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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

WE HAVE SPOTLIGHTED a scene from a site in the Mahaweli on the cover because the *pros* and *cons* of the Accelerated Plan and its very validity are at the moment very much in the fore-front of public consciousness in Sri Lanka. And, in this pre-election year, the focus on Mahaweli will get sharper and sharper. Questions have been raised here and abroad (especially in donor countries) about the feasibility, viability and other aspects of Mahaweli Project. Can the expenditure of the vast sums of money already expended, and the even vaster sums that have to be spent before the scheme is completed, be justified? Is the governmental claim that Mahaweli would feed the people, reduce unemployment and increased hydro power for the rest of the country, only propaganda ballyhoo? Has the Mahaweli dream already "turned sour" as some critics claim? Are the only beneficiaries the contractors (foreign and local), the commission agents and the big companies with the right political connections? These are questions that Opposition political parties, critics of the government and also many honest-to-goodness citizens genuinely concerned about the future of the island, will constantly ask at every turn now and in the near future. The answers to those questions will undoubtedly play an important part in shaping public opinion and in determining what voters will do in the crucial election year ahead. Unfortunately, the government has so far done little to answer these questions in a way that has brought credibility to the Mahaweli Scheme. Sunshine stories about Mahaweli and the happenings in the vast scheme cannot help. Repetitious stories about what has been achieved and what will be done have little or no impact on a public that looks on the outpouring of the official and pro-government media with suspicion. But, in reality, a great deal has already been done in the three major headwork of the Accelerated Plan, and a beginning has been made on another together with substantial progress in downstream development and a satisfactory start in settlement plans. Those who have intimate knowledge of constitutional activity in this island since the time of Independence admit that what has already been done is a staggering accomplishment by any standards and that if the present pace is maintained Sri Lanka will have a virtual miracle to its credit. Admittedly, the attendant evils of waste and corruption are ever present. But they have been a constant and recurrent factor in all development undertakings in this country (as in others). What is different in the Mahaweli is that even with waste, corruption and the evils of contractors raj, a great deal has been achieved especially in comparison with what was done in the past. It is for the government and the Mahaweli Authority to show the doubting public what has been done, what is being done and what finally will be done. Supplements in daily newspapers do not carry conviction, but if this money is spent in making it possible for ordinary people to visit these sites at subsidised rates, much will be done to invest the Accelerated Mahaweli Plan with credibility. *Tribune* investigators have visited some of these sites and they say that, in the twenty seven/eight years of this paper's existence, they have not seen so much done in such little time. It will be churlish and selfdefeating to allow political sectarianism to put blinkers on the evaluation of gigantic accomplishments that ordinary people will sooner or later be able to see for themselves—if the authorities make it possible for them to do so. Political parties in this country have unfortunately been slow to realise that opposition has credibility and validity only if based on realities. The accelerated Mahaweli Scheme is already a reality that cannot be wishfully removed from the political firmament by slogans and catchwords. It would be far better to concentrate on examining the potential dangers in transforming a river basin (and valley) in this way (as with the Aswan Dam constructed by the Soviet Union) and thereafter putting forward a plan to do things better than what the present government is doing or the UNP is capable of doing. The Accelerated Mahaweli Plan has come to stay and we have to learn to live with it.

E. L. Senanayake - 2

E. L. Senanayake's (ELS') sudden resignation and flight to London (to get treatment for his wife for an illness which everyone says could easily have been treated in this country) is still a major talking point in this country. And *Migara's* piece in the Weekend of May 16 was scintillating classic of the events surrounding the ELS saga. Last week we cited *in extenso* extracts from *Migara*. We cannot do better than complete the story by dipping further into his reportage. *Migara's* description of what took place in the Cabinet is a newspaper man's version of the Cabinet Minutes. "Shortly after the President's wishes were intimated by Chairman Panditharatne Minister Senanayake telephomed former Health Minister Gamini Jayasuriya's flat also in Kollupitiya and wanted to know if there were some Health Ministry letter heads there—to do the needful. The next morning Wednesday, May 12th was Cabinet day and as usual Ministers met at the Cabinet office with President Jayewardene presiding. The notable absentee however was Health Minister E. L. Senanayake. He had gone instead early that morning by about 8 to the Ministry of Health down Sri Chittampalam Gardiner Mawatha in Fort in search of a letter head and with the assistance of a confidential stenographer had his resignation typed. The Cabinet meeting proceeded with normal business and once the routine matters were gone through by about 10a.m. the fireworks began. Youth Affairs & Education Minister Ranil Wickremasinghe like Sir Galahad raised the matter beginning with the speech made by Minister Senanayake in Parliament the previous week. He pointed out that the Cabinet Secretary too had been called names and from there other matters dealing with the previous week's decision were taken up for discussion. Parliamentary Affairs and Sports Minister Vincent Perera spoke next to be followed by Trade & Shipping Minister Lalith Athulathmudali. When the matter was being discussed by the Ministers, the Cabinet door swung open and in walked the subject in person Health Minister E. L. Senanayake. It was almost an entry on cue. President Jayewardene then formally told 'Mr. Senanayake, we were discussing some of your matters. Some members of the Cabinet had expressed opinions. Others were silent but they did not oppose.'

"Minister E. L. Senanayake then possibly thinking these were references he had made to Cabinet Secretary G. V. P. Samarasinghe therefore tendered an apology to the Cabinet. President Jayewardene then reminded 'not only that, they have raised other issues too. We have to go into that. They can express their opinions now.' Then, Youth Affairs and Education Minister Ranil Wickremasinghe rose stating 'what I said Sir, was....' and proceeded to present his

case. The theme of his argument was mainly on Minister Senanayake's attack on Cabinet Secretary, G. V. P. Samarasinghe and other related matters. While Parliamentary Affairs & Sports Minister Vincent Perera apparently concentrated on the speech in Parliament, the two younger Ministers, concentrated on the irregular tender awards in the Ministry of Agricultural Development & Research. Minister Vincent Perera then pointed out that as Chief Government Whip it fell on him to go and convey to one-time Plantation Industries Minister and founder member of the UNP, M. D. H. Jayewardene that he had violated the principle of collective responsibility after a speech he had made in Parliament. Trade and shipping Minister Lalith Athulathmudali then rose and appealed to Minister E. L. Senanayake to place the party before himself as he had always done in the past. 'You have done greater service to the party than myself. That is the past. But the present is connected to the future. If I keep quiet it would amount to acquiescence. How can one talk of lapses of the past? The position is untenable', he seemed to plead that what he said was for the good of the party, the government and its leader. Minister Senanayake then interrupted to say, 'My friend, I have already done that'. Emotions were indeed running high. Naturally some of the Ministers would have been jolted from their seats. It was only then that others joined in the discussions. Then only did the Cabinet Ministers learn that Minister Senanayake had met the President just before the Cabinet meeting and handed over his resignation which the President had not mentioned to the Cabinet. "The letter was not dated. The reason for not dating the letter was because Minister E. L. Senanayake was to go to London this week in connection with medical treatment for Mrs. Senanayake. Many in Government felt that it was in order to allow him to go as Minister of Health which would enable him to naturally get some better facilities than if he had gone otherwise. Prime Minister R. Premadasa, Labour Minister, Captain C. P. J. Senaviratne, Industries Minister Cyril Mathew and Mahaweli Minister Gamini Dissanayake had also spoken on this formula. But it was felt that it was best to have the resignation done with it straightaway. Minister E. L. Senanayake had at this stage accused the *Sun* group of newspapers and his column for what he alleged almost a campaign conducted against him. Why delay, Minister Vincent Perera asked stating that this formula will anyway be in the Sunday newspapers. Thus this formula, this post-dated resignation was proved unacceptable and the resignation of the Minister of Health took immediate effect and he was to proceed to London only as MP for Kandy."

Such was the inglorious exit of ELS, who had in recent times gone about in the style and manner of a King of Kandy—with a police motor cycle patrol always in attendance.

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Migara then described some of the events that took place after ELS bent a retreat. "No sooner the Cabinet meeting was concluded an urgent message was sent out to Dr. Ranjith Atapattu, MP for Beliatta and Project Minister for the Colombo Group of Hospitals who was attending a hospital function summoning him to see President Jayewardene. At 11.20 that morning when he got the message Dr. Atapattu was unaware of what had occurred moments earlier in the Cabinet room and that he was being summoned to take his oaths 25 minutes later as the Minister of Health. Obviously one of his cherished dreams ever since his GMOA days. Almost simultaneously as the oaths were being administered on the new Minister of Health the Presidential Secretariat issued a one paragraph media communique regarding the resignation of Minister E. L. Senanayake. The statement said 'Hon. E. L. Senanayake has offered his resignation from the post of Minister of Health today (12.58.2) and His Excellency the President was pleased to accept it' Many political observers point out the difference between this statement with that issued when ex-Minister M. D. H. Jayawardene was requested to resign way back in 1979 over a critical speech he had made in Parliament over the Finance Minister's budget proposals. The concluding part of that lengthy Presidential statement read: 'It was with regret that he accepted the resignation of a colleague and fellow party worker associated with him for almost 30 years.'

Migara thereafter tried to draw a kindly picture of ELS—why it is still not clear. He started this part of the account of the Fall of E. L. Senanayake thus: 'E. L. Senanayake had walked away from the Cabinet room before the others did patting the two young Ministers and telling them 'You are still my friends'. . . . Starting with this picture of ELS as a magnanimous man, *Migara* went on: "That is E. L. Senanayake. A man with genuine sincerity. Those who know him well will say unreservedly that he is a likeable personality. For him politics was a profession, his hobby, and a way-of-life, nay life itself. E. L. (Edward Lionel) Senanayake had a remarkable record of local politics which always revolved round the picturesque and mystic city of Kandy. He and Kandy were inseparable. One scribe even said that what E. L. is to Kandy is what Prince Saliya was to Asokamala. There was hardly a soul who in Kandy could have not come in some way under his infectious hospitality. At the young age of 23 years E. L. Senanayake became the youngest Municipal Councillor being elected to the Kandy Municipal Council. He soon rose to become Deputy Mayor of Kandy and at the age of only 30 he became the youngest mayor in all Sri Lanka. He has worked for the UNP since the late 1940s and been with it in victory and in defeat. He has been cheered and jeered been the recipient of bouquets and brickbats as only a few others in the local political area have ever known. E. L. Senanayake has not been a Cabinet Minister for

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very long (altogether a little over six years) but he has been a MP for 26 years and held Kandy for the UNP for so long—and that is a long time in our 34 years' independence. He once flew down from London to vote in parliament on the obnoxious press council Bill which was introduced by Mrs. Bandaranaike in 1964. That vote was also responsible for the defeat of her government. He has probably fought more election petitions than any other politician. He has gone from the lowest court to the Privy Council in England. He has retained eminent Sri Lankan Queen's Counsels as well as English Barristers like Sri Hartley Shawcross who later became the Attorney-General (a Cabinet post) in the Labour Government of Britain. The law was once amended after one of his Privy Council appeals. "He has spent a fortune on politics and the ruling UNP and at the end of all that, it is difficult for many not even that old probably to fathom this exit. It must therefore be more than a sad sad unfortunate occasion. *The government has still not formally announced who is to blame or what the irregularities were in regard to the award of tenders in the Ministry of Agricultural Development and Research*'

HAVING THUS MADE HIS PEACE with ELS: *Migara* went on to raise a very important question "But if one probes deeper, or possibly if the evidence that came up before the Cabinet Sub Committee is made public one will see *who the real culprits are. Certain unscrupulous businessmen the ones who ruin Governments, ruin politicians and ruin the very fabric of the democratic process. They have a price tag for everyone and will offer and exploit exactly the temptations a politician, a human being with human weaknesses, will be attracted to. They have their agents in every political party and whatever party is in power it is their government. In the villages, it is the mudalali, in the city it is the business tycoon. They are both up to the same rotten business of corrupting politicians. Many fall for the trap and Anura Daniel lost his seat and his self-respect as well. The businessmen go on. It is they whom the Government must chase after now. Never has our election been won with their money nor can it be done in the future. . . .*" This is a matter that must be pursued relentlessly. There are indications that the government has at last woken up to the danger that emanates from rich underworld operators who have used politicians for their nefarious ends.

But even *Migara's* account of the E.L.S. showdown has left many questions unanswered. The CPSSL's paper *Forward* raised a query in a banner headline on its front page WHY DID EL QUIT? "Why did Minister E. L. Senanayake suddenly resign from the portfolio of Minister of Health to which he had been abruptly transferred by President Jayewardene only a week previously? This question has been a talking

point in political circles, especially as both President Jayewardene and Mr. E. L. Senanayake have not up to now given any reasons for what they have done. The Cabinet sub-committee, chaired by the President, which probed Mr. Senanayake's role in the irregular award of two multi-million rupee tenders by the Ceylon Fertilizer Corporation (which was then under Mr. Senanayake's former Ministry of Agricultural Development and Research) held that his conduct had been irregular but not corrupt. On this basis, Mr. Senanayake, who had brought maximum pressure to bear on the government to avoid a more adverse finding (see last page), accepted his transfer as Minister of Health and told Parliament that his honour had been vindicated and that Health was anyway his "first love". His abrupt and unexplained resignation a mere week after he assumed his new office, therefore took the country and most members of the government itself by surprise. "Among the many possible reasons given for this decision are: (a) Mr. Senanayake, who had publicly boasted that he was 'cleared', was annoyed that at the Cabinet meeting of May 12, some of the younger Ministers had criticised the decision of the sub-committee, said that the way in which Minister E. L. had been 'let off' had brought the government and the party into public disrepute and called for further action; (b) Minister E. L. had been annoyed at the way in which his Ministry Secretary Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne, whom he had accused of being responsible for the irregularities and tried to send him on compulsory leave, had been given a virtual vote of confidence by the President. Although Mr. Wijeratne was permitted to resign as Secretary, he retained his powerful position as Chairman of the important Agricultural Authority and was further promoted by the President to the new post of Chairman of the Land Reform Commission; (c) Minister E. L. who had been angling for an appointment in the FAO did not want his chances spoilt by dismissal of having to leave Ministerial office under a cloud; (d) Minister E. L. who had insisted on his son being nominated by the UNP to fill the vacant Hewaheta seat, was miffed that this request had not been immediately granted.

