been "exonerated with the switch in Ministerial functions. **If Minister E. L. Senanayake was not guilty of corruption, or misjudgement or even a mistake, in the award of tenders, then he should have been permitted to continue in the same Ministry.**

Migara in the *Weekend* of May 8 pointed out: "..... Now it has been confirmed that mistakes have been made. That in the Ministry of Agricultural Development and Research the proper procedures laid down were not followed. Who should take the rap for all this? Is it the Minister or the Secretary or who? Sir Ivor Jennings QC, who was probably Minister E. L. Senanayake's principal when he was an undergrad at University College, stated in one of his books on Ministerial Control that; 'It must be remembered that Ministers are not professional administrators. Some, the late Viscount Snowden, became good administrators. Others of whom John Bright was the outstanding example—never learn. He said that decisions of officials even those which cannot be put to him and are decided by the very senior officials are the decisions of the Minister and he cannot subsequently repudiate them. **Even if, according to the sub-committee there were no allegations, or no evidence of corruption, isn't the improper following of tender procedures a serious thing? In the absence of the sub-committee stating as to who should have taken the responsibility, it is still an unanswered question as to who in a Ministry must take the final responsibility. It surely is a serious matter, for if it was not there would have been no need to remove Minister E. L. Senanayake from Agricultural Development and Research and urgently bring back Gamani Jayasuriya and appoint him to that portfolio. Such things are not defined in the law or in any code of conduct.**"

Migara had summed up the content of the Government's position thus: "The statement that was released confirmed that there were irregularities in implementing tender procedures. It said, 'certain procedure laid down by the Cabinet had not been followed nor had Cabinet approval been obtained for some of the tenders that were awarded. No allegations of corruption had been made nor was

there any evidence of corruption, the statement also added. But down the line, it also stated that the President announced that proposals were being considered with regard to the declaration of assets being made public and for stricter and wider investigations by the Bribery Commission and the removal of any restrictions on the investigations against MPs. In the last paragraph, it was stated that several other measures to ensure that those in public life elected, as well as selected, would not find it advantageous to do their public duties for unauthorised fee or reward are being considered. What was in the last paragraph mentioned? What many were asking was whether this paragraph was a direct reference to the sub-committee inquiry, for it could not have been more rhetoric on corruption or a means of justification of all that good publicity the UNP working committee and government parliamentary group got for fighting corruption...."

The official line was put forward in the *Ceylon Daily News* of May 10 by its political commentator *Insider* in his column A LOOK AT POLITICS: "E. L. Senanayake has given 40 years of his life to politics and with it a very large part of his fortune. Once, rated among the most affluent in the political landscape, politics, particularly elections took heavy toll of his assets, which included some of the finest estates up-country. Though the Opposition thirsted for his blood and rumour had it that he would be axed, the former Agriculture Minister was found not guilty of corruption by a high-voltage Committee comprising President J. R. Jayewardene, Prime Minister R. Premadasa and Minister Monty Jayawickrema. He is therefore, in the clear. While this rings the curtain down on the Senanayake affair, it does not call curtains to the anti-corruption drive. Instead, it heralds a new beginning to government's clean-up. Legislation is being drafted not only enforcing the baring of assets of Cabinet Ministers, MPs, Administrative Officers, Corporation Heads etc., but also of the officials of Political Parties. Even more important they will be made available for public scrutiny...."

The rhetoric assuring the public that everything was being done to start a campaign against "corruption" is looked on with scepticism even by ardent supporters of the Government. And to the Opposition, the E. L. Senanayake affair has provided a major talking point to base their election propaganda. *Insider* thinks that the curtain has been rung down on the Senanayake affair. But he is wrong, especially when it is known, through inspired and uninspired leaks that a detailed inquiry by a very senior bureaucrat had found that "mistakes" and "irregularities" verging on corruption (if not, actual corruption) had tainted the tenders under investigation. Was the high-powered Ministerial sub-committee a Court of Appeal or merely a Conciliation Committee to defuse the hue and cry against E. L. Senanayake by transferring him to a junior post with a certificate of "non-proven?"

Nature's Marauder

By K. Kanapathipillai

What man in Sri Lanka appears to have blinked and lost sight of is this very pertinent and blatant fact as regards the evolution of the scenery of this beautiful, emerald Isle. The harmonious adjustment of animal life including man to plant microcommunities is fast going out of gear, and out of focus. Why have our scientists and our leaders lost sight of this very important subject? The landscape in Sri Lanka, whether it be the hill zone, the luscious wet zone, the low country, the dry zone jungles or the coastal dunes, is almost imperceptibly degrading into a condition of "green desert". What was once a luxurious rain-forest has been thinned and picked and stolen and rendered bleak, and that which was of yore a very useful timber reserve: the dry zone Monsoon Forest is being reduced by man, both in the private sector and even in the public sector, to the status of a "thorn scrub jungle" with just a sprinkling of trees. The coastal mangrove swamps and what has been ecologically styled as "mini coastal biomes" and luscious mangrove vegetation have been invaded by jungle marauders and timber pilferers, and reduced into stark naked swamps completely shorn of their vegetation cover and affected by a dwindling rainfall, turned into "bsked mud flats".

The littoral "biomes" that are popularly known as "coral deposits" are being dug out and the landscape converted into holes and pits, to provide the "coral stones" that form the raw materials of the lime kilns under the management of our "lime mudalalis" who mostly hail from the south-west coastal region. They have turned out to be very powerful "coral kings", and have of recent times been settled permanently in the Eastern coastal belt, especially at Kaluvankerni, Mankerni, Vaharai and Punnaikudah, in the Kalkudah Electorate. This tendency on the part of man, greedy marauder that he is, to fell, to cut, to dig and exploit Nature's wealth has assumed alarming proportions. The "coral king" has been at this destructive form of exploration, assisted and fed and nourished in his predatory activity by the East Coast-Kaluvankerni-Mankerni Veddah community.

VEDDAH LABOUR in these parts is very cheap; and the veddah labour-Mudalali bond is so tight that the latter has, more often than not, assumed the status of a tyrannical monitor with unseen but deeply felt powers. There was once an instance—blood curdling—when to wreak his vengeance on a veddah worker in a coral pit who refused to work and asked for a higher pay, the employer mudalali plucked the veddah child from its mother and butchered

it before the very eyes of the mother. The supreme court case failed for want of coherent evidence from aggrieved party. Now the term "destructive exploitation" appears to gather meaning. The veddah people—a pristine race of coastal settlers perhaps as old as Adam—have been exploited by a group of money-hungry, greedy marauders. The Mankerni coastal veddahs have been severely exploited morally, physically and economically. Aren't they part and parcel of the East Coast Biome? Why then suffer them to be exploited by more recent arrivals? A pertinent question: isn't it? veddahs' native homeland has been invaded; their pristine biome disrupted. The coastal belt of coral deposits has been so disastrously dug out as to render the coast—that was once so firm, so regular—irregular and frayed and dangerously exposed to the fury of the wave and tidal action. In short there is a noticeable change in the scenery. The sea is fast eroding the coastal features. And the rate at which this is taking place is very rapid and almost alarming.

APART FROM THIS there is another precious activity of man. The coastal sand dune formation that runs all round the Island, especially along the East coast up to a width of a couple of miles or even more, has been invaded by those who pilfer the sand for building purposes. It is becoming increasingly patent that in these two respects, namely, coral mining and the excavation of and, the ill effects on the coastal landscape are so rapid that the time won't be far when the sea will have invaded, the interior lagoons, "liwayas" and "Kalapuwas" and swamps and alluvial flats and tongues, and completely obliterated the broad belt of sand that today, has become the only habitable land and the water catchment zone for holding, ponding up and storing a perennial supply of wholesome underground water—the only source of drinking water in these parts. Very soon this dune formation is prone to lose its storehouse of water, and consequently the coastal coconut belt is likely to be deprived of its spongy capacity to hold water for beast and man and vegetation. To accelerate the devastation made by man in the coastal sand dune formation there is another area of man's activity where man has turned out to be the worst offender. It is the zone of mangrove vegetation and Typha reed swamps that form a regular fringe along the coast, and a regular landscape feature. It won't be far too wrong to conjecture that nature, the kind mother that she invariably is, must have taken several thousand years to help evolve the type of scenery that is the characteristic feature of the Eastern coastal strip. The ecological balance, that is to say, the harmonious evolution of the "Kalupaws" the "liwayas", the "Upparus", the Mangrove swamps, the alluvial flats, and fresh water marshes is being recklessly and relentlessly disturbed by man, the exploiter. The mangrove vegetation, it will have to be reasonably surmised, forms a perfect subsoil network and mesh of roots that

bind the lush and slushy substratum and render it firm and deeply set; and often it becomes an impervious sub-soil dam thereby defying any kind of wave erosion and the draining of fresh water into the sea.

Besides the mangrove vegetation forms a very useful and important link in the chain of events that have helped evolve the characteristic coastal scenery of a succession of sand dunes, mangrove swamps, fresh water swamps, mud flats, alluvial fans and paddy lands. It would appear that if this succession of natural events were to be clashed and broken and ravaged, the overall outcome might spell irretrievably disastrous. In short the microcommunities where both animal life and plant life mix and mingle and interlock and mortise might get disturbed and the ensuing result might be a disrupted and broken coastline that would soon become vulnerable to the ravages of the waves and currents and tides. The dynamics of the community might then be in a condition of recession.

In the ultimate analysis it would be found that there will soon emerge such harmful indicators as a frayed coast and a fast receding and deteriorating change not only in the physical features but in the biotic factors that nature had taken several thousand years to build up. The ill effects on the climate and the harmonious biome balance and even physical features might prove to be shatteringly cataclysmic, and it might dawn upon thinking man that he is digging his own grave. It won't be far too wrong to conjecture that the mangrove swamps have been the home—the biome—of two of our very useful plants; the mainstay of our livelihood—the swamp rice and the coconut palm. There is sufficient morphological evidence in support of this statement. Long before man started making use of them and cultivating them they must have been cradled in the mangrove swamps in the dim past. It is therefore absolutely necessary for man, the marauder, in Sri Lanka to think and act. Let this action be meaningful. Let him not mar and despoil the salubrious climate that obtains in Sri Lanka and that has taken several thousand years to evolve, and has contributed to the evolution of a suitable, rich and useful human environment.

52, Nalliah Road,
Batticaloa.



TASTE OF PARADISE

Political Trends

By Jayantha Somasundram

ALL's FAIR in love, war and politics. Alignments are only a matter of convenience. And loyalties

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subject to expediency. Blood may be thicker than water, but opportunism is a lot thicker. And in the past few weeks we have a lot of summersaults on the political stage. Upali Wijewardene looks as if he is going to make it for the title "poor little rich boy of the year". Cousin J. R. Jayewardene seems to have no further use for him. Upali has shot himself out of the UNP. The Morning Star of the UNP whom every political bookmaker was priming for the presidency, if not at least the Finance portfolio, is now out of the political race as far as the grand old party is concerned. The whiz kid of the UNP now seems to be casting himself in a fresh role: that of plastic surgeon of the SLFP. He has changed horses in mid-stream. One wonders whether this is merely the result of the brush-off from the UNP or is it motivated by a shrewder assessment of the SLFP's chances at the polls?

In search of a new pasture Wijewardene has thrown in his lot with his wife's aunt, Mr. Bandaranaike. She for her part is endeavouring steadily broadening her base with an eye on the elections. The return of the prodigal son, Anura, had seemed merely a matter of time. One wonders the Biblical parallel will prevail with Maithripala Senanayake being the fatted calf and Hector Kobbekaduwa sulking away like the loyal-now-slighted son? Equally important, Mrs. Bandaranaike is now seeking to broaden her base on her left. The alliance with the Anil Moonesinghe group and the Maoist groups are both significant. At first glance it seems hard to figure out a strategic political alliance of Marxists and Maoists with a political party that since 1974 has been dominated by Anura Bandaranaike and Felix Dias. Even the LSSP and the CP felt more at home with the "liberal bourgeois" Maithripala group.

THE ANIL MOONESINGHE phenomenon can only be explained as a further proof of the long co-existence within the LSSP of radical and reformist tendencies. Forty years ago the polarity was etched out in the bifurcation of the LSSP into a radical Bolshevik Leninist group led by Colvin and Leslie and a reformist mainstream headed by Philip and NM. Separated by intervals of a decade each, first Philip Gunawardene, then N. M. Perera and finally Anil Moonesinghe have led three different generations of reformist-Socialists into political alliances with the SLFP. Under N. M. Perera reformism was the dominant tendency and the radicals had to find shelter outside the party, first Bala Tampoe and Edmund Samarakody in the sixties, then Vickremabahu Karunaratne and Vasudeva Nanayakkara in the seventies. With the capitulation to parliamentary politics in 1960, Anil Moonesinghe, the ranking goigama-Sinhala-Buddhist in the party was identified as heir apparent to N. M. Perera. Maoism in Sri Lanka has often been the radical expression of an inherently reactionary Sinhala Buddhist youth movement. Many of them have had no difficulty in being part of the SLFP

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even in the early seventies when Mrs. Bandaranaike had no option but to trade their freedom to buy the loyalty of the police. The JVP's base and origins were Maoist. Yet they "preached" an anti-working class, anti-minority brand of "socialism". They were in fact giving expression to the latent fears of large numbers of conservative Sinhala Buddhist youth whose real preoccupation are the North-Tamil middle class and the upcountry Tamil workers. The anri-Indianism of the Maoists have given them identity. Having failed to put the SLFP out of business by depriving Mrs. Bandaranaike of her civic rights and encouraging the Maithripala Senanayake faction, J. R. Jayewardene is out hunting again. One wonders how much success he will have with the TULF.

LETTERS

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A Further Open Letter

Dear Mr. Wickremasinghe,

I have read your letter to the Editor on "Tamil Films" in the *Tribune* of the 10th April 1982 where you have referred to a statement made by me in my open letter to you dated 25.02.1982 which was published in the *Tribune* of the 13th March 1982. You have attempted to give the impression that my statement "you do not have a single Tamil imported film in hand, and according to the information I have had, the chance of even a few films trickling in the near future is also far from remote" was either not true or inaccurate, but I do wish to reiterate that as at the 25th February 1982, my statement was perfectly true. From the 1st January to the 25th February 1982 you had released only 3 Tamil films—POONTHALIR on 14.01.1982—ULLASA PARAVAIGAL on 29.01.1982—and THANI MARAM on 12.02.1982. The position then was hopelessly bad, and your own Operations Division has expressed the same view. **However thereafter there seems to have been a slight improvement in the situation, and on the date of your letter 26.03.82 you released NATCHATHIRAM, which was a flop in India followed by POLLATHAVAN being released on 02.04.1982, and THILLU MULLU being released on 10.04.1982. Thus from the 1st January to the 10th April 1982 you have released on 6 Tamil films as against 16 new English films being released during the same period!**

I UNDERSTAND that there are about 95 cinemas dependent solely on the screening of Tamil films, and that there are almost another 95 cinemas which have to cater to a preponderance of Tamil speaking people in this country, but your Corporation released only 15 Tamil films with 3 prints for each film in 1978—only a meagre 8 Tamil films with 3 prints for each film in 1979. It released only 15 Tamil films with 3

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prints for each film in 1980, and it released only 26 Tamil films in 1981. I believe the number of prints of Tamil releases was increased from 3 to 5 sometime in 1981. During the last 4 years you have released only 64 Tamil (imported) films as against a steady flow of almost 125 English pictures every year'. Could you call this a fair and equitable system of film distribution to the large number of cinemas in this country who are dependant on you for their supply of Tamil films? Could you call this state of affairs a perennial supply or just a trickle of Tamil films every year? From your letter under reference I have inferred that instead of increasing the number of Tamil releases, your Tamil Films Purchasing Delegation has selected only 22 films for release this year!

