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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Last week, we had referred to an article by Prof. S. Kondas, Head of the Department of Forestry, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University at Coimbatore, on the dangers and drawbacks of trying to grow "plantation trees" to replace denuded forests. We had cited some extracts from his article about what "Wildlife enthusiasts rightly call biological deserts....." He then went on to point out that in regard to "the replacement of oak forests by pine in the Himalayas it is possible it may affect forest hydrology reducing stream flow. The litter under mixed forests dominated by oak decomposes faster, returns more nutrient particularly bases to soil, promotes greater activity of fauna and flora, increases the absorptive capacity of soil and thereby prolonging stream flow compared to pine stands. In the sixties sholas were felled and planted up with bluegum in the Nilgiris and consequently early drying up of streams were noticed. If forest management includes water harvest the catchment must remain clothed with suitable vegetal cover. Tree stands transpire nearly one thirds of annual precipitation (borrowing from American experience) and so clear cutting of trees is bound to increase water harvest if there is non-woody cover, say grass. But grasslands in India are limited and are eminently suited for wood production for the ever hungry wood-pulp industries. Perhaps the two points can be resolved if the planners take up afforestation with lesser population density. Regarding water use by pine and eucalyptus an alarming picture is painted, especially the latter's moisture sucking property. Unfortunately, these are accepted uncritically. Growth vigour is a genetically endowed trait varying with species which environment can manipulate to some extent. A high wood yielding tree, no doubt, needs more water than those not so fast growing. Eucalyptus, an exotic, does better, three to four times, compared to native species. Regarding water use efficiency the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, has found out that eucalyptus produces more dry matter per unit of water and time compared to indigenous species like *Dalbergia siccoo*, *Pterocarps* species, based on field trials. Israel's experience is that forest hydrology under eucalyptus stands has not been affected adversely. This may be due to the fact that interception - loss is minimum under eucalyptus (which alone accounts for one-third of total precipitation under other broad leaved stands) and a better recharge of soil moisture. In the present day world wood still remains the cheapest raw material for paper, rayon, cellophane, photographic film, match splints etc. and the demand is steeply rising. Green revolution has yielded more grains but grains do not become food unless cooked. The planners would have done well had they provided for concurrent firewood production for every tonne of grains produced. Wood production can no longer be treated in a casual manner and relegated to lands not needed by other activities but organized deliberately and integrated with other forms of land use in the right proportion. All states have launched large-scale teak plantations. Teak though valuable, ends up as a carpentry material bringing some additional revenue some additional revenue to the Forest Department. Compared to it a cubic metre of eucalyptus wood gives 200 kg. of paper or rayon, products of greater economic importance, nets sales tax, excise duty to the exchequer and generates employment to thousands. Its impact is all round and far reaching. Barring pines and a few other confers eucalyptus ranks high as a world crop for wood pulp and extensive areas are planted in South America, East, West and South Africa, Mediterranean countries and South East Asia. Eucalyptus has come to stay as a pulp wood. In these days of plywood one can get along without a species like teak and I suggest we cry a halt to further planting of teak and allocate our meagre resources to the production of industrial wood". Prof. Kondas suggests eucalyptus and other industrial trees for replanting particularly in the hilly regions. **In Sri Lanka there should be a careful reappraisal of what trees are used for reafforestation in our (a) Hill country, (b) Wet Coastal plains and (c) in the Dry Zone.**

COVER

Marketing Agricultural Produce

ON THE COVER we have a picture that is common in the Wanni during the North-east Monsoon. But, today, we also see such stalls in places where Mahaveli waters have reached settlements. But this kind of marketing for agricultural produce is as uncertain as it is hazardous. The stalls can attract customers only if they are on the main roads. And even so at the end of the day the lorry-owner middleman can beat these stall-holders down to rockbottom. *TRIBUNE* has over a long period been agitating for a better system of marketing agricultural produce from outside the plantation sector. Even subsidiary crops and vegetables grown in the plantations cannot be readily marketed. *TRIBUNE* proposes to examine the problems connected with marketing agricultural produce in the context of current developments and invites comments and suggestions from its readers.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Election Fever - 2

Last week this column drew attention to the proposed amendments to the Constitution and the Election Laws of this country. We mentioned that the Government appeared to be over-reacting to any possible difficulties it may face at the elections and that it was seeking what some thought was foolproof insurance to ensure its victory. We also reproduced an editorial from the *Ceylon Daily Mirror* to show how lame and unconvincing were the arguments in support of the proposed amendments in the editorial columns of the official media. We also quoted the statement made by Mr. Colvin R. de Silva of the LSSP criticising the proposed amendments. This week we continue the examination of the Government's proposed amendments by referring to the criticisms so far made against them.

THE STATEMENT OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF SRI LANKA read: "The new amendments to the election law that the Government has announced indicate clearly that despite its boasts and big talk both the UNP Government and President J. R. Jayewardene are far from confident about their stability. These amendments, therefore, are yet another attempt by this government to abuse the processes of democracy, rig the elections in their

favour and deny the people a real free choice about who should govern them. They show once again that government, keenly aware that its position is fast eroding and can only get worse, is determined to remain in power even if it can only do so by the most questionable means. All this shows how correct the Communist Party was when it warned that free and fair elections could not be expected from the UNP Government and appealed to all non-governmental political parties to get together to ensure that free and fair elections are held. None of the glaring undemocratic features of the electoral process introduced earlier by this government have been removed or changed by the new amendment. The high cut-off point remains, even though it is the highest in the world. The deprivation of civic rights of governmental opponents is not altered. Instead, the position is made worse, for even the most remote and indirect connection of such disqualified persons with a candidate or list of candidates at an election can render persons guilty of corrupt practices and lead to the penalisation of the voters themselves by rendering their votes invalid. Moreover, elected candidates against whom injunctions are filed on this score are prevented from sitting in Parliament for two months—long enough to upset the balance of forces in crucial moments such as those when governments are being formed and given their initial votes of confidence. It is clear that the government now intends to hold the next Presidential elections before the general elections—probably this year, before the Budget is introduced. What is more striking is the new power given to the President to dissolve new Parliaments twice within the first year of their election. It is quite apparent that the UNP, nervous that an anti-UNP majority may be returned to Parliament in the next general elections, wants to give the President powers to prevent such Parliaments from functioning through arbitrary dissolution.

"Another index of the UNP consciousness of its growing instability and likely inability to win a majority in the next Parliament is the new provision that will exempt members of opposition parties who want to participate in the formation of a government for the purpose of ensuring a stable government from the present provisions whereby they can be expelled from their party and from Parliament if the General Secretary of their party so informs the Speaker. This is yet another step in the realisation of President Jayewardene's long-cherished dream of a so-called 'National' government i.e., a united front of all parties of the capitalist class willing to join with the UNP in following the path of neocolonialist development. Needless to say, such exemptions from expulsion are not extended to any UNP MP who crosses over to the Opposition. "As a sop to UNP backbench MPs who had been protesting against the rigid priorities in positions in the election list, new arrangements have been made by which a party can decide which persons in a list it has submitted to the Elections

Commissioner can be appointed as MPs. These MPs will find that the new arrangements will only make things worse for them and allow the UNP high command to fill Parliament with persons who enjoy the patronage of its VIPs rather than those with grass-root connections with the masses. The new assault on the democratic process that these amendments represent makes it even more imperative for the non-governmental parties, as suggested by the Communist Party, to come together to fight back these reactionary and anti-democratic measures and to insist that the next elections are free and fair. Although the response to our appeal from other non-governmental parties has been generally positive, there is much more that has to be done and there is not time to lose."

MR. MAITHRIPALA SENANAYAKE, leader of the SLFP(M) said: "The changes or amendments to the Constitution approved by the Cabinet were a result of a desperate desire of the Government to remain in power. Even the attempt to hold Presidential elections arose from the same desire of the Government, he said. In such an eventuality, he too, would be a Presidential candidate if his party Central Committee decided so. Seeking power to call members from all parties to form a stable government within 21 days meant that the President would be attempting to go on a fishing expedition for 21 days, he said. Mr. Senanayake said that under the proposed amendments, an injunction could be sought from Courts while an election was on, and he considered it as an interference with the voters and the voting itself. However, what had been announced as proposed amendments to the Constitution might ultimately not be introduced. It might be just to keep various parties guessing or to confuse them he added. At the time of writing, no official statement from the SLFP (S) is available but *The Island* of July 9 reported that MRS. SIRIMA BANDARANAIKE had challenged the UNP to face an election without further amending the Constitution. At a joint rally of the SLFP (S), the MEP and the Democratic National Front held at Hyde Park yesterday, she said that today there is fear in many quarters that an election will be held. She said that every election held since 1947 had been peaceful and no one had ever said that elections were not fair. There have been some incidents at elections which were caused by thugs but the Election Commissioner has never been accused of being unfair. But the incidents in Jaffna during the DDC elections when some ballot boxes disappeared has caused much concern about future elections.

The *Ceylon Daily News* which makes a heroic attempt to publish all the "news" fit to print on July 10 devoted part of a page for some opposition views: "Several Opposition Parties have strongly criticised the proposed changes to the election law approved by the Ministers last Thursday. The TULF has said that its Parliamentary Group must consider the changes proposed before making any statement. The Sirima

SLFP group said they were studying the changes proposed, while the Maithripala SLFP group, the LSSP and the CP issued statements condemning the proposed changes. Mr. Maithripala Senanayake described the proposed changes in the Constitution as exhibiting the desperation of the government. "The changes are the result of the desperate desire of the government to remain in power" he said. "We were summoned at 11. a.m. on Wednesday and the cabinet decisions were read to us. We must wait till the actual legislation is framed. The government may even give up amending the Constitution", he said. He said the proposed amendment to enable the holding of the Presidential Election before the general election might be an eye wash. "We are ready for any election" he said. Referring to the amendment that enables the formation of a stable government he said, "it is an attempt to fish for 21 days." He said he was glad that no further legislation were being brought to add to the disabilities of those whose civic rights were forfeited. He wondered whether the provision to move the Appeal Court by way of an injunction against the candidates for whom the disenfranchised persons campaigned and the arrangement not to count the votes of those candidates of that district amounted to an interference with the voters and the election. "Mr. R. Sampanthan, TULF said that the TULF Parliamentary Group would discuss the proposed amendments and decide firstly whether to participate in the debate on the amendments and if they decide to participate, whether to support it or not. He recalled that the TULF did not participate in the making of the Constitution and later on the debates on the amendment. They would have to study the specific terms of the amendments before they comment on them, he said. Mr. Pieter Keuneman said the proposed amendments to the Constitution were expected. The Government was seeking to achieve three things by the amendments. Firstly, it was rigging the election process to its advantage. Secondly, it was preparing to hold the Presidential election prior to the general election probably this year. Thirdly, it was devising method to slow its own internal problems regarding the position of candidates. He said, "this is a further inroad into the democratic electoral process. All nongovernment parties should redouble their effort to ensure a really free and fair election."

As against these *The Island* published a comment from Minister Gamini Dissanayake: "Commenting on Dr. Colvin R. de Silva's statement on the proposed amendments the Minister of Lands, Land Development and Mahaweli Development, Mr. Gaminig Dissanayake, dismissed Opposition charges that the government had introduced the amendments in an effort to stave off 'inevitable defeat' saying that unlike the previous Government which attempted to postpone elections, the new amendments of the UNP Government would enable the Presidential elections to be advanced. And so could the Parliamentary general elections under the present law.

If the Opposition parties think that they can defeat us, let them try, because we shall not deny their right to do so,' the Minister said. On Dr. de Silva's charge that the new provision enabling the President to dissolve Parliament 'not more than twice', in the first year might result in a President faced with a hostile majority dissolving Parliament, Mr. Dissanayake said, 'There are enough examples in the world where the Executive President of one political party working alone with the majority of MPs belonging to another party. And in the event of any disputes, there are constitutional methods of resolving them.' Referring to the amendments which provides for Opposition MPs to cross over to the Government for the purpose of ensuring a 'stable government,' Mr. Dissanayake said that under this amendment it would also be possible for government MPs to cross over to the Opposition. If more Opposition MPs cross over to the government than those who cross over from the government to the Opposition, a 'stable government' could still be maintained, he said. Replying to another charge that the Proportional Representation system only gave importance to the party and not to the individual candidate, and therefore was a restriction on the right of franchise, the Minister said, 'We had told the people in our party manifesto at the last general elections, that we were going to introduce the PR system. And the PR system as it is known wherever it is practised in the world, is nothing but a party-list system'....."

In the meantime. *The Island* (Sunday) on July 18 reported that the series of amendments to the Constitution which was announced by the government earlier this month is now being actively considered by the authorities and may be modified before they are finally presented as draft laws. *The Island* reliably understands. It is understood that the provisions enabling an Opposition MP to cross over to the Government within 21 days of a General Elections in the interests of forming a stable Government will be done away with as a result of these deliberations. Government is also expected to change the present Proportional Representation system in order to give PR 'a human face.' Under the latest amendment, parties could select their candidates from a previously announced list and each party could frame its own rules on the subject. "It is understood that there had been opposition to this from several rank and file MPs of the ruling party who had claimed that this would entrench the power of the party bureaucracy. It has also been pointed out that the Government had promised to give PR a human face and the proposed amendment went contrary to the spirit of this. Now it is understood that a scheme where each candidate will be assigned a cluster of polling booths is being considered. This would mean that the number of votes obtained by the candidate in designated areas will decide his placement in the list when MPs are chosen. It is also likely that the provision of TV and

Radio time for all recognized political parties will be incorporated into the Constitution and not left to administrative measures as it is envisaged now. It has been argued that this would give the ruling party the opportunity to engage the opposition in debate on the media without being open to the charge there will be something like the Carter-Reagan debate at the next election', a UNP wag said. With regard to the provision about crossing over, it has been felt that it is not necessary as it would be better to depend on the mechanism that is already there such as the Select Committee method."

