

# TRIBUNE

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INSIDE — SPORTSCOPE SPECIAL

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# TRIBUNE

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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

IN A SMALL SEGMENT OF THE LITTLE ISLAND OF SRI LANKA floods and earthslips had rendered a few thousands temporarily homeless. There were a few deaths and a few injured. A number of houses and buildings were damaged or destroyed. A cry of distress had arisen in the land and relief was rushed to the victims. The picture on the cover shows a building that had been battered in by rain and undermined by earthslips. It is one thing when death and destruction are caused by natural disasters euphemistically called "acts of God" but it is something totally different when they are caused by man-made actions as in Lebanon. The avowed objective of the Israeli invasion is the elimination of the "Palestinian factor" from Middle Eastern politics, but to achieve this Begin's hordes have slaughtered thousands of civilians and made a rubble of several Lebanese towns and even the Moslem sections of Beirut. The invasion of Lebanon is indeed a campaign of conquest. It was launched to coincide with the anniversary of the 1967 aggression in which Israel seized large stretches of Arab territory. Since then Israel has not only consolidated itself on the Golan Heights, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip but also in the fire gutted towns and countryside of Lebanon which was once the financial centre of the Middle East. Israel, among other things, wants to appropriate that role for itself through a sub-servient and vassal state of Lebanon. The notorious Zionist dream for a "Greater Israel" is now beginning to take shape. This dream is such more than a network of military settlements in the desert. It is a plan for the actual control, political, military and economic—including oil—of the expanse of land not merely from the Nile to the Euphrates but from the Indian Ocean to the Atlantic. Admittedly, the US has some misgivings about the oversized ambitions of its "strategic ally". It even fears that Tel Aviv's fierce anti-Arabism may harm Washington's anti-Soviet global strategy. But there are powerful forces in the US itself which want to use Israel for a role for which American and Western imperialism had created it and had also saturated it with the most modern arms. A victorious Israeli military presence in the region will also clear the way for the US Rapid Deployment Force. Washington has also drawn up a scenario for stationing in Lebanon, as in the Sinai, an 'international force' with a predominance of US troops. This policy is being pushed through with great ferocity over burning cities and dead bodies and this in spite of warnings increasingly heard inside the US and inside Israel that long-term consequences of this policy would be detrimental to the interests of both countries. But, in this instance, the US-Israeli strategists seem to be interested only on the short-term benefits accruing to both countries. To achieve this they took advantage of the internal conflict in Lebanon, the disunity of the Arab and Moslem states intensified by Camp David, the Iraq-Iran war and the fact that international focus was on the war between Argentina and Britain. Computers and Brains' Trusts in Washington and Tel Aviv had no doubt taken into consideration all these factors before launching this invasion. But in all this they seem to have overlooked the growing upsurge of Arab nationalism and the disturbed conscience of the international community. Areas inhabited by Palestinians have been genocidally wiped out from the face of the earth by air raids and artillery fire under the pretext of eliminating PLO "terrorists". But let us in Sri Lanka remember that the Jayewardene Government has accorded the full diplomatic status at embassy level to the PLO as the government (in exile) of a Palestinian state yet to be. So have a large number of other countries. How can they be called "terrorists?" The PLO has the status of a legitimate government. Begin cannot change this.

## •Elections •Haig

Three new political parties have been given recognition by the Elections Commissioner. They are the JVP led by Rohana Wijeweera, the Democratic Worker's Congress (political wing) led by A. Aziz and the NSSP headed by Vasudeva Nanayakkara. The symbols allotted are JVP (bell), DWC (ladder) and NSSP (umbrella). This brings the total number of recognized political parties to 12. A total of 18 parties and organisations had applied for recognition. The problem as to which SLFP—(S) or (M)—is to be recognized as the real SLFP has not yet been decided. There are whispers that this question might be delayed until early next year. Such a delay, whether deliberate or otherwise, in the recognition will no doubt make things more difficult for both wings of the SLFP. If the delay and the ensuing uncertainty will help both wings to get together it is one matter but observers are agreed that a delay will make it more difficult for either of the SLFPs to get ready for the election fray.

In the meantime, there appears to be a great deal of rethinking among all Left Parties. Sometime ago, the CPSL had called for a united front of all anti-UNP parties and organisations with a "no-contest pact" to fight the elections. This column had pointed out that the no-contest pact strategy as in the 1956, 1960 (July), 1965 and 1970 elections was not possible under the Proportional Representation system under the new Constitution. In a speech on June 27, reported in the *Ceylon Daily Mirror* (28/6/82), CPSL's only MP, Sarath Muttetuwegama (Kalawana) had stated: "According to the new Constitution, there is no possibility to contest the General Elections under a no-contest agreement among the anti-UNP parties and form a government of those parties. If we are to contest under the SLFP symbol we will lose our identity in the Government to be formed. Therefore if there is no way to have a coalition government without losing our identity the Sri Lanka Communist Party will contest only in some districts under its symbol, Star. So said Mr. Sarath Muttetuwegama, the MP for Kalawana, when addressing a propaganda meeting of the Sri Lanka Communist Party at Usmudulawa junction in the Ratgama electorate. The MP said the government had given many tax concessions to the capitalist class while the poor had been neglected. He was not sure whether the government would hold the general elections in 1983 although they said that it would be held without fail. UNP managed to get some votes at the DDC elections as the anti-government forces did not contest that election....." It is not known which districts the CPSL will contest with its own lists.

The LSSP in its discussions with the SLFP (S) had wanted the Kalutara district, but this was rejected

by Mrs. Bandaranaike. The LSSP, however, has been campaigning against the PR system. *The Island* (24/6/82) under the headline P R SYSTEM WILL BOOMERANG ON UNP - BERNARD reported: "The Proportional Representation system was adopted by this Government with the hope of coming back to power at the next elections. But the system would prove a disappointment to the UNP. All those who ruled this country from the thirties had brought various amendments to the election law hoping to gain an advantage. But the results were the other way about. History would repeat at the next General Elections, too, said Mr. Bernard Soysa, General Secretary of the LSSP. Mr. Soysa was addressing a public meeting held at Kandy Buddhist Centre to honour Dr. Colvin R.de Silva the LSSP leader on the completion of 50 years in politics. The new amendment to the election law as announced by Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali, would create chaos in the electoral process. It would be an utter mess if the people were asked to cast one vote for a party and another for an individual candidate. Voting for an individual candidate was contrary to the PR system. The objectives of the PR system would be lost....." There is no doubt a great deal of wishful thinking in the LSSP belief that the PR system will boomerang on the UNP. In the early fifties, it was the Left Parties that had wanted the PR system -- on national lists -- to give smaller Left Parties a chance. But after the No-Contest strategy was worked out with success by S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike, the Left had no use for the PR system but the UNP has adopted it to nullify any No-contest Pacts.

The new Minister of Agricultural Development & Research Gamini Jayasuriya according to the *Ceylon Daily News* (22/6/82) under the headline STERN ACTION AGAINST OFFICIALS WHO HARASS FARMERS" has warned officials under his Ministry that he would take stern action against those who harassed farmers. He reminded officials that it was their duty to be courteous to the public who came to their offices and to attend to them promptly. The Minister was addressing Agricultural Officers and farmers in the Homagama electorate at the Agricultural Office in Homagama which he visited last Saturday. Urging that the attitude of some should change, the Minister related an unpleasant experience he had after assuming office as the Minister of Agricultural Development and Research. He telephoned a high ranking official in the Department of Agriculture. The officer did not recognize his voice and said something impolite and cut off the line. He dialled again this time identified himself as the Minister and the magic words had the desired effect on the official who immediately sprang into life. He also said that some officers had become the laughing stock by attending ceremonies in paddy fields wearing shoes and slacks impracticable on such occasions."

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It is good thing that the Minister has turned the spotlight on the officials of the Department of Agriculture. *Tribune* has pointed out on innumerable occasions of the way these officials behave -- in the head office, the provinces and even in the field -- but with little or no avail. How the Minister proposes to make these officials help farmers is to be seen. As to his remark about officials who go into paddy fields in shoes, slacks and socks, it will be recalled that this practice was started by the last Minister of Agricultural Development and Research E.L.Senanayake. *Tribune* had made some caustic comments on the ELS performance at the first Wap Magul and he had thereafter avoided being photographed in paddy fields with the rubber shoes he had used earlier. With the elections round the corner, the UNP has to do everything to erase memories of the ELS image from the public mind.

THREE MATTERS dominated the front-pages of the world press this week: first the implications of Alexander Haig's resignation, secondly the escalation in the differences between the West European countries and the Reagan Administration and finally the continuing crisis in Lebanon. Several other events which normally would have won front-page banner headlines were relegated to the back pages. Among them: the rail strike in Britain, the setting up of an anti Vietnam Kampuchean coalition, the beginning of the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks between the United States and the Soviet Union, the unending Iraq-Iran war, the possibilities of a political settlement in Afghanistan the new Left-wing government in Mauritius demanding the return of Diego Garcia and British hangover and an Argentinian fallout from the Falklands war. There are also over a dozen other items of national or regional importance which failed to get adequate media coverage: for instance, the situation in Southern Africa, the trial of mercenaries in the Seychelles, the developments in Chad, the bilateral problems of the countries of the Indian sub-Continent the clashes on the Vietnam-China border, the uproar in Papua New Guinea, the upsurge of anti-American sentiments in Latin America and a host of other conflicts and confrontations in every part of the world. However the World Cup Soccer matches also stole the headlines. More recently the hijacking of an Alitalia Jumbo jet by a Sri Lankan has brought this island a sudden spell of global publicity. Sri Lanka now joins the immortals in international hijacking with a solo performance.

TO COME BACK TO HAIG, the resignation, one week ago, of the US Secretary of State, Alexander Haig, from the Reagan administration had come as a surprise. George Schultz, previously Secretary of Treasury in the Nixon administration, was immediately named as Haig's successor. Though Haig's resignation had been talked about very often, the abrupt resignation was totally unexpected. Admittedly, there was a running feud between Haig and some

of the top advisers of President Reagan like Edwin Messer, William Clark and Mrs. Jeane Kirkpatrick. They were constantly gunning for each other. But even so Haig's resignation came as a bolt from the blue. Immediately there were speculations why Haig had resigned. One view was that it was because of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. It is said that Haig had encouraged Begin to venture on the total invasion thereby violating what is believed to have been the Reagan wish that the Israelis should only clear a 40km. buffer zone on the northern border. Within a hour of Haig's resignation Israel, which had surrounded Beirut suddenly announced a unilateral ceasefire which it had refused to do until, it said, it had killed or captured the last PLO activist. Israel insists on calling them "terrorists", but let us remember that the Jayawardene government has accorded full diplomatic status at embassy level to the PLO as the legitimate government -in-exile of a Palestinian state yet to be. And so have many other countries. How can anyone call the PLO or even its armed units "terrorists"? Israeli propaganda cannot turn the PLO into criminals. And now under the mounting pressure of protests inside Israel and indignant opinion in the world outside. Begin has been compelled to maintain, temporarily at least, a cease-fire against the PLO armed units trapped in Beirut, but nobody knows when he will once again turn his hordes armed with the latest and most sophisticated American arms on the Palestinians. Begin has also repeatedly proclaimed that time was running out that Israeli patience was nearing its end and has demanded an immediate Palestinian withdrawal -- in spite of the pleas for a firm of American and other negotiators seeking a political solution. Begin wants all Palestinians out of Lebanon as a precondition for peace talks with Lebanon, but where the Palestinians to go. Where can they be evacuated in such a short time?

Another reason given for the Haig resignation is that he was opposed to Reagan's expansion of the ban on technology for the gas pipeline from Siberia to Europe. Reagan's ban, as expected, has infuriated West European nations. Haig, a former NATO commander and sensitive to European sentiments, it is said, did not want any further curbs on the gas pipeline project. It is said that differences on this and other matters had resulted in the break between Reagan and Haig. It is known that even the pro-West Arab States were shocked at the open support given to Israel by the United States despite the devastation it had wrought in Lebanon. Reagan's support for a limited buffer zone had not deterred the Israelis from militarily overrunning the whole of Lebanon. It was only when Haig was pushed out that Begin stopped his blitzkrieg. His successor Schultz is viewed with suspicion by Israel and its supporters in Congress because of his close connection with Saudi business interests.

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THE RECENT EVENTS in the Middle East had brought a sudden upsurge of hostile anti-US feelings in the region, and this added to the swelling anti-American sentiments in Latin America had posed new challenges to the Reagan administration. To make matters worse, Reagan's added curbs on the American licences abroad under contract to supply equipment to the gas pipeline project immediately created a furore in Western Europe and the Council of the EEC issued a statement asking the USA to reconsider many of its recent decisions that had adversely affected the well being of all non-American countries of the Atlantic alliance. Among matters mentioned were the high interest rates that bolstered the value of the US dollar and depreciated and devalued the currencies of all US allies the imposition of protectionist tariffs on steel exports from Europe to the United States and most importantly the measures to further hamper and reduce not only East-West trade but also buckle and delay the gas pipeline project. Reports indicate that the West German-French draft of the EEC Statement was extremely critical of the Reagan administration but that Britain's Margaret Thatcher had persuaded the others to tone it down. But thereafter she has repeatedly criticised the Reagan administration for its attitude to the pipeline project and has even taken concrete measures to reject Reagan's new embargoes by enabling British firms under contract to produce equipment for the pipeline and to ignore Reagan's diktat on this matter.

At the Luxembourg meeting the EEC has threatened to take the United States to an international court over President Reagan's embargo on US technology for the pipeline project to bring Siberian gas to Western Europe. Simultaneously EEC Foreign Ministers said they planned to resist US anti-subsidy duties on European steel exports and to take counter action against alleged US subsidies to American steel firms. In a statement commenting on the sharp deterioration in relations between the two sides, the EEC Commission's Vice President Etienne Davignon accused the Reagan administration of behaving in an astonishing and highly dubious manner which, he said, could have extremely damaging consequences for international trade. "We are in a state of extreme" political and economic tension with Washington. Mr. Davignon said, How Reagan and his new Secretary of State Schultz propose to handle the European, allies is not known, but equally tricky situations exist in the Middle East and Latin America.

Western commentators are perplexed as to how the President Reagan will untie the Gordian Knot into which the contradictory complexities of Haigism had thrust American foreign policies. Alexander Haig, some suggest, was offered at the altar as a sacrificial scapegoat but can this alone bring Reagan's foreign policies back on to the rails of realistic and pragmatic American foreign policy imperatives? Will there be a break with the self-defeating policies of

the Haig? Or will the American public swing more and more to the policies advocated by Ted Kennedy and the Democratic Party?