In your letter you have stated that your delegates Dr. K. S. Nadarajah and Mrs. Lakshmana Iyer having scrutinised over 100 synopsis chose 45 films for viewing at Madras from which they selected only 22 films! And it is indeed bewildering that after all this laborious process that have left out the block busters like URUMAI KURAL, INDRU POL ENDRUM VALHA, ARDU PULI ARTAM, THAI ILLAMAL NAAM ILLAI, RAM LATCHUMAN, SAVAL, SIVAPPU ROJAKEL, 16 VAIATHUNILAI ROJAPU RAVIKAIKARI, ATTUKARA ALAMELU, ORU THALAI RAHAM, ANNAI OOR ALAYAM, KILLEKE POHUM RAIL, SATTAM ORU IRUTARAI, UCHA KATTAM, INDRU POI NALAI VAH, THIRU SULAM, ANNAN ORU KOIL and THIAGAM. Isn't the performances of your delegation like the mountain which laboured and brought forth a mouse? As you know South India on an average produces about 150 Tamil films a year from which about 50 films prove their mettle at the box office. It is therefore surprising that your delegation which up to now has been the sole bidder for the Sri Lankan market has been unable to select at least 35 of the best films from the 50 good films South India has to offer every year! **Although your delegates have failed to strike at the best films, you have not used your powers under section 57 (1) of Act No. 47 of 1971, and allowed those who are capable of importing the best films to import them for you!**

In regard to my proposal that the best Tamil films should in the first instance be viewed over the video cassette by a committee of Corporation officials and Tamil film exhibitors, you have stated that "there appears to be certain technical difficulties at the Madras end". I am sure the Tamil film going public in Sri Lanka would like to know the nature of the technical problems encountered by you so that they could assist you to solve them, and thereby ensure that they could see at least a limited number of the best Tamil films.

Asoka David.

Asoka Cinema,
Puttalam,
12.04.1982.

Tamil Films

Sir,

Mr. Anton Wickremasinghe in his letter of 26th March 1982 to Mr. Aśoka David published in your issue of 10th April 1982 states that the NFC has received eight new Tamil films for this year. But these films did not last even four weeks in a theatre; thereby theatres like Samantha, Capitol, in Colombo, Lido, Raja, Wellington, Ramee, Regal, Shanthy, Mahohara Jaffna, Rajeswaran in Batticoloa, have to screen old films for the New Year. The plight of the other small theatres were worse. But some of the above theatre owners, who had new prints of their old films, were able to screen them in their theatres and collect 90% of the collection for them. This advantage is not available to Mahohara Jaffna, Rajeswara Batticoloa or to Mekala Thambiluvil. In a dharmista society we live, with free trade policy, why should certain theatres not have the facility of screening some films like this when the NFC is unable to provide suitable films. And why should we depend on Dr. K. S. Nadarajah who says the film *Oru Thalai Ragam* wont be a success in Sri Lanka and that is why they did not buy the film. When this film in Video—TV—Mini Theatre runs for full houses in the Northern and Eastern provinces, for the last two years. Why should we theatre owners, who know what type of film we require for our cinema depend on scholars like Dr. K. S. Nadarajah and Mrs. Laxman Lyer, to select, *Poonthalir, Avan Aval Athu, Neela Malargal, Noolveli, Thanimaram, Natchathiram, Pollathavan, Dharmayuttham, Annaparavai* and re-issue like *Raja Veetu Pillai* and *Muthu Chippi*? We want films that will have at least a week houseful shows in a theatre at Chenkaladi or Mullaitivu. We small theatre owners also, have to earn money, because we have invested hard cash, and expect to earn our bread and butter from this business.

We are also facing competition from Rupavahini which shows one Tamil film a week and close our theatres on that day. When the Video—TV—mini Theatres which screened the film *Va Kanna Va* which was released in Madras on the 12th of February, here on the 7th of February 1982 in a Mini cinema, 5 days before the release of the film in India. We can face the competition from the Video—TV—Cinemas, and even the Rupavahini, if the Chairman, State Film Corporation under Section 57 (1) of 1971, allows us, the registered theatre owners to import and give the NFC the Tamil films required by them for distribution. Once this is allowed as the Hon. Jt. Secretary of the Film Exhibitors' Association, an association with more than 160 members and older than the S.F.C. assures the following to the Tamil Film audience and to the N.F.C. (1) We will provide about 40 new films with 5 copies each, and if the film is successful like *Guru*, we will give you an additional 2 prints before the 100th day of the film, (2) make available

another, 40 re-issues which has the potential for repeated run, with 3 or more prints to last till your last theatre on the precedence list; (3) we will guarantee you better quality films for lesser amount than what you have spent so far, that means you will gross more locally, (4) we will always have five new films in stock in Sri Lanka for you; (5) For all this we do not want any share of profit from you but pay us a handling charge of a reasonable percentage of the price you pay for each film; (6) The Chairman has used his power under Section 57 (1) of Act 47 of 1971 to help New Olympia Ruby Theatre, please why not help the small Theatre owners also? The handling charges paid to us will be definitely less than that the NFC officials and selecting teams spend on their trips to India.

T. Namasivayam.

45, Fussels Lane,
Colombo 6.
14th April 1982.

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NGUVU

The Week

By Bwana Fafiki

THE EVENTS recorded in each article of this series usually start in Colombo. It was 4 a.m. when I got to bed, changed and under a mosquito net, but I was not altogether without sleep. It was just that I was just too weary to get up whenever I awoke while resting dressed on my bed, the lights turned on, bitten now and again by mosquitoes. Then I hauled myself out of bed, found water in the bath and had one, wrote last page of last week's *Nguvu* and read further in the three books I had put out on my writing desk before I had even gone to dinner. The books were first, the Chapter on heaven in the Problem of Pain by C. S. Lewis, then further into the chapter on the Long Trek in South Africa in the novel by Francis Bret Young, and lastly for really light reading the bloody exploits of the Commandos in the last war. That morning, the Labour Tribunal, and twelve articles of *Nguvu*. Well, I read through the twelve typed articles at the *Tribune* office on my back from the Tribunal, what had been seventy-two hand-written pages of them, three months' work, and I read them to correct mistakes in the typing if there were any. Walking back to my father's house, I had walked to the Tribunal, I was given a lift by the man whom I always regarded as my best friend at my last school and told him that my last two crops of coconuts were still on the ground unhusked and not yet collected by the buyers. He told me to telephone someone in his firm. The earlier crop, the 5th, has now been picked three and a half months and the later crop, the 6th, a month and a half.

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NEXT MORNING the day I should be writing about now, I took steps to renew my passport which has expired two days before, and also ask the Colombo Kachcheri what was the trouble about issuing us with a new gun licence. I found I had failed to collect the licence of the previous year. This licence I had looked for high and low in the course of last year forgetting I had not brought it away with me when I had renewed the old licence. In fact I seemed even to remember filing it, but in this my memory was obviously at fault for the licence as I have said was lying in the Kachcheri all the time as we discovered at what was virtually zero hour for me through the brightness of one of the subordinate clerical staff. It was tucked away in a file of its own and the wonder is that it had survived safely more than twelve months. Enough on this. I must remember now to collect my passport tomorrow. I interrupted this to look through some papers at the ready in a drawer in my desk all of which have to be attended to urgently. As for yesterday, I drew up February's balance wages. I have someone to help me with them now. The cad-jans on the former superintendent's house, that is the roof, are being replaced. The fourth day, as is usually the case, was spent on the estate, and this was the day, I was going to say, did the balance wages, which was not so, and in fact I usually return to Colombo on this day. So I am thoroughly mixed up as you can see. There was one resolve thoroughly fixed in my mind, and that was I must have an outing on the water back in Colombo. It depended on my getting away from here, for I am now back on the estate, earlier than I usually do. The drawing up of the balance wages had been done. I had now to balance my books, as the saying goes, with the cash I had, by calling in the receipts and cash balances of the money I had handed out, to the *k.g.* in this case. There were also the weekly cash advances, the list of them, to be made out for money for these advances to be brought from Colombo. In short, I had to prepare the requisitions for each estate. Once in Colombo, I had the outing I was hoping for, and I spent the rest of the evening.

THIS PARAGRAPH I write in a strange house while sitting on a mat placed over a mattress on the floor, the writing paper on a low table which has a heavy bottle lamp on it, the table over one knee the other knee sticking out and bearing the weight of the elbow of the hand with which I write. The time is past midnight and I have just got up from a sleep. I preferred this to trying to write before I slept. I write undisturbed by the strangeness of the house, for I am susceptible to atmospheres, as my host is lying on a bed in the same room. So I write now about two days ago, about what happened then. I have been hounded from pillar to post by no money when I have had to pay out thousands each week, and God had seen me through. He saw me through about the day on which I write, or rather on the day about which I write. The 5th crop has been husked

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but not removed. The buyers did not turn up the next day as they had said they would do. That was Saturday, the last day about which I write. I waited on the estate for them. We counted all the coconuts their huskers had not husked. Those on my Father's estate were somewhat small and so the huskers might have had some excuse off leaving them, but the coconuts not husked on my estate were large ones. The percentage of unhusked coconuts on each estate amounted to nearly twenty per cent, this without all the sorting that goes on when the husked nuts are loaded on the lorry. If the buyer had kept to his contract, which stipulates removal of coconuts within a month of the contract, not nearly so many nuts would have dried out in the intensely hot and dry weather that we have had for over two months. The buyer had turned up with a lorry on Friday evening without his receipt book.

7. 3. 82



FILM FOCUS

Akira Karusowa

Going by a very recent news item, it should be a matter of pride for Sri Lanka that Director Lester James Pieris has been rated as among the five best cine creators in the world. And in this small galaxy, the Japanese Director Akira Karusowa too holds pride of place as one who created brilliant films, such as *Rashoman*, *Living*, *Seven Samurai*, *The Lower Depths*, *Throne of Blood*, *The Hidden Fortress*, *High and Low*, *Red Beard* and the most recent release *Kagemusha* to win international acclaim. Most of these films were ground to the traditions and the historical background of the land of the Rising Sun. The scoring point in these films were the technical finesse, more than the stories, and tailor made to elevated cinematic tastes. In our country the box office has not bended appreciably to these films as much as the brilliant "Baddegama" would not stimulate Japanese audiences, by the relative milieu, the dialogue, difference and the sub-titles that strain these films. However, it would be of immense benefit for *Tribune* readers to be aware of the background that gave birth to a great director like Karusowa. "Born in 1910, he was the youngest of seven children, displaying a talent for painting at an early age. Failing to earn a living as a commercial artist, he responded in 1936 to a film studio advertisement for Assistant Directors, and after passing a strenuous test, he was assigned to assist Director Kajira Yamamoto. By 1941, he was writing script and directing whole sequences for Yamamoto films. In 1943, he made his debut as a Director, with *Judo Saga*, revealing his attributes from the start as a highly skilful craftsman, with an eye for beauty and a knack for economy expression. Karusowa is acknowledged today as a man for all genres, all periods and all places, bringing to his work the traditional and the modern, the old and the new, with a fusion

of cultures from the East and the West. His periodic dramas have a contemporary significances, and like his modern themes, are typified by a compassion for their characters, a deep humanism that mitigates the violence that often surrounds them, and a concern for the ambiguity of human existence. He is today the most familiar to Western audiences among Japanese Directors. It was his film *Rashoman* that introduced to the West, the wealth of Japanese cinema by winning a top prize at the 1951 Vienna Film Festival. This powerful study in ambiguity, rich in symbolism and psychological insights not only opened the Western screens to many subsequent Japanese productions, but directly inspired, American remarks—the motion picture “The Outrie” starring Paul Newman and a feature length TV production with actor Ricardo Montalbon. It is also accepted that the Westerns *The Magnificent Seven* (American) and *A Fistful of Dollars* (Italian) were pirated from Karusowa’s *Yojimbo*. Karusowa has edited mostly all his films and collaborated in the scripts of most. Powerfully expressive and highly versatile, a master craftsman and a virtuous stylist, Karusowa continues to hold his position as one of the world’s greatest living Directors. His recent release in Sri Lanka *Kagenusha*, for this film so brilliantly exposed the outstanding creation of a Master, at work, in the making of a rich and perfect film.

KAGENUSHA (English sub-titles): This International version of Karusowa’s expensive production, has been compiled with the co-operation of Directors Francis Ford Coppola and George Lucos and released by 20th Century Fox, studios. Since it is the technical excellence of this film that runs like a silver thread more than the story, let us examine these highlights and then move on to the story, steeped perhaps in Japanese folklore or history. The camera effects are stupendous as it sweeps over a myriad of sharp colours merging effortlessly into each other, to capture particularly the battle scenes and cavalry charges, where every moment surfaces the mood of the devastating bloodbath. It is a rare visual feast for the eyes, so seldom portrayed to such heights in Western films. The sound effects too synchronise to perfection, infusing doses of realism into a tale that could have trotted off the pen of an Aesop, even with pretensions steeped deep in Japanese history. *Kagenusha* is the costliest production in the history of Japanese films to date, earning very deservedly a Grand Prize at the Cannes Film Festival in 1980. The story depicts the rather strange life of a condemned chief, who is rescued from the gallows, because of his uncanny resemblance to a 16th Century Warlord Shingen Takeoe, who is at death’s door, which news had to be kept away from the enemy due to tactical reasons. He dies eventually, but his double, a petty criminal, gradually acquires the stature of a great leader, commanding the allegiance of 25,000 soldiers, before he is unmasked and humiliated. A three hour film, which nevertheless does not lose its lustre

by its length, it is recommended without any reservations for discerning movigoers, equipped with high cinematic tastes.