WHILST THE GOVERNMENT parliamentary circles are discussing the pros and cons of the proposed amendments, *The Island* (Sunday edition) of July 19 had a front page stunner JUSTICE MINISTER PROPOSES AMENDMENTS TO CPC -- BID TO MUZZLE NEWSPAPERS DURING DEFAMATION SUITS. The report read: "Justice Minister Nissanka Wijeyaratne has proposed a package of anti defamation laws under which a Newspaper can be closed on the mere filing of a defamation claim against it. Under the proposed laws, it will be mandatory on a Newspaper, if an action for defamation is filed against it, to cease publication until the conclusion of the trial. To achieve this object, it is proposed to amend the existing provisions in the Civil Procedure Code pertaining to defamation. Another amendment proposed by the Minister was to make it obligatory for a Newspaper sued for damages in a defamation case to furnish cash security or mortgage its properties when it files answer. Amendments have also been sought to enable special judges to be appointed to hear defamation cases and ensure that hearing is continued without a break until the conclusion of the trial. According to the informed sources, this package of anti-defamatory laws is before Government and is likely to be referred to a Ministerial sub-Committee." On the next day, the *Sun* followed up with a frontpage spread: PROPOSED NEW ANTI-DEFAMATION LAWS: A VIOLATION OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS: "A national referendum will be required to place a new anti-defamation law on the statute books, the Attorney General has ruled, according to Ministerial sources. His observations came after the Cabinet sought his opinion on a draft bill which it had accepted in principle. The Attorney-General according to these sources, pointed out that the proposed law totally violated fundamental rights guaranteed by the Sri Lanka Constitution. One of the significant highlights of the new anti-defamation law, placed before Cabinet by justice Minister Nissanka Wijeratne, was a provision to compel a newspaper or other publication to cease operating coincidentally with the filing of a defamation suit in the courts. Such defamation actions, the draft law said, should be heard by special judges on a day-to-day basis so that the matter could be adjudicated speedily. This provision, a ministerial source explained

had been incorporated with the intention of providing quick remedy to injured parties. Another provision required newspapers to furnish adequate financial security when a defamation suit is filed against it. This is intended to ensure the newspapers or publications have the funds ready in the event a court holds that a fine should be paid after determining a defamation action. The Attorney-General has cited the following provisions of the Constitution to back his ruling, according to the same ministerial sources: Article 14 (1) Every citizen is entitled to the freedom of speech and expression including publication. According to ministerial sources the new law has been drafted taking into consideration Article 15 (2) of the Constitution which states: 'The exercise and operation of the fundamental right declared and recognized by Article 14 (a) shall be subject to such restrictions as may be prescribed by law in the interest of racial and religious harmony or in relation to parliamentary privilege, contempt of court, defamation or incitement to an offence'.

The amendments proposed by the Minister of Justice and which the Cabinet is to have approved "in principle", looked at from any angle, are tantamount to a total denial of the freedom of the press as known in this country. Not even the draconian Emergency laws of Felix had provisions of this kind to muzzle the press. How the Minister of Justice could have contemplated such legislation is beyond understanding. With legislation of the kind (or even the thought that they were contemplated) the Government and the UNP will distance themselves from large segments of thinking and politically non-aligned segments in the country.

July 17, 1982

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THINKING ALOUD

of Tea

By S. P. A.

The reactions and responses to the personalised column *Thinking Aloud* on the topic *Down Dambulla Way*, in the *Tribune* of July 17 were many and interesting. I will collect the bouquets and brickbats after I have done a few more of these pieces and make my own comments on them. In the meantime, some readers have pointed out that I was guilty of a few factual errors and grave omissions about the Gam Udawa Exhibition. I must plead guilty to the charges but in defence I must say that in the rush and hurly

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burly of the vast crowds at the Exhibition, I could only meet a few of those who could give me information. And as usual I took no notes. I relied on my memory when I sat down to think aloud. *Omission No. 1* was that I had not mentioned that Mr. K.J. Wijeyedasa was the Chairman of the Organising Committee of the Gam Udawa Exhibition. I am sorry about this. I have the highest regard for Mr. Wijeyedasa's organising abilities and readers will recollect that it was he who took me on my first visit to the housing schemes on the periphery of Colombo and some model villages. The booklet about the Exhibition had been borrowed (by someone I don't know who) and I did not have all the details about the Organising Committee with me. Many tell me that the hand of Wijeyedasa could be seen in every aspect of the Exhibition. Next, *Error No. 1* was that the Security Guards on the grounds were not only from the BMC but they were also from the CCC and the SEC -- all Corporations under the same Ministry. All of them did yeoman service. *Error No. 2*: was that the cleaning up and other arrangements on the Exhibition grounds were in the able hands of the Mayor of Colombo, Sirisena Cooray and that the labour that kept the place spick and span were seconded from the Colombo Municipal Council. A thought (mischievous) has just struck me -- I wonder whether Mayor Cooray could not take steps to keep Colombo as clean as he kept the Exhibition at Dambulla. Mayor Cooray, I am told, spent whole month or more in Dambulla to make the Exhibition a success. He certainly did a good job and I hope he will give Colombo City the same treatment. *Error No. 3*: was that I had presumed that all constructions were by the Engineering Division of the BMC. I am told that the stall holders themselves had put up the buildings in which they had housed their exhibits. *There must be many more errors and omissions in regard to details and the mechanics of the Exhibition, but as I was more concerned with the total impact the show had on me and the people who come there I must be forgiven if I had slipped on a number of factual essentials in reportage.*

BACK FROM DAMBULLA I was drawn into the discussions about the implications of the proposed amendments to the Constitution and the Election Laws. These on-going discussions will go on and on for sometime, but another matter caught my attention in a more forceful and urgent way. Minister of Finance, Ronnie de Mel, apart from repeated warnings about the precarious cliff-hanging afflicting this country in the matter of its finances -- that, for instance, Sri Lanka was spending double its income (the balance coming from foreign loans, aid, grants etc.) -- he has been bashing the tea industry for letting the country down. In a number of speeches he had blamed the industry for being a burden on the country. Take the speech he made at the Colombo Tea Traders' Association. His main charge was that the tea industry had not picked up in spite of what he had done as Minister of

Finance. He said that he has done everything possible by way of obtaining millions of rupees from the World Bank to aid and assist the Tea Industry in addition to the many subsidies provided for tea production which were unheard of in any part of the world. In the same speech he said that in the 20 year period after 1961, there was complete stagnation and even decline in tea production in Sri Lanka whereas other countries like India and Kenya have upped production. And he went on to say something which I could not understand -- it seemed a contradiction in terms -- that he was optimistic that tea and only tea will continue to be the highest foreign exchange earner for many more years to come and that in view of this the government had opened new tea factories with foreign aid to boost tea. *How could he expect this when the tea industry, according to him, was in such bad straits?*

IN THE SAME SPEECH he also spoke about the virtue of the **tea bags**. I do not know if he wanted them for the local market or for buyers abroad. He said that with changing times, the consumer preference of the people had changed. Now the demand was for tea bags. I do not know if this is true of consumer tastes of Sri Lanka. Mr. de Mel said that he had advocated tea bags 20 years ago, and had this suggestion been heeded, there would not have been such a precarious situation as is existent now. I am also not very clear about another suggestion he made that Sri Lanka should change to CTC type of tea manufacture. He repeatedly stressed the need for Sri Lanka to adopt the manufacture of CTC tea and that tea bags required a higher percentage of CTC tea. He also pointed out that 58% of the UK tea market is tea bags; that Indian CTC production has 76% of their total production. About CTC and tea bags I have my reservations, probably because of my ignorance about tea bags and my dislike for a cup of tea from a tea bag, but about many other aspects of tea -- from its cultivation -- I have some knowledge. **I do not want to have a postmortem on what our able Minister of Finance has said about the tea industry, but I must say that the impression created in the minds of people like me by Mr. de Mel's speeches was that Tea Industry had to be subsidised for many of its activities and that in addition the government had to obtain World Bank aid to keep it going.** It is well to recall that in a recent article in *The Island* Dr. Colvin R. de Silva, Minister of Plantations in the Sirimavo Government from 1970 - 75, has summarised the position of the estates at the time of nationalisation. It was clear that the old owners had run down the estates ever since this country became independent and more especially after 1956. There was no doubt (and it is still true) that capital had to be injected to rehabilitate the industry at least the majority of the plantations immediately after nationalisation. Did the last government

which nationalised the estates inject capital to bring the industry to peak condition? *No.* Has the Jayewardene government injected fresh capital into the tea industry? The answer is again *No.*

I HAVE KEPT MYSELF ABREAST with budget estimates and about capital expenditure and I am aware that although money has been poured *as capital* into (a) Mahaweli; (b) Housing; (c) a number of other projects like Tourism, Non-traditional Exports etc., no money as capital (repeat *as capital*) has gone into tea. Subsidies do not constitute *capital* especially when the revenues to government from the tea industries more than cover up the subsidies.

I have been able to persuade some statistics-minded persons in the tea industry to prepare a table on the financial situation in the tea industry and the visible and invisible profits that accrue to government through taxation and cess levies. This is without any budgetary allocations of capital. Other statistics (I shall publish them later) also revealed that both the JEDB and the SPC had put in fresh capital to rehabilitate the industry and this money had come in as borrowings from state banks. *Tribune* has never so far been able to get the latest statistics about the SPC (but according to the Auditor General it has only recently completed the 1979 accounts.) But the JEDB has sent *Tribune* whatever statistics we have asked for. *On another page (see page 20) there appears a statistical table which shows the nett revenue government has got from the tea industry.* We shall soon publish similar tables for the rubber and coconur industries. I have also sought information about the capital expenditure by the JEDB and SPC to contrast them with the bank borrowings and their respective incomes from the plantations in the period after 1977.

Another set of figures I am interested in is the extent of land alienated from tea plantations before and after nationalisation. The per acre (or hectare) crop production figures are still on the basis of the extent of land under cultivation in the mid 1960s. Since then there has been no proper land survey. Before nationalisation alienation was not great, but some acreage of tea went for roads, buildings, lines schools etc. etc. After nationalisation such alienation was much more -- nobody knows how much -- for village expansion, housing, temples, schools etc. etc. *Any figures about crop production per acre, therefore, will be only notional or fictional if based on the figures of tea lands on the existing records. A proper land survey of land under actual tea cultivation is an urgent need if proper statistics are to be compiled. From what I have seen, tea production (according to statistics of some districts and on some plantations) have gone up since 1978.*

On an overall picture there was a drop recorded in the Central Bank Report, but this was not selective on a district basis and no account had also been taken of tea lands alienated for other purposes.

In view of conflicting reports about the conditions of the plantations I decided to have a "look see" of some plantations in areas I was familiar with in the past. Last weekend I was able to go on a trip to some of the JEDB estates in the Nuwara Eliya district. I had been there in 1976 (sometime after nationalisation and also in 1979) and I have recorded my distress in the columns of the *Tribune* about the condition of the tea estates in the Nuwara Eliya region. At that time they were in a sorry state. I had fears that soon they would become uneconomic and unproductive white elephants. **What I saw last week was something I had not expected. All the plantations I saw were in better agriculture condition than they were ever in the past -- even in late sixties and early seventies. They were in excellent shape, the plucking rounds regular (unlike in 1976 and 1979) and these estates were free of weeds and other undergrowth that reduced production. I did not have time to go into details but an overview was most encouraging.** The planters were keen young men who knew their onions (tea) and also what they were taking about. I was happy that the nationalised tea plantations under the JEDB had not only turned the corner but seemed able to show agricultural condition which I had not seen even in the last decades under private company ownership and management. At this stage, I do not want to say anything about the SPC plantations in the Nuwara Eliya area as I did not have chance to view them closely, but general appearances indicated that some fillip must be given to pep them up.

I hope to see more estates in the near future, but I must say that government must pay more attention to making budgetary provision for ploughing back some of the revenue it derives from tea back into the plantations in the form of outright capital. Non-traditional exports are good on paper and for big talk to impress the IMF and World Bank, but the monetary (foreign exchange) future of the country for a long time more will depend on our traditional exports like tea. The government must rearrange its priorities to see that the traditional exports are better looked after in the next Budget. This is a topic I will revert to often in this column.

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Exhibitors Guild

A REVITALISED NATIONAL FILM EXHIBITORS Guild, which consists of the leading cinema combines like Ceylon Theatres Ltd., Cinemas Ltd., Ceylon Entertainments Ltd., and many private cinema exhibitors have joined to face the crisis that is looming large before them, if not already on their doorsteps. Having failed to impress the National Film Corporation (NFC) with their woes, they have turned to the national press media to highlight their plight. With a strength born of unity, the Guild has increased its membership considerably and their chorus of complaints should not be ignored any longer—this column having expatiated on them from time to time. That prolific writer and private exhibitor from Puttalam, Asoka David, is the President of the Guild, and at a recent get-together with representatives of the press, he minced no words in a fighting speech, stating that today's Exhibitors were faced with the problem of deciding whether "to be or not to be". In dissecting the acute problems facing them, he contended, with other Exhibitors agreeing, that nothing short of a Film Commission could go into their needs and also reconstitute the Film Corporation Act as it stands today, and which was heavily weighted against the Exhibitors. He told the Press that until the country's entertainment structure was built on a more solid foundation, one should not expect any more cinemas to come up and lamented that there was no quality control of films by the NFC that could sustain the collapsing film industry from total eclipse. He added that the NFC as it exists today was cloaked with sufficient authority to respond quickly to their steadily mounting problems.

But the NFC has refused to act. This column has touched on many of these problems in the past and space is not available to repeat them, but would like to touch on the rather telling indictment against the NFC Act that new Cinemas are no longer attract investors. While some old cinemas may close down a few others are already proving too hot to handle financially and old owners are selling out. The Exhibitors Guild had this to say on this subject: "Although the population has grown at the rate of 1.5% every year, the number of cinemas over the past 10 years has remained static. In the Metropolitan city of Colombo, only one average cinema has come up. Today the private sector is reluctant to invest in cinemas, due to the high cost of construction, the spiralling operational costs and the terms and conditions under which the Corporation distributes films. The NFC too has not, to date, considered it viable to construct a cinema. Why has the Corporation not taken the risk, which previously the private importer and distributor did? If the Govern-

ment is to encourage the construction of more cinemas, with a capacity of 500 seats, which would cost approximately Rs. 5 million today, the following factors have to be considered: (a) reduction in import duties for plant, machinery and other features; (b) revision of local by-laws to reduce the entertainment tax from a maximum of 25% to 10%, (c) tax incentives, similar to those extended to the Hotel Industry for all cinemas, old and new". **This column feels that a lack of dialogue—"we have no time to be answering letters"—and appreciation of exhibitor woes have led to this crisis. Hence it would welcome the appointment of a Film Commission without delay. There seems to be no reason why the NFC should oppose it, if it is also becoming a victim of the outdated Act, framed a decade ago.**

MOHANA PUNNAHAI (Tamil): Films by Sridhar have been seldom known to fail as in this production too, with a Sri Lankan connection where Maestro Sivaji Ganeshan in spite of his rather rotund girth, reveals glimpses of his rare and exclusively styled histrionics of yester year which appear to the faded away in his more recent films. As an eligible tycoon with an attractive Secretary to help him on from success to success and thoughts of marriage furthest from his mind, Sivaji spurns the overtures of his designing cousin, for a business-cum-vacation in Sri Lanka. It is love at first sight by the riverside on holiday, when he meets a pretty local bathing belle (Geetha Kumarasinghe), gets anchored with marriage in mind. The intention becomes tragically shortlived as the "Thali" slips between the neck and the fire to the fury of a well aimed bullet by the jealous cousin, who again turns the gun on herself. Wading between two corpses at the wedding ceremony, the scene, is set for Sivaji to shine, as he usually does in the midst of tragedy. Left desolate and cheated, he turns to his secretary for comfort, but a trifle too late to sever the latter's secret affair. Forlorn again, he turns to "escapism" by taking under his roof a wayside teenager who had a rose for his button hole whenever he stepped out of his mansion daily in the past. The backlash of this innocently conceived attachment entangles him further to an embarrassing situation which you have to visually experience to see the slings and shots that had beset Sivaji all along the way. He was at this very best and with Sridhar at the controls, the photography too was excellent and the songs tear-tugging. The changing skyline of the City of Colombo too was captured colourfully in one sequence on a drive along the Galle Face Center Road. Local Star Geetha Kumarasinghe was as ravishing as the role demanded while Indian stars Jayabarathi and Malini never placed a foot wrong. Nagesh helped to hold back the tears in this family film treat for Sivaji fans.