## FILM FOCUS

### "Star" System

As two of the Film Awards Ceremony for 1982 have got under way, with the Big One (the Presidential Awards) to open in a few weeks, one fact is clear: that the same stars carry away the local Oscars every time. This column does not underrate the talent of actors and actresses who have worked hard for what they have rightfully earned, but is perturbed that year after year they keep young talent at bay. This is one reason why the Sinhala cinema today is reaching a crisis point; so much so that young picturegoers are keeping away from recent productions, however excellent these may be. Times there were when Hollywood films depended by big names but that era too has disappeared. Today, however, the accent for audience appeal is on the themes. The recent Sinhalese release "*Sannasanna Ma*" and the Tamil film "*Alaigal Oivathillai*" have recorded successes in spite of the comparative new stars. Producers persistently give big names to cloak mediocre films to make a quick buck before they are found out after the first week of a film's run. And that is how we see many reputed stars' who reach great heights in one film, falling to pieces in the very next one. Many of our stars take on several, parallel contracts but are unable to do their best in most of them. This column therefore thinks that limitations should be imposed voluntarily and otherwise on this system. Many years ago B. R. Chopra then head of the Indian Producers Guild had argued that no film star should be permitted to act in more than six film per year with a warning that if it was not implemented strictly the film industry would sooner or later be in serious trouble. Even at that time it was obvious that the more popular stars were taking on more assignments than they could cope with leading the more dedicated film makers into serious embarrassments with their high quality productions. As the stars in question were rationing out their time and dictating the pace. The net outcome was that a film which could be completed in six months dragged on for two years at least, by which time the artistes get listless and the directors disinterested. The time is ripe for the Sinhalese film industry today to take Chopra's suggestion seriously and give the worn-out star machines in the business a rest, before they become mere robots than artistes. Young talent is going waste because very few producers are prepared to take a risk with them. The National Film Corporation should come to their rescue and one way is to begin with a squeeze on the loans that the NFC doles out generously to every individual

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who turns producer. The older stars too should accept changes with good grace.

**STAR TREK** (English): This Paramount Production is yet another space film following the box office hit "Star Wars". But it has flopped at the box office launching pad and made a hurried ex't from the metropolis. A lack of cohesion in the story and an anaemic dialogue are responsible for its failure. Three feeder starships on a routine patrol cruise introduce the story before they are destroyed by an Alien in space that heads earthwards with killer intentions. The sensitive ground control in San Francisco scents disaster and doom racing towards them and promptly instructs a giant space station, the USS Enterprise, to intercept the intruder. From thence it is the Enterprise that boggles the human eye with its super dimensions as of a city in space, outracing the speed of light many times over. If only the occupants of this giant space vehicles conversed less and concerned themselves more with the dangerous mission ahead, the film could have survived the boredom it imposed on the audience. The Indian actress Persis Khambatta appears briefly on board the Star Ship but does not help to make the film any better.

**ANURADDHA** (Sinhalese): Directed by Siri Kularatna, this mini-Hitchcock styled production is steeped in rare suspense. It is a refreshing change from the formula line in many local films. An affair between a couple (Edmund Jayasinghe and Malini Fonseka) waltzes off the dance floor where it bloomed leaving a trail of jealousy, blackmail and murder most foul, on a stormy night to lead the audience grimly on a "who-dun-it" escapade. The plot keeps the audience spell-bound and the answer to the guessing exercise comes only in the last seconds of the final reel. While Malini Fonseka made an early exit from the story after a colourless performance is was left to Mervyn Jayatunga as the blackmailer with the deadly chuckle of a Richard Widmark and Jayasekera Aponso as the lover to carry on the plot with conviction. The latter's transition from slapstick roles to a serious one took this column by surprise. The story depended on the speed with which the suspects to the murder were eliminated and this was done with precision to jolt the audience from moment to moment in the Agatha Christie style. To me this film was a revelation if not a very welcome change in Sinhala film.

**THEY CALLED HIM BULLDOZER** (English): The burly box office beater Bud Spencer rhymes perfectly into the role of Bulldozer with a killer punch whenever provoked from his gluttonous lethargy. He is a one man army against a US marine unit which he cuts down to size with a few drop-outs whom he reforms to make a well knit team that he leads hilariously to victory. The game was not clean but the fun was high enough with fisticuffs galore.

JAMES N. BENEDICT

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## READERS' QUESTIONS

### • Police Hare • Nestles • Polonga Tea • Vendetta

by Sherlock Holmes

#### 1. What do you make of a headline in the Ceylon Daily News, of June 14 entitled **POLICE HARE IN ON TORTOISE THIEVES,,?**

It is difficult to know why the *CDN* chose this headline for a Trincomalee story which read: "Two men were fined Rs. 550 by the Trincomalee Magistrate Sarath de Abrew for transporting tortoise.... In this case W. D. Francis Peter Cosra and R. Joseph Anton Fernando both of Wennappuwa along with Y. Dosiratne of Aliluwa were charged for transport of 100 tortoises without a permit. Police told court that in the Negombo and Wennappuwa area a tortoise fetched Rs. 50. The Tortoise is a protected animal. The first and second accused pleaded guilty to the third charge while police withdrew their case against the accused. *We are ourselves puzzled by this headline. Is it that the Police go to sleep when they see a tortoise as in the proverbial hare-cum-tortoise race? Or is it to suggest that the tortoises (the thieves) in the end win the race? Or have police (hares) now turned tables on the tortoise-thieves by a sudden burst of speed and vigilance?*

The Police also seem to have now woken up to Fauna Protection. The *Ceylon Daily News* on June 26 had a mini-headline **SAVE THE TURTLE: IGP.** "The IGP Mr. Rudra Rajasingham has called all SPs in charge of police divisions to do what they can to prevent the slaughter of turtles in coastal areas. The IGP has said that he had reliable information that turtle killing was going on in Patanangala (within the Yala Sanctuary) and in Tangalla. There was also extensive killing at Kalpitiya, Puttlam and Mullaitivu. "Do whatever you can to prevent this destruction: he said drawing attention to his earlier circular on the same subject. He has ordered that all ranks must be alerted to the problem and persons engaged in this activity should be prosecuted. He has also called for information on preventive and detective action taken in this connection.: *In "Alice in Wonderland": the great and glorious Mock Turtle shed tears. Why? Probably because there were no "police hare" to save them. And no IGP to issue decrees on "Save the Turtle:.. Is it police action or a nationwide campaign to save the turtle that is needed? Should a campaign not be mounted in the areas they are caught and sold?*

2. Have you heard of a rumour going round in knowledgeable political circles that Nestles' is using its connections in the administration

**to secure a reduction (visible or invisible) in the customs tariffs in a way that will enable it to increase its profits ?**

Yes, something more than a rumour is in circulation. And names of officials connected with the joint venture with Nestles also figure prominently in the gossip. We are however told by certain government spokesmen that all rumours and gossip about Nestles, emanate from trade rivals and should be discounted. It is no doubt true that trade rivals are often responsible for mischievous talk, but the ordinary man cannot be blamed for entertaining suspicion when the Secretary and a Consultant in the concerned Ministry are the Chairman and a Director of the joint venture. *Tribune* has had occasion in the recent past to point out that officials placed in such invidious positions will find it difficult to conform to the Code of Ethics for Public Servants recently formulated by the Government. There are enough men of calibre in the country who can represent the Government in such ventures. But is there any thing they can do on the 60-40 or 80-20 basis on which the companies are formed—except to act as contact men and catchers for the multinationals concerned? It will be in the Governments interest to remove such officials and replace them with non-officials or other officials so that there will be no violation of Code of Ethics for Public Servants. Government should do this before this matter becomes a talking point in the election campaign. Nestles (throwing about its weight as it does) will become a major issue in the election campaign. The Government will also do well to acquaint itself about the record of Nestles from Consumer Protection Societies in the USA, UK, Switzerland, Phillipines Japan and other countries. *A multinational must be kept in its place and should not be allowed to become a polical force even in one or two districts if the Government is to maintain its credibility.*

**3. Can you tell us whether water boiled in a kettle with a polonga can turn poisonous ?**

This question is no doubt based on a story in the *Sun* of June 14 It was headlined POLONGA IN KETTLE: DEADLY TEA KILLS 4. The report had read: "The cup of morning tea turned out to be a deadly brew for three little children and their grandmother in Ratmalana. The grandmother had boiled some water in a kettle and made the tea from it not knowing that a "polonga" had crept inside the kettle the previous night. Police investigators said that when the water was boiled along with the "polonga" in it, the poison sacks of the viper could have been discharged into the water making it poisonous. The unsuspecting old woman poured the tea and shared it with her three little grandchildren. It was their last drink. An inquest in this regard is scheduled to be held at the Kalubowila hospital with specialists in the field attending." Unfortunately we missed the follow up story (if one was published at all) regarding the finding of the

Coroner. If any reader can help us we will be grateful. *Polonga in Tea has become a scare story. It may be an easy way to get rid of an enemy or disagreeable husband. But it is not everybody who can catch a polonga alive and push it into a kettle of water ready for boiling. Those who can will be able to serve their enemies with a deadly brew. Will a dead polonga (they die only when their heads are smashed) have its poison intact to infect the water? A live polonga-boiled—is another matter.*

**4. Is there a vendetta on the part of certain government adherents to silence the bucanseering freedom of the Upali papers? Why is the People's Bank suing him only now? Why not when the default had arisen? Would the People's Bank have sued Upali Electronics when he was still the blue-eyed Director-General of the FTZ? Why have government advertisements been denied to these papers?**

There is no doubt that certain governmental forces are waging a cold war against the Upali papers just as these papers had from their inception launched a political—cum-personal war (cold and hot) against selected personalities in the UNP the Government and the Administration. The Upali papers have also consistently thrown brickbats at all and sundry for no reason except perhaps to indulge in dirty linen washing. Unfortunately in Sri Lanka such brickbats especially political brickbats are flung back quickly. Personal and private brickbat to assassinate character have a certain immunity because the victims may not be able to retaliate in the same way. But some victims are able to exact a heavy penalty in the form of damages. It is yet too early to say what the outcome of the plaint filed by Prime Minister against Upali Newspapers Ltd. and the Editor *Divaina* in a sum of Rs. 2 million for alleged defamation will be. The Prime Minister had alleged that the newspaper *Divaina* in its issue of May 22 had published a report of a SLFP meeting held at Ratmalana containing imputations which were false and defamatory of him. Talk of more defamation suits against the Upali Newspapers Ltd. are in the air. *Regarding the question about a "vendetta" we cannot see any signs of it. The dictionary defines vendetta as a "blood-feud in which family of injured or murdered man seeks vengeance on the or his offender family; this practice is prevalent in Corsica." The word has now also acquired a metaphorical meaning. In any event we cannot see a "vendetta" in the polemical and legal onslaughts between Upali and some personalities in the Government. It has become a kind of free for all but it is far from a vendetta even though down the grapevine comes the story that the People's Bank has filed eleven (11) plaints for the recovery of about Rs. 130 million. The figures are tentative and we will be happy to publish corrections. As to Advertisements they*



have been denied to many papers for a variety of known and unknown reasons from the days of Independence—and this was especially so during the regime of Mrs. Bandaranaike who is now held up by the Upali Press as the saviour and the guardian angel

of a democratic press. *It is true that the Upali Press has not complained about the denial of government advertisements but does this multi-million multi-national tycoon need these paltry advertisements?*

# TENDER NOTICE TENDER NOTICE

## MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVT., HOUSING AND CONSTRUCTION. DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS.

Tender for construction of Post Office and P.M'S Quarters, Deniyaya will be received by the Chairman, Tender Board, Department of Buildings, Colombo 1, up to 10.00 A.M. on Wednesday 28 07 1982.

02. Tender Forms could be obtained from District Engineer Matara before 4.15 P.M. on 16.07.1982 by registered contractors or "Trial Letter" holders of Department for Rs. 1,100,000/- and above on production of a tender deposit receipt for Rs. 250/- issued by Buildings Department, Colombo or any kachcheri outside Colombo.

03. Any further particulars could be obtained from the above Engineer.

**K.C. Samaraweera,**  
Director of Buildings.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,  
P.O. BOX 504,  
COLOMBO 1  
24th June, 1982.  
TRIBUNE, JULY 10, 1982

## MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVT., HOUSING AND CONSTRUCTION. DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS.

Tenders for construction of Post Office and P.M'S Quarters, Kahatawatta will be received by the Chairman, Tender Board, Department of Buildings, Colombo 1, up to 10.00 A. M. on Wednesday 28.07. 1982.

02. Tender Forms could be obtained from District Engineer/Ratnapura before 4. 15 P.M. on 16.07.82 by registered contractors or "Trial Letter" holders of Department for Rs. 1,100,000/- and above on production of a tender deposit receipt for Rs. 250/- issued by Buildings Department, Colombo or any Kachcheri outside Colombo.

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DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,  
F.O. BOX 504,  
COLOMBO 1.

June 20 - 26

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

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

**SUNDAY, JUNE 20:** Government has decided to give loans up to a maximum of Rs. 30 million for the development of exports. A game ranger two guards and a driver were stabbed after they arrested two timber thieves on the western boundary of the Yala sanctuary on Tuesday, Wildlife Chief Lyn de Alwis said yesterday—*SO*. President J.R.Jayewardene yesterday assured the nation that as long as he was alive the SLFP would never be able to capture power by unfair means and thus create a dictatorship in the country. The bank guarantee for employment agency registration has been reduced from Rs.150,000 to Rs. 100,000 by the Ministry of Labour; this has been done to hit the 100,000ME jobs target set by the President, J.R.Jayewardene—*ST*. Five years after a liberalized economy with the Government's development programmes in full gear, the country's telecommunications services are rapidly deteriorating; while Sri Lankans are awaiting the much publicised, long overdue era of electronic communications on the eve of an election year, an exodus of technically qualified personnel, antiquated equipment, lethargy and even corruption in some quarters are posing serious challenges. "Operation Victoria" the single largest evacuation programme gets underway today with the initial translocation of 2,000 families out of the Dumbara Valley which is to be inundated by the Victoria Reservoir. A Metrobank is to be established in the city by the Colombo Municipal Council in order to raise revenue by tapping the flourishing city capital market—*WK*. Criminal Investigation Department operatives have questioned a leading gem merchant from Ratnapura and two Sabaragamuwa politicians in connection with the theft of a gem valued at over one million rupees from a work site of the State Gem Corporation in Ratnapura. The World Eelam convention scheduled to be held in New York on July 3 and 4 is expected to be attended by both members of the TULF and TELF—*IS*. It is understood that a terrorist organisation is planning to engage in disturbances in the country with a view to capture power; a report to this effect

has been submitted by the CID to the Government—*CH*. It is understood that the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (S) will face the General elections without appointing a particular person as Leader of the Party—*VK*.