AYACHANA (Sinhalese): Directed by Milton Jayawardena, this short crispy film brings together an unusual triangle—a middle aged husband (Upali Attanayake), a much younger wife (Vasanti Chaturani) and a nautical—not naughty—nephew (Ananda Wickremage), who get embroiled in varying situations that converge to adultery, incest, illegitimacy and suicide in that order. These embarrassing sequences flow into each other to dish out fare that could not be anything else but “Adult” but unfortunately released for general viewing. That there could be no unhappiness in family life, than the pangs and longings of a childless mother is the central theme around which the story relates, with a far fetched panacea being offered as a solution to the depressing situation, driving one of the trio, at sexual sixes and sevens to an early grave. This adult fare is being lapped up by all ages, together with the confused little ones, which could scar them morally for life. The discomfiture of three Catholic Nuns who had picked on this film with more mundane expectations perhaps by the Christian background to the story, indicated the embarrassment that was thrust on them by careless censorship. In a society, that stands for healthy family relationships by and large, as in our country, this film strains against the grain. Recommended for mature audiences only, although the Public Performance Board had not so indicated.

JAMES N. BENEDICT.

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TRIBUNE, MAY, 15, 1982

April 25 - May 1

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; *IDPR*—Information Dept. Press Release.

SUNDAY, APRIL 25: Mr. Ronnie de Mel, Minister of Finance and Planning will lead Sri Lanka's delegation to the crucial meetings of the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the Asian development Board which are expected to be stormy—*SO*. The Minister of Finance and Planning Mr. Ronnie de Mel said at a Press Conference on Thursday at the Ministry that the consequences flowing from the action taken by the US to drastically cut back on contributions to IDA and ADF will severely affect Sri Lanka's development programme—*ST*. Inadequate planning, delays in decision making and programme implementation are at the root of Sri Lanka's present energy problems, a confidential World Bank/UNDP report has revealed. The three member Cabinet team headed by President J. R. Jayewardene will on Tuesday hear allegations of tender procedure violations by a Minister and charges by him that his Secretary was responsible for it. An alliance between the terror group in the North and certain militant organisations has become the subject of a top level investigation launched by the Defence Ministry. Police yesterday cracked down on some members of an organisation which they claim has direct connections with the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna—*WK*. Three young men carrying arack-stopper bombs were arrested in one of the country's main power-generating stations—the Kelanitissa Power Station early yesterday morning; informed sources said that the turbines at this station could have been blasted with these small but powerful bombs. The Secretary to the Ministry of Agricultural Development and Research, Ranjan Wijeratne, has been sent on compulsory leave pending the conclusion of an inquiry by a Cabinet Sub-Committee with regard to allegations that he had not followed tender procedures in the awards of some multi-million rupee tenders—*IS*.

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MONDAY, APRIL 26: The drought has dealt a kidney punch to Sri Lanka's vital tea industry with the first quarter's production down by about 9 million kilos from the previous year, the industry said yesterday. Discussing Mr. Anura Bandaranaike's return to the Sirima SLFP group, Mr. Maithripala Senanayake yesterday predicted that the heads of Messrs Illangaratne and Kobbekaduwa will roll, to make way for Anura to replace his mother. Government doctors are leaving the country at the rate of 15 to 20 a month and the Health Department is now 760 short of its doctors cadre of 2,260. A resolution to set up an International Hindu Research Centre in Sri Lanka was unanimously adopted at the World Hindu Conference which concluded in Colombo yesterday—*CDN*. A team of top officials will soon be sent to India to study the working of the Registrar General's Department in that country; the team will examine and report to the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr. K. W. Devanayagam, regarding the modernisation of equipment and procedures in India—*CDM*. Sri Lanka will be entitled to shares in a massive oil palm project that is now being negotiated between the Malaysian and Sri Lankan governments; the negotiations have been recommenced on a government to government basis following the Malaysian government's purchase of the Guthrie Corporation off the London stock market recently. A full probe into the activities of a certain leftist militant political party was launched yesterday by the Defence Ministry, following reports of heightened militant activity by the members of this organisation—*SU*. Colombo Radio the island's only communication centre for marine traffic is on the verge of a complete breakdown; of the three transmitters, one of them 8 MW transmitter has completely broken down. Government hospitals are likely to be crippled without nurses in the near future if the rate of pupil nurses dropping out of training schools continues; there is already a big shortage of nurses in state hospitals and the current rate of drop outs is likely to bring nursing services in hospitals to a standstill—*IS*.

TUESDAY, APRIL 27: The UNP Working Committee yesterday adopted a tough anti-corruption resolution giving the party leader wide powers to investigate elected or selected public officers including Ministers, MPS, DDC and local body members, corporation chairmen and directors etc. Eleven thousand students who are eligible to apply for the university this year have not sent in their applications to the University Grants Commission. Former Prime Minister, Sirima Bandaranaike yesterday expressed fears that the next elections if they are held at all, may not be free and fair; she was speaking at a news conference summoned at Rosmead Place home—*CDM*. The Minister of Coconut Industries Mr. Harold Herat has introduced a scheme to set up Coconut Producers Co-operative Societies on an island wide basis—*CDM*. For the first time the Working Committee of governing United National Party

ast night unanimously passed a resolution empowering President Jayewardene, the leader, to institute inquiries into corruption and take effective action against any member who has violated the high standards of conduct, Mr. Jayewardene presided at the meeting. Lankans employed abroad have become the second biggest source of income for Sri Lanka; last year they remitted Rs. 4,400 million, second only to tea which brought in a revenue of Rs. 6,444 million, according to official government statistics. The government will introduce stringent measures to curb the unauthorised sale of teas—*SU*. A request is to be made to the President Mr. J. R. Jayewardene that the constitution should be amended to abolish the twelve-and-a-half percent cut off point under the Proportional Representation system; the Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. A. C. S. Hameed assured a delegation of Muslim lawyers that he would arrange a meeting to enable them to make direct representations to the President—*IS*.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28: The closure of many import substitution industries in the past two years has significantly affected the potential growth rate of the industrial sector, according to a Central Bank assessment—*CDN*. The police have refused to permit the holding of May day processions in the outstations—*CDN*. President J. R. Jayewardene yesterday countermanded a move by Agricultural Development and Research Minister E. L. Senanayake, to send his Secretary, Ranjan Wijeratne on compulsory leave; an official announcement from the Presidential Secretariat said yesterday that Mr. Wijeratne continues as Secretary. Agricultural Development and Research Minister E. L. Senanayake will today appear before the top level Cabinet team probing the award of certain multi-million rupee tenders. Two officials and two minor employees who were involved in a "showdown" recently at the Ministry of state have been interdicted while another top bureaucrat was sent on compulsory leave yesterday—*SU*. Incitement to violence, possession of prohibited knives, firearms and hand-bombs are to be considered serious crimes from April 30 till May 2. Persons taken into custody in connection with such offences will be remanded without bail. All government specialists will in future have the opportunity of earning the maximum salary in the specialists' grade and all other allowances before reaching the optional retirement age of 55 years; this follows an outright grant made by Health Minister, Gamani Jayasuriya to the Government Medical Officers' Association whom he met on Monday to discuss their current demands at his Ministry Office. Seven parties and organisations in the North have called for a hartal tomorrow as a form of protest against the opening of the new Parliament in Kotte; the chief political party of the North, the Tamil United Liberation Front, however, will not be associated in this hartal, and will participate at tomorrow's ceremony—*IS*.

THURSDAY, APRIL 29: President Jayewardene announced that restrictions on the use of electricity for illuminations will be removed during Vesak. The Cabinet has approved a proposal by the Prime Minister to sell the Anderson and Dehiwela flats on rent-purchase terms to the tenants on the same lines as the Bambalapitiya flats. The Treasury has agreed to provide the National Water Supply and Drainage Board with a revenue grant of 39.3 million to cover its arrears to local authorities up to the end of 1981. The wraps will be taken off the most magnificent building constructed in contemporary Sri Lanka when the new parliamentary complex at Sri Jayewardhanapura, Kotte is ceremonially opened by President Jayewardene today. Air Lanka gave two hundred under privileged children a flight round Sri Lanka to mark the introduction of its fourth Tristar aircraft to the fleet on Tuesday; the flight is yet another community relations project organised by Air Lanka in collaboration with the Department of Social Services—*CDN*. A letter signed by four Members of Parliament of the SLFP (S) has been sent to the Speaker protesting against Maitripala Senanayake addressing the House today as Leader of the Party. The cost of cattle feed will be brought down by Rs. 900 per ton on the recommendation of Rural Industrial Development Minister S. Thondaman. President J. R. Jayewardene has directed the CID to reinvestigate into the cases of two high-ranking politicians and a politician of lesser rank who are alleged to have brought into the country undeclared items contravening the Customs Ordinance. The Ceylon Bank Employees Union and the Jathika Sevaka Sangamaya have no confidence in the management of the People's Bank and view it with "deep and besetting distrust", notes President J. R. Jayewardene's Economic Consultant Nihal Weeratunge in his report to the President on the People's Bank dispute of promotions. Education Minister Ranil Wickremasinghe will appoint a committee to go into the salary scales of teachers in government services; this follows representation made to him by many trade unions representing teachers—*IS*.

FRIDAY, APRIL 30: Mr. Anandatissa de Alwis Minister of State and MP for Kotte, speaking at the ceremonial opening of the new Parliament described it as the temple of democracy and said they should ensure that it would be the spring of perennial liberty—*CDN*. The grandeur and the splendour returned to the once magnificent city of Sri Jayewardhanapura Kotte last morning when it was declared the new capital of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. A magnificent and spontaneous approval for the new capital was shown by the people as they lined the long state drive to the new Parliament and crowded into the spacious grounds to witness the colourful ceremony. Four MPs of Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike's SLFP staged a walk out yesterday during the ceremonial sittings of Parliament; this

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came when Medawachiya MP Mithripala Senanayake who claims to lead the SLFP rose to speak—*SU*. In Sri Lanka the sovereign power is vested in the people. We are their servants; their wishes are our commands; the sovereignty of the people is expressed through Parliament; in the final analysis, the exercise of any authority or power, resides in Parliament, for no act can be illegal unless it has the approval of Parliament; this is so even at the height of a national emergency; all of our acts, without exception, must face the scrutiny of Parliament. Prime Minister R. Premadasa said at the opening of the new Parliament. President J. R. Jayewardene in his Presidential address yesterday at the opening of the new Parliament at Kotte exhorted parliamentarians to follow the code of conduct propounded by the Buddha to King Ajatasathya of Magadha; "in his temple of democracy let us so conduct ourselves for the welfare of the many that generations of unborn may say that within this chamber our words and conduct represented our finest hours", he concluded—*IS*.

SATURDAY, MAY 1: The Central Bank has warned that Sri Lanka's energy problem is ballooning into critical proportions and demanded "urgent attention" to devising a national energy conservation policy. The police are deeply concerned about increasing evidence of attempts to create religious and racial discord in the country through publications. Large crowds are expected to converge on Galle Face Green this afternoon for the UNP's May Day rally; President J. R. Jayewardene, Prime Minister R. Premadasa and Mr. Cyril Mathew, Minister of Industries and President of the Jathika Sevaka Sangamaya will be among the speakers at the rally. Nine May Day rallies will be held in Colombo today. An Investment Protection Agreement between Sri Lanka and Sweden was signed at the Presidential Secretariat yesterday.—*CDN*. President Jayewardene in a May Day message calls upon the working people of Sri Lanka to forget their ideological differences and work in a spirit of brotherhood in order to realise fully the development goals set by the government—*CDM*. Loans and enhanced interest rates to the country's 2.5 million Employees Provident Fund holders will be the government's May Day gift to the workers. The rate of inflation declined in spite of continued upward adjustments on the administered prices of certain essential items, the Central Bank said yesterday in its annual report of 1981—*SU*. Police suspect that certain terrorists in the North had made use of the hartal staged on Thursday in Jaffna to unleash violence; according to the police certain groups of terrorists carrying machine guns had stopped CTB buses and threatened passengers. Some of the buses had also been damaged by the groups—*IS*.

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WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

April 25 - May 1

EUROPE

UNITED KINGDOM: British forces successfully landed in South Georgia and captured Argentine troops. Despite the fact that its forces have commenced attack on Argentine forces in the Falkland Islands Britain announced that Haig mission was still alive to seek a diplomatic solution to the 23 days old crisis. Admiral Woodward of the British Navy warned the Argentine troops to withdraw their forces before they were attacked. The impending winter may compel British forces to start the attack on other islands early. Commonwealth Secretary General Ramphal said that Commonwealth countries stood behind Britain in her quarrel with Argentina. Britain declared a 200-mile sea and air blockade in the Falkland Islands while Argentine too announced its own military zone covering Falkland, South Georgia and Sandwich Islands. **SOVIET UNION:** The return of the Sinai peninsula was described to be a farce. It does not guarantee peace nor any solution to the Middle East problems. In its turn it has brought the US rapid deployment force much closer to Arab countries and from Egypt US can control the Middle East. Soviet news agency countered a report of the US Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (ACDA) which said that Moscow had been the biggest arms exporter in 1978 and 1979. Moscow said that the US exports during the last decade amounted to 123 million dollars. Soviet Union's state-controlled press condemned Britain for resorting to force to settle the Falkland crisis. A senior Kremlin official said that attempts to restore colonial status by force of the islands ran counter to UN decolonisation clauses. Moscow stressed that both countries should abide by the UN Resolution and reach a negotiated settlement.

AMERICA

ARGENTINA: Argentina has appealed to OAS countries to invoke the 1947 RIO treaty which called for the assistance of each other against the outside attacks. Argentina was willing to consider the UN Resolution for a negotiated settlement provided her sovereignty over Falkland Islands was recognized. **UNITED NATIONS:** Argentina's UN representative briefed the Secretary General on the developments in the Falklands Islands. There were speculations in the UN that Argentine Foreign Minister Nicanor Costa Mendez might ask the UN Security Council to declare the blockade as an act of aggression. Britain and Argentina have not so far asked for UN intervention in the matter though there were suggestions that the UN must intervene to take over the administration of the Falkland Islands temporarily. **UNITED STATES:**

President Reagan has decided to meet the leaders of the US House of Representatives and the Senate to reach a compromise over his 1983 Budget proposals. The issues at stake was the defence spending and tax cut. The Foreign Ministers of the OAS countries, excepting United States, Trinidad, Tobago, Colombia and Chile, registered solidarity with Argentina in the Falkland Islands dispute. The US Defence Secretary told the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate that the Soviet Union nuclear superiority was rapidly overwhelming the US efforts to prevent a war. As the US diplomacy failed to bring about a settlement in the crisis between Britain and Argentina the US was seen moving towards Britain. **EL SALVADOR**: The newly elected Constituent Assembly chose Alvaro Magua as the President of the country.

AFRICA

EGYPT: Egypt was happy to re-enter the Sinai Peninsula after fifteen years. Responding to the call of the Arab States Jordan and Morocco to join the Arab fold, President Mubarak cautioned them that such return will not be at the expense of its relations with Israel.