"UNP circles, who were taken a back by Mr. Senanayake's sudden and unexpected resignation, tried to cover up their embarrassment by telling the *Daily News* (13/5) that "He is a great man. He has placed the party above himself". But, internally, consternation raged. No one knew what E. L. would tell Parliament when it met next. Apprehensions were even greater when it was discovered that E. L. had not returned a number of files he had taken with him concerning the return to prominent UNP leaders of lands taken over from them under the Land Reform. A file dealing with the return of a property near Chilaw which had belonged to the J. R. Jayewardene family was said to be one of these. Mr. Senanayake's house is full of UNP visitors, mostly from the Premadasa wing. The UNP Chairman Panditharatne and other J. R.

loyalists are constantly on the telephone to E. L. asking about his future intentions. E. L. himself has equally suddenly decided to leave for London with his wife tomorrow. From there he will watch developments, especially in relation to the Hewaheta nomination, before returning to make his next move. In the meantime, government stock in the country is very low due to its handling of the "E.L. Affair", which has made its much-publicised 'anti-corruption drive' a joke. "We are in a more ridiculous, confused and unenviable position over E. L. than we were over the Kalawana affair last year, is how one prominent UNP'er described it." **But this lengthy account, even making allowance for its heavy pro-CP slant does not provide an answer to the question it raised WHY DID E. L. QUIT? Various bits of evidence" of a circumstantial nature are provided for the reader to draw his inferences, but the basic question remains unanswered.** The *Forward* is also not able to resist the temptation to hark back to its pet theory that the UNP was living in the permanent shadow of a J. R.—Premadasa split. For over four years, the *Forward* has plugged this line and the split still seems far far away. Then the *Forward* in its column *Last Page* (by Gamini) has a bash at the anti-corruption drive of the Government—that it had already met its "Waterloo". This piece too gives an insight into a leftwing approach to one of the most welcome (anti-corruption) measures adopted (belatedly) by the Government. "As this column goes to press, the news reaches us that Mr. E. L. Senanayake has resigned from the post of Minister of Health to which he was transferred a week ago. The reason for this sudden move is still unexplained. But the unpleasant fact remains that the 'anti-corruption' drive that President Jayewardene launched with such a fanfare of trumpets has met its Waterloo in its very first test—the E. L. Senanayake affair. E. L. Senanayake has been a liability for the government for some time. His highly controversial and questionable activities as Minister in charge of the vast empire of agriculture and lands has been steadily reduced, as more and more light was shed on them. One should not forget that what gave rise to the "anti-corruption" drive was not the Anura Daniel affair (which was over before the drive started) but the improper granting of two tenders, each running into millions of rupees, by the Ceylon Fertilizer Corporation. The ruckus around this affair compelled President Jayewardene to take the Fertiliser Corporation also away from Minister E. L. Senanayake and to order a confidential investigation by Cabinet Secretary G. V. P. Samarasinghe. Mr. Samarasinghe's report, which called into question the role played by both Minister E. L. and his Ministry Secretary Ranjan Wijeratne (widely regarded as 'JR's watchdog' in the Ministry), led to the whole squalid affair coming into the open—with the Minister accusing his Secretary and vice versa, and with the President personally counter-manding the Minister's order sending Mr. Wijeratne on compulsory leave.

(To Be Concluded)

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Drunks at Cinemas

The following incident took place at a posh cinema in the city. A small group, already the worse for liquor, staggered in just before the lights were dimmed for the show, and it was not long, before the Bar waiter began dancing attention on them. From one swig to another, the din grew and criss-crossed with the dialogue in the main feature film, the enjoyment of which was spoilt for many. Is it not correct for certain Bar norms to be laid down firmly against such deplorable behaviour in a house of entertainment? Even cooing couples carry on in silence, but such drunkenness could turn out to be the last straw that would snap any moviegoers interest in a film, and strain his tolerance, leading to ugly incidents, where many, including women and children are gathered for relaxation, away from the cares of their homes. Getting back to the incident as this highly charged group (in high spirits) trooped out of the cinema, minutes before curtains, my mind flashed back to the contents of a pamphlet on drunkenness which although mildly irrelevant, could be compressed in this column to amuse *Tribune* readers, who could muse over its lessons and pass it around. "Liquor turns a person into a Peacock, a Monkey, a Lion and finally a Pig in stages. When a person has drunk a little bit, pride enters his heart. He thinks himself to be more clever and more handsome than anyone else. He also thinks himself to be rich, and begins to squander his money, by standing others to a drink and he wastes his money, while his wife and children are perhaps starving, in want of clothing and a proper home. He does not realize that this spirit of pride and wantonness has hold of him. In the eyes of other people, he is like the PEACOCK, which spreads out its feathers to show off its beauty and its colour. After drinking a little more, he begins to talk a lot about himself, praising himself and mimicking others. When he finds that his foolish talking makes others laugh, he gets bolder and talks more foolishly than ever. He begins to brag about many things that he has never done. He does not realise that he is acting like a MONKEY. As he keeps on drinking, he begins to feel as strong and bold as a LION. He thinks he can fight anyone and everyone even the 'house full' patrons in a cinema—and is not afraid of anything. He breaks and smashes everything that comes his way. He feels delighted when people run away in fear and terror. He begins to roar like a LION and causes his wife and children to run away in fear, while he breaks up the home and begins to fight everybody and is not afraid even to kill. As he keeps on consuming liquor further, his thirst increases and begins to effect his mind. He begins to stagger all over, with eyes protruding, and begins to see all sorts of things. Drinks have now got the better of him and he finally wallows on the ground like a PIG.

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He even begins to grunt like one, making himself even lower than a pig". This then being the common behaviour patterns of drunkards, let those in a cinema be spared of their antics and a closure applied from the cinema Bar, at the PEACOCK stage at least. Managers please note.

ALAIGAL OIVATHILLAI (Waves Do Not Rest) Tamil: The brilliant creativity and the accepted magic of Barathi Raja of *Niram Maaratha Pookal* fame, buttressed with Illayarajah's music comes once again into full play in this film, which is running to crowded houses in the Tamil release circuits now. The screenplay too is by this Director, who has mustered a juvenile cast, who may have never faced a cine camera before and so cast them perfectly to deliver a story with a sentimental punch for the love torn youth of today facing so many "ifs" before uniting, to love, obey and hold forever. The majority of those viewing this film are the keepers of the hearth and the decision makers of tomorrow and what message they could have extracted from this bold story in anyone's guess. It is debatable, thought provoking and geared to set off many materialistic ripples in a multi-religious milieu such as ours. To the intermittent lashing of the waves by the shore, in an effort to give meaning to the title, a story is spun in a rural village, teeming with teenage frolics, and a rare camaraderie among the youth, out of which blooms, reluctantly at first, but slowly and surely later, a simple love affair between an indigent fatherless Brahmin youngster, Vichchu, and an affluent, educated Catholic belle, Mary. Although nurtured in secrecy, the romance assumes Romeo and Juliet proportions, till detected by Mary's bullying and arrogant married brother (Thyagarajan), a cock of the walk and a rooster in the barnyard at that, roaring on his two wheeler with an authority born of wealth. All Hell is let loose on the lovers by the burly brother, and religious differences, hitherto submerged, surface to a major issue in the conflict to release in fact, a class struggle that veers towards a love versus religion encounter. A box office success and an appetiser for the young. Well chisselled in appearance, Vichchu is roled convincingly Karthik, who is the son of the late reputed actor Muthuraman, while Thyagarajan is tailor-made in demeanour alone for villainous roles. The young actress Radha who roles Mary, just fell short in a difficult task. It is to the eternal credit of Bharathiraja that he could assemble such an inexperienced cast and mould them to produce a story, so full of appeal, and rich in entertainment. This film has come as welcome relief from the histrionics of Kamalhasan and Rajni Kanth, of which there has been an overdoze, on our screens. Without reservations, a very good film.

HEROES OF TELEMAR (English): It is a tiny and treacherous ice bound village Telemar, in Norway (1942)—when Sri Lanka too was receiving its Baptism

of Bombs in the Japanese Easter Air Raid (1942)—when an important life line for the Allied Powers (UK and USA) was being steadily being maintained at great risk by a band of "Braves" at the tail end of World War II. Led by a much younger looking Kirk Douglas and Richard Harris, the Nazis are outwitted, outmanoeuvred and kept at bay as essential supplies are kept moving, to ensure the D-Day that followed. But for the scenarios that please the eye, the story lacks momentum for a war film and has been staled by time, in its arrival to our screens for the first time, and dulled by the global polarisations that have taken place since. It could still however be relished by a generation who may be misty about what a World War like in pre nuclear times.

SEVEN NIGHTS IN JAPAN: (English): A re-release, that ran to crowded houses in the Metropolis, not many moons ago, this film could be relished a second time without regrets. A tender love story is the menu, in the land of Cherry Blossoms, between Royalty (Michael York) and a commoner (Hidemi Aoki), laced with the finest of Japanese melodies. Directed by the reputed Lewis Gilbert and enriched in colour by Oriental settings, if you have seen this film once, see it again on its sentimental journey of the heart, across a country where the Sun always rises!

JAMES N. BENEDICT

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LETTERS

Road Rules-Why Only For Motorists?

Sir,

It is time that the Government seriously considered the desirability of framing rules and regulations for the guidance and observance of the pedestrians in regard to the usage of public roads, particularly in crowded towns with heavy rush of traffic. It is common knowledge that one cannot drive through even an ordinary small town like Veyangoda without having to apply brakes, change gears or even stop the vehicle several times due to the indifferent attitude of pedestrians. Although it has become the habit and the fashion to blame the motorist when a pedestrian is involved in a motor accident, more often than not such accidents are due to the fault of pedestrians. Unlike in the past, it is only a certain category of people with a substantial income and invariably tax-payers who can afford to maintain a motor vehicle for private use today. In view of the cost of fuel and other expenses involved in the maintenance of a vehicle, they too whilst using the public transport whenever possible, use their private vehicles only for important

and very essential purposes when there is no alternative whereas the majority of the pedestrians who crowd and obstruct the roads, particularly in towns, are loiterers and loafers whom roam the streets with no purpose.

Recently I had the occasion to watch a pedestrian suddenly running across the road whilst looking elsewhere and banging on the right side of a slow moving vehicle, injuring himself. No motorist could have avoided this accident. The gentlemanly motorist instead of speeding up to the nearest police station stopped his vehicle at the spot to thereafter face the abuse and insult of a crowd that surrounded him and his family. None in that crowd ever saw what actually happened. Ultimately, this incident ended up with the innocent motorist having to waste the whole day and incur unnecessary expenses by way of going to the police station, taking the injured pedestrian who pretended to be seriously ill though he had only minor injuries to hospital in a hired van and informing his relatives who lived a considerable distance away, etc. **There should be legislative provision in a situation of this nature to protect the motorist and to punish the faulty pedestrian for the careless usage of the public road and causing inconvenience to the motorist.**

In Singapore no pedestrian would cross the road even at the pedestrian crossings till the green light comes on because he knows that the fine for this offence is heavy (dollars 50?). On a road provided with pedestrian crossings no one dares to cross the road except at the authorised points. In all busy areas two yellow lines reserve the middle portion of the road for vehicular traffic, leaving a space on either side sufficient for pedestrians to walk in single file. If similar road rules are enacted in our country, much of the road accidents that occur today can be avoided and the motorists too will be saving on fuel and maintenance expenses of their vehicles. Pedestrians must be made to realize that roads and bridges are constructed at very great expense mainly for vehicular traffic, and if it is only for pedestrians' use, foot-paths with suspension bridges and "Edandas" would suffice as had been in the past and continuing even now in the remote rural areas.

Dr. T. G. D. Chandra Perera, J.P

66, Attanagalla Road,
Veyangoda,
10th May 1982.

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Wonder Bean - Jojoba

Sir,

It is hoped that the Article on "Jojoba"—Wonder Bean, published in your worthy Journal of 3rd April

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1982, would have attracted the attention of the top Executives/Agriculturists/Economists of this country, too. In fact, there was a similar article that appeared in the *Ceylon Daily News* of 24th April 1980 written by Dr. Geroldheim. Based on same, our Movement wrote a letter to the then Government Agent, Mannar, to try this plant in Mannar District, which falls under Arid zone and where thousands of acres of land are lying idle and barren due to scarcity of water. The authorities took prompt action to take up the matter with the Department of Agriculture of Sri Lanka. However, even after two years of long correspondence the Deputy Director (Botanic Gardens) has now called for seeds from the Government Agent, Mannar to try same, inspite of the fact that he has suggested to him to try same from the Ceylon High Commission in USA and Canada. It is distressing to note that when many countries have advanced ahead in many ways in trying this plant in their own countries, in those desert type arid zones, and scientists have carried out many researches, as per your article, the Department of Agriculture is just going on a vicious circle, where there is no progress. Will the present Hon. Minister who took over this Ministry recently remedy this position of lethargy and help to introduce such wonder, hybrid plants for the posterity?

It is interesting to note that the present Government Agent Mannar Mr. D. Vamadevan has taken special interest especially perhaps after reading the article of *Tribune* of 3.4.82. and has written to the FAO's Representative in Sri Lanka to help to obtain seeds, by forwarding an extract of the Article. Since, Mannar is an arid area, the economy of this place could only be promoted by introducing such drought resistant plants which possess the greatest Industrial potential, Will the High Command of the Agricultural Ministry move in this matter and initiate steps to do some research on same? It is also understood that the FAO and WFP and other organs of the UNO has been helping to finance the introduction of such revolutionary substitute plants in the world. In Tunisia, the FAO and WFP have even undertaken to help the growers of Olive plantation for over 10 to 20 years by supplying all the food and subsistence required during the gestation period. Why then cannot the Government of Sri Lanka put forward such projects and seek financial assistance for such ventures, which would bring high benefit to this country? Are these not productive ventures when compared with such massive buildings of only external show value?

V. Shaunmaganathan
Secretary

Socio-Economic Cultural Movement (NR)
Karainagar,
13th May 1982.

NGUVU

Stolen Nuts

By Bwana Rafiki

THE FIRST DAY of the pick on the other estate it was and at the last load for the day the yoke of one of the double-bullock carts broke. We were right out of poonac for the cows and I had been hoping that our suppliers, makers of dessicated coconut, would at last bring some in answer to my requests. Two fields had been completed and I was hoping to count these coconuts. I felt there was not time to be lost. Our solitary bullock cart was yoked to a bull, but it was the other bullock cart that fetched in the nuts. The single-bullock cart was sent with two men and Rs. 80/- to fetch a bag of poonac from the village. We counted the two fields and the men went off. A heavy shower of rain delayed the return of the cart with the poonac. One of the milkers came up and we measured thirty pounds. I went along with him and we started feeding the cows. The other milker turned up. After the cows in milk were fed and some of the dry cows, we fed the young calves and then some striks. Dinner—9.30 p.m. The remainder of the pick was completed in half a day, but it took us another two hours to fetch in the coconuts using the single bullock cart and the double-cart. The single cart is called in Sinhalese a half-cart or more correctly a half load, and the double cart a heavy cart. The increase on the corresponding crop last year on the other estate was double that of mine. Just before the counting started an American friend of one of my sisters turned up and she turned up in the nick of time for she had wanted to see how the counting was done. She and her driver stayed the night, and she sat out in the garden or rather on the drive in front of the house and I sat out with her. Her first remark was, once we were seated, Tell me something about Ceylon. I started by telling her I thought our people were the cleverest in the world. Later I said that the key to our character was the people are all actors, so when we wanted to act the Asian Fool to a foreigner, we did so. She saw the point.

THE VISITING AGENT said that two thousand fallen nuts must have been stolen from the large block across the road, and I had been saying all along there were coconuts being stolen. It was he who discovered that thieves had picked nuts off eight trees in the last day or so, with the picking completed barely a week. He also counted eighty trees which the pickers had not touched at all. As we were about to leave this block, a man came up and said that a calf's stomach was out after being gored by a buffalo. The stomach was like a ball about nine inches in diameter with a neck to the stomach and a hole in the little calf's stomach wall, not more than an inch and a half in diameter. I curtailed the bathing

of the herd so as to get the calf out of the river bed. He followed the herd up the bank and to the gate. After that it went along with two of us along the road and through the estate to the cow sheds. The veterinary and I missed our lunch and worked the stomach back into the calf through the aperture or hole. Next morning I went along to see why the poonac had not arrived. Transport had been troubling the manufacturers, but I was promised it that day and it turned up in a tractor and trailer as I was leaving the estate. A lorry travelling from Elahera to Katunayake gave me a lift as far as Minuwangoda and the driver and his cleaner told me they had been having very heavy rain there. This was the end of March and I remembered that April showers can be very heavy in the Dry Zone. When I got to Colombo I had remembered it was Thursday and the first Thursday in the month and decided that certain duties I delegate to Thursday and the first Thursday of the month must come first. That duty done I treated myself to some meat or fish balls and a cup of tea in an eating place right where I was, part of the establishment where I had gone. A task enjoined on me was to spend a little while with to whomever it might give a little joy.