**MONDAY, JUNE 21:** The Justice Ministry has been directed to compile statistics of murder cases that have been pending for three years and more after the attention of the government had been drawn to the fact that some cases have dragged on for as long as 10 years—*CDN*. A hunt is now on in the North for the terrorist who is believed to have masterminded the recent abortive parcel bomb operation on the Jaffna Colombo night mail train. A giant earth slide relentlessly moving down a 500-metre wide slope threatens to dump several thousand tons of earth onto the main construction site of the multi-million rupee Kotmale Project; while the adoption of emergency measures have succeeded in slowing the slide from the initial rate of four inches per hour to an inch every four hours, experts have been flown in from Britain and Sweden to help avert a possible disaster—*SU*. The Ministry of Justice has decided to set up a new corporation under the Prisons Department to employ 8,000 prisoners in various industrial sectors. Direct paddy purchases by the Paddy Marketing Board has fallen to an all-time low since the 1970s despite the increase in the guaranteed price of paddy in 1978; meanwhile, imports of rice which had declined up to 1978 rose appreciably thereafter. Last year the Food Commissioner's Department imported 157,000 metric tons while the imports projected for this year is 200,000 metric tons—*IS*. The eighteen new political parties awaiting recognition by the Elections Commissioner will hear the results shortly—*CO*. The four applications for bail submitted in the Madras Sessions Court on behalf of Prabakara and three others suspected to be members of the Tamil Eelam Liberation Tigers Movement, who are in remand, has been rejected by the court; as a result they will continue to be kept in remand—*VK*.

**TUESDAY, JUNE 22:** President J. R. Jayewardene has directed the Secretary to the Cabinet Mr. G. V. P. Samarasinghe to oversee the affairs of the Department of Immigration and Emigration. President J. R. Jayewardene said yesterday that Sri Lanka had preserved and intended to practice in the future too, democracy in its highest form; the President was inaugurating the 12-day UN Seminar on human rights in Asia, at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute; twenty three countries of the ESCAP region and representatives of 13 non-governmental agencies participated—*CDN*. Parliament and the term of the Presidency can only be extended by the people through a mandate obtained by holding a referendum, President J. R. Jayewardene told an eminent gathering of human rights activities from Asian and the ESCAP region yesterday. A public-cum-private sector delegation is due to visit several Middle East states in October this year in a concerted effort

to assess potential markets for Sri Lankan produce. The Minister of Transport and Transport Board Mr. M. H. Mohamed urgently requires Rs. 200 million to finance a grant to the Central Transport Board to cover operational losses, cost of subsidised travel facilities given to students and expenditures under the retrenchment scheme—*CDM*. Engineers working at the Kotmale Project yesterday continued to remove the overburdened soil at the summit of the earth slide in order to relieve pressure, as rains threatened to aggravate the situation. Sri Lanka's entire requirement of milk foods is to be produced locally under a multi million dollar project which will get underway in Kurunegala shortly; this massive project will make Kurunegala the country's milk producing centre drawing 40,000 producers from the districts of Puttalam, Kurunegala and Anuradhapura with the creation of over 2,300 permanent employment placements in the factory and other accessory services—*SU*. The increase in customs duties with effect from May 28 on gift parcels sent to Sri Lanka has dealt a serious blow to recipients—*IS*.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23:** The five percent Business Turnover Tax on interest payments to banks will not be varied, despite a strong business lobby to get the banks to absorb the charge themselves. authoritative government sources said yesterday. On the recommendation of Mr. D. B. Wijetunge, Minister of Post and Telecommunications, Cabinet approved a Colombo Area Telecommunications Development project, Stage 4. Kalutara's veteran LSSPer, Mr. Cholomendelew Goonerwardene has been removed from the party said on LSSP branch official—*CDN*. A Thai investor, in collaboration with local promoters will undertake deep sea trawler fishing with the aid of high capacity trawlers in off-shore and deep sea areas in Sri Lanka shortly; for a start two 90-ton class trawlers will operate 35 miles off the coast; a further three trawlers will be added—*CDM*. The Government is to take measures to avert imminent earthslips in the Kotmale area, Lands, Land Development and Mahaveli Development Minister Gamini Dissanayake told Cabinet yesterday. Posts and Telecommunications Minister D. B. Wijetunga told the Cabinet yesterday that the severe exodus of trained and experienced technical personnel was the most serious problem facing the upgrading of telecommunication services—especially in Colombo and outer Colombo areas—*SU*. The Minister of State, Mr. Anandatisa de Alwis, told *The Island* yesterday that he will recommend to the Government to close down the national news agency "Lankapuwtha" because it was serving no useful purpose—*Is*.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 24:** A single house on a quarter-acre of land in Baddegama stands in the way of the completion of the Rs. 400 million Chinese-aided Gin Ganga flood protection scheme and is creating a serious flood hazard in the Baddegama area, senior government officials said yesterday. The

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installation work on the new National Switching Centre has been completed and it has been commissioned; it is a transit exchange for subscriber trunk dialling; the new centre is an electronic switching system utilizing the latest computer-control technology, it costs Rs. 14 million—*CDN*. The official status of the split—Sri Lanka Freedom Party is likely to be known only in the early part of 1983 before the general elections; this would mean that the warring factions of the SLFP—the Sirima group and the Maithripala Gaurp—would have their applications for official status examined by the Commissioner of Elections next year. The Department of Motor Traffic earned a sum of Rs. 106,795,509 as revenue last year from licence duty, sale tax and other unclassified forms of revenue—*CDN*. President J. R. Jayewardene declared yesterday that the government's aim was to develop the country through "avihinsa" revolution leading a righteous society; addressing a mass rally at Dambulla to celebrate the 4th anniversary of the village reawakening movement (Gam Udawa), he said the country was being steered on this new course of development. Delegates from Vietnam the Soviet Union and Mongolia yesterday walked out of the United Nations regional seminar on human rights held at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute, when a representative of the Democratic Kampuchean (Khmer Rouge) regime began speaking. The World Food Programme's scheme to provide food aid to the value of 17.25 million rupees for the Cultural Triangle Project, will get under way next month—*SU*. Investigations into recent terrorist activities have revealed the emergence of a new claimant to the mantle of terrorist leadership in the North; while the kingpins Umamaheswaran and Prabbakaran are behind in bars in Madras, the new aspirant intends to reorganise the movement with the remnants of the older group and reinforced with an infusion of new blood, informed sources say. A mighty roar resounded and rebounded of the high rise buildings around Galles Facelast evening when a section of the Hotel Taj Lanka Samudra now under construction crashed—*IS*. The Colombo Passports Office has issued over 100,000 travel documents during the first five and a half months of this year according to the Department of Immigration and Emigration—*CO*. Two typewriters, a Roneo machine and chemicals have been stolen from the Karaveddi Vigneswara College—*EN*.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 25:** The University Grants Commission has reached its final stage in processing results of 2,520 candidates who will be selected for admission to the six universities and two university college this year. A multi-million dollar off shore investment group has proposed a major development of the Colombo golf course, now in a 99-year lease to the Royal Colombo Golf Club—*CDN*. All employees with 5 years of unbroken service will be entitled to gratuity under the Employees Gratuity Bill to be introduced in Parliament by Captain C.P.J. Seneviratne, Minister of Labour next month—*CDM*.

Government was yesterday alerted regarding the possibility of another build up of insurgents following the discovery of a "bomb factory" at Embilipitiya; police who cordoned off and raided a house in the youth colony at Kadurugasara arrested nine members of a militant left organisation who had been at the house believed to be a trade union office of this particular political organisation where the explosives were discovered. A massive counterfeit currency operation is being uncovered by Police following the arrest of two foreigners who allegedly had more than 6,000 US dollars in counterfeit notes; police believe these two suspects had defrauded about 20 tourist hotels in Sri Lanka by tendering counterfeit notes and asking for the change in Sri Lankan rupees—*SU*. Sparks are expected to fly at the World Eelam convention in New York when the newly - formed Tamil Eelam Liberation Front stakes its claim for recognition from the International Tamil Community as the legitimate freedom movement—*IS*. Three hundred persons are to be employed in Saudi Arabia in one batch; arrangements are being made to send them to that country within the next two months—*DP*.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 26** The Ministry of Public Administration has announced a new recruitment scheme in an effort to draw bright young graduates into the Sri Lanka Administrative Service; the Secretaries to the Ministry of Public Administration Mr. D.B.I.P.S. Siriwardene said yesterday that under the cabinet approved recruitment scheme that becomes effective from December 31, 1982 sixty percent of available SLAS vacancies will be filled by open examination; graduates between 22 and 25 years can compete. The District Court of Colombo has issued summons returnable on September 2 on Mr. Upali Wijewardene in a case filed against him by the People's Bank claiming Rs.855,872.26 Prime Minister R.Premadasa filed action in the District Court of Colombo yesterday suing Upali Newspapers Ltd., and the Editor, *Divaina* in a sum of Rs.2 million for alleged defamation—*CDN*. The Sri Lankan authorities have informed Interpol International Police and the American Federal Bureau of Investigations about a large scale counterfeit of high value American currency notes in two detections made on Thursday—*CDN*. Several thousand new small industries are to be established shortly in the country with petro dollars remitted by the Lankan labour force in West Asia; this programme of entrepreneur development has been initiated by the Sri Lanka Chamber of Small Industries with a view to channelling the billions of rupees earned by Lankans in West Asia into useful business ventures. President J.R.Jayewardene yesterday called upon school children in Colombo West electorate to maintain peace among communities so as to build up a prosperous future. A manhunt was launched yesterday for a group of masked men who attempted to remove 250 gurs from the strong room of the Vavuniya Kachcheri—*SU*. 650,000 families will be given land with outright deeds before Parliament is dissolved next year; this

has been decided by Mr. Gamini Dissanayake, Minister of Lands, Land Development and Mahaveli Development following a survey conducted by this Ministry on squatters occupying state land throughout the island; the survey has revealed that nearly a million acres are occupied by squatters. Employees of all state banks and eight commercial banks will stage a one day token strike on July 1 to protest against the alleged "unjust treatment of the employees of the National Savings Bank.":—*IS*. Railway Department sources said that on a survey conducted by the Department it has been revealed that derailments have been caused often due to faulty railway lines and very old carriages—*DP*. It is understood that compensation will be paid to victims of the violence in Jaffna very soon and that a sum of Rupees one million and twenty six lakhs will be sent to the Jaffna Government Agent immediately; at the same time a separate inquiry will be held in regard to the violence caused in the Chunnakam and Kankasanturai areas.—*VK*.



WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

## June 20-26

### ASIA

**INDIA**: Home Minister Zail Zingh resigned from the Government following his selection as Congress I candidate for Presidency. Opposition Parties first nominated a pro-Moscow Communist Party member (CPI) Hirendra Nath Mukherjee but he could not file his papers as his name was not in the voter's list: They later chose H. R. Khanna a retired Supreme Court judge. Marxist Democratic Youth Federation group youths broke into the US Information Centre in Calcutta and wrecked its library. **PAKISTAN**: Pakistan's military leader Gen. Zia told his Advisory Council that his government was bent on establishing an Islamic Order in Pakistan and ruled out the possibility of an early election. **BANGLADESH**—Finance Minister A.M.A. Muhith has advised his countrymen to adopt austerity measures to face a grim economic situation. Gen. Ershard said his talks with Soviet Foreign Minister in New York have dispelled misunderstandings with the Soviet Union. **ISRAEL**: Israeli forces continued to attack Palestinian and Syrian forces. The ceasefire declared in Lebanon during the week has never been properly implemented. Israelis want to have a PLO-free Beirut and a "strong" pro Israeli government in Lebanon. **SYRIA**: Syrian Baath Party said that it was prepared to fight Israel to liberate Lebanon but just at the moment it was not in a position to fight an Arab Liberation War. Tass said Syria has proposed to Moscow to form a "strategic alliance" between both countries. **SINGAPORE**: The formulation of an anti-Vietnamese coalition of the ousted Kampuchean

forces under the auspices of the ASEAN group was welcomed by the EEC, US, Canada, New Zealand and Japan. It was considered to be a diplomatic victory for the ASEAN. But the Indo-Chinese watchers are very sceptical about the ability of this coalition to succeed against a 200,000- strong Vietnamese forces in Kampuchea - even with material or military help from its well-wishers. President Sihanouk of this coalition is expected to represent the Government at the UN General Assembly in September this year. **KAMPUCHEA:** The Kampuchean government has warned the new coalition parties which want to throw it out that it would resort to military action. **JAPAN:** Japan announced that it had lifted the sanctions imposed against Argentina during the Falklands crisis. The alleged "industrial spying" in California of the two famous Japanese corporations came as a shock to Japanese Premier Suzuki but he did not want to do anything to harm the friendly and co-operative relations between the two states. **LEBANON:** The Israeli invasion of Lebanon has had a serious impact on the various forces that helped to maintain an uneasy peace in Lebanon — viz., the PLO, the Syrian and Christian forces and the Lebanese military units. The defeat suffered by PLO forces poses a great threat to Yasser Arafat and his diplomacy. Arafat blamed the US for orchestrating the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and said it would not lay down arms. The Lebanese Ambassador to the UN said that his country did not like the idea of having foreign troops in the country. They have already notified the UN and Arab League that they would not renew the mandate of the Arab deterrant forces in Lebanon. **IRAQ:** The ruling Baath Party newspaper, *Al Thawra*, blamed Syria of complicity in the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. Iraq announced that its forces have started withdrawing from Iranian territory to international boundaries a task that will be completed within the next 10 days.

## EUROPE

**UNITED KINGDOM:** The British have won the Falkland war at a high cost to the British tax payer. In New York, Premier Thatcher rejected any idea of keeping a UN force to a multinational force in Falklands Islands. The militants in the Labour Party may be booted out unless they "reform" themselves within the next three months. Labour Party leaders felt that by Tony Benn, undermined the Party's electoral chances and had given the option to leader Michael Foot to oust them if they did not reform. **SPAIN:** British and Spanish negotiators will commence negotiations over the future of Gibraltar. **LUXEMBOURG:** EEC countries have decided to lift the economic ban imposed on Argentina. This would enable Argentina to agree to a formal ceasefire. But the sanctions on arms sales by France, West Germany and other EEC countries would remain. **SOVIET UNION:** US attempts to set up a space and aerial

high command for its military operations was seen as a further progress in the arms race. A joint Soviet-French crew went into space playing down politics in their earnestness to share the profits of scientific ventures in outer space. **FRANCE:** Premier Pierre Mauroy attacked the US for its interference in the European trade practices and her move to apply economic sanctions when it does not suit US interests. US conditions on the proposed trans-Siberian pipeline to deliver natural gas to Europe and on the use of US technology was a source of irritation to European countries.

## AFRICA

**EGYPT:** President Mubarak told President Reagan that the US hesitation to compel Israeli forces to withdraw from Lebanon would cause serious damage to its relations with the Arab World. He also pointed out that the longer the Israeli troops stay in Lebanon the greater the damage to the US. Egypt also indicated that it would welcome the PLO leader Yasser Arafat and other leaders to settle down in Egypt if Beirut was too hot for them. But a close aide of Arafat said that there will not be any question of moving to Cairo. President Mubarak has sent an urgent message to President Reagan to intervene to lift the Israeli seige of Beirut. Egypt had also contacted EEC members and non-aligned countries urging to find an early solution to the conflict. **ZIMBABWE:** The Government blamed bandits for attacking the residences of Premier Mugabe and his Supply Minister Enos Nkal. **AUSTRALIA:** The ANZUS allies agreed to allow the access of their ports to US naval ships.