ASIA

ISRAEL: In terms of the Camp David Agreement Israel handed back the last strip of Sinai to Egypt. Premier Menachem Begin said that this was the last time that Israel would hand over to the Arabs any land it held. This clearly indicated that Israel will not be prepared to negotiate on Judea, Samaria the West Bank, Gaza and Golan Heights as it did at Camp David. **JORDAN**: Jordanian King Hussein congratulated Egypt on recovering Sinai and wished that Egypt would join in an attempt of the Arab world to recover Jerusalem. But Syria has condemned moves to bring back Egypt into the Arab World without Egypt renouncing the Camp David agreement. **LEBANON**: According to an analysis in the journal called *South* Israel had been used as an Agent to sell US war materials to the South American dictators. Israel has supplied Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua with sub-machine guns, transport planes, helicopters and other types of arms. **SINGAPORE**: US Vice President Bush had indicated that his country would not abandon Taiwan; nor would it withdraw from the Pacific. He stressed that the US would continue to remain as a Pacific power and expressed the hope that People's China would not downgrade her diplomatic relations with the US on the Taiwan issue. **SOUTH KOREA**: A drunken policeman went berserk killing 55 villagers and seriously wounding several others. A Parliamentary Committee was appointed to inquire in to the matter. The Interior who was responsible for the Police Department resigned from his post. **INDIA**: Religious quarrels involving Hindus and Sikhs have led to group fightings in Amritsar and the authorities have

clamped down curfew. **CHINA**: The Chinese people have been called upon to discuss the draft of a new Constitution. This draft incidentally abolishes the right to strike.

THE FOREIGN SCENE

SANCTIONS

And Vodka

By Gennady Gerasimov

The UPI agency has cited a Washington official as reporting that the American administration has examined a number of new ideas about the curtailing of trade with the Soviet Union. The measures under consideration include a ban on the purchase of Russian vodka by Western countries. There is an expression in Russian language: "You won't tackle it without a bottle" meaning approximately that a difficult problem becomes clearer and easier to understand if you discuss it in the unofficial atmosphere of a good dinner table. The unfilled American glass has reflected the real magnitude of the anti-trade charge of the present Washington administration. Vodka is not a number one item to international trade. According to American figures, vodka, combined with caviar, makes less than two percent of the total Soviet receipts from the sale of goods in the West. So it is not the figures that matter. Trade is nothing more than a political weapon in the confrontation with the Soviet Union. So the present US administration believes in its anti-communist ideological fervour. But there are few who share such fanaticism.

The old line of reasoning has long been expounded: the control of exports will allegedly interfere with the strengthening of the Soviet military capability. COCOM, the multilateral consultative committee, has been in existence for this purpose for over 32 years. Such trade policy is pitiful although it is understandable in a way. But the breaking of all kinds of trade and economic ties is an entirely different affair. This is a case of cutting off your nose to spite your face. For example, if you refuse pipes to the Soviet side, you simultaneously refuse to supply yourself with Soviet gas. Over the years of detente a mutually penetrative system of contracts, agreements and supplies has appeared in Europe. It cannot be broken easily, and there is no tangible reason for doing so. Hence the growth of American-West European discord, which

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is now being so widely discussed in the press. The reason lies in the West European countries' resistance to the undisguised pressure from overseas, where people arrogantly presume to decide whether or not Europeans should drink Russian vodka, or which is much more serious, if the Europeans should have Russian gas or not. While Russian vodka has substitutes, although not as good Russian gas has none, nor is there a need for one.

Washington, is however, continuing its campaign for Europeans to join an economic war against the Soviet Union, and the European leaders should consider not only possible economic but also political consequences as well. Their present concession—the decision to limit Soviet imports—will boomerang economically, and bring them no political dividends, either.

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MEANINGLESS GESTURES TO

Expose U.S. Weakness

By George W. Ball

—Former Under-Secretary of State

IN DIPLOMACY, frustration makes bad policy. A handbook demonstration of that unpleasant truth is the Regan administration's frantic effort to respond to the Polish repression. Sending food to Poland may strengthen an oppressive military regime refusing food to starving people provides the oppressors the excuse that short rations are caused by Americans meanness. So far Western governments have resolved the dilemma in differing ways. Though some are donating food and supplies, our government has followed the opposite course. By rejecting official food aid and denying the Poles the protein derived from fishing in our waters, we run the risk of painting a pusillanimous grimace on the beloved visage of a magnanimous Uncle Sam. If there are inherent contradictions in our sanctions against Poland there is an unavoidable ambiguity in our efforts to penalize the Soviet Union. By concealing its hand in forcing Poland's military takeover, the Kremlin has encouraged those yearning for East-West tranquility to dismiss the problem as an internal Polish affair. Meanwhile, we deceive ourselves when we fail to acknowledge the constricting limits of our power in a world divided into what amounts to classical spheres of influence. No US unilateral action short of war can ever persuade the Soviets to permit Poland to violate the quintessential Communist principle of strict party control. Nor will we force the Polish government to soften its repressive measures so long as Soviet pressure persists.

WE LEARNED, or should have learned—that hard lesson in 1956 and again in 1968, but faith in
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our omnipotence dies hard. So we turn to the last resort of the wistful—bold talk of economic reprisals that can have little but symbolic effect. Only the denial of wheat shipments (which constitute three-fourths of our Soviet-bound exports) could cause the Soviets serious discomfiture, but the Reagan administration ruled that out by yielding to the farm lobby, terminating the last embargo and promising not to repeat it. Since we cannot by unilateral sanctions alter Soviet policy, our current shadow play exposes our weakness rather than strength. With our non-agricultural trade with the Soviet Union already whittled down by past sanction experiments, our punitive efforts appear more like those of a toothless poodle than a majestic lion. *Why, in view of all this, do we indulge in such posturing when our impotent gesture can bring no comfort to the Polish people?* It is because, in trying to provide an outlet for our country's frustration, the administration is playing moreover the effect in Pericia than on world opinion. If in addition some outraged citizens derive a moral glow from our flamboyant expression of disapproval, that is more therapy than foreign policy. Stopping Aeroflot from landing in New York or even putting high technology shipments on license are as much metaphors as lighting candles in our windows. One could not fault such symbolism if it did not encourage an unhealthy self-righteousness that contributes to the erosion of Western unity.

Few at the top reaches of this administration seem aware that the policies of our European allies are conditioned by factual situations materially different from our own—or if they know it they do not say so. Nor do they realize that the damage to Western cohesion may far exceed the exiguous effectiveness of sanctions that are more shadow than substance. Though we can, at minimal cost curtail our limited non-agricultural exports to the Soviet Union, it is like pushing thumbbracks in to an elephant's hide. By contrast the denial of West Europe's trade would cause the Kremlin excruciating pain, but at a disastrous cost to several European countries. Nor is the difference in opinion on the two sides of the Atlantic based solely an economic factors. Though American lives would not be immediately affected by deteriorating relations with Moscow, West Germany finds some residue of detente essential in alleviating the hardship of divided families in a divided country and securing the return of countrymen left behind when German territory was ceded to Poland. If Americans understood why West European government's were more reluctant than ours to take punitive measures against Russia, they would show less sanctimonious pride in our bargain-basement gestures and feel less resentful at Europeans who do not automatically be have as we do when will we ever learn that the maintenance Western unity is far more important than hectoring of Moscow ineffectively?

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WHAT DO WE WANT

Russia To Do ?

By George F. Kennan

George F. Kennan, historian and former ambassador to the Soviet Union, is professor emeritus at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton University.

THE SANCTIONS imposed on the Soviet Union by the Reagan administration are, unfortunately, marked by an extreme vagueness about what the Soviet regime is expected to do to bring about their removal. One is reluctant to believe that what is wanted is that Moscow should order the government in Warsaw to undo what has been done since December 13 and to restore the status quo ante, because such exertion of authority by Moscow over Warsaw is precisely what we profess to deplore. One can only assume that what is wanted is that the Soviet Union government should take a detached attitude towards events in Poland and permit the situation there to find its own level, whatever the consequences for Poland's form of government or that country's international position. This however, would be a drastic demand. It would reach to the very foundation of the de facto division of Europe that has existed since World War II. This division itself was a product of the war.

It was Nazi military success that first destroyed the prewar status quo of Eastern Europe. Then it was the Nazis' military failure that, to the applause of the Western Allies, drew Soviet military and political power into the resulting vacuum and established it there, where it has remained ever since. And it was the memory of the grievous injury done the Soviet Union by the Germans while they were fighting in that country that caused the Soviet regime to consider it vital to its security to retain ultimate control over at least the eastern third of Germany and all intervening territory to ensure that Russia would not again be confronted by a rearmed and united Germany, possibly allied—this time—with the United States. This, in essence, was the origin of the Soviet Union's interest in Poland as we have known it over these past 35 years. To date, the Soviet Union has not intervened with its own military forces. It was not the unending series of high level warnings from Washington that motivated this restraint. One may assume that the only development that could drive the Russians to so drastic a step would be further degeneration of the Polish situation to a point where they saw their entire military and political hegemony in Eastern and Central Europe, including eastern Germany, being undermined, to the great detriment of their prestige and possibly of the internal stability

of the Soviet Union itself. If they saw this happening, there is no telling what they would do.

If we really wanted to avert these and other danger of an over-anxious Soviet interest in the Polish political scene then we must be willing to address ourselves to the Kremlin's basic strategic stake in the Eastern and Central European region. To do this, we would have to be prepared to re-examine the very terms on which the division of the Continent has operated over the past 35 years. This would mean, at the outset, soundings and discussions to ascertain just what assurances Moscow would require and what safeguard would have to be provided to compensate for the loss of security that such a change of Soviet policy would signify. We would then have to explore together with our North Atlantic Treaty Organisation allies, the possibilities for meeting these requirements. To be sure, it is unlikely that anything could bring Moscow to a point where it would disclaim all security interest in the state of affairs prevailing in Poland. But a certain relaxation of its demands and, with it, a certain relaxation of existing tension, might be achieved if something could be done to give assurance that anything of this sort would not be taken advantage of by the NATO powers, to the detriment of the Soviet strategic position. The US government cannot be unaware of this aspect of the problem, but to date its official pronouncements and actions seem to have taken no account of it. Is it not high time that this omission be corrected? Otherwise, we run the danger—and it is a serious one—of driving the Soviet leadership to desperation by pressing it mercilessly against a closed door.

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VOA COMMENTARY

S.T.A.R.T. Talks

Washington, April 26: The United States is preparing for Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (S.T.A.R.T.) with Moscow about intercontinental strategic nuclear weapons, the next step now that negotiations on intermediate-range forces are under way in Geneva. One Citizen's Movement in America asks the ironic question *Nuclear war, what's in it for you?* The answer, obviously, is death and destruction. No one argues with the thesis that a nuclear war would endanger human survival. President Reagan says a nuclear war is not winnable—that his job is to prevent one. The arguments begin when people offer their theories about how best to forestall nuclear conflict. Some say, halt all future production of nuclear weapons. Some say, promise not to be the first to use nuclear weapons. Some say, stop wars, any wars, before they can escalate to nuclear exchanges. *Needless to say, none of these simple formulas is simple to put into practice.* A halt to nuclear

roduction—a freeze—cannot help if it is unilateral and it also won't help much. If all nations agree to it, if the existing level of arms gives one side a big advantage. That is one of the Reagan administration's objections to freeze proposals currently being pressed in Congress. A promise not to be the *first to use* nuclear weapons would take away the deterrent effect of the US commitment to NATO—which is a willingness to use whatever is necessary, including nuclear weapons, to stop an attack on Western Europe. What is more, there are plenty of promises already made. The UN charter and elsewhere, against the use or threat of force; the problem is, they are not always kept. If then, there is no simple answer to the problem of nuclear wars, it would seem wise to address the problem by multiple, complex means, seeking both arms control and the peaceful settlement of disputes. President Reagan's approach to arms control calls for big reductions in the number of weapons, not just limitations or freezes. And he wants agreed, verifiable and equivalent limits on the weapons that remain.

Last November 18, he proposed the zero option for TVs—that is the elimination of all intermediate-range ground launched missiles, the continent's most dangerous weapons. The proposal under consideration at the Geneva talks, offers cancellation of NATO's plans for her Pershing Two and cruise missiles if Moscow will dismantle its SS 20s, Fours and Fives. As for strategic weapons, US experts see the Soviet Union's biggest rockets, some 1,000 SS 18s, 19s and 17s as the most threatening and destabilizing in Moscow's arsenal. The United States is getting ready to deploy its new M-X intercontinental missile to counter this Soviet force. But if arms control can reduce the danger, then the American response will be different. And US proposals for reducing these strategic, intercontinental missiles on both sides are nearing completion; President Reagan has said the talks can begin this summer given favourable international conditions. It is this proposal that the Reagan administration holds out as more realistic and therefore more promising than the slogans and marches of the anti-nuclear movement.—USICA.

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NUCLEAR SUPERIORITY ?

Paul Warnke

Washington, April 16: Disclosures by a former top Washington official about the pace and extent of modernisation of US nuclear arms has been viewed here as the most effective blunting of the Reagan administration's argument about the need to counter "Soviet military superiority". Mr. Paul Warnke last night not only argued against the Reagan-Haig contentions about the Soviet strategic nuclear supremacy and the need for US to update its arms, but cited data that effectively busted propaganda lies. Observers here said as former director of US arms

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control and disarmament agency, Mr. Warnke, should know better. At a National Press Club speech in Washington, Mr. Warnke countered official US claims that freezing and subsequent reduction of nuclear weapons by the US and the Soviet Union, as suggested by President Brezhnev, would be a "reward" to the Soviet Union, which already enjoys armed superiority. The US, he said, had over the past decade replenished its nuclear forces at the rate of three new warheads every day. All the three composite parts of the US strategic forces had been modernised. Since 1970, the US had deployed over 500 "Minuteman-3" intercontinental ballistic missiles each with three interdependently targeted warheads, over 300 of such missiles have now been capped with more powerful and more precise warheads MK-12. Over the last 10 years, according to Mr. Warnke, the US has reequipped its submarines with modernized "Poseidon" missiles in place of "Polaris" missiles. Each of them has about 10 warheads. Thus, the number of these war heads at these submarines has increased from 500 to nearly 5,000.

BESIDES THIS, the US has started fitting these submarines with new Trident-1 nuclear missiles, which have a much greater precision and range than the earlier carriers. And Washington has also armed its strategic B-52 bombers with over a thousand missiles. According to Mr. Warnke, these are **certainly not the only measures the US has taken, in modernising its strategic and nuclear forces and assertions as to the Soviet superiority were unjustifiable. The Soviet supremacy does not exist and the USSR is not ahead of the US he emphasised and thought that Mr. Haig's assertions that the Soviet Union could freely use its nuclear weapons against the US and its allies since the US would be unable to oppose them effectively were "irresponsible" and bore no relation to reality.**

CREDITING MR. WARNKE with being right about strategic balance between the two super powers, observers here said the former Washington official who had conducted arms control and disarmament talks with the Soviet Union was justified in calling for implementation of SALT treaties, and resumption of SALT process, and for continuation of Geneva talks and a treaty on nuclear test ban. The Soviet Union has repeatedly denied that it had any strategic or nuclear arms superiority over the United States, and mass media as well as responsible high-ranking party and government officials have in recent weeks termed US modernisation programme as "madness". On the basis of existing parity, the Soviet Union has suggested freeze and subsequent reduction of nuclear weapons and recently gone ahead with it unilaterally in Europe.