THE COCONUTS I have been able more or less to sell, as much depends on how quickly the buyers can give me an advance. I shall need money from the sale of this crop. The price I was offered was a good Rs. 200/- more than what my old brokers were prepared to give me and Rs. 50/- more than the buyers of my last crop and Rs. 150/- more than another party, could offer me. I shall be telephoning on Monday to find out more about the advance on which the sale depends. I was late getting to the bus stand. A bus had not left for hours. I got to the estate in time by hitching a lift on the lorry that had come from Elahera. It was on its way back. A new boy had turned up as he said he would. I took him round the cattle and then we visited our *Duwa* where the coconuts had been stolen as I have said. Then at 8 p.m. three of us had to pump water to the bungalow. Dinner we had at 9 a.m. God orders all supremely well. The forty trees that had not been picked were not picked next morning as, so we discovered later, the man who was to scale and pick them had his knife stolen from him after I had met him the previous day. I was able to draw up balance wages for the month that ended four days ago and I discovered that my father's had already been done by a young man who is helping me about the place. I called in at the police station about the eight trees that had been picked only for four days after the pick had been completed. No bus turned up for about two hours to take me away except two rather overcrowded private buses which were only going a part of my way. After an hour and a half of boredom I wandered off to visit a *pansala* near by as I thought I knew the monk. It was 9 p.m. when I got to my father's house. The bus from the Pettah carried a person related to me by marriage.

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May 9 - 14

**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, MAY 9: The United National Party and the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (Sirima Wing) will go full steam preparing for the General Election immediately; the UNP, which has already swung into action will hold a series of public meetings and intensify its membership drive. The Customs battle against smugglers will take a new turn shortly when it will commission a data bank for easier identification of known smugglers at the check points—*SO*. One of the world's most sensitive and controversial religious issues—artificial termination of pregnancy will be discussed exhaustively at the International Buddhist Conference meeting in Colombo from June 1-5; President J. R. Jayewardene will inaugurate this Conference which will draw 200 world Buddhist leaders and scholars to Colombo. Sri Lanka is among nine other developing countries that has benefitted from Arab banks increasing their lending operations to developing countries. The Minister of Home Affairs, Mr. K. W. Devanayagam, has decided to create 20 new AGA's Divisions in order to speed up the work of district administration. Sri Lanka is now a full-fledged member of the infamous "Golden Crescent" which has emerged as the world's largest primary-source of illicit drug production in South-East Asia; a recent investigation revealed that 1.2 million kilograms of local cannabis (ganja) entered the international drug market making Sri Lanka a top supplier to the world of narcotics—*ST*. An image of a goddess, superficially similar to that of Venus, has been unearthed near the Jetavana Stupa during recent excavations under the UNSECO-Sri Lanka Cultural Triangle Project. The shameful trade in Lankan babies continue unabated with mothers now found to be selling their children months before they are born this highly organised child adoption racket has become such a lucrative business that those involved have now established "baby factories"; here pregnant mother, who had agreed to sell their infants, were provided accommodation and facilities in homes till mother who had agreed to sell their infants, were such time as the child was born; investigations have

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revealed that some of the mothers had conceived the babies on purpose in order to sell them for sums ranging from Rs. 100,000 to Rs. 300,000—*WK*. A massive haul of gold and gems believed to have been smuggled out from Sri Lanka to India, has been seized by Customs officials in Tamil Nadu; the contraband consists of 16,028 grams of gold valued at Rs. 2.8 million Indian rupees and 184 gram of precious stones valued at 200,000 Indian rupees—*IS*. The Elections Department is making preparations for a General Election at any moment; all preparatory work in this connection is now being done in the Department—*CH*. It is felt that the Batticaloa electorate will cause great confusion to the United National Party and the Tamil United Liberation Front in the forthcoming general elections—*VK*.

MONDAY, MAY 10: The Immigration authorities are now taking steps to receive passport applications through the different kachcheris countrywide instead of making people come to Colombo to file their applications; President J. R. Jayewardene has directed the Immigration and Emigration Department to quickly implement this measure to assist thousands of people who need passports to find jobs abroad—*CDN*. New laws are likely to be introduced by the government to curb the exodus of doctors from State medical institutions; these laws, now being examined, will make provision for the appointment of a Competent Authority who will be empowered to withhold a degree until a doctor completes his or her liabilities to the State—*SU*. Bureaucratic lethargy has delayed the implementation of vital security measures at Kelanitissa and the other seven hydro-power stations and the grid sub-stations; these measures had been recommended to the Ceylon Electricity Board by President J. R. Jayewardene as Minister of Power and Energy as far back as November last year—*IS*. It is understood that six political organisations in the North are planning to boycott the forthcoming general elections—*VK*. The Government has decided to take action against all Corporations, Boards and private businessmen who are increasing the prices of their finished products unreasonably and also those not showing their proper cost of production—*DI*.

TUESDAY, MAY 11: More than half the electricity consumed in Sri Lanka today is generated by five expensive fuel-guzzling gas turbines, a Ceylon Electricity Board spokesman said yesterday; the five turbines which are being worked to capacity produced 2.3 mw on Sunday while the Laxapana hydro-electric plant produced only 1.7 mw on the same day; small quantities of hydro-electricity were also produced at Inginiyagala, Udawalawe and Bowatenne. President J. R. Jayewardene yesterday expressed his belief that "those who devote themselves to science" should be adequately rewarded, not only by getting President's and other awards, but in the emoluments they are paid—*CDN*. Prime Minister Mr. R. Premadasa has banned the conversion of residential premises

into commercial premises;—*CDM*. Several thousand acres of estate land which has been reduced to uneconomic levels under the National Agricultural Diversification and Settlement Scheme are to be handed over to the new company, Lanka Estates Development for management—*SU*. Security officers are concerned over the influx of new recruits into terrorist ranks in the North. Recent information has revealed that young ones recently recruited have helped to swell the terrorist movement numerically. A token general strike has been called for today and tomorrow May 11 and 12 by eight unions of the plantation workers in support of seven demands including a wage increase and equal pay for men and women workers on plantations. Five Sri-Lankan scientists who were responsible for the development of the high yielding BG varieties in rice which accounted for the marked increase in rice production were the recipients of the first ever Presidential Awards at the awards ceremony of the National Science Council held yesterday at President's House—*IS*. The Police is to go computer to meet the acute manpower shortage, which does not show signs of easing in the near future a Police spokesman said this morning—*CO*. Yesterday the *CWE* brought down the prices of dry chillies and dhalls; The price of dry chillies which was Rs. 30 has come down to Rs. 25 per kilo and dhal which was Rs. 25 per kilo has been brought down to Rs. 20/50 per—*LD*.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 12: Two senior DIGs on Monday alerted all gazetted officers and officers in charge of police stations in the Colombo metropolitan area to keep close watch for a possible resurgence of JVP activity. DIGs Mr. Herbert Weerasinghe who heads the CID and Mr. S. Vamadevan the intelligence chief at the Defence Ministry said there was no evidence of any subversive activity by the JVP; but the behaviour of some JVPers necessitated a close watch on their activities both in Colombo and the suburbs. The Government has decided to count the domesticated elephants in the country and the Department of Wildlife Conservation has been assigned the task of making a detailed census, Mr. Chandra Karunaratne acting Minister of State said at a press conference yesterday. A draft Dangerous Drugs Control Act has been produced by the Legal Draftsman for the consideration of government—*CDN*. Sri Lanka's external assets have shot up appreciably and the country's trade deficit with the world had narrowed giving the rupee a slightly higher international stature. The principal Collector of Customs H. D. Dissanayake yesterday ordered all ten Customs officers now stationed at Talaimannar Pier to be transferred back to Colombo and they be replaced by other officers—*CDM*. Government is to create 10,000 new posts for teachers to fill a massive dearth in their cadre throughout the country; a proposal to this effect is to be submitted to the Cabinet by Education Minister Ranil Wickremasinghe shortly. The rice requirements of Sri Lanka will increase by over 50 million metric tons the turn of the century—*SU*. I. G. P. Mr. Rudra

Rajasingham presiding over this first major conference with his senior Deputy Inspectors General of Police stressed the need to conduct immediate inquiries into public complaints of assault and harassments and to take appropriate action where necessary—*IS*. The Ministry of plan Implementation has decided to start a new development scheme to see that all farmers and small scale businessmen in the rural areas are given benefits and other facilities. Mr. Festus Perera, Minister of Fisheries, will distribute 75 fishing boats to fishermen in the Moratuwa electorate shortly. The cost of these boats are Rs. 5 lakhs—*LD*. The Oils & Fats Corporation production has decreased by 50%; this has been due to the price increase in these products. Sales in all their produce have come down. Now the Corporation is facing a big loss—*DI*.

THURSDAY, MAY 13: Health Minister E. L. Sena nayake, a central figure in the controversy over some tender awards by the Ministry of Agricultural Development and Research, tendered his resignation yesterday. Cabinet has agreed to the proposal presented by the Minister of Food and Co-operatives S. B. Herat that the Co-operative Societies Law No. 5. of 1972 be amended to ensure the greater efficiency of co-operatives and also to reduce malpractices. Sri Lanka has successfully negotiated a syndicated credit of one-hundred million US dollars in London, the Finance Ministry announced in Colombo yesterday—*CDN*. The telecommunication system in Colombo is likely to come to a complete standstill; engineers in the Department have fears that the underground cables have been damaged by unauthorised construction labour gangs who carry out work without consulting the Telecommunication Department; subscribers have complained that their telephones become "dead" and remains so far weeks despite constant reminders to the authorities—*CDM*. Dr. Ranjit Atapattu who has held the non-Cabinet rank office as Minister for Colombo Group of Hospitals, was sworn in by President J. R. Jayewardene as the new Minister of Health; he will continue to hold both assignments—*SU*. The Minister of Transport wants to take a loan of ten million rupees from the government to recondition the railway; heavy losses have been faced by the railway department in the past. *DI*. Yesterday the Cabinet decided to increase the salaries of all employees in the State Engineering Corporation; this proposal was made by the Prime Minister Mr. R. Premadasa. All salaries were increased by 40%—*LD*.

FRIDAY, MAY 14: Serious rethinking on the part of Advanced Level English students and teachers is necessary in view of the dismal performance of candidates at the GCE A Level Examination last August; this is stated by the Controlling Chief Examiner in English, in a report on the performance of the candidates released by the Department of Examinations. President J. R. Jayewardene will visit Army units in Colombo today—*CDN*. Producers of subsidiary

food crops will soon receive higher floor prices for their produce—*CDM*. The tax surcharge for 1981/82 approved by Cabinet on Wednesday will help the Department of Inland Revenue to rake in an estimated Rs. 200 million; tax payers will be required to pay in the first instalment before July 15 and the second before the end of November. Student protests in the North have compelled Police to step up security precautions in the peninsula. One Health Officer for every three thousand people by 1983 is the target set by the Ministry of Health said the new Health Minister Dr. Ranjith Atapattu when he assumed duties at the Ministry yesterday—*SU*. Over 90 percent of the trade unions which joined the July 1980 strike now face the danger of being struck off the Trade Union Registers maintained by the Department of Labour, according to Labour Ministry sources *IS*. In a move to prevent cigarettes from going into the blackmarket at times of shortfalls in production, the Ceylon Tobacco Company has decided to issue cards to bona fide retailers of cigarettes—*CO*. The Minister of Post and Telecommunications has decided to instal 500 telephones in rural subpost offices shortly—*DV*.



WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

May 8 - 15

ASIA

ISRAEL: Israeli war planes bombed Palestinian targets in Southern Lebanon. This came as a reprisal against Palestinian attacks aimed at Northern Galilee. Israeli Premier Menachem Begin charged the Palestinians guerillas with violations of the cease-fire in Lebanon. **LEBANON:** The pro-Syrian Arab Democratic Party and anti-Syrian Popular Resistance supporters clashed with each other in Tripoli. **IRAN** Iran appears to have stepped up its offensive in the area around the Iraqi-held Iranian Port of Khorramashar. Iraq, however, claimed to have halted the progress Iran had been making during the last two weeks. According to reports emanating from Paris Iranian guerilla group Mujahideens was very active in Teheran. They denied all claims that they have been wiped out. **INDIA:** Premier Indira Gandhi may visit United States and the Soviet Union immediately after the Presidential Election in India. She may also visit Scandinavian countries.

EUROPE

UNITED KINGDOM: With the euphoria created by the Falkland crisis Mrs. Thatcher's Tories were able to capture most of the local council seats. Observers believe that this was a serious setback for the Labour, Liberal and Social Democrats. However

this would not be considered to have any major influence on the next General Election. The top-selling daily *Sun* accused other newspapers like the *Daily Mirror* and the *Liberal Guardian* and the BBC of treachery against Britain while others in turn charged *Sun* with the bloodiest lies over the Falklands issues. Premier Thatcher attacked the role of BBC in the current conflict with the Argentina over Falkland Islands and charged it with being anti-British. The Premier's speech in Parliament compelled the Opposition parties—Labour, Liberal and Social Democrats—to take the side of the BBC. Such intemperate attacks, they said, may damage the reputation of the BBC. Labour Party leader Michael Foot attacked the *Sun* and the *Daily Mail* for their hysterical blood-lust which gave a moral booster to British actions in the Falklands. Premier Thatcher's Conservatives were agitated whether Britain will be forced into any compromise over Falkland Islands. As President of the World Wildlife Fund, Prince Philip, has expressed fears that naval operations in and around Falklands may cause serious damage to the whale population—because whales could be mistaken for submarines. The events in Poland and Middle East and the crisis in the Western alliance have all the ingredients for disturbing world peace beyond 1982 according to a report of the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies. It also said that both the Soviet Union and the United States have chosen to ignore the usefulness of detente and this was bound to affect their relationship in the near future. **POLAND:** Two US diplomats, a scientific attache and another cultural attache were ordered to leave Poland for "engaging in activities prejudicial to the process of stabilisation in the Polish state". **PORTUGAL** Pope John Paul went on a pilgrimage to the Fatima shrine (in Portugal) to thank the Heavenly Mother Virgin Mary of Fatima for saving his life when a Turkish gunman opened fire at him nearly a year ago. At Fatima Shrine too a young man in clerical clothing made an attempt to attack the Pope but he was warded off by the Pop's security guards. **SPAIN:** The 31st Annual Conference of the International Press Institute made it clear that the journalists should not seek licence from Governments. It was unlike the medical and law professions. Journalists practiced a basic human right, the freedom of expression and any attempt to turn them into licensed professionals would make them lose the privilege of independent expression. **VATICAN:** Pope John Paul's scheduled visit to Britain was likely to be postponed in view of the Falkland crisis. While the Catholics regretted the postponement, Protestants felt jubilant. But the biggest losers in Britain were the producers of souvenirs and momentos. It was their biggest loss since Edward VIII abdicated just a few months before his coronation. **BELGIUM:** The International Association of Democratic Lawyers declared that Britain had no legal claims over the Falklands Islands and said that the dispute should be settled with full recognition of Argentina's sovereignty. **SOVIET**

UNION: The Soviet Union officially stepped into the Falkland issue by informing Britain that it was violating the 1958 Convention about the High Seas. The Foreign Ministry told the British Ambassador in Moscow that Britain was arbitrarily proclaiming vast expanse of high seas closed to ships and aircraft of other countries.