## AMERICA

**ARGENTINA:** Argentina complained that a scientific station in the Sandwich Island was attacked and captured by British helicopters. Argentina's military junta promised to restore civilian rule in 1984. Gen. Reynaldo Bignone, a retired Army General was appointed as President and the Airforce and Navy withdrew from the political sphere. A multi-party commission met the new President to demand early restoration of a popular government in Argentina not later than 1984. **UNITED STATES:** The Visiting Indonesian Foreign Minister M. Kusmaatmadja said that close association of US and China had been seen as a threat to the interest of the South East Asian countries. US Federal Agents uncovered an attempt made by Irish Republican Army agents to buy surface-to-air missiles for their fight against British helicopters in Northern Ireland. The State Department said that three US navy ships were fired at in the South China sea. They suspect that Vietnamese boats in and around the area were responsible for it. The FBI has arrested Japanese technicians and business executives of giants like Hitachi and Mitsubishi alleging that they had attempted to steal confidential information from the IMB Corporation. In the case of the attempted assassination of President Reagan the jury found John

Hinckley Jr. not guilty. He was found to be insane at the time of shooting. The jurors, who later testified before a Senate Sub-Committee on legal reforms, maintained that their verdict would not have been different even if the President had been killed. US Secretary of State Alexander Haig resigned his post on June 25.

## THE FOREIGN SCENE

ZION

### The Book of Begin

*Exclusive—from "The Bible—The Book That Supports Our Boys".*

1. Now there was dwelling in the land of the Brit-ish-ites, in the city called London, an Israel-ite, whose name was Ar-gov.
2. And Ar-gov had been sent by Begin to bear witness to the people of the land of Brit-ain as to the total righteousness of the children of Israel in everything that they did.
3. And, lo, there were also in Lon-don certain Arab-ites who took counsel privily that they might waylay Ar-gov and slay him.
4. And it came to pass, in the land of Park-Lane, that while Ar-gov feasted, the Arab-ites laid in wait for him and set upon him.
6. And Ar-gov was near unto death.
6. Then the children of Israel waxed exceeding wrath.
7. And Begin spake unto them and said "Verily, this is just the excuse we have been waiting for. Let us now rise up and go even into the land of Leb-anon and there smite the Arab-ites, as they have never been smitten before".
8. Then Begin assembled before him a mighty host. And there were with them Centurions, Chieftains, Mirages, Daggers, Skyhawks, Exocets—you name it and Begin had it, even an hundredfold.
9. And when Begin gave the word, the multitudes rose up and came upon Lebanon like an swarm of locusts.
10. And Begin spake privily unto the children of Israel, saying unto them: "As ye may remember, I have long spoken unto you with regard to the so-called Promised Land.
11. "In the beginning there was the land of Israel. And God looked upon the land of Israel and saw that it was good. But it was not enough.
12. "So God said, 'Go forth and take the land over Jordan, even the so-called West Bank'.
13. "And the children of Israel did according to God's word, and slipped in the Golden Heights for good measure.
14. "And the God of Israel looked upon the new map and saw that it was good. But it was not enough.
15. "And that is why the God of Israel hath lately come unto me privily in the night and said, 'Awake, O Servant of the Lord, and gird up your loins and go forth into the land of Leb-anon, even unto the city of Bei-rut and beyond. For ye shall seek out the enemies of Israel, wherever they shall be found, and shall utterly destroy them, even as the porcupine destroyeth the parrot in the heat of the noon-day."
16. And the heart of the children of Israel was gladdened at his words, with exceeding great gladness:
17. For in their love of smiting they were second unto none.
18. And so on the appointed day, the hosts went forth into the coasts of Tyre and Sidon, even unto Bei-rut.
19. And there was wailing and gnashing of teeth among the daughters of Leb-anon, for their children that had been wasted in the smoke of battle.
20. And the God of Israel said unto Begin "Well hast thou done, thou good and faithful servant. But this is only a beginning.

21. "For when I said unto you that thou shouldst seek out the enemies of Israel and utterly destroy them, I meant what I said.
22. "For with each righteous act that you perform, for some reason which passeth my understanding the number of your enemies doth not diminish but waxes and multiplies, even as the cucumber tree doth grow and cast its shadow over the land of Noab.
23. "Therefore go forth yet again, unto Syria and Jordan and Egypt and even unto the uttermost ends of the earth until there shall be no man left alive who is an enemy of the chosen people.
24. "For only in this way shall my design be fulfilled and shall peace come upon the earth as the waters cover the sea."
25. And Begin hearkened unto the words of the God of Israel and pondered them in his heart.

**Here Endeth The Book of Begin.**  
*Courtesy, Private Eye, London.*

LEBANON

## Israel Attains Its Objectives

*New Delhi June 16:* The adventure undertaken by Israel, with the connivance of its ally, the United States, for the second time in four years, ostensibly to secure Galilee — which was why the invasion was codenamed "Operation Peace for Galilee" from artillery attacks from the Palestinians. Long and meticulous planning preceded the attack which the Israelis deliberately undertook to crush the military side of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). The declared objective was limited; it was to drive the Palestinians 40 kilometers northwards so that Galilee was out of their artillery range. The so-called red line of its security interests was sought to be moved up from the Litany river to the Zaharani river. But in the very first push, the Israeli intentions became clear as being something more than creating a safety zone of 40 kilometers. Its forces raced to Sidon, 60 kilometers north of the Israeli border, to Damour another 20 kilometers further north, and to the eastern suburbs of Beirut. Additionally, Israeli bombers destroyed Syria's surface-to-air missile batteries in the Bekaa Valley of eastern Lebanon. This was not part of the admitted plan since Israel apparently wantonly risked challenging Syria and drawing it into a full fight against its wishes. Even Israel's

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American allies were flabbergasted at this move; US Secretary of State Alexander Haig soured pathetically distraught. The Americans did not care so long as Israel fulfilled its declared objective of clearing a 40 - kilometre gap, but proceeding beyond it and engaging the Syrians in battle was not one. The Americans were quite conscious of the danger of the Syrians invoking their 1980 treaty with the Soviet Union, which was committed to come to its rescue in case it was pushed too far into the corner.

ISRAELI FORCES were all ready to roll across the border weeks before they actually did. All Israel wanted was an alibi and a cause of immediate provocation which came when its Ambassador in London, Shlomo Argov, was cut down by a gunman later identified as one Abu Nidel who has nothing whatsoever to do with the PLO. But Israel did not wait for any clarifications. It began softening up Palestinian positions through heavy air attacks and artillery barrages for two days, and when the Palestinians reacted by lobbing shells across the border into northern Israel the needed excuse was provided for the full war. Israel's ally, the US, watched for a while but ultimately President Reagan did send a message to Menachem Begin from Versailles where he was in conclave with his six summit colleagues who obviously pressured him to do something; the message was delivered after the invasion had begun! Reagan linked the Israeli offensive with the assassination of the London ambassador, although by then the PLO had disowned responsibility for it. Even Reagan's staunch ally, Margaret Thatcher, was forced to say: "Israel has used it as an occasion to launch the offensive, but I don't believe that it is in retaliation (to the attempted murder)". Predictably, attempts began to bring about a cease-fire and the UN Security Council adopted a resolution supported by all members barring the US which vetoed it, its permanent representative Jeanne Kirkpatrick staging a dramatic volte face in trying to withdraw the veto subsequently. However, a statement by her made it clear where US sympathy lay: "It is not reasonable or balanced or fair to point the finger of blame at Israel!" The implication was that the PLO was equally to blame.

**It was then that the US initiated moves to bring about a ceasefire between Israel and Syria, and Begin accepted it, largely because while his declared objective had been achieved, namely the destruction of the PLO inside Lebanon, the undeclared objective was also within sight. This was to attain a total restructuring of the Lebanese political map, create a Lebanon with which Israel can sign a peace treaty after restoring Lebanese sovereignty over the tiny country by driving the Palestinians and the Syrians out of it. In other words, the aim was to convert the multi-religious secular polity of Lebanon into a Christian state. This would then lead to the**

**fulfilment of yet another objective, namely, impose its own version of a political solution on Palestinians living under occupation in the West Bank and Gaza. The annexation of the West Bank and Gaza would then be legitimised.**

The fact that the Americans go along with such a proposition was reflected in the US proposal that all foreign forces (the Palestinians and the Syrians) leave Lebanon to facilitate a "political settlement". According to General Eitan Israel's Chief of Staff the Israeli army "will organise an extended stay in Lebanon" while Defence Minister Ariel Sharon's standing orders to the troops was "Hold on to Lebanon until peace returns to Galilee". Obviously it would be Israel which would decide when peace will return to Galilee. Actually, the PLO, to destroy which the Israelis undertook the invasion, had scrupulously maintained the cease-fire so fortuitously imposed by the mediation of US special envoy Philip Habib last July. Yet the shooting of an Ambassador was taken as adequate evidence of breach of the cease-fire. It now looks as if Israel is in Lebanon to stay. This is consistent with what the hawks in Tel Aviv have been saying for the last four years. They do not want a repetition of the "mistake" of 1978: in other words they do not want to withdraw from Lebanon and entrust Galilee's security to another UN force like the one created for the purpose in 1978 namely the UNIFIL. Israel would now prefer, and it has made no secret of this, a multi-national force of the Sinai type controlled and manned entirely by the United States.

THE UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING FORCE (UNIFIL) in Lebanon has been reduced to a mockery. The UNIFIL forces took up positions after the March 1978 Israeli invasion with the declared aim of creating a buffer zone along the border. The initial 6000 men were unable to move to the border because Israel had created a six-mile swathe of territory under the domination of Major Saad Haddad a renegade officer from the Lebanese army who is now a willing tool of Israel. Haddad has carved out a Christian enclave better known now as "Haddadland" or "Haddadistan". The UNIFIL forces were swiftly swept aside on the very first day of the invasion and found themselves ridiculously stranded behind Israeli lines. Israel can now be expected to pursue its undeclared objective of restructuring the Lebanese political map by its periodic mopping-up operations which will force all non-Christians into Muslim districts. Haddad will be encouraged to expand his enclave since Israel is now in a position to distribute largesse. During a visit to the northern command a day after the invasion, Begin embraced Haddad and told him "Beaufort is now yours". Beaufort Castle, the crusader fortress of the Middle Ages, was both a strategic and psychological prize for Begin since it

has been for quite some years a Palestinian guerilla stronghold and a threat to Israeli-supported Haddadland. Israel has already begun wooing Lebanese Christians in other sectors as well. For instance Christians of Damour have been assured "every possible assistance" if they return and help in driving out the Palestinians. The Israeli game is to set Right-wing Christians against the Lebanese Muslims and Left-wing Christians. If this results in intensification of the civil war, so much the better for Tel Aviv which can then adroitly manipulate it. Reports from Jerusalem have already spoken of Israeli reliance on Lebanese Christians to help in ridding Lebanon of all Syrians and Palestinians; these reports say that the Christians "have not been at all unhappy about the terrible knocking that Palestinians have taken at Israeli hands."

PREMIER BEGIN, caught between two powerful sets of hawks within his country, has been gauging the extent of Arab and Western tolerance to the limits to which he can go to assert supremacy in the region. He has so far successfully got away with many adventures; the bombing of the Iraqi nuclear power plant near Bagdad, the annexation of eastern Jerusalem, the virtual annexation of Golden Heights. Now he seems to have got away with even more: the destruction of Syria's missile batteries in the Bekaa valley of eastern Lebanon. The United States has been only too willing to encourage Israel, while the Arabs, preoccupied with their own domestic squabbles and mindful of the implications of the Iranian revolution, have watched Israeli aggression from the sidelines without doing anything about it. Far from restraining Israel, the Pentagon agreed during the Washington visit of the headline Defence Minister Ariel Sharon to supply another 75 F-16 aircraft worth 2.5 billion dollars! **But the latest Israeli invasion could not have been undertaken with such impunity but for the divisions within the Arab leadership. Almost all Arab governments have made "the comprehensive, honourable and just settlement" of the Palestinian issue the hard core of their policies, but nonetheless, when it came to the crunch, their response was hesitant.** The Syrians were only too ready to withdraw under the Israeli unilateral ceasefire offer although the destruction of its missile batteries was sufficient provocation for involvement. Why was Syrian response so cautious in the last ten days? The Syrian leadership is said to have grown distrustful of the independence with which the PLO chairman, Yasser Arafat, has charted out compromise proposals for a West Asian settlement. Syrian President Assad was said to have been annoyed with Arafat's enthusiastic response to the eight-point Fahd Plan which called for "mutual recognition of all territories". According to Western reports the influence that Syria exerts over sections of the PLO through Syrian military presence in Lebanon



is vital to President Assad's ambitions of regional leadership. The Syrians want no compromise with Israel on the basis of recognizing it as an entity that is entitled to existence in West Asia.

WHAT OF OTHERS in the Arab world? Algeria and Libya extend moral support to the Palestinians and perhaps are generous with financial assistance. Saudi Arabia whose late King Khaled was chiefly instrumental in blocking an Israeli invasion planned for last year, has espoused the Palestinians cause with favour, but it has been seeking to bring about a settlement on the basis of recognizing Israel. The fact that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak flew to attend Khaled's funeral though the two countries have no diplomatic relations suggests that Saudi Arabia no more regards Israel's friends as its enemies. Mubarak himself is in a difficult situation right now. He was rebuilding Egyptian links with the Arab countries after the death of Sadat. He can only demonstrate Egyptian sympathy for the Palestinians through critical anti-Israeli comments but if he chooses to do more than that, he will run the risk of abrogating the Camp David accord. As for Iraq and Kuwait and lesser Arab states their pre-occupation is largely with the driving force of the Iranian revolution—Shiite fundamentalism and anti-Americanism. **Where do the Palestinians go now? No Arab government is seen willing to fight their battles. Israeli Defence Minister Ariel Sharon has callously said that the Palestinians had no business to be in Lebanon and they should go to Jordan. Jordan's King Hussein was the one who pushed them out in the first place; he wants no part of the PLO.** Syria can offer only temporary refuge. The PLO has become far too influential and has made a great number of friends internationally for it to remain under Syrian hegemony for any length of time. The PLO which pledged a "fight unto death" slogan at the outbreak of the war has since said that defeat in Lebanon does not mean the collapse of the resistance. "We will carry on our hit-and-run operations from wherever we can. If we are pushed out from one place, we will go to another". The fight will therefore continue even from within Lebanon with the assistance of the Lebanese National Movement, which is nonsectarian. The PLO and the Movement have become an integral factor of Lebanese polity; to shake them off permanently may be difficult though to subdue them for the present may be easy. Meanwhile President Elias Sarkis of Lebanon who belongs to the Maronite Christian sect, has brought together all political factions under what has been described as a National Salvation Board to tackle the fall out of the Israeli invasion. That the American ambassador declared the Reagan Government's support for the Board is good enough to make it suspect in Arab eyes but it is one indication of US collusion with

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Israel in partitioning Lebanon to suit their common purpose of occupying Lebanon also in the guise of restoring its sovereignty. But for how long? Even the British Deputy Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd has had to admit that Israel's security cannot be won indefinitely by occupying other people's land. "That simply produces terrorism which passes off as resistance movement," he has said. He may well have a point.