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TRIBUNE AGRICULTURAL DIGEST

AVOCADO

Domestic Use and Export

The Avocado is a fruit with a great potential not only for the domestic market but also for export. It was introduced by the Portuguese from Central America but it thrives in the hill country. With irrigation there is no reason why it should not flourish even in lower elevations or even the dry zone. We publish in two parts a few notes about Avocado cultivation.

Propagation: Vegetative propagation of the avocado is a standard practice in Queensland. Various methods are used by nurserymen and growers but generally the most reliable are the cleft graft with and without the tongue, and on larger stocks the modified bark-graft and side graft. In all cases, fairly mature tip growth with two or three well-developed buds should be used. Avocado propagation is now largely carried out in glasshouses, bush-houses or similar structures. Seeds for rootstocks should be collected from fruit harvested direct from the tree to avoid infection by *Phytophthora cinnamomi*. Seed taken from fruit on the ground should be treated in hot water at 49° C for 30 minutes.

Grafted trees are raised in containers instead of nursery rows as was the practice previously. Seeds of the rootstock variety are planted with the apex just above soil level in specially-prepared sterile seedbeds or seedboxes which should be kept continually moist but not over-wet. Tank rain-water or decontaminated water instead of dam or bore water should be used to avoid introducing the root-rot fungus into the nursery soil or containers. Coarse, clean sand which has been fumigated or uncontaminated sawdust is preferred as germinating media. When the primary shoots are about 4 to 6 cm high, the seedlings are transferred carefully into prepared containers of various types. Nine-litre plastic buckets are ideal while tubes approximately 30 cm deep by 13 to 14 cm in diameter are also popular. The potting medium should be sterile, high in organic matter and have a pH of 6.0 to 7.0. Where nursery row propagation is practised, rows are spaced about 90 cm apart with 40 to 45 cm between seedlings. Alternatively, seed may be planted in site in prepared sites and grafted later. Grafting is carried out when trees are 30 to 40 cm in heights.

Rootstocks: Over the years, many different rootstocks have been used in Queensland depending largely on seasonal availability. In California, preference has been given to Mexican strains, mainly because of their reputation for frost resistance, and this practice has been followed here to some extent. Guatemalan and Guatemalan-Mexican hybrids are, however, used extensively as rootstocks and, in the main, produce vigorous trees. In recent years there has been some interest in the Duke selections, as rootstock material because of their alleged resistance to the root rot fungus, *Phytophthora cinnamomi*.

Planting Container-raised trees, given proper care and attention, may be planted at any time of the year. They are ready for transplanting as soon as the initial growth arising from the successful graft has hardened off. This usually takes 9 to 12 months from seed planting. Before planting the soil should be in the best condition possible if a uniform block of well-grown trees is to be obtained. Deep ripping is very desirable to improve the drainage of the subsoil incorporation of liberal amounts to rotted organic material together with a light dressing of superphosphate worked into the top 30 cm of soil will give the trees an excellent start. The soil pH should be adjusted to between 6.0 and 7.0 broadcasting an application of dolomite. When planting the tree, the union should be kept above ground level, as far as possible, with the graft on the southern side to escape sunburning. It is wise to protect the trunk and scaffold limbs from sunburn by painting them with white latex water-based paint. In some areas, hessian erected on stakes around the young tree will guard it against sunburning. The hessian will also provide wind protection. Young trees can be protected from attack by hares or other animals by wrapping the trunk and branches with paper or alfoil or enclosing the tree with wire netting. Immediately after planting, a basin should be formed round each tree and filled with water. Further irrigations at frequent intervals are required until the trees are firmly established.

Tree Spacing: Tree spacing depends largely on the system of management. Most Queensland orchards have been established on a permanent spacing of 8 to 10.5 m using either the square or diagonal system. A recent trend is to use a modified hedge row system with spacings of 4.5 to 6 m along rows with rows 10.5 to 12 m apart. When overcrowding occurs, in say 6 to 8 years from planting, alternate trees along the rows can be cut back hard or removed.

Pruning: The avocado tree requires little or no pruning once the frame has been formed. In general the aim is to establish a strong symmetrical tree having well-spaced branches that can support heavy crops of fruit. At planting, if considered necessary, the young trees should be headed back just above the strongest of the dormant buds near the growing

point. These buds usually make upright growth. Subsequent pruning consists of pinching out terminal buds and the removal of crossing and unwanted branches. The type and amount of pruning differs with varieties. Trees such as *Fuerte*, with a straggling and spreading habit, are pruned to force growth upwards. On the other hand, tall-growing varieties such as *Edranol* and *Ahaneim* are cut to buds pointing outwards to preserve low heads. As the trees grow older, the lower limbs are shortened and finally removed to make room for the upper branches which bear down towards the ground.

Soil Management: Two systems of soil management are in general use in Queensland orchards and are similar to those used in citrus areas. These systems are: (a) Clear cultivation with or without inter-row cover cropping; (b) Sod culture where excess growth is controlled by regular rowing combined with weed control under the tree skirts. In the first system, weeds are controlled by shallow cultivation to conserve soil moisture but deep working of the soil

should be avoided at all times. It is most desirable for the organic matter content of the soil to be built up to a high level, particularly under the trees, and maintained by regular dressing of chemically uncontaminated poultry litter or by green manure crops. Suitable summer species are maize, lablab bean, Sudan grass and Sudan grass-sorghum hybrids. In the winter, New Zealand blue lupins, oats or barley may be grown. In the permanent sod system, excess weed growth around and under trees can be controlled by using a desiccant herbicide such as paraquat. When spraying with this material, it should be kept off trunk, branches and foliage as damage will result. With both systems of management, an endeavour should be made to establish and maintain a reasonable deep layer (8 to 15cm) of organic mulch under the trees at all times to promote high microbiological activity. Dead leaves or mulch should not accumulate close around the tree trunk. This will keep the trunk wet for long periods and favour infection by trunk rotting organisms.

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NUTRIENT ANALYSES OF LOCAL FRUITS

Fruit	Edible Portion %	Moisture %	Protein %	Total Carbohy- drates %	Total Sugar %	Fat %	Fiber %	Mineral Matter %	Calcium mgm %	Phos- phorus mgm %	Titrated Acidity N/10	Colori- fic Value per 100gm.
Sour Plantain	69	73.6	1.1	24.4	16.6	0.1	—	0.7	13.4	15.8	49	103.4
Kolikuttu Plantain	72	65.9	1.3	31.7	22.6	0.2	—	0.9	9.9	19.5	8	133.9
Avocado Pear	28	75.6	0.9	5.0	—	17.6	—	1.0	10.9	35.4	12	181.2
Grape Fruit	55	88.3	0.5	10.7	5.6	0.1	—	0.14	20.4	12.5	173	45.9
Orange	53	86.4	0.6	12.3	5.9	0.2	—	0.6	37.0	18.7	171	53.0
Lime	55	90.3	0.5	8.6	—	0.2	—	0.4	18.8	16.1	954	37.9
Papaw	67	85.1	0.4	14.1	7.7	0.1	—	0.4	18.8	6.3	12	58.4
Jaffna Mango	54	80.0	1.1	17.1	13.1	0.2	0.2	0.4	24.0	20.9	69	74.5
Parrot Mango	56	85.9	0.6	12.7	11.4	0.1	0.3	0.4	19.3	7.4	45	53.9
Tomato	97	93.9	0.6	4.9	—	—	—	0.6	15.7	9.5	132	22.1
Tree Tomato	79	84.6	2.0	9.9	3.4	0.5	2.2	0.8	13.3	30.5	263	52.1
Pineapple	42	87.8	0.5	10.9	8.2	0.1	0.3	0.4	13.5	15.0	158	46.2
Mangosteen	70	82.6	0.6	16.6	8.4	0.2	/	0.2	5.7	9.4	81	69.8
Jak Fruit	31	68.8	1.8	27.5	18.4	0.3	0.7	0.9	16.9	17.0	35	120.0
Sour Sop	69	82.4	0.9	15.0	7.2	0.2	0.8	0.8	19.4	31.9	124	65.1
Bullock's Heart	41	66.4	2.1	29.4	7.3	0.5	—	1.6	64.1	19.9	88	130.7
Custard Apple	47	76.4	2.1	20.4	9.6	0.2	—	0.8	17.8	14.1	78	92.3
Sapodilla	86	71.5	0.8	25.2	16.7	1.1	1.0	0.5	4.3	23.9	17	113.7
Guava	100	82.0	1.1	10.0	5.3	0.3	6.0	0.7	19.8	11.5	79	46.8
Durian	29	68.7	2.4	25.0	8.5	2.1	0.6	1.3	41.5	40.0	52.3	128.4
Rambutan	32	82.3	0.5	16.0	8.7	0.1	0.2	0.9	10.6	12.9	271.0	66.6
Uguressa	77	74.4	0.4	24.2	9.4	0.2	0.4	0.4	24.1	12.5	321.4	26.5
Lovi-Lovi	82	86.6	0.3	11.4	—	0.2	1.1	0.4	—	—	468.3	48.4

Source: Department of Agriculture.

JANATHA ESTATES DEVELOPMENT BOARD—COCONUT

	1978	1979	1980
	Jan/Dec.	Jan/Dec.	Jan/Dec.
Cultivated Extent, (Hect.)	7,405	8,040	10,913
Production in Million—Nuts	23.1 M.	31.5 M.	33.0 M.
New/Underplanting Hect.	116	310	394
Nett Expenditure on New/Underplanting & Upkeep of Immature areas. Rs. in Million	0.3 M.	0.7 M.	2.3 M.
Prices (Net Sale Average) Rs. per nut	.45	.72	.95
Total Wages to Manual Workers—Male Rs. per day	8/10	10/83	13/41
Female Rs. per day	6/23	8/63	11/09
Approximate Export earnings—Rs. in Million	13.3 M.	22.4 M.	20.1 M.

EDIBLE OIL

From Mango

Mango grown all over the country may well be the answer to the edible oil shortage. According to a study conducted by the National Institute of Nutrition here, the fat of the mango kernel could be used as a substitute for cocoa butter because of its physico-chemical properties. This fat has been recommended for its nutritional quality and toxicological safety for use in the confectionery industry. Experiments on rats showed that when fat was incorporated into diets at a level of 10 percent, the growth performance feed efficiency ration, nitrogen and phosphorus balance and reproductive performance of female animals were satisfactory. Histopathological examination of organs and biochemical parameters such as liver, cholesterol and triglycerides showed no abnormalities. The study notes that the fat melts at 40°C and is a good substitute for cocoa butter or extender and for use in suppository bases, low grade mango kernel fat can be used as cattle feed and in soap making, the results indicated that the mango kernel was an edible fat and was safe for consumption—*UNI*.



SEEDS

Plant Breeder's Rights

DO PLANT BREEDERS' RIGHTS (PBR) have a negative impact on plant genetic resources? This question has become a matter of intense debate. Most discussion has focussed on the passive potential of PBR to reduce the free exchange of germplasm as a consequence of the patenting criteria. Dr. Norman Borlaug, whose research launched the Green Revolution has warned that the concept of PBR "threatens" international co-operation in germplasm work. Dr. Brady-Director-General of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)—has added his own opposition to PBR in Third World countries. When IBPGR's maize advisory council met in September 1980, fears were expressed that PBR would adversely influence the work of the international agricultural research centres and reduce the exchange of germplasm.

Although few Third World countries have patent legislation for plants, companies are able to reach special bilateral agreements with governments which are the major buyers of seed. While companies have always had some incentive to sell to the Third World, this incentive has increased with PBR and with the size of the firms in the seedbusiness. The small family firm is fast giving way to transnational corporations whose marketing prowess far exceeds that of traditional companies.

In 1975, IBPGR noted that the greatest threats to the genetic diversity of beets in Turkey were imported varieties from the US and the Federal Republic of Germany. In 1976, IBPGR's sorghum and millet committee noted that further collections in South Africa "were too late" since the area was seeded over in Texas Hybrids. In 1978, Dr. N. L. Innes of the National Vegetable Research Stations in the UK warned that inroads by seed enterprise(into tropical countries were destroying the genetic diversity of many vegetable crops. In Holland, Dr. C. Dorsman identified the same trend. For some at least, on the basis of this information, the PBR debate still ends in a draw. The answer to increased genetic erosion must be an accelerated conservation campaign, they reason. Third World farmers should not be denied access to modern varieties. If patent rules overly stress phenotypic uniformity, others suggest, then let us adjust the rules.

OTHERS REGARD such solutions as patently native. Transnational firms are not necessarily offering farmers better seeds. PBR legislation turns traditional cultivators into unpatentable, low profit "competitors" in relation to royalty bearing seeds. And where seedsmen once obtained a reasonable return on non-patented seed, this return now pales in comparison to the bounty possible from royalties and the exclusive marketing of patented seed. Advertising and other marketing tactics used by giant firms are geared both to replace traditional cultivars of the same crop and to extend the boundaries of the crop into areas traditionally sown with other crops. Confronted with such unequal competition, the old seeds vanish. Large firms are interested only in the breeding of major crops grown over large areas. So-called "poor people's crops" are also threatened even though

their yield and nutritional value as well as their general suitability are superior to the new. The IBPGR itself reported such a bias in a direct link to germplasm conservation.

Plant Breeders Rights fundamentally change the way seedsmen may look upon nature's botanical treasures. So it was when Quincy McKeen stumbled on a rare heliotrope in Guatemala some years ago. He gathered up an armful of seed and headed home to Pride's Crossing, Massachusetts. There, as the *National Geographic* reports, "Selecting the best progeny, he destroyed all the others and applied for a patent". So much for competition.

—Development forum.

SRI LANKA THE LAND WE HAVE

Population grows but the land remains finite—25,332 sq. miles only. This means that in 1901 each sq. mile had 141 people or one person would have 4.5 acres. In 1946 each sq. mile had 263 people or one person had 2.4 acres. Today each sq. mile has 572 people or one person has 1.1 acres. Of the land available, arable land is less than half the available land, or 0.45 acres per person.

THE FOODS WE EAT

Some energy foods and their protein and kilocalorie values (per 100 grams of edible portion)

	Energy: Protein:	
	kcl	gms
Biscuits	435	7.4
Hoppers	334	5.6
Pittu (rice flour)	369	6.2
Rice, parboiled	349	8.5
Roti (wheat flour)	343	6.9
String hoppers (wheat flour)	324	9.3
Cowpea	323	24.1
Black gram	347	24.0
Soyabean	432	38.43
Avocado	215	1.7
Dates	317	2.5

(from Tables of Food Composition: for use in Sri Lanka)

Daily energy requirements

- * Adults 50 kilocalories per kg of body-weight
- * Children 100 kilocalories per kg of body weight.