AFRICA

EGYPT: The Egyptian Ambassador in Washington warned Israelis not to play with assisting Iran in its war with Iraq. Khomeini's fire may envelop the entire Middle East and it was therefore equally dangerous for Israel as well. He also stressed the fact that Israel should not destroy the attempts made by Egypt to come into terms with Arab hardliners which would incidentally serve the interest of the Jewish and hardline Arab States. **SOUTH AFRICA:** The 2.6 million coloured and 800,000 Indians in South Africa will be granted political rights equal to the 4.5 million whites if the reports of the Presidential Council were implemented. The reports were described to be a "bombshell" in a country steeped in spartheid and colour bar. But the report warned that without such a reform it is difficult to prevent a revolution in South Africa. The report however ruled out any concessions to the 20 million or so voteless blacks in the Central Government.

AMERICA

UNITED STATES: President Reagan blamed Argentina for its intransigency causing escalation of the Falkland crisis. He said he was concerned over the extension limit of the blockade announced by Britain. President Reagan said that the British and Argentinian claims for sovereignty over Falkland had a sense of legitimacy but the Argentine aggression cannot be condoned. President Reagan suggested that both the Soviet Union and the United States should cut down their strategic nuclear warheads by at least one third to equal levels; this would include not only fixed land based weapons but also to pilotless cruise missiles and highly accurate submarine launched Trident 2 missiles. The United States had made it certain that it will withdraw all financial support to the UN if Israel was ejected from the UN or any of its agencies. The US had been supplying the British forces in the South Atlantic with sufficient fuel. This fuel was delivered in Ascension Island in the mid Atlantic which Britain was using as a stage point to Falkland Islands. **ARGENTINA:** The Civil Defence Command of Argentina had been taking all precautionary measures against a possible British air strike as Britain extended its blockade limits. President Galtieri said that if there was no peaceful settlement of the Falklands issue then Argentina would harness all her might to fight back Britain. **UNITED NATIONS:** Argentina complained to the UN of the British air and sea operations in the South Atlantic. UN Secretary

General appealed to all member countries to back UN efforts to settle the crisis amicably. He also rejected a suggestion that British was striking negotiations in order to buy time to organise a massive military operation. In a note circulated by the Cuban UN Mission, an appeal was made to the members of the Non-aligned Movement that they must try to prevent a combined UK-US Air attack on Argentina. Argentina is a member of the Non-aligned group and had already explained matters to Ambassadors based in the UN. Premier Thatcher of Britain said that if peaceful settlement was not possible then Britain will have to turn to the only other course open to recapture Falklands from Argentina.

THE FOREIGN SCENE

ON THE MOVE

Indian Transnationals

By Kiron Kasbetar

INDIA is one of the few countries in the Third World to have established joint ventures beyond its boundaries. The strength and diversity of its own industrial base has enabled it to develop a large pool of managerial and technical expertise. It is this ideally placed to compete in an arena hitherto monopolised by the transnational corporations (TNCs) of the North. The range of the projects undertaken by Indian companies engaged in joint ventures include the pulp and paper industry, paints, wool and textiles, piping for tin mines, viscous staple fibre manufacture, production of electric pumps and diesel engines and precision tools and electronics. Their partners in the Third World include Malaysia, Thailand, Philippines, South Korea, Singapore, Fiji, Nigeria, Kenya, Mauritius and Indonesia. However joint ventures have not been confined to Third World partners; a venture in Malaysia, for instance, was organised in partnership with a West Germany company. **Indian TNCs are now functioning within 26 countries. By the middle of this year, 124 such ventures were in operation with an aggregate equity participation amounting to Rs. 397 million (US \$ 43.15 million). Most of these ventures are located in Southeast Asia and Africa, and the rest rather evenly distributed in Europe, the United States, South Asia, Australia and Fiji.** More than 80 additional Indian joint ventures are either planned or being implemented in 28 countries. These will have a total equity contributed by Indian capital of US \$ 58 million. This will bring the

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total Indian equity investment overseas up to US \$ 101.5 million. Indian project exports that have not involved equity investment have fared quite well. At the beginning of this year, Indian contractors had orders pending worth US \$ 4.3 billion, covering engineering and construction work. However, these "one off" projects, which are concentrated in Iraq and Libya, lack certain advantages of joint ventures.

SINCE JOINT VENTURES are long term in nature, they provide a stable market for Indian products, unlike ad hoc projects. The Indian government has recognized this, and imposed regulations encouraging such outward investment by Indian companies. These ventures gain valuable revenue by raising foreign earnings through dividends, royalties and technical and managerial fees. Indian products can thus gain better access to the market of the host country. Furthermore, joint ventures would enable India to play the role of "partners in development" in the industrialisation programme of the host country. Despite the evident benefits for Indian companies, their record has yet to meet official and commercial expectations. Neither the government's goal of creating a "new economic relationship" with the rest of the Third World nor the profits sought by the companies appears easy to achieve. One of the factors limiting this expansion might be the relatively small size of these enterprises. In 1979/80, these ventures generated US\$ 18.3 million; this is only a quarter of one percent of what India exported that year. Compared with the western TNCs, Indian ventures are tiny. Among these ventures, size varies considerably, and few compare with the scale of the North. The Birla group of companies, the largest, have an aggregate investment of only US\$ 9.75 million. Birla operates in seven countries with 10 ventures. The Tata group, the second largest, has a stake of Rs. 60.757 million or US\$ 6.60 million—four ventures in three countries. Nine of the top 20 operate in 35 ventures (Rs. 228,535 million or US\$ 24.84 million). These comprise 57.4 percent of Indian overseas capital; the remaining 89 ventures form the balance 42.6 per cent. Of the 83 ventures under consideration, 16 of these account for 72.33 percent of total equity participation, each with an average of Rs. 10 million (US\$ 1.08 million). The remaining 67 ventures are much smaller, being 11 times less than those of the top 16.

According to the report, "*The Emerging Multinationals—Indian Enterprises in the Asean Region*," conducted by Rajut Prahlad, poor performance could be attributed to poor project management, poor operations control and a lack of commitment. Four-fifths of the ventures studied in the region were found to be unprofitable or barely so for these reasons. The report cited examples where ventures were initiated with close members of the family as chief executives. Many of them had no operational experience of adequate experience to manage them. D. P.

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Gupta, the Industrial Development Bank of India's executive director, blamed bad management for ventures in Mauritius as well. In one case, an engineering company had contracted to supply and erect sections of a sugar terminal for the island; the project was abandoned and deserted mid-way before completion. In projects as well as joint ventures, this unreliability is evident. Nearly half of the 400 joint ventures approved by the Indian government have failed to get off the ground. The reluctance of the host countries to treat these Indian companies as they are at home (with tariff protection from cheaper imports)—has contributed to the problems encountered by these ventures. The accumulated deficiencies in their corporate planning have led Indian ventures to buckle under competitive pressures from the other western and Japanese TNCs. South Korean, Taiwanese and indigenous companies have fared much better.

THESE VENTURES given their low volume and high unit cost technology, however, have an edge in countries which have labour surpluses and are capital scarce. Where the market is limited and where import-substitution forms the development strategy, these ventures have thrived. Aditya Birla, a director of the Birla group of companies, observes, "one advantage which we have over Japanese companies is that where the Japanese can instal a 100,000 spindle mill for the production of one variety of yarn, we can instal five mills with 20,000 spindles each to manufacture five different varieties of yarn". This advantage may be wasted if joint ventures fail to grasp the development strategy of the host country. In an export oriented economy technology geared for import-substitution would be fatal. As the Emerging Multinationals report saw it, "Appropriate technology is not 'blanket concept'... Technologies are either appropriate or inappropriate, depending on the strategy of a country in a given industry and the strategy of the firm participating in it". Indian technology is sufficiently varied to cope with either strategy; ventures fail when the promoters and management do not understand its application. The shortcomings cited could be aggravated by the desire of Indian entrepreneurs to reap quick but short-term profits, with little consideration for long-term profitability. Lack of experience in investing abroad could compound this. When ventures run into trouble at their initial phase, the small financial capacity of the Indian companies would make it difficult to extricate their investments and help them out. Before May 1979, India's ban on cash remittance as equity or working capital made bailing tottering ventures most difficult even when the finance were available.

All is not bleak; despite such poor performances, Indian enterprises have succeeded in some cases. The Birla-owned Orient Paper Mills endeavour in the Pan African Paper Mill has been fairly successful

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In Fiji, the Asian Paints venture; in Malaysia the PIL venture, in Thailand the Gwalior Rayon ventures—these indicate the potential of India's TNCs. In the light of the Third World's vacuum, the phenomenon of these TNC is all the more remarkable. Its contribution to the economy of the South is latent as a result of these teething problems. Once overcome, this precedent will serve as a model for others to challenge the dominance of the North's TNCs.

—South, January 1982.

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UNITED STATES

Grain Embargo

Washington: The restrictions imposed by the Carter Administration in 1980 on the sale of fodder grain to the Soviet Union had practically no effect on the Soviet Union and only plunged US agriculture into a deep crisis which continues up to now. This has been admitted by US President Reagan in a speech to the newspaper editors of agricultural states. He said the imposition of the embargo dealt a "body blow" on US agriculture. The consequences of that decision, which "blocked contracts for the deliveries of farm products", were "immediate and severe." The purchasing prices of farm produce declined and the entire US agricultural marketing system—elevators barge lines, railways, millers, exporters—was disrupted. According to both private and government estimates, billions of dollars in output and services were lost, the President went on to say. Thousands of jobs were lost and tax-payers immediately had to shell out more than two billion dollars to help soften the consequences of the blow. The President admitted that the Washington-predicted "negative consequences" of the US embargo for the Soviet Union "never materialised". Other countries did not hesitate to increase their production of grain and displace US sales, he said. The President said that by purchases from those countries as well as expending the use of substitute feeds back at home, the Soviet Union could maintain at the previous level the production of meat for the population.

But such cowboy-style attacks on international trade and on normal economic contacts are known to have cost dearly to the United States itself. According to the estimates by the Washington economic consultants' firm "Schnitker Associates", the embargo imposed by the Carter Administration on the sale of grain to the Soviet Union cost the United States 22,000 million dollars in losses for agriculture and US entrepreneurs as well as in additional government spending. That also resulted in the loss of 310,000 jobs by the US working people. The President admitted that it turned out that the USA has hurt itself with

no harm done to those against whom the measure was directed. Ronald Reagan stated that up to now US agriculture has not been able to recover from the blow; US agriculture is in its third stright year of economic recession and the farmers are living through an extremely difficult period. The crisis phenomena in the US economy and uncertain markets have combined to erode the farmers' confidence in tomorrow and hopes for prosperity. Ronald Regan pointed out that since 1979 the farmers' outlay has grown at a pace four times as high as that of increment in their incomes. The situation is so serious that it threatens the very existence of American farming. With a view to overcoming the present crisis in US agriculture, the President publicly announced a long-term policy on farm exports. Like all other analogous measures of official Washington, it is of a demagogical character and obviously inconsistent. Really on the one hand, the President has solemnly proclaimed that the Administration will not use farm exports as an instrument of US foreign policy.

It would seem that common sense has prevailed in official Washington and that the Reagan Administration through its own bitter experience, so to say, has come to realise the inadmissibility for the USA itself of the policy of trade sanctions and embargoes which the US ruling circles have obviously become addicted to of late in their attempts to "punish" other countries and peoples whose policies do not suit US imperialism. But it is not the case. **The President, on the other hand, made reservations which show that the Administration by means has abandoned plans to use trade as an instrument, of political pressures on other countries.** Thus, he specially emphasised that bans on the export of farm produce may be imposed in the future in a state of emergency. Don't get me wrong, he pointed out, there may come a day when our national security is threatened and the issue of an embargo is raised again. In that case, I would not hesitate to declare such a embargo. Such pronouncements will hardly promote the growth abroad of confidence in the USA as a reliable trade partner. Threats of new trade sanctions, as was recently emphasised at hearings in Congress by representatives of US business circles, would alienate America's potential trading partners and would compel them to establish long-term business contracts with those who in practice proved their striving for solid and strong trade contacts free from the impact of situation-determined political considerations. Reagan also pointed out that within the framework of its export programme the Administration will increase pressure on its partners, on West European countries and Japan, in particular, to make them fling the door more widely open to the US products.

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The Kashmir Issue

New Delhi: The Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India has stated that the Gilgit, Skardu and Hunza districts in the Pakistani-occupied section of Jammu & Kashmir are an inalienable part of Indian territory. The need for such a statement has arisen in connection with the Pakistani President Zia-ul-Haq's announcement of the annexation of these three Indian districts and the refusal to discuss the "Kashmir issue" with India. The new unfriendly action taken by Islamabad has evoked the concern of the government and the public of India for many reasons. First, twice, in 1965 and 1971, Islamabad used the problem of Kashmir, part of which it seized from India by force of arms in 1947, for imposing on her armed conflicts for the purpose of fully seizing that Indian state. From time to time, demands are heard from Pakistan for "liberating" Kashmir. Secondly, reports have latterly appeared in the Indian press on Pakistan amassing a considerable force—over 350,000 troops—in districts adjoining the Indian border—from Jammu and Kashmir in the north to Gujarat in the south, and on the more frequent provocations staged by Pakistani troops in border areas.

Pakistan's latest demarche in connection with the "Kashmir issue" has still further increased doubts in India as to the sincerity of the Pakistani leaders' verbal declarations concerning their striving to develop friendly relations with India and to conclude a non aggression pact with her. The point is that in keeping with the 1972 Simla Agreement, which governs relations between the two countries, the "Kashmir question" shall be settled only a bilateral basis. To all appearances, the proposal of Islamabad on concluding a non-aggression pact, the newspaper *Patriot* says, commenting on the Pakistani leader's statement, pursues the sole purpose of diverting attention from growing military co-operation between Pakistan and the USA that leads to an aggravation of the situation in the region.

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AFGHANISTAN

Undeclared War

Kabul: The undeclared war against the Government and people of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan began immediately after the victory of the April Revolution in 1978 and has been going on for nearly four years now. The overthrown feudal-bureaucratic and religious ruling elite started and is actively conducting, with the support and participation of the West's imperialist circles, Peking and regional

reaction, a broad armed struggle against the revolutionary government of Afghanistan. **The United States is the main sponsor and co-ordinator of an undeclared war against Afghanistan. The coming into office in Washington of the Reagan Administration was followed by new steps towards escalating the undisguised interference of the United States in Afghanistan's domestic affairs.** In March 1981, its President publicly admitted its participation in the undeclared war against Afghanistan and the intention to continue providing the gangs sent into Afghan territory with weapons.