PRIVATE BENJAMIN (English): Actress Goldie Hawn is "contoured" in the mould of the "comph" actresses like Diana Dors and Bridgette Bardot who have now flickered out of the film scene. Goldie has not lost much time to slide into light versatile roles, and in this Warner Brothers film she keeps the strain with success. Having lost her two husbands in quick succession to eternity, the most up recent one in very odd circumstances in the pantry to a fetsche he could not overcome, Benjie (Goldie) is talked into joining the Army to keep body and soul together. She blunders her way to a post in the Supreme Allied Headquarters with a flummoxed female sarge on her (high) heels armed with an axe to grind. A handsome French gynaecologist catches her fancy for a while, till his probing and prolific harem-styled life surfaces, to pitch Private Benjamin from the altar to civvy street, in the nick of time. Goldie marches over this testing role with ease to have the audience in stitches most of the time, particularly during the Army manoeuvres -- a thoughtfully enjoyable comedy for adults.

HUD (English): This column is deeply indebted to the Press Attache of the American Embassy for the opportunity given it to view some of the Hollywood classics of yesteryear. "Hud" is one such in black and white and a spotless print at that. Released in 1963, the setting is "Texas" of a period which tends of a period which tends to draw sharp contrasts between the endearing values of a veteran rancher (Melvyn Douglas) and his roving amoral cowboy son (Paul Newman) whose aim was more for a quick buck and convertible cadillacs than on cattle farms where the returns were slower but lasting. In the midst of this conflict is the attractive Patricia Neale as the housekeeper, who walked away with an "Oscar" as best actress, right under the noses of the father and son, both of whom rose to, greater heights. The cinematography in black and white, was so perfect that yet another Oscar crowned this film, a Paramount release directed by Martin Ritt.

James N. Benedict

Next Week

- RUGGER IMBROGLIO
- CSC's SPENDING SPREE
- BUDDHIST REMAINS

— in Pakistan

July 11 - 17

**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; *IRDP*—Information Dept. Press Release

SUNDAY, JULY 11: The International Labour Organisation is to open a Regional office in Colombo soon, Minister of Labour, Captain C. P. J. Seneviratne said yesterday. Mr. Luis Echevarria Alvares, former President of Mexico, will arrive in Sri Lanka today at the head of a team sent by UNESCO to study the Bandaranaik Centre of International Studies with a view to making recommendations to develop it as a centre of excellence devoted to studies relating to the Third World. Police head-quarters has deployed several squads of handpicked plain-clothesmen to track down an estimated 6,000 foreigners who have overstayed their visas; already 16 of them have been arrested and seven sent to the Detention Camp at Slave Island—*SO*. A Commission will be appointed shortly to determine the quantum of compensation payable to victims of crimes; the Commission will consist of persons drawn from the medical and legal professions and the educational sector—*ST*. A key archeological find which bears stupendous testimony to the Buddhist civilisation in the Southern coast of Sri Lanka in the 2nd century AD has been discovered by a group of monks of the Giri Sanda Seya in Ambalantota; the life story of Prince Siddhartha before he attained enlightenment at Gaya (presently known as Buddhagaya) which is embossed on a rectangular slab of marble is believed to be the only sculpture in the world which depicts the life of Prince Siddhartha before his enlightenment—*WK*. The Intelligence Services Division has informed the Ministry of Education that some people in the teaching profession belonging to a prominent left party were making subtle attempts to make use of school children to further political ends—*IS*. The Leader of the Opposition and Secretary General of the Tamil United Liberation Front Mr. A. Amirthalingam on his return to the island yesterday after attending the World Tamil Eelam Conference at New York said that the gains achieved at the Conference were a gain in the context of Tamil Eelam—*VK*. It has been decided to have a daily marine service between Talaimannar and Rameswaram; it has also been decided to provide

necessary facilities at the Talaimannar Railway Station and at the Talaimannar Harbour for the safety of tourists arriving in Sri Lanka—*CH*.

MONDAY, JULY 12: The Chief Justice Mr. Neville Samarakoon last week met police brass in an effort to devise methods for the quicker disposal of court cases. The Maithripala group of the SLFP is claiming the right to fill vacancies in DDCs caused by SLFP MPs not attending their meetings. More than 15 young people in the Nallur area are reported missing in Lebanon and their anxious parents have sought the assistance of the Red Cross to trace them. The Lionel Fernando Compensation Committee has recommended the payment of Rs. 245,000 to Jaffna MP V. Yogeswaran whose house was attacked in the May-June 81 disturbances—*CDN*. A powerful new economic grouping of seven Asian nations will meet for the third time in Islamabad on August 8 and 9 to put the final touches for regional cooperation in many spheres of development activity. With last week's Cabinet decision to farm out two off shore blocks for oil exploration to America's South East Asia Oil and Gas Company, Sri Lanka has now leased out an offshore sea area of 25,925 square kilometers and a land area of 10,250 square kilometers for oil exploration—*CDM*. Immediate policy changes in government expenditure are imperative if government is to avert an increasingly precarious budget and balance of payment situation in 1983, the World Bank has warned; the warning is contained in the World Bank's report on Sri Lanka's economy and its public investment programme, which was presented for discussion at the Sri Lanka Aid Group meeting in Tokyo last week. A gigantic battle between nature and man-made machinery continues over the dam site of the Kotmale hydro-electric project, as engineers work round-the-clock to stop a sliding hill—*SU*. Security is to be strengthened at Talaimannar pier, the third-largest exit-entry point in Sri Lanka; this is in view of the fact that the Talaimannar pier is being considered the key connecting point in the Indo-Sri Lanka smuggling route—*IS*. About 1,000 private coaches are now off the road and the depleted fleet strengths have resulted in operators running at a loss, a Police Headquarters Traffic spokesman said today—*CO*. The World Bank has advised the Sri Lanka Government to exercise strict control on starting new development projects until 1985—*DP*. Yesterday student nurses demonstrated in front of the Nursing School and in the evening near the General hospital—*ATH*.

TUESDAY, JULY 13: Trade and shipping Minister Lalith Athulathmudali said over the weekend that Presidential elections could be held within three weeks after a decision of the President under the proposed amendment to the Constitution. A five-judge divisional bench of the Supreme Court yesterday heard the Attorney-General argue that the legislation

to make the unlawful seizure of aircraft an offence carrying a maximum punishment of life imprisonment, could be enacted by a two-third majority without a referendum—*CDN*. Over fifty thousand television sets throughout the island are unlicensed; according to Mr. M. J. Perera, Chairman, Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation there are 125,000 TV sets now in operation throughout the island and only 75,000 have been licensed. The Bank of Ceylon will participate in a programme of work for the settlement of peasant families and rehabilitation of minor tanks in Thanthirimalai area in the Anuradhapura district. Major Montague Jayewickrema Minister of Public Administration who returned to Sri Lanka from a visit to Cuba said that a very high-powered delegation from Cuba will be arriving in Sri Lanka this month to study our Free Trade Zone project—*CDM*. The concern for Sri Lankans in war torn Lebanon mounted yesterday as the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society in Colombo received more than 4,000 appeals till noon from desperate parents, relatives and friends—*SU*. The Leader of the Opposition Mr. A. Amirthalingam and the MP for Udupiddy Mr. T. Rasalingam are scheduled to meet Brigadier Ranatunge at the Army Headquarters at Gurunagar over complaints of harassment of civilians at Nelliadi. Fort Magistrate Mr. Sarath Gunatillke yesterday rejected a submission by the Defence Council for Sri Lankan hijacker Sepala Ekanayake that the court had no jurisdiction to try him—*IS*. Police have taken 20 youths for questioning in connection with the terrorist slaying of four Policemen at Point Pedro, Jaffna on July 2 a senior Police official said today—*CO*.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 14: While the World Bank and the donor community had been generally complimentary of Sri Lanka's economic performance during 1977-82, at last week's Tokyo meeting of the aid consortium, they had noted certain laxities creeping into the financial management and control structure this year. According to a Lankan who returned from war-torn Lebanon yesterday many Lankans are presumed dead there. Eleven Lankan refugees returned in a British Airways flight from Lebanon yesterday afternoon. The United States Agency for International Development will give Rs. 100 million spread over a period of five years to setup five new national parks in the Mahaveli project area—*CDN*. A severe outbreak of acute diarrhoea has been reported in Colombo and the suburbs; in 10 days up to 11th July 225 of a total of 385 cases admitted to the Fever Hospital Angoda had been from the Colombo Municipal area, the majority from the Municipal wards of Madampitiya, Grandpass, Modera, Mattakuliya, Borella, Maradana and Dematagoda. An armed gang snatched a bag containing Rs. 44,000 in cash and over Rs. 100,000 in cheques from a cashier as he was entering the People's Bank at Maradana, the cashier from a marketing firm of Maradana, was prevented from giving chase by a man

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who allegedly held a pistol at him; the gangsters got into a car parked opposite the bank and disappeared in the heavy traffic on that road—*CDM*. Government is to establish an equity fund to cover all public sector corporations with a view to expanding them as commercially viable organisations; this follows Government's decision that no budgetary outlays should be made for the expansion and investment needs of public industrial corporations. International narcotic racketeers are believed to be diverting their funds into Sri Lanka buying up land and property in an attempt to establish a base here. While thousands of families are frantically rushing all over to get some information of their relatives employed in Lebanon unscrupulous labour agencies are continuing to send job seekers to that war torn country—*SU*. A team of Sri Lankan officials is likely to leave for Lebanon shortly to check on Sri Lankans reported missing in the wartorn country, a Government spokesman said yesterday. The Auditor-General's report on the Sri Lanka State Plantations Corporation for the year 1970 states that the Corporation has incurred a nett loss of Rs. 71,987,219.; the loss for the previous year was Rs. 82,658,229—*IS*. A new salary scale is to be adopted for graduate teachers in English Mathematics, Science and Education to stem the drain of teachers—*CO*. The Minister of Lands, Land Development and Mahaveli Development Gamini Dissanayake assured a delegation led by Minister of Foreign Affairs Janab A. C. S. Hameed that government land in the Jaffna, Kegalle, Puttalam, Kalutara and Colombo districts will be distributed among Muslims who do not own lands—*VK*.

THURSDAY, JULY 15: On the recommendation of Mr. Gamini Dissanayake Minister of Lands, and Land Development and Mahaveli Development, Cabinet approved a proposal to set up a consultancy services for water management projects under the Mahaveli Development program. The Ceylon Shipping Corporation, like most shipping lines the world over has sailed into rough weather and current projections are that it will lose about Rs. 70 million this year; however, authoritative government sources said yesterday that there were possibilities that this projected loss could be trimmed to about Rs. 50 million if certain economies that are being attempted can be successfully enforced—*CDN*. Government is closely examining a proposal to introduce Third World problems and issues as a subject in schools—*CDM*. An increase in Customs staff along with new staff quarters for Customs men at a cost of Rs. 4 lakhs to intensify Customs vigilance at the Talaimannar Pier has been okayed by Government. Over 500 anxious relatives of Sri Lankans in war torn Lebanon, whose fate is still unknown, gathered at the foot of the Buddha statue at Vihara Maha Dev Park to find ways and means of saving their loved ones from bombs and bullets and ensure their safe return to Sri Lanka; they claimed that the government's

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effort to bring back the members of their families had been inadequate—*IS*. Sri Lankans in Lebanon are so far safe, say reports reaching the Ministry of Foreign Affairs—*CO*. Yesterday the Cabinet decided to appoint a Committee to give advice to the Mahaveli Development project and how to distribute the water supply—*ATH*.

FRIDAY, JULY 16: The Treasury has recommended that the Ceylon Shipping Corporation cancels a multi-million dollar ship building contract awarded to an Argentine shipyard, in the context of the Corporation's current financial difficulties. The Government wants to assure the parents and relations of Lankans in Lebanon that every possible step will be taken both for the speedy repatriation of those who wish to return and to obtain information regarding the safety of the others, a press communique issued by the Foreign Ministry on the orders of President J. R. Jayewardene said yesterday. The Fisheries Research Centre in Hawali has agreed to share its expertise with Sri Lanka at discussions held recently with Mr. Anura Weeraratne, Secretary to the Ministry of Fisheries—*CDN*. The Government moved speedily yesterday to arrange for the repatriation of Sri Lankans in Lebanon and ascertained their whereabouts and safety as parents and relatives protesting against the "slow" attitude of the authorities planned to stage a "upawasa" campaign at the Vihara Maha Devi park. The maximum fine of Rs. 50,000 will be imposed on persons found passing unauthorised tea from state tea factories in a move by the government to arrest the disturbing situation of tea being stolen from such factories—*CDM*. Two million more people are to be included in Government's social welfare programme of Food stamps; these persons a recent survey has revealed had been excluded due to oversight from the programme to assist those in the lower income groups in 1979. The Tea Commissioner has laid down a series of stringent regulations regarding the registration of all overseas tea contracts, the purchasing of exporters' tea requirements and warehousing. About 50 protestors at the Vihara Maha Devi Park started a fast unto death yesterday afternoon following what they claimed was a continuing state of indifference by state agencies in respect of Lankans reported missing in war torn Lebanon. The Defence Ministry has ordered a probe on the recent derailments in several parts of the country. Sky pirate Sepala Ekanayake, who was arrested and remanded on July 3 is expected to be produced before the Joint Magistrate Fort Sarath Gunatilleke today—*SU*. Co-operative Societies in paddy producing areas are stuck with stocks of paddy amounting to about 1.6 million bushels; these are purchases made from the April Maha harvest; co-ops Amparai, Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa and Kurunegala are in serious financial difficulties as a result and are unable to settle a sum of Rs.80 million which they obtained as loans from

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the People's Bank for the purchase of the paddy—*IS*. Sri Lanka's greatest painter of temple murals Dr. L.T.P. Manjusri died at the Intensive Care Unit of the General Hospital early this morning—*CO*. The statue of Pandaravannian, who has been considered a national hero by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, will be unveiled at Vavuniya today; the state will be unveiled at 4.40 p.m. today by the MP for Vavuniya Mr. T.Sivasithamparam—*DP*. Yesterday the Salu Sala exported handloom textiles worth Rs.50 lakhs to Norway—*DV*.