Daily protein requirements

- * Adults 8 gm per kg of bodyweight
- * Children 1.5 gms kg of bodyweight.

SOLAR-HEATED INCUBATOR

An incubator with a solar-heat store has been designed by the Karshi Pedagogical Institution in collaboration with the Physical and Technological Institute at the Uzbek Academy of Sciences. A vapour-and-air mixture is driven by a fan into pebble-filled ceramic pipes. Heat accumulated during a day is sufficient for 48 hours. An electric heater is used on cloudy days. In the solar heated incubator silk worms give a high yield of first-grade cocoons, of a fine and even yarn. After the cocoons are harvested the incubator is turned into a hot-house to grow tomatoes, cucumbers and early vegetable sprouts in the autumn and winter.

ALSO REAGANOMICS"

President Ronald Reagan has sold his California villa, reports the Italian newspaper *Il Messaggero*. It was not hard to find a buyer. After all, it was a "prestigious" villa, belonging to the President and facing the Pacific. The purchaser paid \$ 1.9 million without batting an eyelid. Americans wonder whether the villa's new owner knows that 25 years ago Reagan paid only \$ 100,000 for it.

MONEY-SPINNER

In the Export Market

Passengers travelling by the night buses or trains between Changannacherry and Kottayam towns will see a strange sight: a batch of three persons moving about the water-logged paddy fields. One of them will have a petromax light on his head, another a sack on his back and a third a fish-creel ("Ottal" in Malayalam). They are the people who help the country earn substantial foreign exchange through the export of frog legs, considered one of the delicacies in the United States and Europe. In 1981, frog legs weighing 4,368 tonnes and valued at Rs. 11.96 crores were exported from the country mainly to the Netherlands, the United States, Belgium, France and West Germany and to some extent to Canada.

All the same the commercial value of the frog leg is such and its export potential being quite substantial, the State Government has put into operation a frog breeding centre at Kumarakom about 18 km. north-west of Kottayam. The Government has, or rather

the Kerala Agricultural University has a research centre at Kumarakom on the eastern bank of the Vembanad lake. Dr. Jayaprakash, Assistant Professor for aquaculture and Prof. Mohamed Kunju, Professor in charge of the centre, told *The Hindu* that the acceptance of the centre as a unit of the National Agricultural Research Project, would boost the research efforts now going on. In the next five years, the centre would have a well equipped laboratory and other facilities. Dr. Jayaprakash said that with the construction of the pond the frog breeding programme would be stepped up and he was confident that after a certain stage these frogs could be released in the paddy fields. He stressed the need to limit frog catching to particular seasons for the protection of the species—*Hindu*.

TRIBUNE MAHAWELI FORUM

ACCELERATED HEAD WORKS

Head Works

To help our readers understand the immensity of the work involved in the Accelerated Mahaweli Project, we are publishing notes on the major sectors involved. We invite readers to send us their comments—critical and otherwise.

Victoria : The Victoria Project consists of a reservoir of 730 million cubic metres capacity (about 600,000 acre ft) created by the construction of a double curvature arch dam with a height above foundation of 118 metres (387 ft.), a 5,400 meter long tunnel (3.35 miles) and a power station with an installed capacity of 210 MW made up by three units of 70 MW each. The total value of contracts awarded is about Rs. 3,750 million and the project costs, inclusive of costs of engineering, work of local agencies and provision for contingencies, at constant prices is Rs. 5,000 million and with provision for escalation and changes in parity values of currency during construction, Rs. 8,000 million. Satisfactory progress has been made by the contractors on the river training and diversion works. Bulk excavation of blocks 4 to 14 is complete and concreting in blocks 4 and 6 is in progress. About 1,500 metres (0.93 miles) out of the 5,400 metres (3.35 miles) of tunnel has been excavated. Excavation of foundation is in progress for the power station building. The Victoria Project will provide irrigation water to 45,000

hectares (120,000 acres) in Systems C and B. The power station will generate 800 GWH of energy, with an annual value of over Rs. 1, 200 million. The project is expected to be completed in the latter half of 1984.

Maduru Oya : The Maduru Oya Project is mainly for irrigation and will regulate the water resources of its own catchment augmented by the Mahaweli waters transferred through the Minipe Right Bank diversion canal and the Rathkinda-Maduru Oya link tunnel. The Maduru Oya reservoir will have a storage capacity of 555 million cubic metres (450,000 acre ft.). The contract for the construction of the dam and the link tunnel has been awarded in a sum of approximately Rs. 1,350 million and the estimated cost of the project, inclusive of the cost of consultants and expenditure by local organisations, is approximately Rs. 1,600 million at constant prices and Rs. 2,150 million with provision for escalation of costs. Satisfactory progress has been made in the construction. Excavation of the centre and right side of the dam foundation is complete and foundation treatment works are in progress. Rockfill on the right side has commenced and approximately 5,000 cubic meters of rockfill per day is being placed. The tunnel adits have been completed and about 25% of the excavation the main tunnel has been completed. The reservoir is expected to be completed in time for storage of the water by the last quarter of 1982.

Kotmale : The Kotmale Project consists of a reservoir with a crest level at 706 MSL (2,320 ft.) with a storage capacity of approximately 180 million cubic meters (150,000 acre ft.); a tunnel of 6,750 meters (22,135 ft.), and an underground power station with two units of 67 MW each with provision for the installation of a third unit of the same size later. The contract for the civil work was awarded on a negotiated contract in three different sections, the initial works, the main civil works Part I—Underground works and Part II—reservoir works in a sum of approximately Rs. 4,500 million. Contracts have been entered into for part of the electro-mechanical equipment. The total cost of the project, inclusive of engineering services and expenditure by local agencies, is approximately Rs. 6,200 million and with provision for cost escalations and changes in currency parities during construction, Rs. 9,000 million. The construction camps, access roads, access tunnel to the power house which forms part of the initial works are almost complete and the diversion tunnels, which also forms part of the initial works, are nearing completion. Excavation of a little over 3,000 meters (1.86 miles) of the tunnel have been completed. The contract for the construction of the dam was awarded at the end of September 1981 but instructions for excavation of the dam foundation was given to the contractor by a variation order and about 30 percent of the excavation has been completed. The project is expected to be completed at the beginning of

1985 and will contribute - 430 GWH of energy at an estimated annual value of about Rs. 650 million.

Randenigala: The Randenigala Project consists of a rockfill dam 90 meters high (295 ft.) with a storage capacity of 800 million cubic meters (650,000 acre ft.), with a power house with an installed capacity of 122 MW consisting of 2 units of 61 MW each. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 2,500 million and with provision for escalations during construction the estimated cost will increase to Rs. 4,560 million. Applications received for pre-qualification of civil contractors are under evaluation. The contract for the project will be awarded in 1982 for completion in 1986/87. The Randenigala power station will have an annual energy output of 525 GWH with a value of Rs. 800 million.



DOWNSTREAM

Urgent Work

Downstream development over the next three to four years involves the development of approximately 24,000 hectares (59,280 acres) in System C and a similar extent on the left bank of System B. These areas will be irrigated by diversion of the run-of-the-river flows of the Mahaweli till the Victoria reservoir is completed when an assured regulated supply of water will be available. The Minipe Right Bank Canal will be the main conveyance for the diverted waters of the Mahaweli. It consists of a diversion barrage downstream of the ancient Minipe anicut, a lined canal 31 kilometers (19.26 miles) long with several level crossings and structures, the Uihitiya-Rathkinda reservoirs and the link tunnel to Maduru Oya. The contract for the construction of the Minipe anicut and the first $3\frac{1}{2}$ kilometers of the canal as well as the Uihitiya Reservoir has been given to state agencies and the contract for the Badulu Oya tunnel and the Rathkinda reservoir to a local private firm. The construction of the canal from $3\frac{1}{2}$ kilometers to 30.8 kilometers has been given after calling for international bids to a foreign construction firm. Satisfactory progress is being made in the construction of the Uihitiya reservoir is nearing completion.

System C will be irrigated by left and right bank canals from the Uihitiya-Rathkinda reservoirs. The left bank canal will irrigate Zone 2 and the right bank canal Zones 3-6 of System C. A system of branch and distributory canals with balancing reservoirs will be provided and a group of about 10 to 15 farms will be served by one distributory turnout. The canals will be lined where the soils are permeable. The land will be cleared and developed and the necessary social infrastructure for the community services will be provided. About 24,000 worker-settlers will

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be settled with each settler being allotted 1 hectare (2.5 acres) irrigated plot and a .2 to .3 hectare homes-e-lead. A training centre and farm is being set up at Girandura-kotte for the training of extension and management staff and also of farmers. The necessary organisation for the agricultural extension, farm power agricultural support services and credit and for monitoring are being set up. The development of System C commenced in 1980 and the settlement of 2,500 workers-settlers has been completed. The estimated cost of development of System C inclusive of the cost of the Minipe Transbasin Canal and the regulating reservoirs, is Rs. 3,800 million. The development of System C is programmed to be completed in five years.

The feasibility studies for the development of System B under the Maduru Oya Project was carried out by Acres International Ltd., of Canada. The Maduru Oya Project covers a total area of approximately 135,000 hectares (C 333,350 acres) with a population of about 26,000. About 62,000 hectares (153,000 acres) are under the irrigable command of the Maduru Oya reservoir and about 80 percent of this is suitable for paddy cultivation, while the balance 20 percent is suitable for upland crops. The upland crop areas are, however, considerably dispersed. The nett farm irrigable area is now reckoned to be about 3,600 hectares (9,000 acres) of new land and 4,000 hectares (10,000 acres) of existing paddy land. The farm sizes and the general pattern of development of infrastructure facilities will be similar to that of System C. The design of the main and branch canals as well as the main drainage system and the detailed planning of a pilot area of about 4,000 hectares (10,000 acres) has been entrusted on contract to a firm of consultants financed by USAID. The tender documents for the first stage of System B Left Bank development have been finalised and are being reviewed. A draft feasibility report on System A indicates the possibility of using 21,000 hectares (52,500 acres) i.e., 15,000 hectares (37,400 acres) new land and 6,000 hectares (15,000 acres) of existing paddy land for paddy cultivation and 17,000 hectares (42,500 acres) for pasture development.

Construction work on the development of System H is nearing completion and the System is being handed over for operation and maintenance. About 22,000 families have been settled. The area developed under irrigation provides employment for over 50,000 persons in agriculture. Considerable additional employment is being provided in agricultural support-services. The average paddy yield in System H in 1979/81, 93.3 bushels per acre, being the highest average yield in the Island. This indicates the predominant role played by an assured water supply in maximising production in the Dry Zone. Assured of Water, farmers do not hesitate to invest in the other agricultural inputs to obtain optimum yields.



Re-Planting

Twenty years ago, there were approximately 8 million acres of forest cover amounting to half the land area of the country. This has dwindled down to 4 million acres while half the teak plantations have been destroyed by the recent cyclone. The adoption of a conscious policy for environment protection conservation and development is now being mooted. The Conservator of Forests has indentified the following projects for reforestation with Foreign aid: (1) The land and water conservation in the upper Mahaweli catchment where 2,000 acres will be planted up with forest species annually for 5 years; (2) Fuel wood plantation project in Mahaweli where 7,000 acres will be planted annually for 10 years; (3) Dry zone fuel wood project where 3,000 acres will be planted annually for 5 years;

415,828 plants were issued during the Tree Planting Campaign which was launched last year. The Forest Department has established 18,351 acres of forest plantations in 1977 and 16,939 acres in 1978. These forests will comprise of teak, pine, ucalyptus, albesia, mahogany etc. and a target of 17,500 acres has been fixed for the current year. By and large these forest areas have been marked out as unirrigable lands suitable for forestry. The emphasis it will be noted has been placed on replanting with exotic varieties for purpose of fuel and timber. In the remote areas where the forests prevail and are likely to be cut down further for settlement, people depend on the forest for more than firewood and timber. They derive their food in season, fruits and medicinal requirements. There is also a large industry centred round Kudumbariya for the Beedi Industry. There may be many more Agro Industries which have been developed at an indigenous level on which more than one generation would have survived comfortably.

Popular varieties of fruit which are collected in season come to mind such as Beli, Divul Mora Palu and Weera. These are peddled at village fairs. Another important aspect is the medicinal requirement for the indigenous system that is popularly contributing to the Home remedies and thereby keeping many villagers away from allopathic treatment in Government Hospitals. In fact the cost of medicine in this country should by far be the lowest in this part of the world due to the adoption of the indigenous system. The total number of flowering plants in the flora of Sri Lanka is about 3,000 of which approximately 515 are used as drug plants. This means that about 17% of the local species are used as drugs. At least 50 medicinal plants can be cultivated in the Home Garden to serve as emergencies in home remedies.



TRIBUNE SPORTSCOPE

SPOTLIGHT

The Sugathadasa Stadium which was built by the first Minister of Sports, the late Mr. V. Sugathadasa is anything but a stadium now. Several petitions were sent from time to time and many deputations had met the authorities but the stadium continues on its way to ruin and rubble. If the Sugathadasa Stadium is to be brought back to its former condition it requires a man of vision, a man determined and dedicated, a man who will not take "NO" for an answer—above all a man with the ability to get things done. In fact he had to be the saviour. And the saviour has finally arrived in the form of the Prime Minister, Mr. Ranasinghe Premadasa. The Prime Minister recently launched a fund to meet the massive cost of renovations of the Stadium. The Prime Minister has asked the Urban Development Authority to bring the Stadium to international standards by the year end. That of course is a big order because, and considering Stadiums in other countries, the Sugathadasa Stadium is a very poor caricature.

The Prime Minister who always champions the cause of the downtrodden will certainly receive the blessings of the poor footballers and football fans for giving the stadium a new look. The Prime Minister will also receive assistance and help from firms and individuals because the government has offered a tax rebate as an incentive to attract as many private donors and institutions as possible to contribute to the Stadium Fund. *Tribune* learns that a committee headed by the Mayor of Colombo, Mr. Sirisena Cooray, is already drawing up plans for the modernisation of the ground, pavilion and tiers. That the Prime Minister will earn the gratitude of all footballers, football fans and administrators of the game there is no doubt. In fact several thousands of football fans who flocked to the stadium to watch the tournament football matches, were already singing the Prime Minister's praises.

Football which has mass appeal in little Sri Lanka, could not make such headway, primarily due to lack of playing fields. The Government Services ground Parsons Road and the Army Football Ground,

Galle Face where tournament games are worked off were taken over for the building of luxury hotels and the various clubs and sports bodies were running around frantically looking for venue to conduct their tournaments. But now with re-modelling of the Stadium their worries will certainly end. When re-designing the Stadium, the committee must pay special attention to the toilet facilities and the protection to the spectators in the tiers from the elements.