American imperialism is trying to internationalise the undeclared war against the Afghan people. Last year the American press wrote that the Senate Intelligence Committee approved the CIA's plan under which a sort of alliance with the participation of the United States, China, Pakistan, Egypt and some other countries had been set up in order to supply Afghan insurgents with weapons and money. According to the West German press, the CIA also organises and finances the Black Market sales of arms to Afghan counter-revolutionaries. The territory of Pakistan became the main staging area for waging the undeclared war against free Afghanistan. In order to coordinate this war the CIA's regional headquarters have been moved there from Iran. Two weeks after the victory of the April revolution the first base of Afghan counter-revolutionaries was created in the territory of Pakistan. Pakistan is the centre of the main channels along which counter-revolution is being supplied and without which it would not last long. With the active aid and support of the United state and China Pakistan's north-western regions were turned into a huge base of aggression where gangs of Afghan insurgents undergo the necessary military training under the leadership of American, Chinese and Pakistani instructors, for their subsequent penetration into the territory of Afghanistan. The Afghan Foreign Minister said at the 36th session of the UN General Assembly that there were about 30 military camps and 50 strong points for the training of counter-revolutionary gangs in Pakistan. Between June and November 1979 alone more than 30,000 insurgents had been trained there. Last year alone the Reagan administration allocated almost 100 million dollars to train bandits on Pakistani territory and supply them with arms. In the next five years Washington is to provide military and economic aid to the Islamabad regime to the tune of more than 3,000 million dollars. A large portion of this sum is to finance intervention in Afghanistan.

Some reactionary Arab regimes provide substantial financial assistance to Islamabad for the same purpose. Afghan counter-revolutionaries on Pakistani territory are being ensured all conditions for carrying out subversive activities against Afghanistan. Their

radio stations in Peshawar and Quetta constantly grind out hostile propaganda against Afghanistan. Peking joined in an undeclared war against Afghanistan almost simultaneously with the United States. Press reports indicate that Chinese interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs is manifest about all in the training and arming of bands, their smuggling into Afghanistan and supplying them with small arms, surface-to-air missiles, grenades, mines and other ammunition. The British Tory government is also actively participating in the undeclared war against Afghanistan. Until recently, Egypt was also actively involved in training and arming Afghan rebels. Subversive anti-Afghan activities are also conducted from Iran's territory. Press reports indicate that various counter-revolutionary Afghan organisations have their offices in that country. In the face of the anti-Afghan campaign unleashed by imperialist circles, the government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan displays restraint and earnestly wishes to search for a political settlement of the situation created around Afghanistan as a result of armed intervention by reactionary forces in the affairs of that country. A wide range of proposals aimed at settling relations with Pakistan and Iran and bringing about a guaranteed halting of outside intervention by the United States and China was formulated by the Afghan Government in its statements of May 14, 1980 and August 24, 1981. At the same time, the Afghan government rejected all the attempts by foreign forces to tell the Afghan people how they should live and what political system they should have.

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SOVIET VIEW

Sinai Change of Guard

Moscow: "What is taking place on Sinai cannot help worrying the world public: as Israeli troops withdraw, one occupation has been actually replaced by another," writes L. Koryavin in *Izvestia*. The author draws attention to the fact that the void will be filled by the so-called multi-national forces, with American troop contingents being their backbone. "Having deployed their units on the peninsula, American generals have marked it on strategic maps as a major stronghold of the Rapid Deployment Force". Even today units of the 82nd US airborne division are taking positions on Sharm-esh-Sheikh, a strategically sensitive area in the south of Sinai. The United States is linking all these military activities with its global objectives, namely, the striving to establish monopolies' diktat over the oil sources of the Near and Middle East and to secure strategic lines of approach to Northern Africa, the Persian Gulf region and the Indian Ocean.

The Pentagon generals make no secret of the fact that the US troop contingent is supposed to fulfil

operational tasks as a vanguard of the US Armed Forces in the Middle East and beyond its boundaries. L. Koryavin points out. "In short, the United States and Israel do not regard the 'liberation' of Sinai as a condition for its inclusion in the Egyptian economic structure so that lands should be developed there and population should grow. Their objectives are quite different. Even today Israel is destroying buildings and farm land on the Sinai. Bulldozers and cranes pull down houses and uproot trees. Israel is resorting to the 'scorched-out earth' tactic in order to help the United States turn the Sinai peninsula into a military jumping-off grounds. "

TRIBUNE

AGRICULTURAL DIGEST

HORTICULTURE

This week we publish first an editorial from *The Tropical Agriculturist* of July 1937 on THE FRUIT COMMITTEE. We also publish another article also from the same journal (1937) also on FRUIT GROWING : PRINCIPAL OBSTACLES AND DIFFICULTIES by T. H. Parsons. Forty five years have gone by— and we can legitimately ask (a) whether any progress have been made in this period and (b) whether any thought is being given to fruit growing even to the extent it was done in 1937—Ed.

THE FRUIT COMMITTEE

The article on *The Storage And Transport Of Tropical Fruits And Vegetables* by Dr. C. W. Wardlaw of the Low Temperature Research Station, Trinidad, reproduced in this number from the Journal of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture is of special interest to Ceylon at this moment when a Committee appointed by His Excellency the Governor is studying the position and prospects of the local fruit growing industry. In spite of the advice which the wise men who make speeches at school prize-givings and on other similar occasions give to young men to go back to the land, presumably to increase production, so far as perishable commodities are concerned the malady from which the market suffers is not starvation but surfeit. One is bound to return from a drive along some of the main roads or visits to a few bazaars, with the conviction that *during the cropping season there is a surplus of supply over demand in such articles as mangoes, pine-apples, oranges and mangosteens*. The same observation applies, not during any season but throughout the year, to the

more important indigenous types of vegetables. **Therefore, before we invite young men to go back to the land we must find new outlets for increased production. These outlets have to be found not in increased local consumption in the fresh condition during the season, but in export and in the extension of the period of local consumption.**

Tropical fruits are notoriously liable to early decay and their efficient storage and transport require scientific study and a high standard of skill gained from long experience. Dr. Wardlaw attempts "to bring together an account of the storage and transport of a number of fruits and vegetables indigenous to, or capable of being grown in the tropics". The information which he gives will be of the greatest interest to the Fruit Committee. But commercial undertakings cannot be based on this information without further trial and experiment. Of the varieties of fruit which admit of expansion in Ceylon so as to meet a foreign demand, Dr. Wardlaw refers only to bananas and avocado pears. The applicability of similar methods to the pine-apple, mango, mango-steen, papaw, etc., has to be investigated and local men must be given experience in these methods.

There will still remain the problem of the exploitation of this knowledge and experience when they are gained. Capital and enterprise must be available to explore markets, to secure shipping facilities, to establish collecting, cooling, and packing stations, to stimulate production by financial assistance in the early stages, if necessary, and to do all these things, with the certainty of financial loss in the first few years, and with the uncertain prospect of eventual financial gain. Past experience does not justify the expectation that the necessary private capital and enterprise will be forthcoming from the unofficial public. It may become necessary for the State to assume the responsibility. The Committee is called upon to examine and supply solutions to all these problems. Whatever its decision may be it is hoped that its recommendations will lead to the establishment of a large fruit growing industry, or if that is impossible, the final acceptance of the conclusion that Ceylon cannot undertake fruit growing on a large scale.

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FRUIT GROWING—1

Principal Obstacles and Difficulties

By T. H. Parsons —*Horticultural Officer*

Recent statistics show that most of the main fruit-producing countries are extending their orchards and output and are in fact now meeting more severe competition, one with the other,

in the disposal of their fruit. The consumption of fruit however shows a correspondingly large increase in practically all countries. Fresh fruit is imported into Ceylon in increasing quantities, but we export none. A study of local markets reveals a paucity of good quality fruit and irregularity of supply, while the prices are usually exorbitant considering the quality of fruit available. The best fruit is generally the imported one, yet there appear to be no insuperable barriers to Ceylon's growing good quality fruit and plenty of it, since supply creates a demand if the quality is good and the price reasonable.

There undoubtedly are difficulties and obstacles in the improvement and extension of fruit cultivation, but a considerable advance can be made on the present system of growing small quantities in scattered localities provided planned enterprise, State or private or both, will take the initiative. For complete success the interest of the public is necessary since it is the smaller grower, the villager, who can most economically produce certain fruits for local consumption, leaving the production of other fruits suited to growing on a sider and commercial scale, to the larger capitalist—individual, company or association. The exhibits of fruit at recent agricultural shows have shown improvement both in quality and in kind, and their production now needs greater stimulation. It is essential that the first steps in the progress of the enterprise should be very carefully watched. Few statistics are available to local fruit production, but it is obvious that the total output is extremely small in comparison with the potential fruit production, and that the output can be enormous increased with advantage to both grower and consumer. Local consumption can undoubtedly be stimulated to a very large extent, a considerable trade could be inaugurated with boats in harbour and a very extensive market for the sale of fruit in India, particularly grapefruit, mangosteen and pineapples, could be opened up if more and better fruit were produced in this country.

IN ORDER TO VISUALIZE the lines along which progress is necessary it is useful to set out and elucidate the present difficulties of the grower, and the many obstacles that any new venture, particularly a fruit-growing industry, has to contend with and overcome. They may be summarised as follows: (a) Lack of capital for economic and efficient fruit production; (b) poor application of knowledge of cultural requirements; (c) lack of grading, storing and marketing facilities; (d) the generally poor quality of fruit; (e) erratic prices, usually exorbitant, except in glut periods; (f) the erratic cropping of certain fruits; (g) the picking of immature fruit; and (h) lack of attention to plant sanitation.

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WITH REGARD TO quality apart from a few orchardists who devote the necessary care and attention to the cultivation of fruits and thus produce fruit of good quality, much improvement is necessary. The villager is content to raise seedling fruit plants which survive and eventually fruit in spite of little or no cultural attention. The result is fruit of a very inferior quality, lacking both in size and flavour. The more enlightened grower starts well, he buys selected seedlings or grafted plants, either locally or from abroad, up to the limit of his capital and then imagines that his orchard or fruit plot is complete and should develop of its own accord. The fact that regular expenditure is necessary to bring the plants into bearing and subsequently to maintain their yields and quality is not taken into consideration. If it were, the land would probably not have been opened in fruit at all, or would at least have been opened on a smaller scale. The result in most cases is that though the original trees have inherent characters of quality and good performance their cultural requirements are not met and the degeneration of the fruits is the final result.

Other cases occur, however, where the trouble is not particularly lack of capital but lack of knowledge in the application of cultural principles.

A few instances have been met with where the grower is prepared to spend money on cultivation and does so, but often in the wrong direction. *The principles of manuring and spraying* are misapplied and, although there is now a fair amount of literature and advice available, the correct methods are not adopted. For example, a plantation of 300 citrus trees for which the requirements in spraying are a known quantity and the use of fairly powerful sprayer is imperative, is treated by the application of about a quarter of the amount of spraying solution that the plants require to keep them in health, and by the use of a small hand "Flit" type sprayer. The necessary labour for spraying is employed certainly, but the efforts are misapplied. More experience and a more careful study of the literature available on such subjects is, of course, the remedy. *A correct and suitable locality* for the type of fruit it is proposed to grow is most important. Too often are fruits grown in unsuitable areas, such as citrus in localities ideal for mangosteen, mangosteen where the conditions are ideal for mangoes and mangoes where citrus and other fruit would do much better. The literature available on fruits gives a certain amount of data on this subject and the local Agricultural and Horticultural officers are available for all who are in doubt as to the fruit plants best suited to their soil and climatic conditions.

Erratic cropping in such fruits as mangosteen and mangoes, and the use of varieties of fruit unsuited to local conditions can be and are some of the drawbacks met with in fruit cultivation. The cause of irregular fruiting needs much study since the trouble

is not usually due to lack of flowering, but rather to the failure of the fruits to set in any quantity. Climatic conditions may not be suited to the particular variety or defective pollination may be cause. An instance of the former may be cited from experience in the Transvaal orange orchards. In the initial stages several varieties, including the *Washington Navel* orange were grown but subsequent experience has shown that though other varieties are a profitable commercial proposition, the *Washington Navels* are a complete failure and it is now realized that tens of thousands of these trees in the orchards will never be of any value because they were planted in an unsuitable environment. A great proportion of these trees, therefore, will eventually have to be top-worked, replaced by other varieties or abandoned. Erratic cropping in moist tropical zones is much more common than in subtropical and temperate zones where growth is checked and controlled by reason of cold winter resting periods. In the hot dry zones, however, drought periods have the same effect as cold winter periods and, provided normal climatic conditions are not unduly upset, regular croppings are obtained. Controlled irrigation may solve many difficulties in that flowering and fruiting can be induced at periods when weather conditions are particularly favourable to fruit setting.

The lack of marketing facilities must adversely affect fruit or other productive enterprises. In general, the villager harvests his fruit at the earliest possible moment and at a shockingly unripe or immature stage. There are several reasons for this. He may hope to forestall his neighbour and obtain a better price for fruit still out of season, he may fear the ravages of animals, or theft, or he may be compelled by pecuniary circumstances to sell at the first possible moment. The remedy may lie in co-operative measures, whereby a certain sum can be advanced on the crop, if necessary, and the fruit can be allowed to remain on the trees till fit for harvesting, provided the type and quality of the fruit warrants such a course. *The cultivator of larger areas has similar difficulties but presented in another form.* Although he can produce good quality fruit and can see his crops increasing year by year he is severely handicapped by the absence of marketing facilities which will absorb even his first out-turn at a remunerative price. The grower is then usually compelled to find his own market, often by small sales of his produce to relations and friends. As crops increase the disposal of the fruit becomes increasingly difficult. Certain Colombo firms assist, but local supplies are so far very irregular and, even if the local fruit us up to standard, importation is necessary to maintain the supplies required to meet their regular demand as retailers.

The Marketing Commissioner's memorandum on grading, marking, packing etc. is undoubtedly a step in the right direction provided it is acted on coinci-

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dently with a marked increase in fruit production. In the opinion of the writer it must first be decided what types of locally grown fruit are likely to be profitable first for home consumption and secondly for supplies to ships or to India. Until this is decided and areas have been opened and brought to a fruiting stage on a considerably larger scale than at present the subject of providing fruit grading, marking and packing facilities has little scope. This raises what I consider to be the crux of the whole question i.e. lack of capital to work properly any except very small and uneconomic areas. There are good fruit varieties in Ceylon that are growing very successfully but on far too small a scale. The few private growers and the Government Experiment Stations are at this time working with limited resources. They are too few and on too limited a scale. It is out of all proportion to what can be done and what should be done considering the favourable conditions and the opportunities available for a large extension in fruit growing.

To be concluded....



POST-HARVEST TECHNOLOGY

For Fruits and Vegetables

The highly perishable nature of horticulture products has been a persisting problem encountered by the growers and measures to prevent post-harvest spoilage of the produce will go a long way in reducing the losses. There has been a significant awareness about post-harvest technology during recent years in the country and research on the various aspects of this important sphere has been underway at the Indian Institute of Horticultural Research Bangalore. Particular emphasis however is given to handling and storage of fresh produce and processing (including fermentation technology). Though in its infancy the work on post-harvest technological aspects of horticultural crops at Indian Institute of Horticultural Research has yielded useful results say the scientists at the Institute. They have established that by using fungicides (Benlate and Capton) in combination with exol treatment uniform ripening of mango could be achieved minimising the level of spoilage. Coorg Mandarins treated with TBZ and SOPP in combination with waxol application could be kept free from Green and Blue moulds. Poly ethylene bags used for packaging and low storage temperatures have been found to lengthen shelf life of fresh fruits and vegetables according to the scientists.