—Mainstream

Govt.



Notice

**The Land Acquisition Act (Chapter 450) as Amended by The Land Acquisition (Amendment) Act No. 28 of 1964**

**NOTICE UNDER SECTION 7**

Ref No. 3/63/482  
O3/J.80C.197

It is intended to acquire the Land/Lands described the Schedule below, For further particulars please see Gazette Extraordinary of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka No 196/2 of 28.06.1982.

**SCHEDULE**

- Name of Village etc* :- Galkaduwa West village in 140 Thalgodapitiya G.S.Division, Ihala Wisideke West Korale, Ibbagamuwa D.R.O's Division, Kurunegala District.
- Name of Land* :- Nagahamula Watta
- Plan and Lot Nos* :- 22 and 23 in Supplement No. 1 in F.V.P. 1174 A

The Kachcheri,  
Kurunegala  
23.06.82

**A. George**  
District Land Officer  
Kurunegala District

## Answering Your Queries

### *What is waterlogging?*

Waterlogging occurs when moisture content is in excess of field capacity. Total saturation is never achieved under field conditions, for there is always a certain amount of entrapped air. Water draining from the upper soil to a less permeable stratum accumulates above it, and a well, sunk through the waterlogged zone, will show free water at the level of watertable. This is not the level of saturated soil for the capillary fringe extends for some distance above. Waterlogging occurs when water is applied faster than it can drain away, evaporate, or be used by plants. Water which penetrates below the root zone will tend to form a water-table particularly where subsoils have a high clay content. Soils vary in their susceptibility to waterlogging.

### *What is seepage?*

The lateral movement of water through permeable strata from an adjacent body of water, or a waterlogged area; it should not be confused with waterlogging. In actual fact few soils on the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas are subject to seepage because of the lack of an adjacent body of water.

*What is a perched water-table and why are such water tables so easily formed on many orchard soils?*

A perched water-table is one perched above the general level of the country water-table. It may be located within a few feet of the surface or some twenty or more feet below. It is an irregular zone of saturated soil, of varying extent and depth, above a less permeable stratum; it may involve a considerable area, or be sharply localised around one or two trees. Perched water tables are formed when water penetrates the surface soil at a rate greater than it can move through a less permeable stratum below. The soil immediately above becomes saturated and remains so until the excess water has drained below. The duration of perched water tables varies with the degree of impermeability of the impending layer, though such factors as evaporation and water absorption by plants may also have an effect. Where the impending layer contains a considerable amount of clay, which swells when wet and practically prevents further downward movement

the water table is stated to be persistent. In other soils where the impending layer is not impermeable and where the lower subsoil is lighter permitting freer movement the water table is temporary.

### *What are the adverse effects of high water table?*

A temporary high water table has little influence on general fertility, provided extensive saturation does not occur too frequently. But if the saturation period is prolonged, there is a loss of soil nitrogen and other soluble plant foods from the root zone. Persistent water logging on the other hand, has ruined a lot of ground land by causing an accumulation of soluble salts, many of which though valuable plant foods in weak solution are toxic in strong concentrations. One of the main reasons for loss of fertility and the death of roots in a saturated soil is the lack of oxygen. Without air, roots cannot function; the fibre roots and minute root hairs slough off and the effect on the tree is similar to that caused by extreme drought. Moreover, wet soil is an excellent medium for the development of parasitic root rots.

### *How do salt spots form?*

Many soils of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas have a naturally high salt content due to the fact that they have been formed under arid conditions. In most instances the salt content is not so great as to affect the growth of crops. However, the salt is dissolved by the watertable and should this be within 6 feet of the surface the water will rise by capillary action, and on being evaporated at the surface will deposit the salt there, with the consequent building up of toxic concentrations.

### *Can salting be prevented and corrected?*

Provided an injurious accumulation of salts does not exist prior to irrigation, many soils liable to salting can be handled successfully if irrigated within certain limits. The following precautions are essential: (a) Excessive saturation of the root zone must be avoided; (b) Irrigation must be in accordance with the soakage rate of the soil and the capacity of the root zone; (c) A system of cover cropping and tillage designed to maintain soil condition and organic matter must be adopted. Prevention is easier than correction and where extensive salting has taken place, reclamation is difficult and costly. Tile drainage and subsequent leaching of the salt may be possible on some Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas soils but further investigation is still required to determine this. Leaching of the salt below the root zone of the correction and, where extensive salting has taken place, is only practicable where the depth and nature of the soil permit free drainage or the subsoil can be kept dry by means of some dewatering crop. While salted land can be reclaimed successfully for pasture growth it is still doubtful whether much of it can ever be reclaimed for fruit-growing.

*To be concluded....*

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## Seven Sisters

The Tobacco market is an oligopoly which means that it is one dominated by a very small number of firms which have become more intricately involved with other commodity sectors in the world market. The combine of the seven sisters comparable to the oil majors are: *British American Tobacco (BAT)*; *Imperial Tobacco Co. Phillip Morris*; *Gulf and Western*; *R. J. Reynolds*; *Rambrandt & Rothmans Group and American Brands*. Competition in Tobacco lasted only for a short span after the rise of the modern cigarette industry. It gave way to a monopolistic phase 1880—1911 and then to the present oligopolistic organisation. The present organisation demarcated the market frontiers, indulged in price leadership and shifted capital ownership from one group to another. The world dominance of the transnational tobacco conglomerate companies (known as the TTCC) indulge in a world wide capital accumulation, mass advertising and dynamic cross subsidisation. They control the manufacture of cigarettes in the world by about 90 percent of all processed tobacco. Their direct operations deal with more than 38 percent of the total world cigarette output. The balance is made up by private firms 11 percent; State Tobacco monopolies in developed countries 17 percent, and State Tobacco Corporations 33 percent. The rationale for the drive to monopolistic competition which narrowed profits through the pressure of lower price of the competitors and also such monopolies enabled the increase of profits by various economies that they could effect. The first was the birth of the American Company in 1890. This continued its monopolistic activities till the birth of *British American Tobacco (BAT)* in 1902 which laid the foundation of the world tobacco oligopoly. **The Sri Lanka Tobacco Compny is controlled by the British American Tobacco.**

**CIGARETTE MACHINES.** The industry was given a huge impetus by the development of the Bonsack cigarette machine in 1900. This produced 500 cigarettes a minute. The technological development was further improved by 1976 with the introduction of the Molin machine with an output of 5 000 cigarettes a minute. The production of these machines is controlled by the *British American Tobacco Corporation* and *Imperial Tobacco Co.* who own 50 percent of the shares. The Tobacco industry today is one of the highest capital intensive industries in the world surpassed by only Petroleum refining.

**WORLD ADVERTISING:** The advertising outlays are a major component of the TTCC budget. Annually they spend about US \$ 1.8 billion. When a new product is to be put to the market the advertising cost is around US \$ 50—60 million. It is also well

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known that these companies conceal their advertising cost specially in developing countries where supervisory control is weak.

**WORLD WIDE BRIBERY:** It was disclosed by one Company's affiliate that it hands "pay offs" to all major political parties and specially that is governing a country. These "pay offs" are said to be necessary for the survival of the Corporations making the biggest profits as well as to get favourable legislation enacted. It has been disclosed that over a period of the five years from 1970 - 1975 one Company paid US \$ 19 millions as illegal "pay offs". It has also used other funds to influence congressional and presidential candidates in the USA.

**CROSS SUBSIDISATION:** The present policy of these tobacco combines is to cross subsidise other industries thereby diversifying their capital investment. Sums involved in this direction have been staggering e.g. *Reynolds* took over *Delmonte Corporation* at a cost of US \$ 621 million. Then to enter into the World shipping market for Tobacco, the *Sea Land Services*, the world's largest containerised freight operations was taken over by the *Tobacco Companies* at a cost of US \$ 530 billion. Similarly they took over the American Independent Oil Company to ensure lower fuel prices. The need for diversification arose as the Tobacco Companies had huge sums of money available for investment.

**TOBACCO ECONOMY:** The World Tobacco economy has been moulded and fashioned by the dominance of a few Tobacco companies. At all stages of production and marketing a handful of giant corporations, whose epicentres of power remain in the United States, the United Kingdom and South Africa, exercise decisive control. The tobacco industry now straddles, through cross subsidisation the centre spectrum of modern business and plantation agriculture.

—*Economic Review*, May 1982

## THE EARTHWORM

### Unpaid Handyman

By Sir Albert Howard, C.I.E.

IN THE DELUGE of advice nowadays showered upon the gardener and allotment holder by the radio by the Ministries of this and that, and in a torrent of books and pamphlets, there is one serious omission. Little or nothing is said about the unpaid labour force in the soil itself, without whose co-operation the grow-more-food campaign cannot possibly succeed. This labour force is largely invisible; it consists of animals and plants, many of which can only be seen under the microscope, but an exception among the animal population is the **earthworm**. Among the microscopic plants in the soil moulds

and microbes they are the most important. Unless this mixed population is kept in good fettle the produce of a garden is never fit to eat. But once the gardener looks after his unpaid workers, everything else will follow; a satisfactory crop of good taste and quality and of high nutritive value will be a foregone conclusion; artificial manures will be unnecessary; the plants will protect themselves from insect fungus and virus diseases; there will be no need for the fungicides, insecticides and germicides now used as antidotes for soils poisoned by chemicals. **In the murder of our soils, now proceeding so merrily, perhaps the chief victim is the lowly earthworm, whose beneficent activities -- so graphically described in 1882 by Charles Darwin in "The Formation of Vegetable Mould Through the Actions of Worms with Observation on Their Habits" -- are now, alas, almost, forgotten.**

HOW CAN EARTHWORMS assist the gardener? In the *first place* they keep the soil fit for its population by providing a ventilating system in the shape of their tunnels. By this means the life of the soil obtains its supply of oxygen from the atmosphere and also expels its used-up air. Moreover, these tunnels allow the surplus rainfall to drain away into the sub-soil. In the *second place* the earthworms condition the food materials needed by the roots of plants. This is accomplished by means of their casts which in a garden soil in good condition may exceed 25 tons to the acre in a single year. The casts are manufactured in the alimentary canal of the earthworm from dead vegetable matter and particles of soil. In this passage the food of these creatures is neutralized by constant additions of carbonate of lime from the three pairs of calciferous glands near the gizzard, where it is finely ground prior to digestion. *The casts which are left contain everything the crop needs—nitrates phosphates and potash in abundance and also in just the condition in which the plant can make use of them.* Recent investigations in the United States show that the fresh casts of earthworms are five times richer in available nitrogen, seven times richer in available phosphates and eleven times richer in available potash than the upper six inches of soil. The earthworm is, therefore, the gardener's manure factory.

The reaction of the roots of a crop like the potato to a fresh worm cast is illuminating. A few years ago in South Lincolnshire while investigating the root development of this crop, I observed that the fine roots of the potato plant in passing downwards into the subsoil always made full use of the tunnels of the earthworm. In these galleries fresh worm casts are constantly being deposited. Whenever a fine root passed one of the deposits, it at once formed a web-like network of new roots which closely invested the cast and penetrated it in all directions. Then the root continued its downward passage into the subsoil. Obviously the potato was removing something

from the casts, otherwise this network of new roots would not have been developed. The recent work in the United States explains what it was the roots were seeking.

FEEDING THE CROP is not the last service performed by earthworms. They are the ideal soil analysts and furnish the gardener with a report on the state of his land far more instructive than anything the soil scientist has so far provided. All that is necessary is for the gardener himself to make a rough count of the earthworms in the top spit of soil and to observe their colour general condition and above all their liveliness. *If in each spadeful during the autumn digging, one glistening, red, active earthworm occurs, about the thickness of a man's little finger, then all is well with the soil and the quality of next season's crop is assured.* There will be no need for plant nutrients of any kind; no anxiety need be felt about pests. But if the worms are few coiled up in balls or pale in colour and sluggish in their movements then the next crop will be poor and trouble with pests will be inevitable. In this country our old and experienced gardeners pay great attention to the earthworm and often base their manuring largely on the indications they furnish. In the cases of the Sahara the tribesmen also make great use of the earthworm as a soil analyst. They judge the value of land by the number of work casts appearing on the surface.

In return for what the earthworms do for the garden all that is needed is to supply these animals with the right kind of food and to avoid the use of unnatural nourishment. Earthworms thrive on farm-yard manure, or better still on freshly made compost manufactured from vegetable and animal wastes. On a diet of artificial manures and poison sprays they either perish outright or abandon the garden to its fate. In the planning of the future we must all see to it that the extermination of the earthworm ceases and that these creatures get a square deal. If we fail in this duty to the soil from which we all spring Mother Earth will hit back and after a series of warnings will finally wipe us out of existence. We must at all costs avoid being weighed in Nature's balance and found wanting.

—Organic Gardening

## TRIBUNE DEVELOPMENT FORUM

**Many readers have suggested that the scope of this section should be widened by making it cover all aspects of Development in Sri Lanka and that it should not be confined to the Mahaweli sector alone. We accept this**

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suggestion and from this issue this section will be known as the Development Forum. This week we publish an article from R. Kahawita refuting the theory that large and small irrigation tanks meant silting and desertification—unless proper conservation methods are adopted well in advance. The second article is from a commentator new to *Tribune* — Pertinax — with a roundup of the current development programme.

OUR DRY ZONE

## The Myth of Desertification

By R. Kahawita

WHEN ANYBODY asserts that the Dry Zone of Sri Lanka—(12 000 000 acres)—will be a desert soon (if....) it cannot be taken seriously. The same thing was said when Gal Oya Project was started in 1948. **Our Advisors, Consultants and Experts said the reservoir would be silted up in 20/25 years except ourself. We disagreed not without reason. Minneriya Tank was 1700 years old then. It never breached and we inherited it as a working Reservoir. In the year 1935 the tank went bone dry. We took the opportunity to carry out a detailed scientific survey of the water spread area of the reservoir and also determined the occurrence of floods sedimentation of the bed and also with a certain degree of accuracy to establish the dry and wet cycles in the dry zone. We came to the conclusion that the silting near the sluices averaged 4—4 ft. This may have taken place during the centuries the tank was abandoned and not used for irrigation. There was and is the accumulation of coarse aggregate around the foreshore. How much of this is brought in depends on the intensity of floods in its immediate supply sources the rivers flowing into it. Based on these observations we discounted what the experts said in 1948 about the silting of Gal Oya Reservoir. Nevertheless we decided to declare the immediate water shed of the reservoir a sanctuary and took steps to move the few settlements within declared reserve, outside the water shed.**

THE WATER SHED OF MINNERIYA is in the Habarana-Sigiriya area. According to the Archaeological findings these areas were well populated during the years Minneriya tank was in operation so if there were erosion due to the traditional forms of cultivations, highland chena and wet land paddy, the Minneriya tank should have silted up centuries ago and the process of desertification would have taken place if our present day theories are correct. There were no such indications when Governor Gregory discovered "Minneriya Lake."