Nobody can explain the reason as to why the Stadium was neglected and allowed to go into ruin for so long. Whenever the newspapers focussed attention on the Stadium a little patch work was done and everything was made to look fine. But the main problem was swept under the carpet. A few years ago, it is said, that the Colombo Municipality under whose purview the Sugathadasa Stadium comes, had passed something like 5 lakhs of rupees for improvements and development of the stadium. Investigations by *Tribune* also learns that petitions were sent to the then Commissioner, the late Mr. B. A. Jayasinghe, alleging misappropriation etc. To the credit of the late Mr. Jayasinghe, it must be said, that he immediately acted on the petition and appointed a committee to inquire into the allegations made. But what the findings of this committee were not known. Actually to call it a Stadium is a misnomer. However now that the Prime Minister is the prime mover in this endeavour to give the Sugathadasa Stadium the much-needed facelift, everybody can be assured of a job well done and a stadium of international standard. The Board of Control for Football in Sri Lanka with D.I.G. Northern Range, A. Navaratnam at the helm and Burkhard Pape the West German soccer coach loaned to Sri Lanka will breathe a sigh of relief that they will soon have a stadium with all the modern facilities to put their plans for the improvement of the common man's game.

With rucker taking pride of place in the local sports scene, now that king cricket is taking a well deserved breather, comes the news of Bracknell Rugby Club from London confirming their tour here from August 6 to 21. Bracknell will be the only foreign side to play here this year and they will be engaged in six games, three in the outstations and three in Colombo. The Sri Lanka Rugby Football Union which has always maintained a high standard in all its dealings, have also invited India, Malaysia and Thailand to take part in Sri Lanka's rugby sevens to be held here on October 2 and 3 at the headquarters at Longden Place. Sri Lanka will also send a team to the Asian Championships to be held in Singapore in October.

The SLRFU must also be admired for deciding to help the less affluent playing the game. Today the cost of a pair of boots is very exorbitant and the Union has already granted gear to T. L. Jayawardena, R. A. Sisira and Gaminitissa, three poor village lads

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from Talduwa to continue in the game for Kelan Valley. Clubs in Colombo, too have been requested to apply for gear for their less affluent players. The Union will scrutinise these applications and grant help to the needy. In the rugby matches played on May 1 and 3, Police who have still to find their fluency of last year just managed to get back on to the winning trail and pip Navy by 9 points to 3. In the games played on Sunday (there was no rugby on Saturday on account of May Day) CR and FC managed to "kick" themselves to a 12 points to 9 victory over the CH & FC. The Air Force showing signs of enjoying one of the best seasons for a long time, gunned down the Army by 23 points to 12 and up in Kandy reigning champions Havelocks beat the Kandy Sports Club by 12 points to 7.

With the taking over of the Army Football Ground for the building of a hotel, Army rugby has now been shifted to the Army Cricket Ground. Whether the newlylaid Army turf wicket will be affected, only time will tell. From the game witnessed so far, there has been no appreciable improvements in standards. There have been more kick ahead tactics, rather than the run and pass game. Probably the fickle weather has required that kicking is a better play. Some of the players apparently are not quite conversant with the new laws of the game and the referees have been forced to constantly blow which has at times made the game dull and uninteresting. We hope that the coaches will play more attention and teach their charges the new laws of the game.

Chess has of late been a big hit in Sri Lanka, especially among the younger generation. The West Germans who are ever willing to help a worthy cause, recently presented 20 chess clocks to the Chess Federation. Dr. Gerhard Pfeiffer, the West German ambassador who was the chief guest at the Federation's presentation of awards assured the Federation of all assistance in the further popularising of chess in Sri Lanka.

ALL-ROUNDER

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LETTER

Sports Chronicle—Omissions

Sir,

In your issue of March 27, 1982, the scores on third and final day of the 103rd "Battle of the Blues" have been omitted. This should have appeared in the chronicle for Sunday March 14. Once again in your issue of April 3, 1982 the scores of the Royal-Thomian "Mustang trophy" limited-over match have been omitted though it is reported in the chronicle that it would be held on Saturday, March 20. To an old Royalist and cricket enthusiast who lives thousands of miles away from Sri Lanka, the above omissions are indeed, very frustrating. Please

publish the above scores in your next issue. Though it may be stale news by now, the information will be very valuable to those of us who are so far way.

In conclusion, the "Sportscope" is one of the marvelous features in the *Tribune* which helps Sri Lankans in faraway lands to keep abreast of the world of sports, both local and foreign.

Post Box 62, Kabarnet, Kenya.
20 April 1982.

S. Manoharan

The Omissions

Royal-Thomian Final Day: St. Thomas 1st Innings 172: 2nd Innings 200 for 7 (declared). Royal 1st Innings 207: 2nd Innings 147 for 7 at close of play.

Mustang Trophy. Royal-Thomian: St. Thomas won by 86 runs. St. Thomas 240 in 50 overs Royal 154 in 45.5 overs.

Awards: Man-of-Match—Ken de Alwis (St. Thomas): Best Batsman (Royal)—Sumithra Warnakulasuriya: Best Bowler (Royal) R. Jayawardene: Best Batsman (St. Thomas)—Ken de Alwis: Best Bowler (St. Thomas)—K. Wijegoonewardene.

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SPORTS CHRONICLE

April 24 - 10

SATURDAY, APRIL 24: The two big Five Star Hotels in Sri Lanka, Hotel Lanka Oberoi and Hotel Ceylon Intercontinental play their inaugural 50-over cricket match on Sunday April 25 at the MCA grounds starting at 10 a.m.; this will be an annual match and is played for the trophy donated by Hotel Ceylon Intercontinental. The first ever two day friendly cricket encounter between the Sri Lanka Sports Ministry XI and Maldivian Youth Council team ended in a draw at Galolhu Stadium, Male, Maldives on Tuesday. The winners of the Super Stars Championships, Bandaranaike Memorial Cup and *Abdul Rahaman Trophy*, Ratnam SC led by Kapila Gunaratne, go out hot favourites to defeat Black Square in their City League Division I soccer tournament match to be played tomorrow at the Sugathadasa Stadium at 4.15 p.m. Ladies have been playing golf in Sri Lanka for over a hundred years and we are proud of the fact that our *Ladies Championship* which was instituted in 1895 is one of the oldest national golf championships in the world. The only other Ladies National championships to have preceded ours were those of Britain and New Zealand in 1893 and the Irish and Australian in 1864 while the American

Women's championship started in the same year as ours, 1895. Ananda play their first *schools rugby match* for this season at Moratuwa tomorrow at 4 p.m. when they take on Prince of Wales, who have taken to the sport only recently. Ananda are playing in the B Division competition for the Tyrell Muttiah Memorial Cup but this game against the Cambrians is a "friendly" confrontation. Bank of Ceylon emerged winners defeating Petroleum Corporation in the A Division final of the inaugural *Nationalised Services Netball Tournament* held at Vihara Maha Devi Park yesterday. In the B Division People's Bank defeated BMC and CWE defeated Dockland in the C Division. Defending champions Havelock SC played badly, but Navy fared worse. However Havies pulled off an unimpressive 21 points (2 goals 3 penalties) to 12 (1 goal, 2 penalties) in their first round *Clifford Cup League Rugby Tournament* match played yesterday at Havelock Park. Havies led 9-3 at "lemons". Both CR & FC and Police are determined to win today, but only one side can emerge victorious. Police have the edge—they have never lost to CR for many years and for CR this is a hoodoo game. This is a first round League rugby match for the Clifford Club to be played at Longden place at 4.30 p.m. The opening *Rowing Regatta* conducted by the Colombo Rowing Club for 1982 began yesterday and the following have qualified to row in the semi finals of the Novice Pairs. J. Jayasundera and T. Hewage will be meeting F. A. Rauz and N. Fernando, D. C. Premaratna and A. Hettige will be meeting Abeysekera and R. Thambiah for the Stubbs Squash Pairs. *Kandy Sports Club* the only team from the provinces playing alongside clubs from Colombo have not unearthed any fresh talent this season in their quest of making any headway in the 1982 rugby season. Most of their players are on the verge of "hanging up their boots" and with so many schools in the District playing rugby it is very surprising to note that Kandy SC have no person to replace the old stagers.

SUNDAY, APRIL 25: Schoolboy "wonder" Arjuna Ranatunge and Sanjaka Wijemanne, the star from Kurunegala are the *Most Popular School Boy Cricketers*. They were voted in by *Observer* readers for the top honour in the two contests sponsored by Bata Shoe Co., of Ceylon Ltd., in the *Most Popular Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year Contest*, Arjuna Ranatunge polled 31,832 votes to win the contest, while in the *Most Popular Outstation Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year Contest*, Sanjaka Wijemanne won with a poll of 28,756 votes. Both Ranatunge and Wijemanne led from the start of the contest the mid-January till the end—Coupon No. 12. Both cricketers by their superb performances during the season proved also to be popular with the crowds that came to see them play and thereby got the much-needed support from *Observer* readers. Isipatana Maha Vidyalaya go off to a fine start in the *Schools Rugby Season* when they trounced Maliyadeva College, Kurunegala

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by 26 points (1 goal 5 tries) to nil in a rugby match played at Havelock Park last evening. The winners led 4 nil at half time. Bloomfield has already gained first innings points in their *Donovan Andree Trophy Cricket match* against the SSC, which started yesterday at Reid Avenue. SSC 101: Bloomfield 188. A splendid all-round performance by Bernard Perera (a century and 9 for 63) helped Kandy Cricket Club to a first innings win over Panadura SC in their *Raheman Hathy Trophy Cricket match* which ended yesterday on the Cambrian grounds at Moratuwa. Sebastianites was the first team to enter the semi-final of the 13th BRC six-a-side cricket tournament which tour started yesterday at Havelock Park. Six other teams entered the quarter-finals which will start at 9 a.m. today on the BRC grounds. The first round of four preliminary events got the *National Golf Championships* off to a start at the Nuwara Eliya Golf Club Course yesterday. The following are the results of the first round: Lever Brothers Cup (Individual Nett) D. Hapugalle 63 2. P. Billimoria 68. Royal Colombo Golf Club (Individual Gross). P. Billimoria 73, R. Motha (India) 73, B. Randawa (India) 72 and A. Tanwar (India) 73. Levers Challenge Shield (Team Match Gross). P. Randawa, P. Billimoria and R. Perera 241, R. Nanda W. K. Karunaratne and K. Suguro 244. Dudley Senanayake Cup (Team Nett) A. Nath D. Hapugalle and R. Bhatia 214: P. Billimoria R. Randawa and R. Perera 220.

MONDAY, APRIL 26: Sinhalese Sports Club emerged winners defeating Sebastianites in the finals of the BRC *Inter-Club Six-a-Side Cricket* tournament at the BRC grounds yesterday. In the semifinals Sebastianites defeated Moratuwa SC and SSC defeated Moors. In the finals Sebastianites batting first scored 50 for 4 wickets, SSC excelled in ground fielding and throwing in, accounting for three run-outs SSC got the required 51 runs off only 3.3 overs with Arjuna Ranatunga hammering 48 with one six and 6 fours. First Semi-finals; Sebastianites 57 for 1: Moratuwa SC 49 for 4. Second Semi-final Moors 51 for 5 SSC 56 for 1. Final - Sebastianites 50 for 5 SSC 51 for 1 loss. Bloomfield pulled off a six-wicket victory over SSC in a *Donovan Andree Trophy* final round match concluded at Reid Avenue yesterday. In the other game at Maitland Crescent CCC beat Navy on the first innings. Nalanda Captain Roshan Guneratne took 5 for 66 with his right-arm spinners to bring Bloomfield a six wickets win over SSC at Reid Avenue. SSC were dismissed for 223 in their second innings leaving Bloomfield 137 to make in 105 minutes plus the 20 mandatory overs. Bernard Perera's fine all round performance of 107 and 9 for 63 saw Kandy CC trounce Panadura SC in a *Raheman Hathy Trophy* cricket match played at Prince of Wales Grounds Moratuwa on Saturday. Kandy CC 362 for 6 dec. Panadura SC 224. Bloomfield had already taken first innings points from SSC at Reid Avenue while the match between Navy and CCC was interestingly poised at Maitland Crescent in

the *Donovan Andree Trophy* final round matches played on Saturday. In reply to SSC's 101 Bloomfield scored 188 while in replay to Navy's 188 for 9 declared CCC were 161 for 6 at the close. Bloomfield vs SSC at Reid Avenue SSC 101, Bloomfield 188. CCC vs Navy at Maitland Crescent, Navy 188 for 9 dec. CCC 161 for 5 at the close. NCC beat Mutwal CC on the first innings in a vital Group F *Daily News Trophy* preliminary round match played at Maitland Place yesterday. Mutwal SC 61, NCC 280. Arjuna Parakrama beat Dr. V. Ambalavanar in the pick of the third round games of the *Premier Reserve Chess Championships*; these two players were jointly leading at the end of the second round. Antonian Esland Samarasinghe scored an upset victory over Kandy's major chess champion A. I. Wickrematilleke in an Inter-Schools match between St. Anthony's College, Katugastota and St. Sylvesters' College, Kandy. Arjan Perera won a double in the men's events and in the boys' section Rajiv Casichetty too did the same at the *North Sri Lanka Open Tennis Tournament* held in the Jaffna United Sports arena last week. Last season's wooden spoonists Air Force rallied in the last stage to pull off a thrilling 17 points (a goal, two tries and a penalty) to 15 (a goal and three penalties) win over CH and FC in their *Clifford Cup Rugby Match* played at Police Park yesterday. The Indo-Sri Lanka combination of A. Nath R. Bhattia and D. Hapugalle won the *Dudley Senanayake Cup Team* net event with a score of 214 in the pre-National *Golf Championships* at the RCGC course at Nuwara Eliya yesterday. Sri Lanka's Sports Ministry's touring *Cricket* team scored a thrilling two wicket win over the Maldives President's XI in a limited over cricket match played at the Galolhu Stadium last Thursday. North Ireland and Wales have written to the *Netball Federation* of Sri Lanka asking if they could play warm-up matches in Sri Lanka on their way to the world tournament to be held in 1983; this tournament is due to be staged in Singapore.