SATURDAY, JULY 17: Sky pirate Sepala Ekanayake won a bail application at the Fort Magistrate's court yesterday, but was unable to deposit the required cash security of Rs.250,000; the Magistrate Mr. K.Sarath Gunatillake ordered that Ekanayake be bailed out in a sum of Rs.500,000 and said that half this sum had to be deposited in cash and the rest pledged by security bond. At the annual consultations held in Colombo from 14 - 16 July with a Swedish Government delegation, Sweden committed a further sum of Skr.1088 million (Rs.3710 million) over a 6-year period commencing July 1982 for the Kotmale Hydro-power Project. The Secretary to the Ministry of State, Mr. Douglas Liyanage has been nominated Chairman designate of a new company, Lanka Airline Services which is to be set up to operate the British Airways general sales agency, now held by the Ceylon Hotels Corporation—*CDM*. The Ministry of Private Omnibus Transport has estimated that the total investment made by the Private sector amounts to Rs.1700 million. Direct employment has been provided to nearly 13,000 persons. The Madura Oya project which is estimated to cost Rs.2150 million at the beginning of the year is now projected to cost Rs.2000 million; this was announced at a press conference by the Project Manger Mr. Andre S. Jordan, Civil Engineer of the FAFJ Construction Ltd., Canada—*CDM*. The recent decision by Government to surcharge Police personnel ten percent of their salary in lieu of house rent has brought protests from Policemen. The University Grants Commission has been compelled to recheck data relating to university admissions all over again with the use of manpower, since the use of computers to process this material has created more problems rather than expediting the work; the repetition of this formidable task by hand has resulted in the 5245 students who are awaiting confirmation of their selection being faced with the possibility of delayed admissions—*SU*. The Sri Lanka Freedom Party (S) would field a strong candidate for the Presidential Election, but his name would not be announced just now as he too might be deprived of his civic rights; this was claimed by Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike when she addressed a mass rally of her party at Dematagoda on Thursday—*IS*

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July 11 - 17

ASIA

INDIA: Extremists in the Manipur State killed yet another government official Rajkumar Rabindra Singh. The IMF has approved another loan to India in 1800 million dollars SDR for the second year. The Minister of Planning S.B. Chavan informed Parliament that nearly 305 million Indians lived below the poverty line in 1977/78. A former Home Minister and loyal supporter of Premier Indira Gandhi, Zail Singh, has been elected as President of India. **CHINA:** The new Chinese News Agency denounced the attempts made by "diehard conservative" elements in America for launching an anti-Communist and pro-Taiwan campaign. The pro-Taiwan tilt of the US was seen as an expansionist and imperialist policy followed by America since world war II. **TAIWAN:** General Hsia Tieu, deputy head of the military planning, in an address at a Seminar said that Taiwan may be attacked by China in 1985-86. His conclusions were based on a document obtained from China. This was viewed as a ploy to arouse US concern over Taiwan's defence and secure more military ware. **THAILAND:** Prince Sihanouk, President of the newly formed Anti-Vietnamese Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea, has concluded his visit to the three rebel groups that forms his coalition. Sihanouk admitted that he joined the Khmer Rouge along with Son Sann much against his own will in order to fight the Vietnamese. **MALAYSIA:** The Malaysian police arrested the Minister of Culture, Datuk Seri Mokhtar Hoshim and four others for their involvement in the murder of a senior politician. **VIETNAM:** As announced at the Indo-Chinese Foreign Ministers meeting on July 7, Vietnam had begun partial pull out of its troops from Kampuchea. **IRAN:** Iraq is living in Teheran held a demonstration calling for the removal of President Saddam Hussein and the creation of an Islamic Republic in Iraq. Iran has rejected a UN Security Council resolution to end the fighting between Iraq and Iran and pledged to impose its own terms on the Iraqi government. In an invasion code-named "Ramadhan" Iranian forces pushed 10 km. into Iraqi territory. The purpose of the thrust according to the Teheran Radio was to liberate Iraqis from the slavery of Saddam Hussein and the final goal of the march would be to liberate Jerusalem from the Zionist. **ISRAEL:** Israeli soldiers have mounted a campaign to stop looters making use of the war-torn Lebanon and make a business of it. Israel was considering military measures to compel the PLO guerillas to reach an agreement over their presence in Beirut. Israeli leaders feel that the fresh outbreak of war in the Gulf may cloud the withdrawal of PLO guerillas from Beirut. Premier Begin's coalition government will be streng-

thened with the decision of the Tehiya (Renaissance) Party's to join the government **BAHRAIN:** The Foreign Ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council have urged the five permanent members of the UN Security Council to impose sanctions against Israel for its refusal to leave Lebanon. **IRAQ:** Iraqi forces claimed that they have repulsed an Iranian invasion. Lebanese daily *An Nahar* speculated that the 15-year agreement signed between the Soviet Union and Iraq may be annulled by Iraq unless the former fulfils her treaty obligations. Iraq was not happy about the role played by the Soviet Union during the current war with Iran. **LEBANON:** The attempts made by the negotiators to shift the PLO guerillas to Syria has failed as Syria was not willing to accommodate them. PLO sympathisers in Beirut welcomed the statements made by the new US Secretary of State and said it was balanced and less hostile to the PLO. Yasser Arafat said that there should be direct dialogue between the US and the PLO because even in the negotiation with Habib in Beirut the channelling of views may not reach each other properly.

EUROPE

UNITED KINGDOM: The British news media and the public expressed their disgust with the government over its failure to afford sufficient security to Queen Elizabeth. Premier Margaret Thatcher had an audience with the Queen and apologised for the incident. According to the *Daily Express* the intruder has entered the Queen's bed room and had been sitting on her bed when she woke up. The intruder's father said that this son was a royal fanatic and would not have harmed her. **BELGIUM:** The EEC countries will send a formal protest to the US against its embargo on technology and other fields for the construction of a gas pipeline between Siberia and Western Europe. The EEC says that such embargo was against international public law. **WEST GERMANY:** A consortium of West German banks, signed an agreement with the Soviet Union to provide 1.6 billion dollars to finance the Siberian Gas pipeline to Western Europe. Deutsche Bank chief Executive Friedrich Christians denied suggestions that the Soviet Union would receive generous credit terms normally accorded to Third World countries. Foreign Minister Genscher visited Egypt and promised to help that country with economic assistance. **SOVIET UNION:** *Pravda* has warned the Frenchmen not to participate in the US proposed peace keeping mission in Lebanon. In response to US sanctions over the gas pipe line, the Soviet Union has decided to manufacture all the equipment required for the project. **POLAND:** Polish rulers were trying to meet the demands of the unaffected youth in the country. They have offered to help the Solidarity men with understanding and assistance provided they give up their underground activities. **AUSTRIA:**

At the OPEC meeting held in Vienna Saudi Arabia has refused to slash its production to accommodate Iranian request for a higher quota. **CYPRUS**: Syria's Foreign Minister has said that this country would not take any of the guerillas besieged by Israeli soldiers in Beirut. The Foreign Ministers of the Non-aligned countries held an emergency session in Nicosia to discuss Israeli invasion of Lebanon. Indian, Cuban and Pakistani Foreign Ministers appealed to Iran to stop the fighting as a first step towards a solution. But Iran has rejected all such appeals. With the fresh outbreak of fighting between Iran and Iraq the Baghdad Summit of the Non-aligned movement hangs on the balance as the venue of the conference may have to be changed or the summit postponed.

AFRICA

MAURITIUS: Premier Annerood Jugnauth told a news conference that his country will launch a campaign for the return of Diego Garcia at the next OAU meeting scheduled to be held in Libya next month. **EGYPT**: In an interview with *Mayo* newspaper the PLO representatives in Cairo said that his organisation would establish a government in exile based in Cairo provided that the US would guarantee that it will recognize it. He was responding to Cairo's invitation to Egypt's offer to house the PLO leadership in Cairo. President Mubarak said that in the three main issues currently disturbing the peace of the area—the Gulf War, the Israeli attack on PLO guerillas in Lebanon and the Ethiopian-Somali dispute—the super powers were deeply involved and therefore the Arabs should get together to seek solutions to the disputes. **SOUTH AFRICA**: The Attorney General of the Natal Province has stated that the South African government did not approve the abortive coup in Seychelles.

AMERICA

UNITED STATES: The US Government stressed that the proposed despatch of its troops was to help the Lebanese troops to oversee the withdrawal of PLO guerillas and would not stay for more than thirty days. Israeli diplomats in Washington denied that the US has threatened to have direct talks with the PLO. Secretary of State George Shultz said that representatives of the Palestinians should be involved in any negotiating process to bring peace in the Middle East. He also said that arms sales to Taiwan should be continued. These were departures from the views held by Alexander Haig. The Senate's Foreign Relations Committee has approved the nomination of Shultz as Secretary of State. Nine countries have so far failed to pay for their arms purchases to the US. Of these three were from Latin America and six were from Africa. Reagan was faced with a dilemma as to whether to extend the grain pact with the USSR or not. His foreign policy advisers

want the pact to be allowed to expire while the farming interests want Reagan to strike a new deal. This may also hurt the Republican in the Congress elections in November. **CANADA**: The decision of the US along with Israel, Turkey and Venezuela not to sign the Law of the Sea treaty was considered to be a regressive step and a loss for the world according to the Canadian External Minister. Canada has sent a protest note to the US protesting against the refusal to sign the treaty. **ARGENTINA**: Argentina's press unleashed a wave of criticism against the Armed forces handling the war over Falklands. The forces lacked proper leadership, ammunition and food. **NICARAGUA**: The Marxist Government in Nicaragua blamed the US and Honduras for helping the rightists to flight against the Government. They further accused them of launching an invasion which the US and Honduras have denied.

THE FOREIGN SCENE

THE DECLINE AND RISE OF

The American Peace Movement (1945-81)-2

by George T. Chalden

2. THE DECLINE OF THE PEACE MOVEMENT (1964—78).

Peace groups began to decline in 1964, continuing throughout the 60s and 70s until 1979 when a recovery began. What was growing, healthy and strong in 1963, had become dormant, sickly and weak by 1978. Much the same happened in Britain, where its vigorous movement with its outpouring at Easter also went into decline. What were the reasons for the decline, and why has so little attention been given to it? The Peace Movement of the 1980s will have to face the same forces that sapped it before; therefore an identification of them is in order. While the war resistance of the 60s took activists and funds away from such peace groups as *Sane, the Atomic Scientists, Physicians for Social Responsibility, The Union of Concerned Scientists*, religious groups as the *Friends and the Unitarians*, and those associated with the universities and the United Nations, this was not the main reason. Nor was it that they were simply forgotten in the uproar over viet Nam. **The thesis of this essay is that the decline was caused by the new activists joining peace groups from 1964 on, and that it that was due to both the**

erratic, irrational nature of their anarchistic politics and the unsavoury character of their personal manners, dress, speech, music, habits and attitudes. As to the first, it was neither socialist or communist, with little if any, connection to the working class; but rather a kind of nebulous anarchism of middle class origin, neither fish nor fowl, something very exasperating to reason with. As to the latter, they came from the bedlam of the counterculture or the radical campuses, then in ferment. They came often rebellious of everything, overly opinionated, immature, native and lacking balance. Many used drugs, openly faluted their new found sexual freedom both in general licentiousness and deviation, and used language so foul mouthed truck drivers would start at it. Both their music and dress were surely among the ugliest to yet find vogue. The latter was working class, that of a field hand, and the former the cacophony of rock and roll. **In contrast the members of the long standing were generally, responsible, well balanced, mature, sober and dedicated to the high and deadly serious nature of their cause. They were normal, solid and dependable, and from all parts of the political spectrum conservative to communist.** To them the new crowd of hairy hippies and Yippies, and the far out campus radicals, libertines and feminists, seemed like people from the lunatic fringe which in fact some were. Continuous clashes were inevitable, made worse by a generation gap. As more of the new crowd filled up the ranks much of the old opted out; and later even liberals and leftists. The exodus was welcomed as good riddance to reactionaries. The split was unnecessary with highly regrettable and costly consequences, and a sad business too, in that it was caused by a largely idealistic group.

With Johnson's landslide over Goldwater in 1964, liberals took over in Washington, and social unrest, already brewing, broke out nationwide in full force; continuing all through the 60s and 70s in greater or lesser intensity. At the same time, in early 1965, Johnson dropped his campaign "Man of Peace" mask and, in a classic double cross, cynically used the Tonkin Gulf Resolution as a pretext to unilaterally, illegally and criminally expand the war in Vietnam. This resolution, alleging North Vietnam attacks on the Seventh Fleet (roughly the equivalent of a hornet attacking an elephant) was rubber stamped through the Senate, with the sane and honourable exceptions of Senators Morse and Gruening; the whole shoddy and shameful hoax something a dictator might envy. To a hesitant Congress and country Johnson proclaimed there would be no undue hardship. Guns and butter would both be provided. War and the "Great Society" were not incompatible. Wheeling and dealing began. Senators were won over, labour and minorities silenced with sweetheart deals, and feminists and libertines given freer rein. With Johnson

it soon became a case of: Love me, love my war. (A better term for libertine would be "sex addict" Just as there are whisky addicts and heroin addicts, so also there are sex addicts who are just as socially destructive, and cause much greater harm to others, for it is in the spirit so hurt; some so far gone in their addiction that the extremes to which they go, in today world, have hardly any parallel or precedent, not even in the darkest years of Rome; so crazed and vile are the abominations they defile themselves with, in mind, in body, in spirit and in soul, that conscience itself becomes progressively muted, deadened, paralyzed and eventually extinguished; leaving a Zombie-like creature, a shell only, empty and devoid of the warmth of the human heart, and with soulless eyes. Such men, and such women, are predisposed toward wickedness, and become capable of acts of great, even monstrous, evil.)

Johnson, at first, ran into little opposition; but soon the students began to be heard from. They were the cannon fodder, and they were not to be silenced; and their opposition to the draft, and the war, paralleled its expansion. Side by side, and growing with it, the social bedlam of the times: the sexual revolution, black uprisings, the feminist revolt, homosexual protests, campus rebellion, the drug culture and its alter ego, rock music (with its mass orgies, as at Woodstock), legalized pornography, drastic changes in divorce etc. The two movements, the war and the social upheaval, were linked in many ways, reinforced each other and successively raised public emotion to ever higher levels. However, to put things in perspective, this was largely limited to the big urban areas the rest of the country remained relatively calm. This agitation swept the nation's cities, reaching pitches of near frenzy and hysteria. It was further heightened by the wide use of drugs and the great vogue of the rock music. It permeated both the social change and the war resistance; and the Student for a Democratic Society and its various idiotic offspring, as *The Weathermen* and *They Symbionese Liberation Army*. This agitated state of mind accounted for much of the bad judgement and strategy. Without denigrating the unselfish and brave efforts of many peace activists and also activists for social change, it is still necessary to bring into question the tactics of the leadership.