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**In spite of the theories of silting and desertification, the possibilities are remote in a country open to tropical rains.** Geologically our soil formations are quite different to many countries where excessive grazing and intensive farming have rendered vast areas into deserts. The problem in this country is quite different—excessive weed growth with the first rainfall where a variety of weeds sprout which the ruminants, domestic or wild, do not eat. These weeds and scrub that spring up within a few weeks of the first rains from a sufficient ground cover to protect the soils from erosion. Even a plantations like tea, where clean weeding is the standard practice erosion is not serious as the tea bushes offer a very effective canopy to break the force of falling rain drops. Where this is not available the "colonial rain drops. Where this is not available the "colonial planters" did develop several soil conservation measures to protect erosion -- in slope and ravines alike. In fact they were more conscious of the need for soil management to maintain productivity compared to the local owners of plantations, though we are quick to accuse the "colonial planters: for the rape of the earth.

TODAY IN TEA PLANTATIONS with V.P. replanting the tea bush gives almost a perfect carpet cover that reduces erosion to a minimum compared to early seedling plantations though underneath the carpet cover there are no weeds nor weeds can survive with such shade. The method adopted by the early planters have become the standard practice in properties owned by us— particularly in the coconut triangle rubber coffee and cocoa growing areas the problem does not exist -- rubber is a mono—tree forest coffee and cocoa needs almost forest conditions for its growth and productivity. *The serious problem is in the dry zone patnas where just before the monsoons whole hill slopes are burnt to get rid of the over grazed lemon grass stubble to encourage new shoots suitable for grazing.* The burning has two effects: it burns all weeds and saplings that would have grown to form the beginning of a jungle and the other it burns all the live shoots of the lemon grass. It takes time to put out new shoots to provide sufficient ground cover to prevent soil erosion. By that time the monsoons have set in and gone deep into the season. **These are the areas that need protection to avoid desertification of the patna hills. In recent years the Forest Department has taken very effective steps to establish "Pinus Forests" in the patnas. But their problem too is how to prevent burning of these areas for the same purpose, for grazing. Quite often during the months of July and August large areas are set on fire which spread into the Pinus plantation too, thus devastating years of work. This is something that the Government must take serious note of.**

SOME YEARS BACK the Hydrology Section of the Irrigation Department carried out observations on the movement of silt in rivers reservoirs and even sheet erosion on Patnas Chenas and in certain types of cultivations like tobacco vegetables where the soil is kept free of weeds during the seasons. The conclusions were not significant as these crops can be grown only after the heavy rains and the first rains are just absorbed into the soil. It may take several showers to establish a balance between the moisture content of the soil and rainfall to generate "sheet erosion" which is the primary carrier of silt into the water ways. We found that foot paths animal tracks cart wheel tracks etc. are the beginnings of erosion tunnels and once formed can carry away a large mass of silt. A tunnel provides the transportation means to the dislodged silt in sheet erosion. It follows the shape of the land and contour drains or bunds and is one way of counteracting this kind of erosion.

There are several technicalities involved in the study of erosion, and movement and silting of reservoirs. The collection of data and reservations have to be conducted through several weather cycles before we can postulate on silting and estimate the life of a reservoir under local conditions. In the Minneriya area we came to the conclusion that the rate of silting depends mainly on the storage capacity compared to its immediate water shed -- larger the water shed compared to the reservoir capacity silting may be heavy as we found in a breached tank above Minneriya in the same supply source. If the capacity of the reservoir is very large compared to its water shed silting is very very slow. Minneriya is a case to point. **In a land open to tropical rains desertification is a very remote possibility. But that does not mean we should rape the soil. We have to maintain soil fertility if productivity is to be maintained at a high level. Therefore we must take note of possible desertification a good warning for better husbandry.**

POINT OF VIEW

## UNP's Thousand Days

1982 has been pronounced ELECTION YEAR by President J.R. Jayewardene. Elections in Sri Lanka, unlike in the West, are more festive occasions that sometimes turn sour when tempers run high. At the last election there was a lot of bloodshed with party loyalists girding their loins and the victors unleashing fury on the vanquished and vice versa. It is hoped that when the elections are ultimately held, Sri Lanka will go to vote peacefully and either re-elect or reject the present rulers. *It is important, I feel, in the light of the pronouncement made by President Jayewardene, to look at the performance of this Government. Let us try to do so clinically and*

*without any bias if that is possible. This Government* was elected to office in 1977. The first year was the honeymoon period where the usual transfers, demotions, promotions, etc., are made. It is only after that work had started in earnest. Again, in this year, the last year of the Government's term and the Election Year very little work is usually done with Government machinery moving in top gear for electioneering work and bureaucrats looking around to see which side to join. So, in effect, no work takes place in the first year and no real work in the last year. That leaves us with four years of effective working for any Government that is elected. Out of the four years, if you deduct the Sundays, Saturdays, and Public holidays, that will leave us with approximately 250 days per working year which in effect, means a Government's life span will be a thousand working days. *What then has the UNP achieved in these 1,000 days? That is the question that the public at large will have to deliberate upon and give the verdict on election day.*

**The Cost of Living** has certainly gone up. The vehicular traffic in Colombo has become overwhelmingly excessive. But, strikes that were a normal phenomenon in the last year of a Government's term seems to be strangely absent. These strikes, I remember, crippled the administration of S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike and that of his wife Sirimavo Bandaranaike. President Jayewardene however with a little firmness appears to have brought about some kind of industrial peace. This was done at the cost of about 40,000 people who were rendered jobless after their services were terminated for having "vacated their posts." I know this was a terrible blow to the working people. *But the question to which Sri Lankans must seriously address themselves is whether this action of J.R. Jayewardene has benefited the community at large. The answer, however unpalatable to some, is a YES. No Government* anywhere in the world can, for instance be held to ransom by the Transport Board or the Government Railway. People must commute, food must be conveyed and normal lines of communication maintained in the country. Here, Sri Lanka can well take an example from Japan. Where there is unrest, there are more effective and civilised ways of resolving complications than resorting to crippling the country's economy. Leaders before President Jayewardene appeared to have pandered to the whims and fancies of those urban and suburban power peddlars under cover of trade unionism. I think this is the first time that the bull has been taken by its horns and an endeavour made to place the country on a proper industrial footing. It is, I think, because of the firm steps taken by the President that the industrial Free Trade Zone has grown from strength to strength. And now the Cuban leader Fidel Castro is reportedly coming to Sri Lanka to study the measures that we have taken in this respect. *It looks therefore as if President Jayewardene and his Cabinet of Ministers have gained what they lost on the bends*

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on the straights. With the Free Trade Zone and the multinationals coming into Sri Lanka a dormant section of the economy has opened up. New banks have come in generating employment and giving money for small enterprises. Big industry is seen everywhere and the Free Trade Zone can be considered well on the march.

**Many Critics** say that the Hon. Prime Minister is wasting a lot of money on the Udagama Project from which the country gets no economic return. This is indeed a fallacy because one cannot quantify the gratitude and appreciation of a human being who is provided with shelter. Unlike the money in the bank, appreciation is unquantifiable. However, the Prime Minister and his Ministry would be well advised to endeavour to recover this money from the tenants over a long period of time, going on the axiom that nothing given free is appreciated. *There appears to be a lot of food crops grown everywhere in this country, but marketing appears to be a problem which is still unresolved. The newly-wedded Minister, Lalith Athulathmudali should address his mind to this important aspect.* There has, however, been a tremendous breakthrough in the Rajangana Scheme where a group of cultivators have begun to export green chillies direct to the Middle East markets. They will soon receive the fruits of their labour. This indeed, is a great achievement which can be emulated everywhere else in this country. *What is sadly lacking in Sri Lanka is the information of the proper kind. Politicians, stooges "catchers" and stand-bearers always appear to be running around in the press and TV pictures of Ministers lighting oil lamps whereas a momentous event like this did not get the publicity it deserved.* This is one aspect of governmental and private media information and publicity which I cannot understand. The first export of green chillies should have been televised and broadcast through the national media as well as the private sector newspapers throughout the length and breadth of this country. It is a success story in these pessimistic times and what this country needs at a time like this is hope, laughter and a little bit of optimism. So, *it is hoped that the king-makers of the media would read your valuable journal and seize this as an opportunity to build up their images (and that of their respective Ministers.) But, at the same time, to take this message to the people.*

**THE grand climax** of the Jayewardene administration is indeed the Mahaweli. It is a project so large in conception and dimensions that the effects of it will ultimately be felt only in a few years but what I have seen of the Mahaweli projects convinces me that it will ultimately be a pulsating reality. But the project itself needs the national will and the national support of all those who are sacrificing a lot for the future.

The Government must devise a way and a system by which those anxious to see the Mahaweli projects are taken up and shown them. This aspect of the Government propaganda action appears to be somewhat lethargic. It is imperative to not only do something but to ensure that the country is shown what it being done. And again, the Mahaweli Ministry is which is over-run by media men should do some thing about it. Memories are short, they say, but like prophets of the old days if one can leave one's soul today and go back to the pre-Jayawardene era, perhaps, the difference will be felt in a very significant manner. Definitely there is no repression or Emergency law. There is more freedom, more prosperity and, most of all, greater hope.

**The menacing plague of corruption** has however infected the Jayewardene Government as it had done all previous governments. Somewhat belatedly a Minister has been removed. A MP has resigned and we are told that a few more are on the mat. What is really worse than corruption is the ostentatious living of the rich. Some of the UNP rich seem to be living it up. The rich who have benefited from the liberal policies of the UNP should realise that they have a duty to their less-fortunate brethren. Fast cars, bright colours, gold wrist watches and television do not last for ever. But good deeds, a kind word, an encouragement is something that the rich will have to give the poorer folk. I see organisations like the Lions Club having massive shows at our luxurious hotels ostensibly for the support of the poor. Lunches are had, pretty legs are shown, but do the poor actually benefit? This is the question that the elite upper-crust must ask themselves.

**Sri Lanka** is fully on the march. It has also, at the same time, fallen prey to the new found money and the fresh circulation of foreign finance that is in the country, but the main thing is that whatever the people do, they must maintain their identity and the personality of Sri Lanka's. This is where the trend-setting rich have to set their standards. I have seen tickets for the so called super-clubs advertised at Rs. 300/- each but have these bloated status seekers even provided a bed for the servants they have at home? These are the aspects that must engage the attention of the upper echelons of society, but these lucky ones should remember that in 1 000 days no Government anywhere in the world has achieved what President Jayawardene and his cabinet Ministers have done. For once, Sri Lanka has rolled up her sleeves and got down to work. So, *on a critical evaluation it does appear as if President Jayawardene and his team should be given another lease at the wicket and I do not think that Sri Lankan population will do otherwise because the memories of the dark days still linger, and odours stay longer than perfumes.*

**PERTINAY**

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## TRIBUNE SPORTSCOPE

SPOTLIGHT

### • Cricket • Soccer • Rugby

**SRI LANKA CRICKET:** While global attention has been focussed on the World Cup Soccer Tourney now in progress in Spain the local sports scene was honoured by President J.R. Jayawardene when he laid foundation stones for the Headquarters of the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka and for extensions to the Sinhalese Sports Club pavilion. Sri Lanka which has a unique record of having played cricket for well over hundred years, lacked the basic amenity, that of a Headquarters for the Board of Control. Now that we are a fully-fledged Test playing nation, a headquarters is of paramount importance and thanks to the initiative and hard work of Mr. Gamini Dissanayake President of the Cricket Board, this long-felt and essential need has finally been met and Sri Lanka will now fall in line with all other Test playing nations. Associated at this unique and memorable occasion with the President were Mr. Gamini Dissanayake, the Cricket Board President, Mr. Vincent Perera, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Sports and Chief Government Whip, Mr. Lionel Madugalle, Secretary, Ministry of Sports, Sir John Nicholas, British High Commissioner and several former and present cricketers. *The President* said cricket had come to stay in Sri Lanka. He added that although cricket was an expensive game it would not lose interest. He also stressed that after they were admitted as full members of the ICC there was a lot of cricket played all over the country. President Jayawardene who is also the President of the Sinhalese Sports Club said it was a good thing that cricket had come to stay because it was a sport which inculcated the team spirit and where individual efforts were rewarded. President Jayawardene requested everyone to contribute liberally. If contributions were made to the President's Fund to be credited to the club it would be tax free. "In this way you can evade paying tax" the President quipped with a smile.

*The President* also traced the history of the SSC which he said was formed 83 years ago. It was the Sinhalese leaders of that day like the Jayatilakes, the Senanayakes, the Jayawardenes, the Gunasekeras and the Sarams; to mention a few names, who formed

and nurtured the Club. President Jayawardene also explained how he became a cricketer and that his first coach was Douglas de Saram who helped him find a place in the Royal College team and played in the "big match" against S. Thomas in 1925. Douglas was an uncle of Derrick, one of the greatest cricketers produced by Sri Lanka. The President said when he went into bat he was bowled fourth ball for no score. "The umpire was Douglas de Saram a great gentleman." On my way back to the pavilion he told me, "Dick that was the best ball of the match." "I didn't believe him then and I don't believe him even now" quipped the President to the laughter of those present. *Mr. Gamini Dissanayake* said now that Sri Lanka is a full Test playing nation we should not look back. He said that cricket was the greatest game conceived by man. He said the Board had no home to call its own. It had no fixed abode to perform its administrative functions. Mr. Dissanayake thanked the SSC for offering valuable land for the building of the headquarters. *With the Annual General Meeting of the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka to be held on July 11, canvassing for posts are hotting up. The only contest of note will be for the post of Assistant Secretary. Indications are that this post will go to S. Skandakumar, the Tamil Union Ground Secretary who occasionally turns out for the club in the "Sara" tourney. Michael de Zoysa was the earlier Assistant Secretary. Muski Mohammed the former treasurer is expected to hold the post of Secretary and his former Assistant Bertram Perera who has tremendous experience will be the Treasurer. The Assistant Treasurer's post goes to Mercantile CA President Leo Wijesinghe. Mr. Gamini Dissanayake and T. Murugesar remain President and Vice President respectively.*

**THE WORLD CUP SOCCER TOURNEY** which is now the greatest sporting event in Spain, overshadowing everything else, even the Wimbledon Tennis Tourney and the Indian and Pakistani Test cricket tours of England, has had its first round games completed and at the time of writing the second round games would have commenced. The first round games were not without incident, especially the game between Kuwait and France and the allegations made by the Algerians that the game between West Germany and Australia in their group being "fixed". The controversy in the France-Kuwait game started when referee Miroslav Stupar of Russia awarded a penalty to France. The Kuwait players protested, led by Sheik Fahi Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Saxah, President of the Kuwait Football Association and brother of Head of State. They threatened to walk off the field. Faced with this Kuwaiti threat, the referee reversed his decision which resulted in reactions from the French camp and manager Michel Hidalgo had to be restrained by the Spanish police from reaching the referee. However the Frenchmen secured a convincing 4-1 victory. The Kuwaiti delegation chief made some unrestrained remarks that were

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broadcast by Spanish Radio. He described the Mafia as a kindergarten compared with FIFA (the International Football Federation). After the game, the Kuwaitis were fined 25,000 Swiss Francs (12,000 dollars) and the referee was suspended by the Referees Ruling Body. The FIFA Organizing Committee also cautioned Sheik Fahd Al Ahmed Al Sabah, President of the Kuwait FA for "unsporting behaviour". The Algerians made allegations that the West Germany Austria game which West Germany won by a solitary goal was "fixed". This win by West Germany cost -Algeria which had beaten West Germany in an earlier game, a place in the second round.