TUESDAY, APRIL 27: *Sports and Arts Circle* of Nugegoda emerged champions of the *six-a-side cricket* tournament conducted by the Lions Clubs of Mirihana to celebrate the Sinhala New Year. They beat the much fancied Cavaliers CC of Mirihana in the final. Cavaliers CC 26 for 5. Sports & Arts Circle 27 for 1. Police were in for a terrific surprise last Saturday at Longden Place at *Rugger*. They had never lost a single match to the CR & FC for the last two seasons. In their first "outing" for both teams CR sprang quite a surprise to defeat the law enforcement officers comfortably. Ratnam SC kept up to their reputation of one of the strongest outfits in the country, when they scored a thrilling 1 goal to nil victory over Black Square in their *City League A Division Soccer Tournament* match played last Sunday at the Sugathadasa Stadium. The all-Island Lanka Plate *Snooker Tournament* commences today at the MICH tables at 5.30 p.m. All matches from the preliminary round

up to the semi-finals will be decided on the best of five frames. The semi-finals and finals will be decided on the best of seven frames. Hansa House totalled 350 points and emerged champions at Pandarella-wa Pandula MV's annual *inter house sports meet* held recently. Kokila House was placed a close second with 348 points and Mayura House in third position with 346 points. The *Sri Lanka Rugby Football Union* are prepared to provide players from Clubs and Services with boots, jerseys and stockings, for matches. This grand gesture is only for players who cannot afford to buy rugby gear, but they must first make an application to the SLRFU. Someswaran, Jayawickrema & Manthir & Co. scored a thrilling 23 points to win over Aller, Martin B. R. de Silva and Company to clutch the *Women's title* at the *Inter-Auditor's Basketball Championships* at the Depot Police Courts at Bambalapitiya after the scores were level (10 all) at "lemons". Eight top *shuttlers* from the State of Maharashtra will represent the Bombay Gymkhana Club on a two-week tour of the island at the end of July or early August. These tours are on a reciprocal basis and Bombay Gymkhana Club first toured Sri Lanka in 1979 with the Lankans visiting Bombay in 1980. John McEnroe and Ivan Lendl ranked No. 1 and 2 in the world, won their semi-final matches Saturday and will meet for the 150,000 dollar first prize in the *world championship of tennis finals* Monday night at Dallas. Midfielder Ronnie Whelan scored in the last minute to give Liverpool a 3-2 victory over Southampton in the *English First Division* on Saturday. The victory left Liverpool almost certain of winning the championship for the fourth time in six years. The *Table Tennis Association* of Sri Lanka will conduct trials for men and women to select the squad to participate in the 6th Asian TT championships from May 24 to June 3 in Jakarta Indonesia. The Q. M. Hussein International *Rating Chess tournament* which was scheduled to be held in Bangladesh from May 2 has been postponed.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28: The *Daily News Trophy* final round commences on Saturday (May 1) with three matches of two days' duration each. NCC B became the sixth club to qualify for the final round. Their win over Mutwal CC last weekend enabled them to displace Saracens in Group F and join five other clubs who headed their respective groups. Hotel Ceylon Intercontinental won the inaugural *50-over cricket match* bearing Hotel Lanka Oberoi by 10 runs at the MCA grounds on Sunday. Intercontinental 178 in 42 overs. Oberoi 168 in 41 overs. Nagoda's D. Sarath Vasanthakumara won the *50 mile cycle race* held by Kalutara's Pubuthu Youth Society recently. Dharmavijaya Privina's T. Chularatne was placed second and Gamini Warnakulasuriya third. The Kegalle Youths scored a superb win over Renown SC of Colombo by 2 goals to nil in an *Exhibition Soccer Match* played at the Kegalle Esplanade. The Inter-

Club championships of the Western Province *Badminton Association* will be staged at the new Indoor Stadium at Torrington Square from May 28 and will be played in five divisions. Red Eagles Sports-club, Danture with 117 points annexed the inter club championship at the Yatinuwara AGA's Division *Inter-Grama Sevaka Division Athletic Sports Meet* held at Yatinuwara under the aegis of the Ministry of Sports. Weera Tharu Community Centre Sports Club Cannoruwa with 84 points and Sri Lanka Sports Club, Kadugannawa with 67 points were placed second and third respectively. SSC are among the 17 clubs who have not sent in their entries for the 1982-83 *cricket season*. J. P. Newton Fernando of Walker Sons and Chrysantha Perera of the State Bank of India were elected President and Secretary respectively of the *Mercantile Football Association* at its annual general meeting held recently. The Third Friendship Open Novices and Junior *Table Tennis Championships* will be conducted at the Sports Ministry tables on May 22 and 23 from 9 a.m. each day. India won the *Paralakamedi Trophy International Match* for 1982 with a net score of 305 at the 91st Sri Lanka Golf Nationals at Nuwara Eliya.

THURSDAY, APRIL 29: The six clubs in the *Daily News Trophy* final round were found despite several preliminary round matches not being completed. Four of these clubs were from the outstations—with two coming from Kurunegala—Kurunegala SC and Kurunegala Youth CC, Matara and Old Dharmapaliyans were the two others. Former Sri Lanka pacemen, Tony Opatha, who is making a determined effort to regain his berth in the national side now that the country is playing Test matches, left yesterday for Holland M. R. Fernando and Co., Sports Club, Hatton scored a five 6 wickets win over Manchester United CC Hatton in their Hatton District *inter club cricket tournament* match played at Dumbur grounds, Hatton recently. Manchester United CC 120 for 6 wickets in 20 overs and M. R. Fernando & Co. SC 138 for 4 in 18 overs. Cricketers selected for the English tour beginning early next month have started arriving for the ten-day coaching camp commencing here tomorrow. Bank of Ceylon entered the semi-finals of the *Nationalised Services A Division Knock-out Soccer Tournament*, when they scored a narrow 1—nil win over Ceylon Ceramics Corporation on the CTB grounds at Narahenpita yesterday. World Soccer Cup finalists England scored their first win over neighbours Wales in four matches when they beat them 1-0 in a British Championship match at Cardiff on Wednesday. The 1982 *World All-Star Soccer Match* for the benefit of UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund will be played on August 7 at East Rutherford, New Jersey the organisers said. The second *Nehru Gold Cup international Football Tournament* planned for January next at Cochin may be a 10-team affair.

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Eight teams took part in the first tournament held in Calcutta recently. Victory Sports Club battle Negombo Youth in the semi-final of the Saunders Sports Club's *Golden Jubilee Soccer* Championships at the Sugathadasa Stadium on Sunday at 4 p.m. The Schools Junior Championships and Senior Pentathlon Meet conducted by the Sri Lanka *Schools Athletic Association* will be held at S. Thomas College, Gurutalawa grounds on May 10 and 11. Theripehe Wasana Sports Club—with 131 points emerged champions at the Inter-Grama Sevaka Divisions *Track and Field Meet* of Walapane AGA's Division. Nilam Mansoor of MICH won the opening match of the All-Island Lanka *Plate Snooker Tournament* at the MICH tables. He beat Sunil de Silva of YMBA in three straight frames 93-28, 75-20 and 56-49. In the second frame Mansoor had a break of 35. Teenager, Ranil Pieris, who is still a schoolboy and Tony Arnolda, created two upsets at the 91st *Amateur Golf Championships* of Sri Lanka at the Nuwara Eliya Golf Club Course on Tuesday. Japan won the 10th Asian cycling championships, capturing the two final events of the five-day competitions yesterday.

FRIDAY, APRIL 30: St. Sebastian's Moratuwa A team defeated De Mazonod Kandana and St. Anthony's Wattala in two under 15 friendly *cricket* matches in preparation for the Junior Tournament due in May. The Sports Ministry is planning to conduct *A-Six-A-Side Softball Cricket* tournament to promote the game in Passara area. Clubs in Passara AGA's Division are eligible to participate in this tourney. The strong Isipatana MV led by Dilroy Fernando who played for CR & FC in the K.D. tournament last season take on Ananda today in their *school rugby match* to be played at Havelock Park at 5 p.m. The under-15 A team of St. Sebastians College Moratuwa defeated Dharmapala, Thurstan and Prince of Wales in friendly fixtures during the past fortnight in preparation for the Junior tournament commencing in May. St. Sebastians 158 for 5. Dharmapala 102. St. Sebastians 303 for 3 Thurstan 167. Prince of Wales 144: St. Sebastians 319 for 8 dec. Sri Lanka Navy will be like a ship without a rudder as four of their key players are on the injured list and will have to face a fitness test in the morning before selection their side for their *Clifford Cup first-round League rugby* match against Police to be played at Police Park, Bambalapitiya today at 4.45 p.m. Ravi Wickremasinghe won the *Senior Sculls* (1,000 yards) by one and half lengths with a time of 4 minutes 36 seconds at the *Opening Regatta* of the *Colombo Rowing Club* held last Saturday at the Beira Lake. Adawatte Estate Sports Club, Lunugala emerged athletic champs at the *Inter Club Track and Field Sports Meet* of Passara AGA's division conducted by the Ministry of Sports and organised by the Sports Officer Passara Mr. Y. K. Kularatne. Hali Ela AGA's Division easily won the Badulla District Inter AGA's

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Divisions Women's Volleyball Championship defending Haputale Division in two straight sets at the finals played at the Badulla Esplanade. Red Diamonds Sports Club, Kandy put up a grand display to hold Negombo Youth to a thrilling draw in a *Soccer match* played at the Bogambara Stadium. Deeyakaduwa Gramasevaka Division won the Challenge Shield presented by MP for Bulathsinhala Mr. O. S. Perera with a total of 83 points at the Inter Gramasevaka Divisions Sports Meet of the Bulathsinhala AGA division held recently. The *Bracknell Rugby Football Club* from London will undertake a two-week tour of Sri Lanka from August 6 to 21 and will be engaged in six matches—three in Colombo and three in the outstation. This is the only foreign side to tour the island this year. Australian *squash* star Geoff Hunt, four times winner of the *World Open Championship* announced today he was retiring from top level competition. Organisers of the *Commonwealth games* said today they would scale down plans for the event if black African nations announced a boycott. American Pam Shriver last night fought of a second set rally from Claudia Monteiro of Brazil to advance to the quarter finals of 1 200,000 dollar Women's Tennis Tournament. Spain completed their World Soccer Cup warm-up matches with a flourish by beating Switzerland 2-0 to night in the stadium where they will play their preliminary round games in the finals. Italian *football* idol Paolo Rossi makes his first appearance on the pitch Sunday following a two-year suspension for his alleged role in an *underground betting scandal* which shook Rome two seasons ago. A Boardroom battle is developing in Pakistan over who should captain the country's cricket team to tour England this summer Air Marshall Nur Khan, the Pakistan Cricket Board President, has postponed a Board meeting to allow time for attempts to find a consensus amongst members.

THE FOOTBALL MARKET

*Club football in Italy has long been a business, simple and pure, a means of building a career. Although the 36 teams in the A and B divisions are suffering from big financial difficulties (they owe 86 billion lire), writes the magazine **Observatore Mediterraneo**, they continue to buy and sell players. The aggregate "turnover" exceeds 50 billion lire. The businessmen who can afford to invest large sums seek to dominate the football clubs and this, incidentally, paves the way for them to high posts in the local administrative bodies.*

More Upali

IS IT ANYTHING STRANGE that a request should have come from our readers that we publish further extracts (*in extenso*) from the article by John Walsh entitled UPALI: COCOA KING WITH THE MIDAS TOUCH from the magazine *The Director* (March 1982)? That to continue from last week: "...The scion of a rich, land-owning, Sinhalese aristocratic clan—President Jayawardene is his first cousin—Upali (his chosen name for both business and social dealings) read economics at Cambridge, where the two of his ancestors went in the 1900s; but when he returned to Colombo, instead of taking on the running of the family, as expected, he plunged into business. In those days, it was an unusual thing to do) he admits, "because at the time there was hardly any industrialisation. You could say the industrial revolution in Sri Lanka started about the same time that I did. ..." He started at Lever Brothers as a trainee and for two years had an intensive programme of marketing, manufacturing and distribution; but after a managerial row, he resigned in 1961 and went out on his own. With \$ 2,000 he bought a friend's bankrupt confectionery factory, but soon found himself unable to compete with other nondescript toffee lumps on the market. 'We had to turn the product into a properly branded commodity, by going up-market for higher sales', he told me. 'We managed it simply by wrapping the toffees and putting a name on them'. Then when the result was not moving fast enough, he risked \$ 15,000 on a wide-ranging advertising campaign and set up distribution outlets across the country. It worked, sales trebled and the beginnings of the Upali Group were sown. Over the years, the Group has become involved with a remarkably diverse range of products (electrical appliances chocolate, soap, cars, a travel agency and small airline, textiles, newspapers), many of them introduced into the country in the teeth of opaque protectionist legislation. Upali has a deserved reputation as a master bypasser of the law; once he imported Mazda car kits in three sections, described accurately as 'parts of cars, in order to circumvent the wholesale ban on car imports: he sold the lot in a few weeks. But now he concentrates more on long-term growth than opportunistic marketeering. Upali's operations in his native country are located in two factories, one adjacent to the groups headquarters in Colombo, which houses the electronics sector, the other an hour's drive through paddy fields and shanty towns in an industrial park. Here the soap, toffee and printing works occupy three hangarlike sheds while a fourth (the old car parts assembly line) lies empty, awaiting a new initiative from the chairman. The 250-strong

local workforce are exorted in Victorian style ("An OUNCE of loyalty is worth a POUND of cleverness" declaims a sign) and never go on strike. Upali himself can be disparaging about his comparatively small-scale industrial unit and refers to it as though a power-driven plaything; but nevertheless the evidence of strict quality control shows his understanding of the home market's growing discrimination.

"THE GROUP'S BIG-TIME DEALINGS, however are in Malaysia, in the growing and processing of cocoa beans, cocoa products and chocolates "Like butchers who won't waste anything he," says, 'we deal in every aspect of cocoa from the growing of the bean to the final packaging and gift-wrapping of chocolate boxes'. And so in a fine example of "vertical integration", the company also owns a plantation, as well as processing plants in Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok and Singapore. The cocoa line started in the early 1970s when, in a road-to-Damascus flash of inspiration, Wijewardene first bought 90 percent of the Ceylon Chocolates confectionery from at the appropriately named old kingdom of Kandy, and a declining tea and rubber plantation from a British company called Grand Central. The Company had large cocoa plantation holdings in Malaysia, but these remained out of Upali's reach since the Bandaranaike regime forbade the transfer of Sri Lankan currency abroad. So by a process of commercial *legerdemain*, he used a nominee company, Kuril Plantations, to transfer the ownership of Grand Central's cocoa acres outside the country. Thus the company could sell rubber to Malaysia, and buy further cocoa plantations there, without any illegal spending of rupees. Today, the main plantation covers 4,000 acres in Western Malaysia (yielding 2,000 tonnes of beans per year.) It is being supplemented by a hugely ambitious scheme in which 14,000 acres of jungle land in the remote but rich soil Sabah region is to be cleared with the help of Government subsidy, provided the Group builds a factory. Characteristically rather than wait for the first yield of beans, Upali is building the factory now to process beans from outside—7,000 tonnes the first year, 14,000 the second, 20,000 the third—and to add his own crop in due course. Bluntly put, it means that by 1986 Upali will have over 40 percent of Malaysia's total bean crop passing through his hands—just the scale of business with which he likes to deal. The company's processing plants are spread around Asia".

To be continued

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