The one thing needed for success in the anti-war struggle was not obtained until 1971, and that was the broad support of mainstream America. It was finally secured then, but why was it delayed so long? Because the general public was repelled and scared off although the 60s by the wild eyed radicalism and irresponsible actions and rhetoric of an anarchistic leadership; all of which was being viewed nationwide on network TV. But why did they act this way? *First*, the leaders were not just peace activists. The peculiar nature of the

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social upheavals of the times linked the unrest directly to the war resistance; they became intertwined and so united as to set up a field of continuous interaction. This is what eventually tore both the Johnson and Nixon administrations apart. Peace activists had direct and intimate linkage to the social unrest, they were directly involved and were part and parcel of it. *Secondly*, as social activists they wore a different hat and pursued other goals with different strategies, and a conflict of interest often arose between the dual roles. The war resistance was used as a national sounding board for other causes. Other axes were ground, among them those of feminists, drug advocates minorities, homosexuals, sex addicts, pornographers, abortionists, the political left etc. At anti-war rallies with good media coverage, appeals were made, literature distributed and funds raised. In these sympathetic audiences they found acceptance, recognition and support. Women's liberations initial success came directly out of the war resistance, as did much of homosexual gains. High Hefner, grown wealthy from *Playboy*, donated generously; and it was no accident that Abbie Hoffman was arrested for trafficking in heroin. This constant opportunist use of the war resistance by partisans of radical social change, of a nature obnoxious to mainstream America, caused the general public to view that resistance also as repugnant.

The support of mainstream America could have been won in Johnson's term, and the war ended, thus avoiding the long drawn out agony of the Nixon years. It was not, because of the radical antics of the leadership — or more correctly pseudo radical — which drove away broad public support for years. The new type of peace group leader was so involved with the many causes of the social unrest, and also those of the counterculture, that the tactics used in those causes were also applied to the war resistance, and with disastrous results. What was highly successful with hippies in New York, Berkeley or Boston cut no ice in Kansas. Many of these new leaders came out of the counterculture. They were invariably middle class, and after cutting all ties, found themselves adrift in a new world; a strange underground of illicit cuts, drugs and sex of protest and rebellion. Lacking their former identification, they became a sort of lumpen bourgeoisie. They dressed up as workers, or rather camouflaged themselves as field hands, but the blue jeans and overalls fooled no one, least of all the real workers, who would have nothing to do with them. In this new, strange world many became social, political or sexual cripples. They became what might be called freaks, defined as someone markedly unusual or abnormal. Coming out of the underground from 1964 on, these social, political and sexual freaks, in a near frenzied mental state induced by the social turmoil of the times, entered the war resistance and proceeded to drive away the one thing vital to success mainstream America. What could have been won in 1968, after Johnson was forced out of the

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presidential race—or perhaps even earlier—was thus delayed until 1972. Another question why after victory, **wasn't a strong Peace Movement permanently established? An alert, dedicated leadership would have immediately done so** It seems the S.D.S. among others, simply folded its tents and silently stole away. When the excitement ended, and the glamour of press and TV coverage vanished, the Freaks disappeared, leaving the mundane work of organisation for things more exciting to them, namely their own causes. With the national sounding board of Vietnam gone on which to promote them, they left for greener pastures, with the feminists and homosexuals leading the way. Thus not only was a peace organisation lost for 6 years, but the great issue of arms control and the prevention of nuclear war were largely neglected until 1979.

5331 Monsure St.
Los Angeles, Ca.900 38

To Be concluded...

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MIDDLE EAST

Pax Hebraica

by
Andre Fontaine

The United States vetoed on June 9 a United Nations Security Council resolution calling for an immediate end to hostilities in Lebanon. Fourteen countries (including France, Britain and the Soviet Union) voted in favour. There were no abstentions. The five point resolution condemned Israel for not complying with UN Resolutions 50 (1982) and 509 (1982) and reiterated the demand that Israel withdraw all its military forces forthwith and unconditionally to the internationally recognized boundaries of Lebanon. If Israel did not comply, the resolution said the Security Council would meet again to consider practical ways and means in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. Jeane Kirkpatrick, the US ambassador to the UN explained the resolution was not sufficiently balanced to accomplish the objectives of ending the cycle of violence".

FOR THE FIFTH TIME since its independence was proclaimed 30 years ago, Israel is once more at war. The gaps between these various rounds were furnished with any number of military operations. It is a Eric Rouleau noted the other day in *Le Monde*, an "ongoing war" which the American economist Oscar Gass is bold enough to predict will continue until the end of

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the century. It's the same war and the same (though not always for Israel) foes. In 1948 the enemy was the entire Arab armies commanded by Glubb Pasha (who, despite his title, was a British national). In 1956, it was Egypt alone. In 1967, it was again Egypt, together with Syria and Jordan and units sent by Morocco, Algeria, Libya, Iraq etc., In 1973 it was Egypt and Syria. And now, for the first time, Israel is not at war with any Arab state, but that Palaestine nation whose existence it contests just as doggedly as the PLO refuses to admit Israel's existence. The purpose of the fighting is no longer to grab territory, but to smash an organisation. And the war is taking place in the territory of a state which can do nothing about it and whose population, battered by a war only ironically called "civil" is divided in its sympathies for the two belligerents.

Egypt, which finally recovered its Sinai territory recently, cannot afford to run the risk of losing it just to please Yasser Arafat. So it is not going to budge. The situation is much less simple for Syria's leaders who could borrow the phrase I heard a Russian use a few months ago in connection with Poland: "We only have the choice of two bad solutions -- to intervene or not to intervene." Egypt's defection left Syria without any hope in a confrontation with Israel. This is why Syrian President Hafez Al Assad has made great effort to stay out of a confrontation, even when Israel annexed Golan. His reaction was limited to verbal protests. And then the growing opposition at home, made worse by the ferocious subjugation of the Muslim Brotherhood uprising in Hama, forces him to keep his best troops close to the centre of power. And the losses suffered by the Syrian air force did the rest. Damascus, which Moscow did not particularly encourage to stand up to Israel, had no other choice but to accept the ceasefire Jerusalem proposed. Yet, not becoming involved and allowing the PLO to be crushed meant losing face, especially since Begin has done nothing (what he calls nothing) to help Assad. While the Israeli Prime Minister gave all sorts of assurances that he had no intention of taking Syrian territory, he made sure that the ground-to-air Syrian missiles deployed in Lebanon were systematically wiped out and urged Syrian troops in the "Arab Deterrent Force" to leave Beirut as soon as possible—even carrying his affability to the point of showing them what routes they should take. One could have found no quicker way of humiliating Syria's masters who must have taken a bad fall. Indeed, not so long ago they thought they could reduce Lebanon and the Palestinian resistance movement to vassal status and were waiting to throw out their fellow Arab enemies, in Baghdad with the help of their Iranian ally and thereby become, through war or, who knows, through peace, the leader of the Arab world. Unfortunately for Assad, Begin clearly is having

none of this. If he is prepared to go easy on the Syrians it is solely on condition that they return home and stay there quietly.

No one has doubt that the dream or this old Irgun leader is henceforth to impose a sort of *pax hebraica* on this region which has had no real peace since the Ottomans stopped imposing theirs with the scimitar; a *pax hebraica* with which Lebanon's Christians, assured of recovering their former dominant position in the country with the help of Israel, will be invited to become associated. As for the Palestinians they will have to put up with the dominance in their homeland of those whom they can only regard as foreigners. Such an ambition, driven by a cold determination, which reminds one of Bismarck's calls for a moral and political judgment. Whether it was frankness or an admission of powerlessness, President Mitterand at this recent news conference referred to "right" as the only way of establishing a lasting peace in the Middle East. The trouble starts with the fact that two communities are fighting for the same territory, each as convinced as the other it is in the right, and that nobody has the necessary authority to arbitrate their differences. **The Israelis are reacting like a people who, having praised God for centuries amidst the worst persecutions, are convinced, following the 1941 Warsaw insurrection, that they could use force to ensure their survival. In view of their limited numbers and resources, this means they can't afford the least weakness especially towards the others. And if anyone tries to object by calling attention to the great principles of the United Nations—the interdiction on taking the law into one's own hands and the right of self-determination—their spokesmen can easily point out that they just don't see where anything at all has been done in the last few years to ensure these principles were respected.**

The hatred which fills the Palestinians confronted by the arrogance of the victor of the moment and the indifference of the rest of the world will not be rooted out by crushing them. This is not the way they can be made to make the gesture which, had it been made earlier, might have changed everything—that is finally accepting openly what various PLO leaders have been privately conceding, that it is madness to pretend to consider a peace in this part of the world which does not take Israel's existence into account. A magnanimous gesture which, at another time, especially 1967, might perhaps have allowed the stalemate to be broken (quite apart from the fact that it hardly coincides with Menachem Begbsn nature) is itself likely, to be felt today as unbearable by deeply humiliated combatants. And yet, now that so much blood has been shed and so many

resources squandered, isn't it opportune to explore at last the possibility of Israel and the Palestinians recognising each others national character? Who can doubt that, otherwise, there will break out another war after this?

GUARDIAN,
June 20, 1982.

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NUCLEAR WAR

Don't Hide, Run

Washington: In the event of a nuclear war don't hide, run. That is the new advice of civil protection officials, a change from the past three decades when each family was exhorted to build its own anti-nuclear self-sufficient bunker. Recently the White House issued a new seven-year civil protection programme, costing 4,200 million dollars, and has urged doubling the 1983 budget of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) which will implement it. FEMA advised "In a period of crisis, gather around your transistor sets." The theory is that 145 million Americans in 400 high-risk zones, warned by radio announcements and sirens, would pour out into the nation's roads and highways to seek accommodation in safer areas. FEMA has issued detailed instructions on what items these "refugees" should take with them. They include canned food, can openers, work gloves a spade, drinking water and that stamp of American life the credit card.

Ration cards printed years ago and stored away in underground warehouses, are waiting for the post-nuclear consumer era. Two items to forget—firearms and alcohol. The post office will take special measures to ensure that new addresses will be in the following year's telephone directory - if they appear. Once the "refugees" have arrived in a safer area they will be initially housed in schools, churches and public buildings. Each "refugee" will have the right to four square metres (yards) of living space but much less if the area is contaminated by radioactive dust. That is the time when shelters and bunkers will have to be built and FEMA has come up with various blueprints for them. The easiest and quickest shelter is to dig a deep trench and drive the family car into it, put sand bags on the roof and then climb into the car. It should take two adults eight hours to do this. The White House plan, if fully carried out, would save an estimated 180 million lives, instead of 100 million if there were no plan at all. But many Americans just do not believe these figures, agreeing with senator Alan Cranston that the plan is a cruel and dangerous farce.—*AFP*

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TRIBUNE

Agricultural Digest

RAILWAY STATION GARDENS

Their Making and Upkeep

By H. F. Macmillan, F.L.S., F.R.H.S.
Superintendent of Botanic Gardens

Railway Station Gardens were a permanent and attractive feature of our railway system—until a few years ago when neglect and indifference reduced them to a sordid and distressing shadow of what they were. Now with the present enthusiasm to grow more trees and vegetation of every kind, a start should be made to rehabilitate all railway stations gardens. We reproduce an article which had appeared in the *Tropical Agriculturist* in 1925 which provides all essential information for the cultivation of such gardens.

RAILWAY STATIONS are often capable of affording, in addition to their primary objects of utility and attractiveness to the railway, excellent opportunities of establishing useful little gardens, sometimes in isolated or sparsely cultivated localities, which serve as object lessons to the neighbours or travellers. Moreover, the most cheerless and bleak situation may be converted into an attractive and interesting home by due attention to the cultivation of flowering or ornamental plants, trees etc., suited to the locality, whilst the effect of such gardens in rendering a vicinity salubrious and agreeable can be readily conceived. *Planting Boundary Trees for Shade or Shelter:* The outline of the garden having been decided upon, the boundary should be planted with suitable trees for the purpose of providing shade, or shelter if in a windy situation. These must not be planted too close to the platform, as otherwise the branches may interrupt the view of the drivers, and are, therefore liable to be hacked or mutilated. Evergreen, rather than deciduous, trees should, as a rule, be planted for shade, as the latter are liable to drip their leaves when shade is most required. It is not sufficient merely to plant these out and then allow them to look after themselves. Large deep holes filled with good soil and some well decomposed manure should be prepared before planting out,

which should be done in wet weather. Each plant should afterwards be staked, shaded and fenced. Watering, morning and evening, must be attend to if the weather is dry, until the plants are well established. *Laying out the Garden*: First sketch on paper the general scheme it is proposed to follow; then mark this off on the ground with string and pegs. The plan should, of course, depend on the extent and nature of the ground as well as on the permanent staff available for carrying on the work. Never make a garden larger than you are likely to be able to maintain in good condition. A small garden well kept is obviously preferable to a larger one which always presents an untidy or neglected appearance. Station Masters in Ceylon frequently overlook this fact and seem to have a preference for numerous miniature beds and borders, often but a few inches in width, clustered round each other. For beds and borders, manuring is essential and although manure is often scarce a resourceful Station Master can usually manage to obtain his requirements. A supply of water is also of course indispensable. Complicated geometrical figures or fantastic designs are neither ornamental nor practical, being unsuitable for the growth of ornamental plants and too small and intricate to allow of their being properly worked. These should be discouraged in favour of beds of moderate dimensions and simple outline, as round, oval, square or diamond shapes. Borders which are often more suitable for station gardens than beds, should not be more than about 4 1/2 feet in width. They form a striking background if planted with tall shrubs at the back and with gradually smaller plants in front. Care should be taken to keep the foreground as open as possible and to avoid obstructing the view.