Results of First round matches: Belgium 1 - Argentina 0. Italy 0—Poland 0. Brazil 2—Russia 1. Peru 1—Cameroun 0. Hungary 10 - El Salvador 1. Scotland 5 - New Zealand 2. West Germany 2 - Algeria 1. England 3 - France 1. Spain 1 - Honduras 1. Austria 1 - Chile 0. Czechoslovakia 1 - Kuwait 1. Yugoslavia 0 - Northern Ireland 0. Italy 1 - Peru 1. Argentina 4 - Hungary 1. Brazil 4 - Scotland 1. Poland 0. - Cameroun 0. Belgium 1 - El Salvador 0. Russia 3 - New Zealand 0. West Germany 4 - Chile 1. England 2 - Czechoslovakia 0. Spain 2 - Yugoslavia 1. Austria 2 - Algeria 0. France 4 - Kuwait 1. Honduras 0. Northern Ireland 0 - Peru 1. Poland 0. Belgium 1. Hungary 1 - Russia 2. Scotland 2. Italy 1 - Cameroun 1. Argentina 2 - El Salvador. 0. Brazil 4 - New Zealand 0. Algeria 3 - Chile 2. France 1 - Czechoslovakia 1. Honduras 0 - Yugoslavia 1. West Germany 1 - Austria 0. England 1 - Kuwait 0. Spain 0 - Northern Ireland 1.

**RUGBY:** Chandrishan Perera that explosive ruggerite in the Clifford Cup Rugby Tournay transformed the team into an invincible outfit and the CH & FC playing like champions gave the Airforce a caning by winning by 29 points to nil. The Maitland Crescent Club apparently has made the Trophy their own. On the present form they look an unbeaten side and coach Y. C. Chang deserves a big bouquet for fashioning a set of enthusiastic players into a match-winning unit. Credit is also due to the former Sri Lanka ruggerite and captain Dr. Hubert Aloysius for also giving them some useful hints on the game. In the other games played during the week ending June 25 26 and 27 Havelocks beat the Navy by 25 points to 10 Police beat the CR by 20 points to 9 and Army beat Kandy by 12 points to 4. The police too are showing their form of old and will be the CH & FC's strongest challengers for the coveted trophy.

#### ALLROUNDER

#### JEDB SPORTS TOUR

## In Jaffna District

The JEDB Cricket Tennis and Badminton teams participated in a series of matches played in  
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the Jaffna Distrit from 22nd to 30th May 1982. The following formed the tour party: A. C. Bartholomeusz; Ananda de Silva; Arasu Saravanamuthu; Bryan Perera; Dhyan Madawela; E. R. B. Tissera; Jayantissa Ratwatte J. K. Gunaratnam; Rajindra de Silva; Ravi Kotalawala; Ronnie Gunaratne; Rohitha Attygalle; Srilal Samarasekera and Tony Gunawardene. G. D. V. Perera joined the party on the 24th immediately on his return to the island having represented the Nationalized Services in a cricket tour of India. *The tour party* left the JEDB II Head Office in Kandy at approximately 5.30 a.m. and stopped at the Nava-jeevanam Farm for a brief look-around and lunch arranged by Rev. A. C. Thambirajah. We reached Jaffna at 3.30 p.m. and were met by Mr. A. Navaratnam DIG Mr. D. Nāsiah District Secretary and G. A. and other officials at the DIG's office where a press conference was held and we were appraised of the programme arranged for the week sports tour of the Jaffna District.

Due to rains in the afternoon of the day of our arrival it was not possible for the cricket team to have much-needed practices before the first match on *the 23rd of May a limited-over* game against the *Combined Colleges* team. Due to want of practice and travel fatigue the team fared disastrously and was bundled out for 51 runs. The Combined Colleges got the required runs in 10 overs and since this game was over early and we did not want to disappoint the large crowd that had gathered to witness the game a second limited-over game of 25 overs was arranged for the afternoon where JEDB fared extremely well. The JEDB team rattled up a 175 runs for the loss of 4 wickets the chief scorers being T. Gunawardene—39 S. Samarasekera 53 R. Attygalla 11 A Saravanamuht 29 (N.O.) and R. Gunaratne 39 (N. O.) The Combined Colleges side was bundled out for 109 runs in 20.2 overs. The chief wicket takers were R. Gunaratne 3 for 39 in 5 overs; A. de Silva 2 for 14 in 4 overs; D. Madawela 1 for 11 in 4 overs; A. Saravanamuthu 2 for 34 in 4 overs. and R. T. de Sylva 1 for 12 in 2.2 overs. The feature of these two matches was the excellent wicket-keeping by T. Gunawardene. *On the 24th* we were conducted on a tour of the onions and grape farms in the Jaffna District and in the evening the JEDB team played against the *Jaffna Badminton Association* team and emerged victorious. One singles and four doubles matches were played, and the JEDB won three doubles losing the singles and a double match. Those who represented the JEDB were D. Madawela (Capt.); E. B. Perera; E. Saravanamuthu; R. Kotalawela; J. S. Ratwatte and R. T. de Sylva.

*On the 25th* the JEDB Cricket team met and defeated a *Over 40 Team* in the *second limited over game* JEDB batting first after a slow start secured 186 runs for 9 in the allotted 40 overs. The chief scorers were T. Gunawardene 19; R. Attygalla 14 (not out);

G. D. V. Perera 11; R. Tissera 19; R. Gunaratne 44; R. T. de Sylva 24 and A. de Silva 14 (not out). The Jaffna combined side was bowled out for 122 runs in 34.4 overs the main wicket takers being A. de Silva 3 for 15; R. T. de Silva 3 for 20; G. D. V. Perera 1 for 23; R. Gunaratne 1 for 34 and S. Samarasekera 1 for 17.

On the 26th we were taken on a tour of the Delft Islands which is the largest and nothernmost in the group of Islands. A very enjoyable time was had by all and our visit to Delft Islands culminated with a soft ball cricket match against the Islanders. On the 26th evening Mr. J. R. Kunanayagam, Superintendent of Jaffna Estates, hosted the team for dinner. On the 27th the JEDB Tennis team met and defeated the Jaffna District team at the Jaffna United Club Courts. The following are the results: Singles B. Perera beat N. Balasundaram 6-1; 6-3; R. Kotalawela lost Anura 6-2; 1-6; 3-6. B. Perera and R. Kotalawela beat J. Rajaratnam and S. Ravikumar 6-3; 5-7; 6-3. D. Madawela and A. Saravanamuthu beat K. Sabaratnam and J. Senaratne 6-1; 6-1. R. Tissera and G. D. V. Perera lost A. Navaratnam and L' Thambirajah 1-6; 2-6; J. K. Gunaratnam and J. S. Ratwatte lost S. Thambirajah and A. Rajkumar 9-4. After the Tennis Tournament the Jaffna United Club hosted the team for dinner at the Club premises.

On the 28th and 29th the JEDB Cricket team played against the Combined Colleges team at the Jaffna College grounds. Play commenced at 2 p.m. on 28th and the Jaffna Combined Colleges team batting first were all out for 134 runs about 45 minutes before close of play. The chief wicket takers were A. de Silva and G. D. V. Perera both of whom returned splendid bowling figures of 5 wickets for 39 runs in 14.4 overs and 4 wickets for 21 runs in 11 overs respectively. The Skipper of the Combined Colleges team K. Thomas scored a hard hit 61 runs. JEDB lost two quick wickets in the 25 minutes play remaining on the first day. On the second day due to good exhibition batting by the JEDB batsmen we were able to declare at around 2 p.m. with the score at 289 for 7 wickets. The chief scorers were G. D. V. Perera 79; R. Gunaratne 56 (not out); D. Madawela 46; A. Bartholmeusz 37; A. Saravanamuthu 22; S. Samarasekera 20; J. Ratwatte 07 (not out) and R. Attygalle 08. The Combined Colleges needing 155 runs to avoid a follow on secured 184 runs the last wicket falling in the last ball of the match. The chief wicket takers were D. Madawela 4 for 37; G. D. V. Perera 3 for 53; R. Gunaratne 2 for 24 and A. de Silva 1 for 20. The match ended in a draw. On the 28th night Brg. Ranatunge gave a dinner in the Army mess for the JEDB team.

The tour party returned to Kandy on the 30th leaving Jaffna at about 7.30 a.m. and arriving in Kandy at approximately 2.45 p.m. All those who participated were of the unanimous opinion that

the tour did extremely well to bring about a better relationship and understanding among everyone. It wish to place on record that all those who went on this tour conducted themselves extremely well both on and off the field and did the Organisation proud. On behalf of the tour party, I thank the Chairman JEDB Central Board and the D. G. M. Administration for having given the necessary assistance and encouragement for this tour and Mr. Y. Ratnayake Director JEDB II for all the arrangements made by him to make this tour possible and it was indeed unfortunate that he was unable to join the team since his services were required elsewhere. I also take this opportunity of thanking all those in Jaffna who were responsible for the arrangements and making our stay a very comfortable and memorable one and in this regard special mention is made of the DIG Mr. A. Navaratnam District Secretary and G. A. Mr. D. Nesiiah and Mrs. Nesiiah B g. C. Ranatunge and his officers Dr. P. J. C. Phillips and S. I. Mr E. Wijewardene who acted as Liaison Officer for the tour party who went out of their way to make us feel at home.

## SPORTS CHRONICLE

### June 29 - 26

**SUNDAY JUNE 20:** One major upset featured the first day of the *Mercantile Six-a-Side Cricket* tournament when Arpico beat last year's Champions Ceylon Cold Stores by seven runs in a first round game at Bloomfield grounds Reid Avenue. No black magic or luck could have saved the Havelocks from resisting the powerful CH onslaughts which the latter won by 10 points (a try and 2 penalties) to 3 (a penalty) at Haverock Park last evening in their *Clifford Cup Rugby football* match. The All Island *Inter Schools Table Tennis* tournament which began at Zahira College Hall yesterday produced some interest as St. John's Nugegoda went down not before extending the favourites St. Thomas Bandarawela to five games in an Under 16 Boys A Division match. St. Thomas won 3-2. Kandy Sports Club created a major upset in the *Clifford Cup Rugby Football* Tournament when they beat the much fancied Air Force team by 22 points (2 goals and 3 penalties) to 7 (a try and a penalty) at Nittawela yesterday having led 6-3 at half time.

**MONDAY JUNE 21:** Grindlays Bank A and Brooke Bonds were declared Joint Champions at the *Ninth Annula Six a Side Cricket Tournament* conducted by the Mercantile Cricket Association at the MCA grounds yesterday. The tournament was sponsored by Lever Brothers (Ceylon) Ltd. CR & FC scoreed an unim-

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pressive 13 points (1 try 3 penalties) to 9 (1 goal 1 penalty) win over Army who hardly missed their skipper and No. 8 John Senaweera who left the field with a knee injury early on the first half in their second round *Clifford Cup League Rugby* match at Galle Face yesterday. CR led 4 - 0 at lemons. Police "Griffins" continue to head the *B Division League Rugby* table of points for yet another week closely followed by Army Colgs. Both are unbeaten so far.

**TUESDAY JUNE 22:** Golden Sports Club Demetagama has organized a *Six Side Cricket* tournament to celebrate the Anniversary of Sri Lanka attaining Test Status. The tournament is sponsored by the *Janata* for the M.H.Mohamed Challenge Trophy. Carlton Club B beat Kandy Garden Club by 2 matches to 1 in a Group IV All Island *Inter Club Tennis* match played at Moratuwa. The *under 17 (Div.111) All Island Schools cricket* match played at Campbell Place between Mahanama and Nalanda ended in a "no decision". With their 3 - 1 win over Trincomalee on Sunday and 2 - 1 victory over Matale yesterday Batticaloa are assured of a place in the Finals of the *Inter-District Football Tournament* conducted by the Board of Control for Football for the Nestomalt Trophy at the Sports Ministry grounds. Air Lanka beat McLellands by 3 goals to 2 in a *Mercantile C Division Knockout Hockey* match played at the NCC grounds. The win put Air Lanka in the final and in line for the Double they are already League champions. The finalists of both the D and E Divisions have been found in the *Soccer League Tournament* conducted by the Nationalised Services Soccer Association while the Knock Out A Division Tournament has reached the semi-final stages. Unbeaten England took a great step towards qualifying for the Second Round. West Germany recovered some of their mauled prestige and Spain won an exciting but uncompromising battle in Valencia's Luis Casanova Stadium in *World Cup* Competition.

**WEDNESDAY JUNE 23:** Sri Lanka Signals Corps beat the Engineers by three goals to one in Army Inter Unit *A Division Hockey* Match played at Police Park. Batticaloa maintained their winning streak in the *Inter-District Football Tournament* at the Sports Ministry grounds by defeating Kegalle by 5 goals to one yesterday. They now qualify to meet the Winners of Group One in the Final on Sunday. Ports Authority beat Insurance Corporation by two goals to one in the final after being led 0 - 1 at lemons while Ceylon Oxygen beat the fancied Electricity Board by two goals to nil after leading 1 - 0 at half time. France revived their *World Cup* hopes despite the protests of an Arab Sheikh Fahd Ahamed Al Janer Al Saxah the President of the Kuwaiti Football Association, brother of the head of state and one of the world's richest men who managed to get Russian referee Miroslav Stupar to disallow a goal

but he could not stop France scoring a 4 - 1 victory in the Group 4 clash in the New Jose Borilla Stadium at Valludoid Madrid.