Working on processing of products the Institute has identified certain varieties of grapes suitable for juice, raisins and wines. It has found that *Arka Shyam* variety made excellent juice, and *Arkavathi*

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and *Thompson Seedless* are ideal for production of raisin. The varieties *Arka Kanchan*, *Chenin Blank*, *Sauvignon* are deemed suitable for white wine and *Arka Shyam*, *Black Champa* and *Carbernet Sauvignon* are suited for making red wines. Tomato varieties and hybrids were also screened, at the Institute for juice, puree and ketchup making and for these 11HR selections No. 4 and 11 and Punjab chuhara have been found suitable. For canned mango juice (for export purposes) a hybrid between Totapuri and Mulgoa has been found fitting. The Institute has standardised methods for producing acceptable quality raisins from local seedless grapes and palatable wines from highly acidic grape varieties. With new techniques developed at the Institute, fruits such as passion fruit and Baumont cultivar of guava—both considered unsuitable as fresh fruits for table purposes because of high acidic nature—could be converted into highly relishable processed products. In an effort to preserve the horticultural products by drying them, the scientists have succeeded in designing efficient system of solar drying of fruits and vegetables such as grapes, mango pulp, green peas, and potato derivatives, according to the researchers.—Hindu.



EXPORTS

To Arab Gulf

The increasing oil wealth in the Gulf area has created opportunities for strengthening of trade and investment ties between the developing countries of the Middle East and those in Asia. Several of the bigger Asian countries and some of the poorer Arab States have already taken advantage of this situation. In this paper Rodney Arambewela discusses the trade and investment possibilities for Sri Lanka; he analyses the market opportunities for the country and lists the strategies that should be adopted to exploit this potential more fully. Arambewela, who is Sri Lanka's Trade Commissioner in Dubai and also acts as consultant for Sri Lanka's Export Promotion Board and has worked in the Gulf Region over the past six years, recommends from his close knowledge of the economic environment in the area a more professional approach on the part of Sri Lanka for promoting trade and investment links.

Sri Lanka's trade relations with the Middle East can be traced back over several hundred years. Ample historical evidence is available to confirm the strong trade links that existed between Sri Lanka and the Middle East. Despite this relationship, the volume of trade between Sri Lanka and the Middle East remains very small, except for tea, which accounts for a least

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80 percent of the trade. The market opportunities available in the Middle East are enormous. The region has dominated the headlines ever since the oil price increases of 1973/74 and has emerged as an area of high potential to all prospective exporters of goods and services the world over. The high purchasing power generated by the oil wealth and the urgent need to develop their own economies have prompted the countries in the Middle East to absorb increasing quantities of a wide variety of consumer and industrial goods since the dramatic escalation of world price of oil. The Tables I and II summarise the existing trade between Sri Lanka and the Gulf countries during, 1979, showing the total value of imports of all products from Sri Lanka and secondly showing the total value of Ceylon tea imports by these countries. It will be seen that in 1979, the value of trade between Sri Lanka and six of the Arabian Gulf countries remained approx. US\$ 60 million, out of which US\$ 44 million or 73% of the total value was earned through tea exports.

A similar pattern of trade exists in other areas of the Middle East: in fact our tea imports represent a greater percentage of total trade than in the Gulf area. Hence, Sri Lanka's trade links with the Middle East; other than in the field of tea exports, can be considered to be still in the early stages of development. Sri Lanka was very late in entering (in an organised manner) these markets and has done very little to date to exploit the market opportunities available. The result is that she has to contend with resourceful competition in every field she enters now. Sri Lanka can nevertheless look forward to a larger slice of the trade with the Middle East with a proper marketing approach. One of the most important considerations would be a firm commitment on the part of Sri Lanka to cultivate business relations on a long term basis rather than on a short term basis. It is no longer prudent to consider the Middle East as a dumping ground for all kinds of goods and services. On the contrary, it has grown to be one of the most discriminating markets in the world, where only a correct marketing approach will guarantee success. It will be extremely important to understand the atmosphere in which business is conducted in the Middle East, which is influenced by the distinct cultural background of the area. Due to the heavy exposure received during the boom period these markets have also become highly sophisticated. A reassessment of Sri Lanka's approach towards these markets therefore becomes a priority. **Two major areas where Sri Lanka has great possibilities of expanding her trade with the Middle East are food and agricultural products and labour-intensive industrial products.** Tea, coconut produce, cardamoms and spices, fresh vegetables and fruits, cut flowers and foliage in the food and agricultural sector as well as ready-made garments, footwear/leather goods, gems and jewellery in the labour-intensive and industrial sector are the most promising product areas and should be given maximum attention during the next five years. These

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product areas have been selected on the basis of Sri Lanka's present strength and future capacity in these product lines and the anticipated market growth in terms of volume and value. By urging that Sri Lanka should concentrate on the above product lines, I do not suggest that Sri Lanka should not explore market possibilities for other export products, particularly in the non-traditional sector.

Table 1: VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM SRI LANKA IN 1979

Saudi Arabia	SR	121,732,065	US \$ 33,814,462
Bahrain	BD	1,001,204	" 2,705,956
Kuwait	KD	5,040,370	" 18,731,134
Oman	OR	224,911	" 668,654
Quatar	QR	901,500	" 243,648
U.A.E.	DH	13,834,702	" 3,739,108
			<hr/>
		C I F Value	" 59,882,962

SR—Saudi Riyal, BD—Bahrain Dinar, KD—Kuwait Dinar, OR—Oman Riyal, QR—Quatar Riyal. DH—UAE Dirham.

Table 2: VALUE OF CEYLON TEA IMPORTS IN 1979

Saudi Arabia	SR	87,364,457	US \$ 24,267,904
Bahrain	DB	692,735	" 1,891,202
Kuwait	KD	4,288,401	" 15,936,625
Oman	OR	111,539	" 331,602
Quatar	QR	597,600	" 161,513
Dubai	DH	3,576,281	" 966,562
Abu Dhabi	DH	201,462	" 54,449
			<hr/>
		C I F Value	" 43,609,857

—Economic Review

TRIBUNE MAHAWELI FORUM

MAHAWELI AUTHORITY

A Film & A Quiz

The Mahaweli Authority last week invited the press to view a 40-minute pictorial record of the progress of work up to March 31, 1982 under the Accelerated Plan. This "film"—consisting of slides intelligently arranged—was prepared, it is said, for the benefit of the Cabinet and the Government's donor countries. It was released for showing to the press, we are told, after much hesitation. Several technocrats and bureaucrats, it would appear, seem to regard that such

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"films" which critically evaluate major schemes as "classified documents" for the consumption of only a chosen elite. They no doubt feel that the shortcomings revealed in a pictorial record of this kind showing achievements together with a catalogue of delayed schedules, targets unfulfilled and work behind time would give a wrong picture to the public. Such bureaucrats have too long been addicted to the theory of only presenting sunshine stories of success (even by straining the truth), hiding mistakes, twisting facts and glossing over shortcoming that they fail to see the advantages of a straightforward presentation of the facts as they are.

The "film" that was shown to pressmen set out a story of the work done without flourishes or boastful mumbo-jumbo. But commentary that sought to explain the "story" was wanting in many ways. The voice was excellent, but the script was poor. For one thing, the word "satisfactory" was repeated far too many times to describe the state and progress of work. This betrayed a lack of words (or an adequate vocabulary) on the part of the script-writer. Time after time, easily over a 100 times, the viewers were told that something was "satisfactory" or "unsatisfactory". What was the yardstick on which this evaluation of "satisfactory" was based? It would have been far better to describe the actual "state of work" in realistic details rather than find refuge in the bureaucratic escape cliché "satisfactory".

Except for this shortcoming, the "film" was excellent. It was a realistic record of how much of the target or the plan had been achieved, and how much was behind schedule. Difficulties and setbacks were also mentioned but the explanations were inadequate. All in all, it was an excellent start to keep the public informed about the progress of work. **It is a pity that representatives of the press who saw this film did not refer to it in any detail in the reports that were published. This may be because the main attention was paid to a Schools Quiz Competition (being organised by the Mahaweli Authority in collaboration with the Education Department and the SLBC) for students in the upper classes.** Far too much time was spent in expounding (in lengthy schoolmasterly exhortations) the methodology of the Quiz Competition and too little on helping the press to have a critical evaluation of the Accelerated Plan. If the Press Conference was to brief the newspapers on the Quiz, then the film should have been shown on another occasion and the press given a chance to ask questions about the progress of work on the Mahaweli. (There was precious little to ask about the Quiz after its mechanics had been laboriously laid bare by eminent personalities.)

The Mahaweli Authority should not rest satisfied with the Quiz. It is one thing to educate school children, but it is a totally different matter to answer the questions,

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criticisms, doubts and apprehensions that constantly arise in the public mind either as a result of genuine concern and curiosity or because of misinformation or mischief. Even the prestigious British journal "*Consulting Engineer*" has published a half digested article in which a writer specially assigned to study the Project was guilty of elementary mistakes. For instance the writer says that: "From 1977 (when the United National Party took office) to 1983 (the next election) five major dams would be constructed. . . And then went on to point out that one or two dams had been "dropped" without mentioning that in early 1980 the President had indicated that if three dams could be completed by 1984, the Government would have good reason to be proud and happy. Not to mention the fact that the Accelerated Plan, as originally outlined (and which had come in for severe criticism in the *Tribune* by several writers), had been modified several times to accommodate the exigencies of time, money and manpower resources, is to give a wrong impression. This kind of error can also easily arise by a scholastic study of "original documents" without taking the trouble to see how the plans were changed as actualities intervened. The Mahaweli Authority has its work cut out to meet evaluations and comments based on incomplete data and misinformation. Such wrong impressions, assumptions and comments about the Mahaweli Project can easily be classified and a data bank created to provide the facts and the correct information.

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SETTLEMENT

System H

The first transbasin diversion of the Mahaweli under Stages I and II of the Mahaweli Programme, benefitted 53,725 hectares (132,700 acres) of existing land and 28,745 hectares (71,000 acres) of new land located in and around Kalawewa, now generally known as System H. It is significant that after the completion of Stage I, namely the Polgolla-Bowatenne complex and delivery of Mahaweli waters to the existing land extending over 53,725 hectares (132,700 acres), the World Bank evaluated that the economic benefits from the Polgolla-Bowatenne complex exceeded their original expectations by over 100 percent. System H constituted the first irrigation system consisting of new land for development and settlement under the Mahaweli diversion and symbolised a development model based on a package of central planning, implementation, management and monitoring vested initially with the Mahaweli Development Board.

PLANNING OBJECTIVES: Besides the UNDP-FAO Mahaweli Master Plan which gave an overview of development of System H, a full feasibility study was made by Messrs SOGREAH of Grenoble, France—

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Consultants to the Mahaweli Development Board (MDB) in collaboration with the local counterpart experts. This study was further modified by a consortium of donors, namely, the World Bank, Britain, Canada, USAID, the Netherlands and the EEC, who co-financed a major part of the development and construction activities in the project area. The development under System H constituted the first major integrated development of new lands under the Mahaweli Programme and was designed taking into account the experience gained from previous major irrigation and settlement schemes in Sri Lanka. The development Model was designed for replication in the future areas of irrigation systems under the Master Programme and basic design concepts and development criteria provided for:

(1) Optimal use of available water resources to intensify rice production and diversify cropping patterns to maximise farm incomes. (2) To provide equal opportunities to settlers by distributing Project benefits through settlement on equal size holdings each unit being 1 hectare (2.5 acres). (3) To develop a spirit of self-reliance among settlers by their participation in farm development work, for which payment was made by the MDB. (4) To create settlements that are socially cohesive and economically viable by providing the basic social infrastructure and agricultural extension and supporting services. (5) To establish strong co-ordination at the project management level through the appointment of a resident project manager assisted by deputies for agriculture, community development and water management. (6) To achieve closer community participation both in planning and implementation of the project through close co-ordination between Farmer's Organisations and Project Officers.

The selection criteria for settlement envisaged about 2.5 labour units per family with full time employment in agriculture. The settlement pattern also provided for considerable non-farm employment in agro-based industries, trade, commerce, services etc. Under the umbrella of the Mahaweli Development Board, several state institutions such as the Land Commissioner's Department, Agriculture Department and the Irrigation Department, in collaboration with the World Bank and donor countries, developed a project implementation plan which was implemented through the existing departmental regulations for purposes of planning and implementation of social infrastructure like health, education, cooperatives, transport, etc. The MDB set up several technical committees with the respective departments for planning and implementation of such services.

PRE-PROJECT STATUS: Apart from comparatively settled conditions of farming under Kagama and Kattiyawa, the teeming villages around the Kalawewa area depended on village tanks and "chena" cultivation. This system of farming gave only subsistence level

incomes. The total project area consisted of 28,745 hectares (71,000 acres) of new land and 14,170 hectares (35,000 acres) of old irrigated land. The latter area mainly under the irrigation schemes of Kagama-Kattiyawa and Rajangane were integrated into one irrigation system, namely, System H, although the area physically came under the districts of Anuradhapura, Kurunegala and Matale. Sixty percent of the soils in the area were found to be "well" to "imperfectly drained" and suitable for production of high value upland crops such as chillies, pulses, vegetables etc. for purposes of import substitution while 40% of soils in the valley bottoms were ideal for paddy cultivation. Annex (1) illustrates the integrated plan of the existing and new areas in System H which are benefiting from the diverted Mahaweli waters.

STATUS OF PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT: Preliminary work for the development of System H began in mid-1974 with the construction of camps, access roads etc. and work on improvements to kalawewa and Kandalama tanks and construction of the Dambulu Oya tank, together with irrigation infrastructure development in Galnewa, Meegallewa, Madatugama and Galkiriyagama areas. These works were funded by the Government of Sri Lanka until credit under the consortium of donors became effective by the end of 1977. Although the original target of project completion was mid-June, 1983, development and settlement has been accelerated and is now nearing completion with only a small amount of balance work left for the year 1982. The main thrust of physical development in System H was on the following items of work:

(a) Improvements to Kalawewa and Kandalama tanks and the construction of Dambulu Oya tank. (b) 112.6 km (70 miles) of main canals for the above tanks 64.36 km (40 miles) of branch canals. (c) 1,931 km (1,200 miles) of distributory and filed canals. (d) 1,126 km (700 miles) branch canals. (e) Improvements to 120 village tanks (f) 209 km (130 miles) road formation (g) 161 km (100 miles) road surfacing (h) Construction of 2,300 buildings to house project staff and social infrastructure services such as health, education, postal, police banks etc. (i) 29,230 hectares (72,200 acres) of jungle clearing in irrigable and residential lands. About, 6,073 hectares (15,000 acres) of privately owned paddy lands and undeveloped high lands in System H were acquired by the Mahaweli Development Board for which compensation was paid. This land together with Crown land within the project was developed for irrigated farming and redistributed in uniform parcels of 1 hectare (2½ acres) in extent per family.