Importance of a Lawn: Whenever the area is sufficiently spacious, as much lawn as possible should be introduced, in fact it is hardly possible to have too much lawn. A well-kept piece of lawn, in which are dotted a few beds of flowering plants, has a special charm. A lawn, moreover, is easily made, and does not involve much labour in upkeep. Yet it is seldom seen at stations in Ceylon. In making a lawn, the ground should be dug and the surface uniformly levelled and made smooth; roots of any fine grass obtainable in the vicinity may be dibbled in 3 or 4 inches apart, watering the ground well afterwards, as well as before planting if dry. When the turf is well established the grass must be kept short, which can easily be done with an edged bamboo splint if a lawn-mower is not available. *General Design or Plan*: Where only a narrow strip of ground along the platform is available, no elaborate design should be attempted. In this case a mixed border, 3 1/2 to 4 1/2 feet wide, consisting of ornamental shrubs for a background and finishing with smaller plants in front, is the most practical and effective arrangement. The ideal station garden should present a striking background of ornamental shrubs, backed by shady flowering trees, with, if space permits, a few

beds of small showy plants in the freeground set out in a smooth level lawn. This will present the best effect as seen from the platform or the Railway carriages. *Paths*: These should not be less than 3 1/2 feet in width, and may be either straight or gracefully curved. It must be remembered that they are meant for convenience rather than ornament; therefore avoid having any more than are necessary. Smooth lawn looks better than paths, and is easier to keep in order. In some places, however, paths are a necessity and when these are of uniform and ample width, with neatly trimmed edges, they add to the general effect of a garden.

Hedges and Fences: It is essential at the outset to guard against vermin and wandering cattle, also, in some places, against deer, porcupine, etc., so that protection by means of a wall, a paling of old sleepers, or a good barbed-wire fence is usually indispensable. When such is employed it should be concealed and beautified by showy climbers, or by a neat edge of ornamental shrubs. A live double hedge of some formidable prickly plants as Bromelia, Thorny Agave etc., may, in some cases, afford an efficient barrier when well established, but it is usually necessary to reinforce it with a wire or rather fence of some kind. It is well to remember, however, that no fences may be put up by the Railway staff without the sanction of the superior officer in charge. *Climbers*. Ornamental climbers can be used with charming effect over arches of bamboo or old rails or sleepers; or may be made to twine round tree trunks or trained in festoons between pillars. They may also serve useful purposes in screening off an unsightly outhouse or shading an exposed verandah. Climbers, however, like trees may be injurious to buildings if allowed to grow unchecked over the roof, and should, therefore be kept within bounds. *Upkeep*: However well a garden may be laid out and planted, its attractiveness will depend entirely upon how it is looked after or kept up and as a rule it may be accepted that the condition of a garden invariably reflects the extent of personal interest of the person in charge. Keeping the grass short and the turf uniformly level, the paths and platform clean-weeded and rolled, with neatly cut edges, hedges neatly trimmed, attention to weeding, forking, and mulching the soil, all go far to make a perfect garden. *Propagation*: There is no reason why each Station Garden should not do simple propagation by cuttings or by division of roots or bulbs, instead of allowing valuable plants to die or run out of stock and expect the Botanic Gardens to replace them when required. All that is necessary is a bed of loose rich soil in a shady corner. This should be dug to about 2 feet deep, so as to afford good drainage and retain moisture in the soil during dry weather. On the top, place a layer of fine soil to which some leaf mould and fine river sand should be added. Very little attention is required beyond shading and watering, when necessary, and frequently forking up the surface soil. The advantages of having

one's own little nursery for planting out for filling vacancies, but the supply of special kinds suitable for definite purpose or locality can be relied upon. Some plants, as Coleus, Alternanthera etc., strike roots so readily that they may be planted out from cuttings where intended to grow.



FOR THE HOME GARDEN

Coriander

CORIANDER (*Coriandrum sativum*) belongs to the family of "Umbelliferae" the members of which are aromatic and possess a characteristic aroma and taste. Coriander is one of the common condiments in Indian households. The leaves of this plant are used for culinary purposes, for flavouring dishes. All the parts of the plant, the tender stem, the leaves, the flowers and the fruits have a pleasant odour due to presence of an essential oil. The seeds have medicinal value. Fresh coriander leaves contain the following nutrients. While moisture forms the maximum part of the leave (87.9%) there is just 3.3 % of protein, Fat (0.6%), carbohydrates (6.5%) and mineral matter (1.7%) are noticeably present. Calcium (0.14%) phosphorus (0.06%), iron (0.01%), Vitamin A (10460 IU/100 gm), Niacin (0.8 mg/100gm), Vitamin B2 (60 mg/100 gm) and Vitamin C (135 mg/100 gm) are the other contents.

Coriander is mainly cultivated for its seeds. A large area is under coriander cultivation in Tirunelveli and Coimbatore Districts. It is cultivated on small areas for its leaves near cities and towns. In a kitchen garden, a small area is usually earmarked for this leafy plant. The plant can be grown in tubs and big pans also. It can be grown all round the year except during the heavy monsoon period. It does not withstand water logging. Raised seed beds have to be prepared after digging 3 or 4 times till fine tilth is obtained. The most convenient size will be 10 sq.ft. or a sq.m. During the last digging, a small basket (about five kg.) of well rotted compost may be incorporated and the surface levelled. *Coriander does not grow easily. The general complaint is about its poor germination. Coriander seeds take up to 10 days to germinate. The seeds have to be pretreated. They must be rubbed on the hard floor to spilt them into the mericarps. The split mericarps must be soaked in water overnight to hasten germination.* Pretreated seeds are spread over the seed bed and covered with earth by working fingers crosswise. As they are poor germinators, a higher seed rate has to be adopted. For a bed size of 10 sq. ft. about 10 gm. of seed is required. The beds should be watered by a watercan and covered with a thin layer of compost. The bed seed should be kept moist continuously for 10 days but excess watering should be avoided. In about 15

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days, the plants are ready for use. And in another 10 days, the plant is ready for harvesting. There are no major pests or diseases attacking coriander.

T. Thanikachalam
Hindu



THREAT TO COFFEE

Rust

The spread of coffee rust -- a fungus discovered in Sri Lanka in 1869, which can halve coffee yields in the space of two seasons, is posing a major threat to the economics of some Central American countries. Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala, heavily dependent on coffee for foreign exchange, are the worst hit. The disease can be easily controlled by spraying however, and for large scale growers, spraying is relatively easy and cheap. But for the small farmer, whose bushes are on hilly terrain and who has no mechanical aid, the cost of spraying can wipe out his slender profit margin.

Nicaragua has managed to halt the spread of the disease. The Sandinista government introduced a policy of uprooting all old bushes and replanting them in a new hedgerow system. All this was achieved with the help of advice and funds from the UN Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO). In El Salvador, the disease has spread rapidly. The chaos of civil war has frustrated all efforts to stop it. The rust has spread from El Salvador northwards into Guatemala and along the frontier into Honduras, but due to the prevailing winds in Nicaragua and the natural hot lowland barrier to the South, it has not yet reached Costa Rica. Honduras, one of the poorest countries in Latin America, is by far the worst affected. If the spread of rust continues unchecked, the loss to Honduras is estimated at half the value of the 1980/81 harvest (US\$ 128 million) by the time the 1981/82 crop is harvested.



CHICKS VACCINATED

Through Eggshells

American scientists have vaccinated chicks against Marek's disease through the eggshell -- demonstrating for the first time that resistance to the disease can be established by that method says Jagdev M. Sharma, a US Government veterinary medical officer. "We were surprised by the results", Sharma says. "Chicks were protected from disease—a tumour-

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causing virus—by the time they hatched so they overcame early exposure to the disease much better than chicks vaccinated at hatching, now the common practice in commercial production. The vaccination had no adverse effect on percent of hatch or rate of gain. In the new vaccination method the needle is inserted through the eggshell into the fluid in the amniotic sac. The chick embryo receives the vaccine from this fluid. In the old method the chick is vaccinated through the loose skin on the neck during the first day of hatch. *To vaccinate the embryos, a small hole was drilled on the shell and the needle inserted into the egg. The holes were then filled with paraffin, although later tests showed no ill-effects from leaving the holes unfilled.* After hatching, the chicks were exposed to Marek's disease by injection or by air treatment. "This pre-hatch vaccination procedure may help overcome vaccination failures that are an increasing problem in commercial poultry production", Sharma says. In most US commercial flocks, vaccine is injected shortly after hatching. Within a few hours, the chicks are placed in brooder houses, where exposure to Marek's disease virus is likely.

The time between vaccination and exposure is sometimes so short that chicks do not develop adequate

immunity, and some chicks get the disease. To confirm this theory, Sharma put off exposing some chicks to Marek's disease until eight days after hatching and vaccination. They were fully resistant to the virus, indicating that the vaccine and vaccination procedure were effective; the problem apparently was due to lack of time for immunity to develop after vaccination. When birds vaccinated three days before hatching were exposed to Marek's disease by injection three days after hatching, they suffered 14 per cent losses. Birds vaccinated on the day of hatching and exposed three days later suffered 72 percent losses. "We found optimum protection was achieved if vaccination was done at about the 18th day of embryonation," Sharma says, "the same time that embryonated eggs are routinely transferred to hatchings trays in commercial operations. It may be possible for producers to vaccinate and transfer eggs at the same time. Whether our methods, under laboratory conditions, would be practical under commercial conditions remains to be determined it also remains to be seen if this method of vaccination is feasible for other diseases. "Eggs used in the tests came from chickens reared in isolation, free from exposure to Marek's disease and other tumour-causing viruses as well as other bacterial and vital poultry diseases." —USICA,

SRI LANKA
TEA-SUB-SECTOR
Taxation from and Subsidy Payments to the Tea Industry and Net Revenue to Government

Year	GROSS TAXES				SUBSIDIES						NET REVENUE	
	Export Duty	Ad Valorem	Total Cess of Taxes	Re-planting	Rubber to Tea	Crop Diversification	Factory Dev.	Fertilizer	Other	Total Subsidies		
1967	168.3	50.5	43.6	262.4	15.3	0.7	—	0.0	—	43.7	59.7	202.7
1968	182.1	50.8	41.5	274.4	17.2	0.6	—	0.1	3.1	13.5	34.5	239.9
1969	174.8	32.32	39.3	246.3	21.8	0.6	—	0.4	2.7	34.8	60.3	186.0
1970	176.4	44.7	47.9	269.0	23.3	0.6	—	1.4	3.1	42.3	70.7	198.3
1971	169.2	38.9	47.0	255.1	22.6	0.4	0.5	1.4	3.2	30.9	59.0	196.1
1972	163.3	45.9	43.2	252.4	21.7	0.5	0.8	4.1	3.1	9.9	40.1	212.3
1973	171.3	39.0	47.6	257.9	22.0	0.5	1.1	3.8	3.7	23.2	54.3	203.6
1974	155.5	160.7	40.1	356.3	22.3	0.4	1.0	3.6	54.9	38.0	120.2	236.1
1975	177.6	165.6	51.0	394.2	20.3	0.5	1.1	4.5	75.2	56.4	158.0	236.2
1976	166.8	276.3	55.2	498.3	17.0	0.5	1.0	2.0	77.2	45.9	143.6	354.7
1977	280.2	575.0	87.4	942.6	16.3	0.9	1.1	2.5	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
1978	2781.0	510.4	139.2	3430.6	17.6	1.9	0.6	3.3	72.0	7.4	102.8	3327.8
1979	2495.2	223.4	149.4	2868.0	32.4	1.0	1.0	4.2	141.8	74.3	254.7	2613.3
1980	1920.3	101.7	166.5	2188.5	42.9	2.8	0.2	4.6	207.7	39.0	297.2	1891.3
1981	1878.5*	86.4	169.9	2134.8	42.6	2.6	0.3	6.5	97.2	33.4	182.6	1952.2
1982	1490.0+	135.0+	171.0	1796.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

*Provisional

+Approved estimates.

Source: Sri Lanka Treasury, Central Bank, Tea Board.

TRIBUNE DEVELOPMENT FORUM

POINT OF VIEW

Mahaweli Nightmare ?

By Alpha

IT IS TIME that the Minister Gamini Dissanayake does some hard thinking about the downstream work on the Accelerated Programme. This has become necessary because the planners entrusted with the work seem to have blundered. With casual cocksureness they seem to have "assumed" that the entirety of the new Mahaweli-irrigated lands would go under rice and on this footing decreed that all downstream development would be for wetland cultivation of paddy. If the present scheme of our Mahaweli planners is implemented this country will suffer the disastrous consequences of a *Rice Monoculture* in our Dry Zone. In the *Tribune* of July 17 was published a brief official report of a Conference or a Seminar in which some of the consequences of such a rice monoculture appear to have been raised for Ministerial attention. The Minister himself had raised the question whether the irrigation layout for new lands in downstream areas, which had been blue-printed mainly for the cultivation of paddy, could be adopted for upland crops like sugar cane, cotton, pastures etc.etc. The official report published in *Tribune* stated that "*the discussion revealed that such irrigation canals are being designed for all varieties of crops but the drainage system has to be improved if upland crops are to be grown extensively.*" This is a kind of euphemistic officialese bluff to hide the fact that the irrigation system that has been planned is for paddy and paddy alone and that it has to be modified or changed a great deal if these lands are to be adopted for upland and other crops. The money already spent and which will in future be spent under the existing contracts on downstream developments for paddy would be all waste. Time would also be lost before these lands could be adopted for other cultivation.

AT THE SAME CONFERENCE " a position paper submitted pointed out that under the Mahaweli Programme apart from the 65,000 acres of new land developed in System H, an additional extent of 123,000 acres are to be developed over the next three to four years in system C, B and G. The total area to be developed under the Accelerated Programme is about 300,000 acres under Systems, A, B, C and G. Meanwhile under the Lands Ministry's programme about 25,000 acres of new land will be developed under the Kirindi

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Oya (Lunugamvehera) and Inginimitiya irrigation and settlement projects. Additionally there are several other major schemes like Muthukandiya, the Gin Ganga Flood Protection Scheme, the rehabilitation of major and minor schemes which will together make a significant contribution to annual paddy production shortly. New varieties of seed paddy, increasing application of fertilizer and improved farm management have resulted in the national per acre yield increasing from 45 bushels in 1971 to about 58 bushels in 1981, and the yields have been boosted significantly by record production under System H of the Mahaweli Programme and major settlement schemes. At present there were about 1,500,000 acres of asweddumised paddy land and the annual production of rice was in the region of 1,500,000 tons. Since 1978 imports have decreased e.g., 334,000 tons in 1979, 190,000 tons in 1980, 100,000 tons in 1981. Imports could rise to about 500,000 tons in 1982 on account of the drought. A drought such as that experienced in 1981/82 could be anticipated in a cycle of about five to six years'.