**FRIDAY JUNE 25:** In preparation for the forthcoming *Nationalised Services Cricket* tournaments the Water Resources Board led by Gamini Unantenne beat Bergougnan (Lanka) Limited by 5 wickets in a cricket match played at Rifle Green. Bergougnan (Lanka) Ltd 113: Water Resources Board 116 for 5. Sri Jayawardenapura Kotte did exceptionally well to win all three matches in the *Inter Schools Cricket* tournament played last week end. Sri Jayawardenapura beat Carey College by six wickets on the first innings. Carey 49: Sri Jayawardenapura 132 for 4. In the *Under 15 Division 111 match* they beat St. Johns Nugegoda by 7 runs on the first innings. St. John's College 92; Sri Jayawardenapura 99. In the *under 17 Division III match* they defeated. Moratuwa Vidyalaya by 3 wickets on the first innings Moratuwa Vidyalaya 78: Sri Jayawarden 115 for 7. Vidyarthi College Kandy won *L. V. Jayaweera Memorial Cup* at the *Boxing* meet held at the Depot Police Ring Bambalapitiya. Vidyarthi collected 43 points to beat Peradeniya MV 34 and St. Thomas Mount Lavinia 32. St. Anthony's beat Sathissara MV by 10 points (a try and 2 penalties) to 30 penalty in a Rugby match after the scores were 3 all at half time. The *under 19 hockey* team of S. Thomas Bandarawela beat Sri Lanka Army Service Corps by a solitary goal in a match played on their school grounds recently. M. Loganathan was the scorer. De Mazenod Kandana registered successive wins over Henagama MV and St. Marys Chilaw in the *Under 15 tournament cricket* matches. both Matches were played at Chilaw. Henagama MV 67: De Mazenod 175. St. Mary's Chillaw III and De Mazenod 150 for 6 dec. Ananda MV Kottawa swept the board at the *Maharagama Circuit Sports Meet* held at the Teachers Training College Grounds when they emerged champions in the *Under 17 Boys Volleyball and Elle* events. Army Colts just managed to keep their unbeaten record intact with a close 13 points (1 goal 1 try 1 penalty) to 12 (2 goals) win over Havelocks Bambaerars in their *B Division Inter-Club League rugby* match played on Wednesday at Havelock Park. The Bambaras led 6 - 4 at half time. Al Humaisara Central College Beruwela defeated Zahira College Dharga Town 2 - nil in an *Sir John Challenge Cup Soccer* match organised by the Sri Lanka Schools Football Association at the Naleem Hadjar Stadium Beruwela. At lemons score was nil-all. Joseph Vaz Collge Wennapuwa completed a double at the *Inter Schools Cricket* Tournament conducted by Chilaw's Education Department at Wennapuwa recently when they won both *soccer* titles in the under 15 and under 17 tournaments. In the under 17 match they beat Puttalam's Zahira College 6 - 0 and in the Under 15

match beat St. Xavier's Marawila 8 - 0. A. M. Costa refereed.

**SATURDAY JUNE 26:** The C and D Divisions of the *Mercantile Cricket tournament* which is conducted on a league basis for the first time this year has now reached the final stages of the first round. Bandaranaike MMV Gampaha beat Joseph Vaz Wennappuwa on the first innings in an *under 17 Cricket* match played at Gampaha. Bandaranaike MMV 107 for 7 and Joseph Vaz 38. Chartered Bank after two good wins in the *Mercantile D Division* cricket tournament suffered their first defeat when Bartleets beat them by one wicket in a thrilling finish. Chartered Bank made 157 in 47.1 overs. Royal meet S. Thomas at Rugby for the Gunaratne Trophy today at 4.45 p.m. at Longden Place. Havelocks scored a 25 (4 tries 1 penalty) to 10 (1 try 2 penalties) win over Navy in their *Second-Round Clifford Cup* League Rugby tournament match played yesterday at Galle Face after leading 21-3 at half time. Scram-half Sathyapriya Liyanage was the architect of Thurstan's fine 16 points (2 goal and a try) to nil win over St. Josephs in a *rugby match* played at Longden Place yesterday after leading 4-0 half time. Mercantile Credit took the *Mercantile D Division Knockout Hockey Title* with a 4-2 victory over Aitken Spence after the scores were 2 all at half time. Two "own goals" by Sri Lanka Caps Nimal Wijesekera and Luke Bretnen gave Ceylon Silks a 22-1 lead at half time but CTB rallied in the second half to edge through 3-2 and enter the Final of the *NASA A Division Knockout Soccer* Tournament at Price Park yesterday Lumbini MV brought of a

controversial win over Vidyartha by 13 points (one goal, one drop goal and a try) to 7 points (a tra and a drop goal) in their rugby match played at Havelock Park yesterday after leading 4-0 at the breather.

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## PUBLIC LECTURE

Dr. K. V. Singarajah B. Sc. (Hons.) M. Sc., Ph. D, Specialist in Marine Biology and Neurophysiology at the Federal University of Paraiba, Brazil ; visiting Professor at Universities Southampton and Brest, will deliver an illustrated public lecture on "Exploitation of Sri Lanka's Marine Resources with Particular Reference to Biralve Cultivation" on Sunday 11th July at 5 p.m. at the Thurstan College, Hall, Colombo, 3 under the auspices of the Sri Lanka Rationalist Association.

**M. A. B. Perera**

*Hony. General Secretary S.L.R.A*

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# URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

## INFORMATION ON REQUIRMENTS FOR PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT

The responsibility for regulating all development activity within the Colombo M.C. Area, all the District Capital towns and a number of other declared Urban Development Areas within the country now rests with the UDA established under Law No. 41 of 1978 as amended by Act No. 4 of 1982.

"Development Activity" means the subdivision of any land, the erection or re-erection of structures and the construction of works thereon, the carrying out of building, engineering and other operations and any change in the use for which the land or any structure thereof has been approved.

Every persons proposing to carryout any Development Activity is required to apply for and obtain the prior approval of the UDA.

The regulations and guidelines adopted by UDA require that :

- (1) Every site for a building shall have a separate approved subdivision and be accessible by a Public or Private Street of such width as determined by the UDA.

- (2) The use of the site or building shall be in conformity with the use Zone as determined by the UDA in any development plan or with the character of the surrounding area.
- (3) The extent of any development on any site conforms to the Floor Area Ratio (FAR) which gives the maximum floor area that can be built on the site. This is generally determined in relation to the location of the site in the City, the level of infrastructure available including traffic and transport facilities.
- (4) Every development provides for car parking facilities, the number of parking places to be determined by the use of the land and building.
- (5) Every development conforms to the regulations or standards in respect of extent of site, height of building, open spaces to be left in and around buildings, set backs from streets, size of rooms and their ventilation, services to be provided, structural stability and other requirements to ensure desirable internal as well as external standards of environmental qualities and safety of the buildings.

Some amount of flexibility is built into these regulations and standards for the benefit of developers. For instance the FAR on a site may be allowed to be exceeded by 30% in special cases provided a service charge is paid towards future provision of or strengthening of infrastructural facilities. The amount of service charge depends upon the location of the site, infrastructural status of the area, type of development and environmental impact of such development and varies from 7½% to 30% of the cost of construction of the building as determined by UDA.

Where a developer is unable to provide full parking requirements on the site, he would be allowed development on payment of a service charge towards strengthening of parking facilities in the Urban Areas. The amount of this service charge varies for different Urban Areas. At present within Colombo the charge is Rs. 120,000 for every parking space not provided by the developer within his site which represents the cost of providing a single parking space. The above requirements are brought to the notice of all concerned and they are requested to co-operate with the UDA in its effort of improving the cities and towns.

**WARNING :** *THE UDA LAW PROVIDES FOR PENALTIES FOR BUILDING OR CHANGING THE USE OF SITES AND BUILDING AND CARRYING OUT ANY DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY WITHOUT APPROVAL AND CONTRAVENING UDA PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS. THE PENALTIES CAN BE IN THE FORM OF FINES UP TO RS. 50,000 IN ADDITION TO A CONTINUING FINE OF RS. 1,000 PER DAY TILL THE DEVELOPMENT IS REGULARISED. THE UDA HAS ALSO POWERS TO ACQUIRE SITES ON WHICH DEVELOPMENT IS CARRIED OUT WITHOUT APPROVAL, AND THE COMPENSATION PAYABLE IN SUCH CASES WOULD BE AS IF THE SITE WERE A VACANT SITE.*

**Planning Committee,  
URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
27, D. R. Wijewardena Mawatha,  
Colombo 10.  
21st June 1982.  
TRIBUNE, JULY 10, 1982

## Swedish Time-Bomb?

IS THERE NOT A GENUINE FEAR in knowledgeable circles in Colombo that a Swedish time-bomb might burst under the Government's feet because of the Telecommunication Department's unfortunate determination to shut out the Swedish manufacturer Erikson from tendering for the switching gear for Stage IV of the development project? That in this connection reference must be made to a news item in the *Ceylon Daily Mirror* of June 26 under the heading: "STATE IV OF TELE DEVELOPMENT: EQUIPMENT TO BE OBTAINED FROM JAPAN & FRANCE." That the report read: "The Government has decided to obtain equipment from Japan and France under aid programme for the Colombo area telecommunication development project Stage IV to cost Rs. 250 million. This decision has been made on a proposal made by the Minister of Post and Telecommunications, Mr. D. B. Wijetunga. The Minister explaining the proposal said that the equipment currently introduced to Sri Lanka is from France and Japan. It is therefore preferable to confine the procurement of supplies from these two countries. He emphasises that this would be dependent on the availability of aid funds from these two countries. The total cost of the project is estimated to be Rs. 300 million. The foreign component is estimated at Rs. 250 million. The project envisages to instal a new master exchange of 20,000 lines in Colombo Central to replace the 14,000 lines, and provide for the heavy demand anticipated in this area and replace the existing 3,500 stronger lines at Maradana Exchange and augment the inter exchange junction circuits and replace defective junction cables. It is also to augment and replace existing stronger lines totalling 7,000 together with transmission equipment at Havelock Town. The Minister has also recommended that tenders to be called to be restricted from firms of France and Japan in the case of the Colombo Central Exchange. He has also recommended that the equipment required for the augmentation and replacement of lines at Havelock Town and Maradana to be obtained from the present supplier of the equipment namely Messrs C. I. T. Alcatel of France under French aid on the basis of price already quoted subject to the approved escalation formula included in the present contract. The required funds will be provided in the estimates for 1983/84/85". That it is not clear whether the "government" (i.e. at a Cabinet meeting) made the decision or whether it is the Department which has persuaded the Minister that the equipment should be obtained from Japan and also (mainly) from France? **That it is known that Sweden's Eriksons one of the most prestigious manufacturers of telecommunication equipment are also interested**

**in the tender (or order)? That it is also admitted that the equipment manufactured by Erikson conforms to the specifications stipulated by the Telecommunications Department?** That Sweden is said to be in position to offer attractive and competitive terms and also credit? That commercial and diplomatic circles in Colombo say that the Swedish manufacturers have reason to be aggrieved because they have been shut out by the simple process of not being asked and to be told later that the "government" had decided that Japan and France had been chosen?

IS IT NOT TRUE that there are indications that Sweden's Eriksons are not likely to take this lying down? That protests will be made at the highest level (if they have not already been made)? That there are also "rumours" that question will be raised in the Swedish parliament which had recently approved Sri Lanka *carte blanche* aid for the Kotmale Project? That all that the Swedes want is equal opportunity with France and Japan to compete for the switching gear contract (Stage 4)? That the Swedish equipment, technically qualified persons say, can match and can be used with the Japanese and French equipment already here? That there are even whispers that if the Sri Lanka government does not change the attitude of the Telecommunications Department and offer the Swedes an equal opportunity in telecommunications it may have repercussions on Kotmale Project? That it is also pointed out that over a period there have been accusations and allegations that the Telecommunications Department (like the Electricity Department) have displayed a partiality for French firms whose equipment have tended to give trouble? That whilst we will deal with these matters separately, it must be mentioned that the French Supplier of telecommunications equipment (CIT/ALCATEL-FRANCE) had placed a full-page advertisement in the *Weekend* of June 27 setting out a list of countries where it equipment had been installed together with the additional orders that had been placed? **That with credit and other fringe incentives orders can easily be obtained by developed countries from Third world countries, but there is no knowing how well or badly the telephone systems are working?** That this advertisement was no doubt prompted because the *Weekend's* Insight team in a special report on June 20 had hinted their the French equipment was inherently and congenitally faulty and that was the main reason for the mess that is the telephone system in Colombo today?

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# TENDER NOTICE TENDER NOTICE

**MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVT.,  
HOUSING AND CONSTRUCTION.  
DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS.**

Tenders for providing Steel Roof Trusses and Calicut Tile Roofing to the construction of Main Block of Senior Technical College at Aruppola will be received by the Chairman, Tender Board, Department of Buildings, Colombo 1, up to 10.00 A.M. on Wednesday 28st July. 1982.

02. Tender Forms could be obtained from District Engineer/ Kandy North Engineer before 4.15 P.M. on 14.07.82 by registered contractors or "Trial Letter" holders of Department for Rs. 900,000/- and above on production of a tender deposit receipt for Rs. 250/- issued by Buildings Department, Colombo or any Kachcheri outside Colombo.

03. Any further particulars could be obtained from the above Engineer.

**K.C. Samaraweera.**  
Director of Buildings.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,  
P.O. BOX 504,  
COLOMBO 1.  
25th June. 1982.

**MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVT.,  
HOUSING AND CONSTRUCTION.  
DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS.**

Tender for Maintenance and Minor improvements to Government Buildings in Kandy North District will be received by the Chairman, Tender Board, Department of Buildings, Colombo 1, up to 10.00 A.M. on Wednesday 21 th July, 1982.

02. Tender Forms could be obtained from District Engineer / Kandy North Engineer before 4.15 P.M. on 16.7.1982 by registered contractors or "Trial Letter" holders of Department for Rs. 450,000/- and above on production of a tender deposit receipt for Rs. 250/- issued by Buildings Department, Colombo or any kachcheri outside Colombo.

03. Any further particulars could be obtained from the above Engineer.

**K.C. Samaraweera,**  
Director of Buildings.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS,  
P.O. BOX 504,  
COLOMBO 1  
30th June, 1982.

# MINISTRY OF MAHAWELI DEVELOPMENT MAHAWELI AUTHORITY OF SRI LANKA

## TENDER NOTICE

### Construction of Water supply scheme Thambuttegama Mahaweli Accelerated Programme.

Tenders are hereby invited for the construction of Thambuttegama Township Water Supply Scheme in 'H' area in the Mahaweli Accelerated Programme Comprising the construction of following:-

1. Intake and Foot Bridge
2. Aerator Filter Beds 50,000 Gals Sump, Pump House & office
3. 150,000 Gals. capacity Water tower 50 High
4. Distribution Systems
5. Pumping Mains

Contractors already registered with the Mahaweli Development Board for construction of Water Supply schemes or contractors with substantial previous experience and adequate construction capacity will be eligible to tender for this work.

Those desirous of tendering for this work, should in the first instance, forward a resume containing the following particulars:

- (a) Name of Directors of the Firm with qualifications
- (b) List of Technical personnel and supervisory staff with Bio data (permanent and temporary employees to be shown separately)
- (c) List of machinery and equipment owned or to be hired.
- (d) a statement on the financial worth of this firm with a copy of latest Audit Report.
- (e) Details of similar works undertaken previously.

All statements contained in the resume should be supported by documentary evidence of proof. The resume should reach the Addl. General Manager (Const) Mahaweli Development Board No. 11, Jawatte Road, Colombo 5, Sri Lanka on or before 6th July, 1982.

The information thus received will be evaluated and prospective tenderers will be selected upon the merits of such evaluation.

Tender documents will be available from 19th July, 1982 to 6th August, 1982 in the office of Addl. General Manager (Const) Mahaweli Development Board during normal working hours. A non-refundable fee of Rs. 2000/- (Rupees Two Thousand) will be charged for documents in duplicate for tender. Tenders will be closed at 10.00 a.m. on 30th August 1982.

**DIRECTOR GENERAL,  
MAHAWELI AUTHORITY OF SRI LANKA,  
7th June, 1982**