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TRIBUNE SPORTSCOPE

SPOTLIGHT

Sugathadasa Stadium

MR. PREMADASA, PRIME MINISTER, once again showed that if there is a will there is always a way. The Colombo Municipal Council had passed a resolution appealing to the Prime Minister to upgrade the Sugathadasa Stadium to international standards and the genial Prime Minister who always revels in accepting a challenge, in a simple yet impressive ceremony, launched the "Sugathadasa Stadium Development Fund". It was a success from the word "go". Several leaders in the business world answered the clarion call of the Prime Minister and through pledges and donations, the Premier was able to collect nearly five million rupees in just a few minutes. In a recent issue we said: "If the Sugathadasa Stadium is to be brought 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 a saviour. And the saviour has finally arrived in the Prime Minister.

There is no doubt that several more contributions will follow. Contributions to this Fund are exempted from tax as this is a government project. The cost for upgrading and redeveloping the Stadium has been estimated at Rs. 10.5 million and to swell the fund big and generous contributions came from the Maharaja Organisation and His Holiness Dr. Seyedna Mohammed Burhanuddin Sahib (TUS) amounting to rupees one million each. At the time of writing other donations and pledges came from E. W. Kiat of Malaysia Rs. 500,000, Cornel & Co. Rs. 200,000, Sri Lanka Construction Co sortium Rs. 100,000, Mr. Moinudeen Rs. 100,000, Mackie Stores Rs. 50,000, Mr. H. K. Dharmadasa, Rs. 200,000, Sifani Jewellers Rs. 200,000, Mr. Cyril Gardiner Rs. 100,000, Bata Shoe Co. Ltd., Rs. 200,000, K. H. Industries Rs. 50,000, Maurice Roche Rs. 100,000, W. S. Wickremasinghe Rs. 200,000, A. M. M. Sahabdeen Rs. 200,000, A. A. Page Rs. 50,000, M. C. D. Cassim Rs. 50,000, Lalith Kotelawala Rs. 100,000, E. P. A. Edirisinghe Rs. 25,000 and H. G. N. Mendis Rs. 150,000.

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THE PRIME MINISTER made a very lucid speech before inaugurating the Fund of which *Tribune* gives excerpts: "In the overall development of human resources, the popularisation and propagation of sports has a significant role to play, especially among the large mass of our people and the younger generation Today sports facilities are no more a luxury but an essential ingredient of our life. Participation in sport assists both physical and mental development. If we are to build a nation of men and women of good character, strong will and determination, we have to encourage and facilitate the widest participation of our people in sports activities. . . . it is the playing fields that we cultivate the abilities not only to lead but also to follow. It is in the playing fields that we learn to accept defeat with courage and victory with humility. The most important lesson I have learnt in the playing field is to cut across all barriers of caste, creed and community and to treat all human beings as equals."

Of his playing days at Price Park he said he learnt a lot from a boy named Rasiah. "Who was this Rasiah?" You will be surprised to know that he was none other than our own conservancy labourer's son! Actually he used to shout at me when I faltered. That is how we learnt to follow leadership. I must say that I was able to learn not only the best lessons in football on the playing field but also the best lessons in life, including the fact that all human beings are equal and that one can gain prominence among equals only on merit". *Tribune* wishes the Prime Minister all the best in his endeavour.

IN A RUGBY SEASON that is fast gathering momentum, the reigning champions, Havelocks, had their first taste of defeat in almost a year, and unbeaten CR & FC also had their colours lowered. Police did well to bear the Kandy Lions in their own den and the Army sunk the Navy in the Clifford Cup "A" division League Rugby Tourney now in progress. These matches were played on May 14, 15 and 16. Triple cup holders, Havelocks who were riding on the crest of a wave of successes were made to eat humble pie by a gallant CH & FC XI who beat them by 9 points to 3. The Havelocks, who are without eight of their last season's players are nowhere as brilliant as their cup winning team of last year. Most of their players are having their first fling in top-drawer rugby and should settle down as the season progresses and proves a threat. However the best victory of the week was obtained by the blue-shirted Air Force who made the CR & FC bite the dust. Wooden-spoonists of last year, the Airmen, by dint of some hard work have suddenly become the team to be watched this season.

The Airmen in the years gone by were written off as just another team as they kept losing their matches regularly. Although losing, it was evident to the rugby experts that the Airmen were biding their time and

slowly, team building. This season they have broken out into their best form in a long time and is the only unbeaten team in the rugby scene to date. With no big names in their ranks, the Airmen are led by Tikiri Marambe. Classed as one of the best scrum half's in the country, today, Marambe has a wealth of rugby experience. He has shown natural qualities as a leader and should be a strong contender for the Sri Lanka captaincy this year. Another team that needs watching and who could be a threat to all other teams is the CH & FC. Having the best pack among the clubs, the CH, if they realise their true potential and play accordingly could even secure the Cup this year. Results of matches: Airforce beat CR & FC 19 - 16. Army beat Navy 18 - 3. CG & FC beat Havelocks 9 - 3 and Police beat Kandy 25 - 19.

RECENTLY we saw the sad demise of two outstanding sportsmen in racing driver Giles Villeneuve of Canada and Andy Balaba, the flyweight boxer from the Philippines. Villeneuve, the first Canadian ever to win a Grand Prix died when his Ferrari somersaulted off the track at high speed and crashed at practice for the Belgian Grand Prix. Aggressive and flamboyant behind the wheel, Villeneuve had earned six Grand Prix wins in 67 races. Wife Joanna who flew from their home in Monaco was at the bedside of her 30-year old husband when he was pronounced dead. He had sustained neck and head injuries in the crash. Balaba died from cerebral haemorrhage after being knocked unconscious by a South Korean boxer in Seoul.

ALL ROUNDER



SPORTS CHRONICLE

May 9 - 15

Sunday May, 9: Dr. Gyril Ernest has been selected to represent the United States of America in the forthcoming *World Cup Cricket* competition; the former Sri Lankan cap, who played for the University, NCC and Adastrians, becomes the first Sri Lankan to earn a place in the American team. Colombo Cricket Club were well placed—127 for 2 wickets in reply to SSC's 228 in their *Donovan Andree Trophy* final-round cricket tournament match at Maitland Crescent yesterday. SSC 228; CCC 127 for 2 wickets. A second wicket stand of 70 runs between S. P. F. Wijeratne 50 with 7 boundaries and D. Chelliah 47 with a six and 2 fours helped Navy to reach 187 against Bloomfield in the *Donovan Andree* final round game which began at Reid Avenue yesterday. Navy 187; Bloomfield 94 for 8 wickets. A first wicket partnership of 106 runs between Ajit Abeygunawardena (84) and P. L. D. Kariyawasam (41) helped SSC A to make 291 in their *Daily News Trophy*

final round match against Kurunegala Sports Club at Maitland Place yesterday. At close of Play, Kurunegala Sports Club made 63 for one wicket. SSC 291: Kurunegala SC 63 for 1 wicket. Aravinda de Silva (116) helped NCC B to 247 make in their *Daily News Trophy* final-round cricket tournament match against Kurunegala Youth Club at Maitland Place yesterday. At close of play, the Kurunegala team make a spirited reply of 57 for no loss. NCC 247: Kurunegala Youth Club 57 for no wicket. Mahinda Dandeniya of Trinity College Kandy and Faiq Mihilar of Carey College, Colombo left by air to Shanghai on their way to Peking, China to undergo 3 months intensive training in *Table Tennis* under expert Chinese Coaches. Air Force made a late burst and it eventually helped them to beat Kandy Sports Club by 19 points (1 goal, a try and 3 penalties) to 7 (a try and a penalty) in their *Clifford Cup Rugby* football match played yesterday at Police Park. In a scrappy encounter at Army Grounds Galle Face, CH & FC drubbed the Navy by 26 (3 goals and 2 tries) to 6 (one goal) in their *Clifford Cup* rugby encounter yesterday.

MONDAY, MAY 10: CCC led by Kumar Boralessa took a step closer to the *Donovan Andree Trophy* when they scored their second successive first innings win in the final round by beating SSC. SSC 228 and 117: CCC 127 for 2 continued 254. In the other game concluded yesterday, Navy took first innings points from Bloomfield. Navy 187 and 101 for 7; Bloomfield 94 for 8 continued. SSC "A" and Kurunegala Youth CC were the successful clubs in the *Daily News Trophy* Final round matches completed yesterday. On adjoining grounds at Maitland Place, SSC A defeated Kurunegala SC by an innings and 27 runs, while Kurunegala Youth CC took first innings points from NCC B. SSC A 291: Kurunegala SC 63 for 1 continued 144. Kurunegala Youth CC beat NCC B. NCC B. 247 and 66 for 3: Kurunegala Youth CC 57 for no loss continued 252 for 8 declared. Kurunegala Youth CC beat Old Dharmapalians. The previous week-end Kurunegala Youth CC defeated old Dharmapalians on the first innings at Pannipitiya. Kurunegala Youth CC 349 for 7 declared: Dharmapalians 181. Mahanama scored a nine-run victory over St. Joseph's in warm-up match for the *Schools Cricket Under 17 Tournament* at Darley Road yesterday. Mahanama 176 and St. Josephs 167 for 6 in allotted time. Sri Lanka has been placed in Group H in the men's section and Group G in the Women's section for the team events in the 6th *Asian Table Tennis Championships* scheduled to be held in Indonesia from May 24 to June 3. Reigning *Clifford Cup Rugby* Football Champions, Havelocks edged out the Police by seven points (a try and a penalty) to 3 (a penalty) in their First-Round game played last evening at Havelock Park. CR & FC beat Army by 10 points (a try and two penalties) to nil at Longden Place yesterday—their third consecutive win of the season in the *Clifford Cup*

Rugby Tournament. But it wasn't all that easy for CR. The soldiers after losing to Kandy and Air Force played a vastly improved game yesterday. The Minister of Sports Mr. Vincent Perera has approved the Sri Lanka Chess Federation's nominee Chandana Goonetilleka for the Q. M. Hussein International Rating Chess Tournament to be held in Bangladesh. West Indian Test pacemen Colin Croft took six wickets for 10 runs as Lancashire swept to a 10 wicket victory over Scotland in their *Benson and Hedges Cup Cricket Tournament* match (55 overs) at Old Trafford, London yesterday. Top-seeded John McEnroe was upset 7-6 6-3 by fellow-American Eddie Dibbs and Second-Seeded Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia beat third-seeded Jose-Luis Clerc of Argentina 6-2, 7-5 yesterday to win the Semifinals of the 300,000 *Dollar WCT Tournament* of Champions at Forest Hills. All-Rounder Imran Khan will lead the Pakistan Cricket Team for the forth-coming Tour of England and the composition of the squad is considered a victory for the rebel players who mutinied against former Captain Javed Miandad. Canadian Gilles Villeneuve, one of the most daring drivers on the International Grand Prix Circuit, died after his Ferrari somersaulted off the track in a horrific high-speed crash.

TUESDAY, MAY 11: A record of 145 teams from 66 schools have entered this year's Under 15 and Under 17 Cricket Tournaments conducted by the Sri Lanka Schools Cricket Association. The tournaments commence on May 29 on a League basis until July 3, followed by the Final Round on a Knock-out basis. The right-arm off spin of 15-year-old Dharmapala school boy Lakshman Hewage proved too much for Matara SC and they crashed to a seven-wicket defeat to Old Dharmapalians in a *Daily News Trophy* Final Round Match played at Pannipitiya. Hewage returned match figures of 9 for 178 to dismiss Matara SC twice for 165 and 265. Old Dharmapalians scored 353 for 7 declared. Superb team work by BRC saw them win back the *Moore Shield* from defending champions Malwatte in the knockout *Hockey* final played at the NCC grounds. *Zahira College* Maradana under-17 team did well to beat Mahanama on the first innings in a friendly game of cricket played at Maradana on Sunday. Mahanama 68: Thiara 108 for 5 declared. Royal have officially written to the Sri Lanka *Rugby Football Union* stating that they will not participate in this year's *Gratiaen Cup Memorial Trophy Schools A Division Rugby Championships*. Air Force continue to head the *Clifford Cup League* table points for the second consecutive week with CR & FC and Have-locks, the defending champions, in second and third positions. CH & FC after their splendid win over Navy "jumped" into fourth place followed by Army, Police, Navy and Kandy Sports Club. The Under-22 tour of Pakistan by Sri Lanka this month is off. Pakistan are unable to accommodate Sri Lanka right now, but the Sri Lanka Cricket Board intends

to ask for a tour there in December. The Final Trials to pick the Sri Lanka team for the *Asian Table Tennis Championships* began at the Sports Ministry Hall yesterday. Sinhalese Sports Club A beat Royal College A team by two games to one in their *ALL-Island Club (Division I) Tennis Tournament* match recently. Top-seeded Chris Evert Lloyd cruised into the Semi-Finals of the *hit Italian Women's Tennis Championship* with a 7-5, 6-2 win over compatriot Bonnie Gadusek here yesterday. John Watson won the Belgian Grand Prix motor race yesterday, a victory overshadowed by the practice day crash which killed popular Canadian Gilles Villeneuve. Ivan Dendil overwhelmed American Eddie Dibbs with a barrage of powerful groundstrokes to win the *300,000 dollar WCT Tournament* of champions at Forest Hills yesterday. The 6-1, 6-1 triumph worth 100,000 dollars to the second-seeded Czechoslovak was his 39th win in 92 matches since last year's US open.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 12: Schoolboys were the "Match-winners" in the *Donovan Andree Trophy* and *Daily News Trophy* Final Round matches concluded last weekend. Six of them came from one school—Ananda—and all were members of the "Big Match" winning team against Nalanda. Dhanesh Deepal Dharmasekera has every reason to be proud of landing the "Big Double". He is Ananda's first cricket captain to lead his team to victories in the annual "Battle of the Maroons" and the Limited Over match against traditional rivals Nalanda. The Junior Girls Trials for the *Asian TT championships* did not hold any surprises with fancied prayers winning their matches at the Sports Ministry Hall yesterday. Sri Lanka will for the first time, participate in the *Men's Big Walk Asian Championships* to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on May 18. The winner and runner up in the 1981 Marathon Walk, Lakshman Kularatna and D. S. Jayasinghe, were selected Lake House Sports Club trounced Ceylon oxygen by 5 goals to one in their *Annual Soccer Match* played at the Sugathadasa Stadium on Sunday. Mrs. N. Krishnadasan-V. Nagarajah won the Monthly Duplicate *Contract Bridge Mixed Pairs* event conducted by the Contract Bridge Association held at the Bridge Federation headquarters. The West German Ambassador in Sri Lanka Mr. Gerhard Pfeiffer presented sports training equipment worth over Rs. one and a half million donated by West Germany to Sri Lanka. The Ministry of Sports has organised a three-week residential coaching clinic for football in stages of one week duration for each group of selected coaches at the Sports Ministry Courts in the last week of May. Bjorn Borg's absence from next month's Wimbledon Tennis Championships was confirmed when the entry deadline passed early today and his name was missing. The 25-year-old Swede five times Wimbledon Champion is involved in a dispute which meant he would have to qualify for the Championships and re-used to do so.