What all this officialese and bureaucratic jargon amounts to is that when even a part of the new Mahaweli lands cultivated in paddy this country will have a surplus of rice so great that nobody will know what to do with it. There has been big talk about experts, but at the same conference it was reported that "officials pointed out that varieties of paddy other than those widely cultivated here will have to be grown for export, because the varieties of rice grown locally are not to the tastes of the foreign market. There was a stronger case for a large scale crop diversification programme, officials urged. "It is clear that unless corrective measures are taken immediately this country will be saddled with unexportable surplus of rice in a few years' time. At the moment there is a surplus of grain on the global scale but millions of hungry people do not have the money to buy grain. In some countries production is therefore restricted or the grain is fed to livestock or even destroyed in order to maintain prices that bring maximum profit to the agribusiness multinationals which control the world cereal and grain market. The report further stated that "*the Hon. Minister directed that in view of the current situation a comprehensive study should be undertaken which would suggest the strategy to be adopted for the future development of available agricultural land.*" This is not enough. The Minister should first take to task the planners who had so far not given thought to this matter and ear-marked all downstream development for paddy cultivation and on which billions of rupees have been allocated on contracts with foreign agencies and big multinational firms. It will not be easy to reverse this process and change these contracts (the firms concerned will make it an excuse to demand

an increase in contractual rates.) **In any other country officials responsible for disastrous planning of this kind would have got the boot straightaway. But in Sri Lanka we perpetuate inefficiency and ineptitude which cost the country billions of rupees.**

THE MINISTER correctly says that a comprehensive study of the situation should be undertaken. But he must see to it that the officials who have so far blundered and failed to see the obvious are not put on the Committee (where they will only attempt to cover their own mistakes.) The Minister should appoint an independent top-level Committee of Economists, Political Scientists, Sociologists, Agronomists and others of eminence with a fund of commonsense (or horsesense) to map out a new Irrigation and Development Policy for the Mahaweli in the context of the other irrigation schemes in the country which now produce paddy. A 25 percent in the yield per acre (or hectare) of paddy will not only provide this country with unexportable surplus of rice but also excessive buffer stocks for the drought years. With proper storage, this country will not experience the scarcities and high prices of a drought year. **But unless some major decisions are taken soon and implemented soon, the Accelerated Mahaweli Scheme will bury this country under an avalanche of surplus paddy and unexportable rice. It will be a nightmare that will haunt the nation night and day and bring economic distress of a kind unknown now or at any time in the past. Unfortunately, many officials and planners seem to take things lightly.**

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GAL OYA REVISITED -2

Why, A Failure ?

By John B. Kumarakulasinghe.

When D.S.Senanayake's dream of damming the Gal Oya in the late forties became a reality the press acclaimed it as a great leap for agriculture. Today after thirty odd years the picture of the valley is disappointing. The reasons for the lack of development of the Gal Oya valley are many. Chief among them are lack of proper access roads and consequently poor marketing facilities, no follow up in agricultural pursuits, and the lack of change in the attitudes of the colonists who come as peasants and are now at best labourers. Blue prints for the fifties (see Gal Oya Board Annual Reports) provided for coconut,

sugar and herb plantations, with animal husbandry thrown in for good measure. Enormous extents of pasture land for cattle and the hopes of a giant dairy farm are all unfulfilled -- never perhaps to come again. R.L.Brohier the author of the immortal "Ancient Irrigation Works" who was a member of the Gal Oya Development Board had dreams of a mighty agricultural empire in the valley. He is on record as having said that the Gal Oya valley could well be the "Granary of the East" and the agro-oriented nursery of the nation.

Natural disasters like the cyclone of November 23/24 1978, it is true created a setback. But what happened before and what should have happened for the rehabilitation of agro-interests later are shameful. Rehabilitation anywhere has to have the goodwill and cooperation of the preponderant masses. In 1945 Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan were tortured and reduced to shambles by history's first atomic bombs. Today Japan is the world's most industrialized nation. At Gal Oya many coconut trees were uprooted by the cyclone (mostly on paper) and replanting has not been as fast as it should have been. There were hopes in the fifties that every one of the 30,000 highland homesteads would be self-sufficient in coconuts, jak, mangoes, coffee etc., and the then Agricultural Department pioneers (like V.E. Gunaratne) went house to house offering plants and cattle. Today one sees almost nothing. An elderly colonist (a worker under the writer in the fifties) of Kohombana, a purana village, told the writer that firewood poses a problem and that most of their trees had to be felled to fan their fires. At Weragoda the coconut trees went for the cyclone and haven't (all) been replanted. Wawinna and Paragahakelle would become deserts. Gonagalla and Bokkeboda colonists go to Uhana, 10 to 15 miles away to purchase their nuts. So is the position everywhere. Wind Belts are trees, that were left uncleared, between tracts so as to break the velocity of gales and winds. Most of them are gone and no honest attempt has been made by bureaucracy to restore them. No wonder the cyclone of 1978 had its free paths to ravage the valley; as a minor gale of 1954/55 once did. Asked as to whose responsibility it is to maintain these vital wind belts (the buffers of distress) the Irrigation Officers said it was not their business. The Agricultural Department men said they had no money and a Kachcheri officer said he does not know.

In the fifties one H.Reerink, a Hollander of the FAO was so enamoured by the vast sugar potential in the valley, and even prophesied sugar would be available (then) at 16 cents a pound! Today the sugar plantation has come almost to the end of its life time and the sugar complex is more a distillery. Near Padagoda and Pallang Oya were acres of valuable Ayurvedic herb trees, like nelli and so on. So too at Namal

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Oya and Bokkebedde. Pious platitudes to preserve these were mouthed at Board Meetings in the fifties. Where are they now? They have all disappeared. The Mahaweli or any oya in Sri Lanka is not the property of politicians. They are the wealth and property of the nation. Any attempt at arrogate powers to themselves is the politicians' dream, and that has all along been bad for the country. *The Gal Oya is a failure. And "failure" is a relative term. What should have been done was not done. Consequently the helpless colonists, have had to adopt attitudes to appease officials and politicians.* Gyl Oya valley today is an isolated keg of despair, because transport and marketing is a monopoly of antisocialistic individuals and agencies. There is paddy and no market. There are some roads and no vehicles. There are electric posts but no hydrel power supply. But there are seasonal politicians who do not allow technocrats to work, as they should. The sum total is despair, depression and distress. All because politics has the super-say. Politics is a hazasdrinous game. Development is not. Either, the politicians must behave or development must be forgotten.



BURIAL PROBLEM

In Hongkong

By Michael Weisskop

Though the majority of the dead in Sri Lanka are cremated, in metropolitan Colombo space in our cemeteries for burials has become very scarce, if not impossible. Unless there is proper planning, and cremations encouraged some of our urban centres can face the burial problem that today afflicts Hongkong.

HONGKONG: this tiny island is so crowded that even finding a place for the dead has become a problem. Living in Hong Kong with its population of 5 million, is a constant battle for elbow room. The poor live like boxed matchsticks, the middle class is not much better off and the rich face monthly rents of \$6,000 for a three bedroomed apartment. Lately, the space crunch has begun following residents right to the grave. A permanent tomb in a private cemetery now costs \$ 25,000—if you can find one.

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Two public burial places are accepting coffins for relatively short stays only. They are something called an "exhumation cycle", which requires that the dead be dug up after six years to make way for others. The burial fee is just \$ 40, but the exhumation charge is \$ 350. The Hong Kong government, which maintains strict control over land use, refuses to cremations by offering to do the job for as little as \$ 20. But cremation is unpopular with Hong Kong's traditional Chinese for whom ancestral worship is still an important tenet. So the government of this British colony is making it possible to cremate relatives and bury them too. All over the island high-rise structures called *Columbaria* are being built to store ashes in 9 x 9 inch vaults that can be visited like graves. *Columbaria* are really multistory walls into which the vaults are inserted. Each niche is covered by a plaque bearing the picture, name and date of death of the deceased. An individual niche costs \$ 150 while a family-sized vault big enough for the ashes, of four persons goes for about twice that amount. One new, 10 story structure has room for the remains of 20,000 persons.

FOR HONG KONG RESIDENTS who insist on a traditional cemetery but cannot afford the price, there is an alternative. A few private graveyards have developed "urn cemeteries" offering tiny plots for permanent burial of ashes or bones with just enough space for a small gravestone. But land for urn burial has nearly been exhausted and may soon face new regulations requiring six year burial rotation. Then there is the China option. Eager of foreign exchange communist authorities have agreed to inter Hong Kong's dead in a dusty border town about an hour's train ride away. The price is \$ 2,500 and it must be paid in Hong Kong currency. But logistical problems have kept all but 95 coffins from crossing the border in the past three years. Transportation is the main obstacle, there being no direct route to the Chinese cemetery. Travel to China for Hong Kong residents also presents problems because of the complicated visa procedures. Despite these difficulties, China may provide the best long-term solution for disposing of Hong Kong's dead aside from cremation according to officials here. Before the communists took control of China in 1949 and banned use of productive land for graves, thousands of Chinese who had died abroad—businessmen from Southeast Asia and railway workers from the United States for example—were sent back every year for burial in their "old home". The bodies went first to Hong Kong institution called Coffin House, which stored the coffins until they were ready for shipment to the mainland. Coffin House, which is run by a Hong Kong hospital, still functions today in a reduced capacity. It collects the few caskets destined for the new Chinese burial ground across the border.



TRIBUNE SPORTSCOPE

SPORTLIGHT

Rugger

RUGBY one of the cleanest sports in Sri Lanka, is slowly but surely taking the course of football. If recent incidents on the field of rugby is an indication to go by. Assaulting of the referee and the linesmen has been more the rule rather than the exception in football in Sri Lanka, and this malady seems to be slowly creeping into rugby as well. Rugby was a good example to the other team games. It was played by prestigious schools and elite clubs. We have reason to believe that hooliganism and thuggery have crept in with the advent of the services teams to big time rugby. Lest we be misunderstood, the blame for this type of behaviour rests fairly and squarely, not on the players but on the supporters, who cannot take a defeat. At the receiving of these assaults and insults have been referees and linesmen. Thugs, who come well clad to watch these games, will do well to remember that the referees and linesmen who are there in a honorary capacity always endeavour to blow to the entire satisfaction of both teams. True, the referees and linesmen at times tend to make mistakes, but that is not intentional. If what happened to referee Rodney Patternott after the match between the Air Force and the Havelocks at Police Park, is an indication to go by, then we won't be surprised if the men who toot the whistle decide to call it a day. The Referees Committee and the Sri Lanka Rugby Football Union owe a duty by the referees and linesmen, that of protecting them, and this function they must perform at any cost. Before the Patternott incident Sub Lieutenant Bandula Dahanayake and Tony Amit were at the receiving end of spectator violence. Dahanayake, for this trouble in controlling the Police Havelocks match at Police Park had stones pelted at his car after the game by irate spectators. To repeat, the Referees Society and the SLRFU must understand that their job is not only to appoint referees and linemen, but to also provide them protection. The Arrangements Committee of the SLRFU must ensure that satisfactory arrangements are made for everyone's security and safety so that spectators will not be allowed to go berserk. The Referees Society of the SLRFU has Quantin Israel as President and sub Lieutenant Bandula Dahanayaka as secretary.

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The Match Arrangments Committee comprises ASP Terry Williams as Chairman and Convenor with C.A.Thomas, Inspector S.Sivendren, Gavin Stevens and Major T.D. Rajapakse to assist him. We would like to quote Rule 25 of the SLRFU to which clubs and schools are requested to pay special attention.

1. Part V11 (General) clause 61 of the SLRFU Constitution, 61. "It is hereby declared that the Union, its Committee and the members thereof: (A) Do not accept responsibility for any accident resulting in the death of or injury to a player of the match or spectator occurring during any game of rugby football in Sri Lanka, and (B) assumes that every player who takes part in any such games does so at his own risk and free will and pleasure. 2. That the 'home' team makes adequate crowd control arrangements particularly to ensure the safety of the Referee, Touch Judge and players of the visiting team during and after the game if the need arise." In this instance the home team was the Airforce. "ALLROUNDER" wonders as to what action the SLRFU contemplates taking on the home team. At the time of writing the SLRFU is awaiting the report from Referee Rodney Patternott. This type of boorish behaviour must be nipped in the bud, before many good referees decline to take part for their own safety. The SLRFU will then have a big problem on its hands. The Disciplinary Committee of the SLRFU comprising N.H.Omar (Chairman) Cdr. E.L. Matthysz, Y.C. Chang and ASP Terry Williams (Convenor) were right in suspending the Navy captain Sheriffdeen for the rest of the 1982 season following the incidents that took place after the Clifford Cup Rugby match between the CH & FC and the Navy which the CH & FC won convincingly. In addition the Navy team was severely warned. This was a sequel to a complaint made to the Union by Jagath Fernando who controlled the game to the effect that the sailors argued with him after he had awarded a try in the second round Clifford Cup League match played on July 3 against the CH & FC, which the Maitland Crescent Club won convincingly. The argument continued and Fernando had no option but to call off the match with ten minutes to spare. The Navy players have been warned against a repetition of this unruly conduct.

Yet on the topic of rugby and our congratulation to Byron Fernando and his lion-hearted Trinitians for regaining the Bradby Shield by defeating Royal in both legs' in Colombo and in Kandy. Trinity won the first leg 9 - 6 and the second 6 - 4. In the SLRFU Clifford Cup League second round matches played on July 16 and 18 CR & FC lost Kandy 16 - 15, CH & FC beat Police 20 - 12, Army beat Navy 19 - 10 and Airforce drew with Havelocks 13 - all. The biggest upset was the defeat of the CR at the hands of the Kandy Sports Club up in Kandy.

From the rugger scene we switch on to SOCCER not to Spain the scene of the World Cup but to apartheid

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and soccer. An uproar has been caused with some of the World Cup footballers signing on to play in South Africa. It was only recently that a dozen cricketers from England later termed 'rebels' played in South Africa. They were imposed a ban from Test cricket for three years by the Test and County Cricket Board. This matter is still pending with the 'rebels' seeking legal redress. Gooch and Boycott, England's established opening batsmen, who made that tour are the most successful opening batsmen in the current English Country cricket scene and England must be certainly regretting and missing their steadying influence in the team. The only footballers of repute who agreed to tour South Africa were Argentines Osvaldo Ardilles and Mario Kempes. But at the time of writing it is unlikely that Ardilles will be able to play and show his prowess in South Africa because he is under contract to his English club, Tottenham Hotspurs till the end of July. Incidentally Hotspurs won the English F. A. Cup final this year. However, the international soccerites comprising several from England, too, who arrived in the black satellite city outside Johannesburg for the second match of the controversial tour were greeted with chants of "Rebels, go home". But the visitors received a good-natured if lukewarm reception from about 3,000 spectators in Soweto's usually-packed stadium who watched them beat the undistinguished Durban team Amazulu.