THURSDAY, MAY 13: Edward Silva and Terrence Paul took nine wickets between them to rout Hotel (Lanka) Oberoi for 67 and bring Ceylon Tours a 125 run win in a *Cricket Match* played at Police grounds, Bambalapitiya. Ceylon Tours 192 for 6; Hotel (Lanka) Oberoi 67. The Sri Lanka *Board of Control for Football* is sparing no pains to get the National Football Pool in full trim in view of the Asian Games to be held in India later this year. This is Sri Lanka's maiden venture in the international arena of football. Jewelarts defeated John Keels 4 - Y in a B Division *Mercantile Hockey Tournament* match at the NCC grounds. At half time the scores were one-all. The *Snooker National* now being conducted by the Billiards Association and Control Council of Sri Lanka commenced on Tuesday at the YMBA tables, Borella. All matches are being played on a knock-out basis up to the semi-finals. The Moors Islamic Cultural Home will conduct an *Open Invitation Billiards* and snooker tournament honour former world champion M. J. M. Lafir who died last year. Each club will nominate two players for billiards and two others for snooker. Ten of the 13 new players added to the Under 22 Pool after the First Trials will be seen in action tomorrow in the teams led by Guy de Alwis and Sudath Pasqual in the Second Trials at the NCC ground. Police Griffins scored a 16 - 3 win over C. H. Kabaragoyas in a club *B Division Rugby* match played at Maitland Crescent yesterday. The winners tally comprised four tries to a penalty by the CH. Army Colts cruised to a 30 points (1 goal and six frees) to nil win over Colombo University in their B Division match of Galle Face yesterday. Czechoslovak Ivan Lendl the sensation of the tennis circuit over the past nine months, will be crazy to miss Wimbledon, according to defending champion John McEnroe. British participation in next month's World Cup Finals is becoming less and less clear following the cancellation of a Publicity Press Conference by Sports Minister Neil Macfarlane. Japan's top *motorcycle racer* Ikujiro Takai was killed today when he fell from a Yamaha 400 on a practice run for the Japan Championship Series at the Sugo Sportsland near Sendai, Northern Japan. The 35-years-old racer was a familiar face on the European Circuit. Takai won the Japan Grand Prix in 1974, 1976, 1978 and 1980 and was the Japanese National Champion in 1976.

FRIDAY, MAY 14: Aggona Ruwanpura Sports Club could make it two-in-a row when they play against Kalapaluwawa United Sports Club in their *annual cricket match* on Saturday at Kalapaluwawa MV grounds. Weerasinghe (Indian Club) beat M. Sivanathan (YMCA) 72/43, 60/52, 81/11, 58/41 and N. L. Manapparuma (Kings Cue Assn, Kandy) beat N. V. Perera (YMCA) 59/44, 32/66, 82/18, 70/23, 70/45 in the first day's matches of the *Snooker Nationals* at the YMBA tables Borella. The selection trials to pick the Sri Lanka team for the 6th Asian

Table Tennis Championships starting in Indonesia on May 24 concluded at the Sports Ministry Hall on Wednesday. The competition in the trials was on a round-robin basis. Army takes on the Navy in a first round *Clifford Cup Rugby* League match at 4.45 p.m. today at Galle Face. Two of Sri Lanka's top Caddies, Nandasena Perera and Sumith are likely to participate at one of the tournaments for Professional in the Indian Circuit if the Ceylon Golf Union finds a sponsor for their air fares. This is a sequel to the Ceylon Daily News highlighting the offer made by India's respected amateur Vikramjith Singh, last week. Faiq Mihalr (18) of D. S. Senanayake Vidyalaya left for the People's Republic of China on a three-month intensive course on *table tennis*. This scholarship was awarded by the UNESCO under the fellowship program offered by the People's Republic of China in their International Fund for Physical Education. The touring French Group Duffault *rugby* team crushed Kandy SC Lions by 26 points (a goal and 5 tries) to four in a rugby match played at Nittawela after leading 12 - 0 at half time. The Commonwealth Games in Brisbane this October are likely to go ahead despite plans by fifteen Rugby Union Players from England Wales Scotland to play in South Africa in July. A team of 23 rugby players from Europe is to visit South Africa in July, the government-owned National Radio SABC said yesterday. Geoff Boycott completed his 128th *first class* century today—and emphasised how much the England Test side will miss his services for the next three years. Lawyers acting on behalf of the 15 English players banned from Test Cricket for three years, have written to the Sports Authorities at Lord's Test and Country Cricket Board spokesman Peter Lush said today. The World Boxing Council yesterday urged undisputed world welter-weight champion Sugar Ray Leonard to quit boxing. In a dramatic Final Doubles match Malaysia ended the first day of the Thomas Cup *World Team Championship* Tie against England level at 2 - 2 in Gloucestershire. The International *Motorcycle Federation* said today its Board of Director's Meeting in June would investigate the rider's boycott at last Sunday's French Motorcycle Grand Prix. Wimbledon and US open Champion John McEnroe has pulled out of the Italian *Open Tennis* Championship starting here next week.

SATURDAY, MAY 15: A 95-run fifth wicket stand between left-hander Rohan Jurampathy and Shami Silva rescued Sudath Pasqual's XI in the second three-day Under 22 *Cricket Trial* begun against Guy de Alwis XI yesterday at the NCC grounds. The match will be continued today at 10 a.m. Displaying perfect understanding St. Peters swamped Ananda by 42 points (5 goals and 3 tries) to nil in the *Rugby match* at Bambalapitiya yesterday. They led 18 - nil at half time. Army proved too good for Navy and won 18 points (1 goal 4 penalties).

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to 3 (1 penalty) in their First round *Clifford Cup League Rugby* match yesterday at Galle Face. The scores were 3-all at "lemons"... Yet another close finish and a victory either way could be witnessed at Maitland Crescent this evening where defending champions Havelocks, who still remain unbeaten confront the smart CH & FC outfit in their first round *Clifford Cup League* rugby match. Isipatana rallied in the second half to topple Trinity by 7 points (a penalty and a try) to 3 (a penalty) in their schools rugby match played at Longdon Place yesterday, after trailing 0-3 at lemons—to maintain their record of not losing to Trinity in Colombo. Another up and coming youngster Ganendran Subramaniam has applied to the Sri Lanka Tennis Association to represent the country at both the Saint Louis Junior Invitational Tennis Championships as well as the Junior Wimbledon Championships in June or July. T. D. R. Peiris and Dr. V. Ambalavanar were the only two players to register wins on the opening day of the *National Chess Championships* Premier Division Final at the YMBA Borella. Peiris beat D. H. C. Aturupane and Ambalavanar beat J. Somasundaram. In a dramatic last-gasp Final Doubles match England won their *Thomas Cup World Team Badminton* Championship Tie against Malaysia at Gloucester yesterday. Nottinghamshire were 130 for one in their second innings at lunch a lead of 12 on the final day of their three-day match against the Indian cricketers yesterday, Nottinghamshire 1st Innings 141: Indians 1st Innings 259. Derek Pringle (23) Cambridge University Captain, emerged as a leading candidate for an *England Test* Place today when he was included in the MCC side to play the Indian Cricketers at Lord's starting on Wednesday.

x x x

BLACK CRICKET

In South Africa

A Tribune reader in the UK has sent us a clipping of this letter together with the note of explanation: "This letter in the *Times* (March 31) puts the facts about multiracial cricket in South Africa succinctly. A great deal of correspondence in the *Times* has been concerned with Indian untouchability. That is not the point. All countries have their special kinds of racial discrimination but they have laws against it. South Africa legalises racial discrimination and penalises those who oppose it."

Sir,

Mr. Fortune (March 26) asserts that the South African Cricket Union and the English cricketers

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who contract to play within it are working hard to improve black, and particularly schoolboy cricket. His arguments are those used by the black President of Sacu, Mr. Rashid Varachia, when he spoke to the British Sports Council delegation to South Africa in 1980. Unfortunately, they do not stand up to examination. There are today some 16,500 members of Sacu. About 15,000 of these are white. Eight of the 10 members of Sacu's executive are white. Neither of the two black members is African. Black cricketers in South Africa today have access to few pitches and fewer resources. African cricketers are particularly deprived in these respects. Under these conditions is it realistic to suppose that the Sacu executive has a mandate from its membership to invest the very large sums which will be required to raise African standards of play when these resources must inevitably be provided at the expense of white club cricket? Neither Mr. Fortune nor Mr. Varachia explains how they are going to persuade their members to support their programme, which they have no power to vote into effect, and when it requires white cricketers to sacrifice their personal interests and privileges as cricketers, in a society where the laws of *apartheid* and white social customs both make it extremely difficult for them to do so.

How many truly mixed, inter-racial clubs are there in Sacu? How many black cricketers are playing at top competitive level? In both cases, the answer is: almost none. Indeed, most of the good black players who left the non-racial SA Cricket Board to join the new "multiracial" union when it was formed left after one season because they were disillusioned by the racism they experienced. Moreover, the "multinational" sports policy, as defined by the government in 1976, specifically states that multiracial sport should not occur at school level. It must therefore be asked whether Sacu intends to encourage truly multiracial school cricket, or merely to provide occasional coaching sessions for black schoolboys who will subsequently have no opportunity to test their skills against their white peers. The trouble with the arguments of Mr. Fortune and Mr. Varachia is that they never say how they intend to achieve their purpose. Unfortunately white cricketers have offered black cricketers a "helping hand" in the past: it has always been with the aim of weakening own international isolation and they have never fulfilled their promises. For the majority of black players, fine words are no longer convincing.

Robert Archer

6A Sylvan Avenue, N22,
March 26, 1982

x x x

Foreign Experts ?

IS IT NOT SIGNIFICANT that a strong note of protest entitled RESIDENT SCIENTISTS AND TECHNOLOGISTS ON KOTA-UDA-WHY? is going the rounds in academic and political circles? That the author goes under the pseudonym "A Science Wallah"? That, whilst many can guess the identity of the author, we think that anonymity is essential in this case? That a preamble is not needed to put forward the case of the "Science Wallah"? "If nothing else, national pride and self-respect has prompted the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science to protest strongly against the proposal made by the UNDP, collaborating with the Ministry of Plan Implementation, the Division of External Resources, the Ministry of Higher Education and the National Science Council to engage expatriate Sri Lankan scientists domiciled abroad as experts to this country. Apparently, the seeds of this proposal germinated in the fertile UNDP minds soon after one of the collaborating Ministries, namely the Ministry of Plan Implementation, published an analysis of the cost and benefits of obtaining foreign experts from abroad. Not surprisingly, the results of this analysis justified a call for the immediate termination of the services of these foreign experts. What seems ironic now is that this very same Ministry which so forcefully exposed the foreign expert syndrome affecting Sri Lanka has become an active participant of the latest UNDP exercise which merely supplants expatriate experts of foreign origin with expatriate experts of Sri Lanka origin, in no conceivable way different from the latter. Why the UNDP itself has originated a scheme for obtaining 'very useful' and 'well groomed' expatriate Sri Lankan scientists as an alternative to non-national foreign experts is understandable in the light of its own linkages with western industrial interests. To elaborate on the latter statement the author needs to deviate a little into an exposure of one of the little known FAO bureaus called the *Industry Co-operative Programme* (ICP), 25% of whose membership are US firms, one-third Common Market agri-businesses and the rest from Japan and Switzerland. To belong to the ICP all companies and members pay an annual fee of US\$ 7,500 into a Trust Fund administered by FAO to support its programme activities, the stated objective of which is "to demonstrate that far-sighted and responsible business contributes to social and economic development by means of fostering private enterprises".

There are no two words : the ICP is an organisation entirely devoted to promoting the interests of multi-national corporations with whom it works. For this reason, Dr. Saouma, Director-General of the FAO was prompted to serve notice on the ICP in 1978 and have it moved out of FAO and occupy an office in Geneva where

it still awaits another UN agency to pick it up! But, needless to say, the entire UN system as a whole now is increasingly calling on private industry and private banking for solving development problems, with FAO leading the integration of both multi-national industry and commercial banks into its official structure. For the UNDP then, what would be the next best promising alternative to its own foreign experts drawn from elites of the first and third world than expatriate Sri Lankan scientists/experts domiciled abroad? Our inherent capacity to hold things foreign, as sacrosanct make us willing partners in any design. In fact, the weakness of our highly anglicised elite for anything foreign be it expertise, food, clothing, or industrial goods etc., was apparent even long before mental and intellectual colonisation of the elite was fully accomplished. J. W. Bennet writing in 1843 in his book *Ceylon and its Capabilities* had this to say on the local dependent bourgeoisie. "*The Sinhalese are partial to Manchester, Leeds, Scheffield and Birmingham manufacturers that high ranks indulge in the best wines particularly Madeira and Champagne, which are liberally dispensed at their parties to European guests and no people in the world set a higher value upon British medicines, stationery and perfumery: or relish with keener zest, English hams, cheese, butter, port, Pale Ale, Cider, Sherry, Herrings, Salkon, Anchovies, Pickles and Confectionary, all of which they prefer to similar imports from France and America except in regard to price*". While there may be valid reasons to explain this unfortunate attitude of mind, it is in sharp contrast to the strong nationalistic attitude of another one time colony, India, where the people have always been proud of wanting to be Indian and to buy Indian. The danger of the intellectual servitude witnessed in Sri Lanka even today, wherever it takes its roots from, is the fact that the people and our society no longer realise that our attitudes, ideas, and values have been superimposed on us by outside agents. The agents of the past were the colonial rulers themselves. The agents of today are neocolonialistic agencies, western elites and local elites that have been seduced into western first world territories. Next, to the problem itself, local scientists domiciled abroad who are to be brought into the country under the UNDP scheme can be classified into two groups. Group I—those who terminated their careers in Sri Lanka very early and left in search of better prospects. These individuals decided to do so regardless of the dire needs of their native country, and despite the fact that they owed it so much in the form of free education and scholarships etc. Group II—those who left in search of new avenues of employment after retirement, but who ironically were never regarded as experts while they were serving their own country, and who were perhaps side-tracked when UN experts were brought in by the Government." — *To be concluded.*

"It is to the credit of the people of Ceylon that during two thousand years and more they obeyed this decree and continued to pay their homage to one who was a brave man and a just and humane ruler,"

—G. P. Malalasekera in "The Pali Literature of Ceylon,"
Colombo, 1928 p. 25

THE TOMB OF ELARA

at

Anuradhapura

with Appendices and Notes

by

Dr. James T. Rutnam

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THE BANE OF CORRUPTION

'If there is unanimity about anything it is in regard to inflation and corruption. Both are increasing and both are eating into the vitals of our society. Inflation is statistically provable, corruption is not—but its pervasiveness is felt. Fortunately there are still a large number of persons who are untainted by it and to use a traditional Indian expression, it is because of their goodness that the rains occur in time and the crops grow. But there is no doubt that at various levels, not only of the bureaucracy and of political life, but also in trade and commerce, corruption is a major concern.

It is sometimes said that corruption is due to poverty and gross disparities. This would imply that the rich and advanced countries are free of it—which is very far from the truth. It is also an uncalled-for skul on the poor, for the poor of India are among the most upright persons anywhere. They are the victims of corruption and exploitation, not the cause of it. Corruption is noticed and commented upon in our country because it occurs where the administration comes into touch with the people at large. It arises when individuals want to follow consumption patterns beyond their incomes. The constant emphasis of the media on material goods, the visions of the comforts enjoyed in advanced societies, proliferation of regulations, the pressure of inflation, the breakdown of religious and ethical constraints, a general rise in permissiveness—all these contribute to increase in corruption.

It is obvious that unless we check this disease, the health of the country will be in peril...'

Mrs. Indira Gandhi
Prime Minister of India.

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