AVE MARIA CONVENT, Negombo who proved their prowess at the Girls Schools Sports meet maintained their winning streak emerging Overall Champions at the Third Woman's Open Track and Field Meet concluded at the Police Park on July 15. Trailing St. Bridget's the defending champions by a very slender margin on the first day, Ave Maria drew ahead to win the Amateur Athletic Association of Sri Lanka Challenge Trophy by 54 points. The final placings were: Ave Maria Convent, Negombo 130 1/2 points, St. Bridget's 87 1/2 points and Holy Family Convent, Bambalapitiya 61 points. Pushpa Malini Wijenaik of Ace AC set up a new Sri Lanka and All-Comers record in the 800 metres open event. Pushpa lowered the 800 meters National Record in the heats on the first day and went one better to lower the All-Comers Record which stood to the name of Indian Geeta Zutshi at 2 minutes 19.9 seconds in 1974 (Asian Games Gold Medallist in 1978). 24-year old Pushpa who is attached to the Ministry of Sport as to Sports Officer ran superbly to clock 2 minutes 17.3 seconds which was an improvement of 4.2 seconds on her time in the heats. T. G. Ramani Mangalika (Sri Lanka AC) the national champion was given a scare by Pushpa in the 400 metres when she came second in the event just one tenth of a second behind. However, despite all these record-breaking achievements no athlete was able to reach the Asian Games Qualifying standard.

Allrounder



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SPORTS CHRONICLE

July 11 - 17

SUNDAY, JULY 11: The sighs of relief were seen on every Havelock player as the referee blew for 'full time' signifying the end to another cliff-hanger in this year's *Clifford Cup* which they won by 12 points (a goal and 2 tries) to 10 (a goal and try) against the Police at Police Park yesterday evening. Clifford Cup table leaders CH and FC scored a close win over Kandy Sports Club by 10 points (a try and 2 penalties) to 7 (a try and a penalty) in their second round rugby encounter at Nittawela yesterday. Garudas and Ramblers won their matches against Dematagoda Playground and Colombo YMCA in the W.H. *Saverimuttu Women's Basketball Tournament* yesterday. Two knock-outs featured the quarter-finals of the *T.B. Jayah Memorial inter school boxing meet*, at the Peradeniya University Gymnasium last night. Surya House with a total of 637 points won the overall challenge trophy for the second successive year following by Nalanda House -- 506½ points and Mayura House 464 points at the Nalanda College Inter-House Athletic Meet at the college grounds yesterday. Gurutalawa won two out of three hockey matches against Mt. Lavinia in the battle of the Thomians at Gurutalawa recently.

MONDAY, JULY 12: Hindu College Bambalapitiya scored a surprise win in the current junior cricket tournament when they narrowly defeated the unbeaten Peterites by two runs in an *Under 15 Division 3* match played at Bambalapitiya. Hindu College 103 and St. Peters 101. Thurstan beat Prince of Wales on the first innings. Prince of Wales 159 for 9 and Thurstan 121 for 6. Beat D.S.Senanayake MV on the first innings. Thurstan 101 for 9 and DSS 98. Beat Carey on the first innings. Carey 168 and Thurstan 171 for 9. Beat Isipatana on the first innings. Thurstan 145 and Isipatana 92. Beat St. Benedicts in an Under 16 match. Thurstan 144 for 5 and St. Benedicts 51 and 14 for 4 at close. D.S.Senanayake MV scored creditable wins over Nalanda B and St. Josephs B in the *Under 15 Cricket* tournament matches. Beat Nalanda B on the first innings. DSS B 181 and Nalanda B 89. Beat St. Josephs B on the first innings. DSS C 216 and St. Josephs B 147.

A fine double by Louis Karunaratne who scored an unbeaten 111 which included 12 fours and 3 sixes and took (2 for 16) enabled Nawaloka Group SC beat Bartleet SC by 142 runs in the *D Division first round* final match conducted by the *Mercantile Cricket Association* and played at the Bloomfield grounds on Saturday. Nawaloka SC 260 for 5 in 44 overs and Bartleet SC 118 for 3 in 44 overs. Seeduwa's Red Eagles defeated Kochchikade United by 5 goals to 2 in a *soccer match* played at Kochchikade recently.

Uva beat Dickoya by 11 points (2 tries and a penalty) to nil in an *upcountry league rugby football* tournament match played at Badulla Stadium. Army "Colts" who are yet unbeaten regained the top slot in the *B Division interclub league rugby* table of points from Police "Griffins" who although still unconquered are in third position with CR and FC Bees occupying the second berth. B.Subashini of Kokuvil Hindu College emerged champion at the first ever women's chess tournament held at Jaffna Hindu College recently. Army won their third consecutive game in the *Clifford Club League Rugby* tournament with a 10 points (1 try, 2 penalties) to 6 (2 penalties) victory over Air Force in their second-round confrontation yesterday at Police Park.

TUESDAY, JULY 13: Police qualified to meet Small Industries in the Final of the *State Services A Division (50 overs) Cricket* Final when they easily beat Prisons by 7 wickets in their semifinals at the Health SC grounds yesterday. Prisons 97 in 32 overs and Police 99 for 3 in 25 overs. St.Annes Kurunegala trounced St. Mary's Kegalle by an innings and 108 runs in their *Under 15 Cricket* match played at Kegalle recently. St.Annes 202 for 5 dec. and St. Marys 36. St. Sylvesters drew against St. Anthony's Katugastota. St. Anthonys 127 for 9 and St.Sylvesters 81 for 5. Drew against Kingswood. St. Sylvesters 127 for 6 and Kingswood 114 for 8 at the close. Signal Corps emerged *Army Hockey champions* for the second year in succession when they beat Sri Lanka Light Infantry by one goal to nil in the final played at Police Park. The Fox Platoon totalled 103 points and emerged champions at the Sri Lanka Military Academy *inter-platoon officer cadets athletic meet* held at Diyatalawa Polo grounds. Army "Colts" routed Air Force "Chimunks" by 42 points (5 goals and 3 tries) to nil in their *B Division rugby* match played at Galle Face yesterday.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 14: St Josephs College Grandpass pulled off a fine first innings victory over Gurukula MV in a *Division 3 Under 15 cricket* match at Wattala last Saturday. St. Josephs 154 for 4 wickets and Gurukula 77. A fine team effort enabled D.S.Senanayake Vidyalaya B beat Nalanda College B in a *schools Under 15 cricket tournament* game at Campbell Place. Browns B trounced Mercantile Credit by 10 wickets in a *Mercantile E Division* group one cricket match at the NCC ground recently. Mercantile Credit 72 all out and Browns B 75 for no loss. Nalanda thrashed Maliyadeva Vidyalaya by 13 points (a goal a try and a penalty to 4 (a try) in a *schools B Division Rugby* match at Kurunegala recently. St. Peters trounced Sathisara by 30 points (2 goals, 3 tries, a drop goal a penalty to nil in *schools A Division Rugby* encounter at Bambalapitiya yesterday. Vidyaratna smashed Prince of Wales by 70 points (3 goals and 13 tries) to nil in a *school B Division rugby* match at Nittawela on Sunday.

THURSDAY, JULY 15: Isipathana led Carey in the *Division 3 Under 17 cricket* match played on the Railway grounds. Isipathana 167 and Carey 106. In the *Under 17 cricket Tournament* at Kurunegala Maliyadeva beat Ibbagamuwa MMV by an innings. Ibbagamuwa MMV 19 and Maliyadeva 253 for 4 dec. Beat Kegalle MMV on the first innings. Maliyadeva 188 and Kegalle MMV 61. Dharmaraja scored a first innings win over Trinity in an *Under 17 Cricket* match played at Police grounds. Dharmaraja 161 and Trinity 73 Mobile Marine beat Lankem by 4 wickets in a *Mercantile D Division* final round match at the NCC grounds on Saturday. Lankem 154 for 9 wickets in 50 overs and Mobile Marine 146 for 5 in 40 overs.

FRIDAY, JULY 16: St. Josephs B won all their three matches against Weluwanapura B, Vivekananda and Royal C in the *under 15 cricket tournament* played recently. Beat Veluwanapura on the first innings: Veluwanapura 41 St. Josephs 117. Beat Vivekananda by an innings Vivekananda 31 and St. Josephs 303 for 6 Beat Royal on first innings. St. Josephs 212 and Royal C 47. Medical beat Law by 4 games to 3 in their annual *tennis encounter* played at the Colombo University. H.A.Sunil won the *fifty-mile cycle race* held recently to celebrate the opening of the Dodangoda's Super Market Complex. CWE edged through 5 - 4 tie-breaker over Insurance Corporation in their *semi-final soccer* match on Prisons Grounds and will now meet Ports Authority B in the Final of the Nationalisee Services Soccer Association D Division Knockout Tournament on July 20.

SATURDAY, JULY 17: Metropolitan Agencies Sports Club beat Whittals Group by 2 wickets in their *E Division (50 overs) Mercantile Cricket Tournament* match played at the MCA grounds. Whittals Group 140 all out in 49.3 overs and Metropolitan Agencies SC 141 for 8 in 44.4 overs. Joseph Vaz College Wennappuwa emerged *Under 14 district champions in the Soccer tournament* conducted by Chilaw's Education Department when they trounced St. Xavier's Marawila by 15 goals to nil in the final played at Joseph Vaz Grounds. Lake House Sports Club beat Law College by 13 matches to 4 in a *Table Tennis* match played on the Lake House Tables on Wednesday. Dharmaraja College Kandy scored a 2 goals to 1 win over Kingswood College, Kandy in their *interschool hockey* tournament match played at the Bogambara Stadium last Sunday. CH & FC scored a hard fought 20 points (2 goals 2 tries) to 12 (1 goal 2 penalties) win over Police in their Second round *Clifford Cup League Rugby* match played yesterday at Police Park. This was the ninth consecutive victory for CH & FC After yesterday's *Clifford Cup League* rugby matches CH & FC head the Points Table with 41.4 followed by Havelocks (33.2), CR & FC (31.8), Police (27.2), Army (25.8), Air Force (23.0), Kandy SC (17.0) and Navy (5.0), Kandy

scored a splendid 16 points (1 goal, 1 try, 2 penalties) to 15 (1 goal 3 penalties) win over CR & FC after leading 12 - 9 at half time yesterday at Nittawela in their second-round Clifford Cup League rugby match. St. Anthony's beat Wesley by 6 points (a goal) to 4 (a try) in their rugby match at Peradeniya yesterday after leading 6 - 0 at half time.



ROWING

Madras-Colombo Regatta

Races in a rowing regatta are in boats built on lines similar to those used in the Oxford-Cambridge Boat Race, but while those are coxed eights, the ones used on the Beira Lake and on the Adyar River, in Colombo and Madras respectively, are coxed fours. The principal race in each challenge regatta is always between the senior crew of each participating club rowing in the largest boats available. This constitutes the race on which the reputation of a club over the series of that race, and the honour of winning it for that year, rests. The rest is merely that of a supporting programme to fill out the evening's sport with races between B crews and members of the teams rowing in smaller boats. This series of races between Madras Boat Club and the Colombo Rowing Club has been taking place since before the turn of the century and both clubs have been in existence well over a hundred years. The sport was introduced here in its present form, using the kind of boats that have become traditional for these races, from England, of course, and it was in the nature of the political set up that the sport should have been confined to Europeans. There was nothing to prevent the subject races from forming their own boat clubs and importing their boats, which in due course was what happened when the Government Services Rowing Club was formed. The sport is strong in its tradition and it was understandable that the C.R.C. should have stayed European longest. The Kandy Rowing Club, now defunct, was multi-racial from the start. With the last war and its aftermath, members of the Government Services drifted to the CRC and constitute its present senior members.

The Colombo Rowing Club had a long series of successive wins in the Madras -Colombo Challenge Fours, as the principal race is known, during the 1960s, but Madras tended to preponderate in the 70s. Madras Boat Club have the advantage of preparation for and participation in an annual regatta between all the Indian Rowing clubs, and their university of taking part in another annual regatta between all the Indian universities, and this is in addition to their own club regattas and the annual regattas staged for some years now by the Amateur Rowing Association of the East, which is an association of rowing clubs, and more recently by its like.

TRIBUNE, JULY 31, 1982

the Far Eastern Amateur Rowing Association. Our inter-club experience has been confined to the A. R.A.E. which is held usually in December, and the enormous distances of travel entailed for us precludes our taking part in nearly all F.E.A.R.A. regattas. Hence the great importance to Colombo of our annual races with Madras. The Colombo Rowing Club A tour this year comprises three very experienced men and the stroke in the winning crew of the last Royal-Thomian senior fours race held last year in the schools' regatta. The bow pair of this four are the Moheed brothers, with the Captain of the Rowing Club, Simal Wickremesinghe as three, and Royalist Suren de Silva stroking the boat. This means that Suren sets the pace with the others taking their time from him. The B four comprises school boys coxed by the C.R.C. Vice-Captain Joe Rajadurai. The pairs will be the Moheed brothers in one boat, they have been rowing together for years in pairs, and Nugegoda University's Piyal Goonatileke and Moratuwa University's Ravi Wickremasinghe in the other. The two likely scullers will be very experienced Jeya Ponniah, very experienced as our oarsmen, and Ajith Goonawardene, once winner of the Macklin Sculls, the A.R.A.E. sculling race, with the Englishman, Stephen Moy, as a possible or reserve. The crews are *A Fours* — Fahim Moheed low: Ali Moheed 2: Simal Wickremesinghe 3: Suren de Silva—stroke:—Chartha—Athukorale—coxswain. *B Fours* — Amanda — Gunawardena — bow: Asela Weerasinghe—2: Arjun de Silva—3: Yohan Jayaratne—stakes: Joe Rajadurai—coxswain. *Pairs* (1) Fahim Moheed—bow: Ali Moheed — stroke; (2) Piyal Goonatileke — bow: Ravi Wickremasinghe —strike. *Sculls*—Jeyah Ponniah and Ajith Goonewardena:

A Rowing Correspondent.



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Pre-Emptive Defence?

WAS THERE ANY SPECIAL REASON why the official *Ceylon Daily News* should have had two front page ("apparent") blasts on July 15 and July 16 against the policies and programmes of the Ceylon Shipping Corporation (CSC)? That the first article was under the headline: **PROJECTED RS. 70M LOSS MAY BE CUT TO A RS 50M: CSC SAILS INTO ROUGH WEATHER.** The report read: "The Ceylon Shipping Corporation like most shipping lines the world over, has sailed into rough weather and current projections are that it will lose about Rs. 70 million this year. However, authoritative government sources said yesterday that there were possibilities that this projected loss could be trimmed to about Rs. 50 million if certain economies that are being attempted can be successfully enforced. One of the major problems facing the CSC which has embarked on building the fleet with the purchase of several new vessels is servicing the considerable debts it has incurred to pay for these ships out of its current earnings. The slump in world trade has hit CSC as it has other shipping lines. Sri Lanka's own imports have diminished substantially in volume terms and the result is that there is much less cargo than before for inbound CSC ships to carry. Also CSC is a classic example of under-capitalisation. It has billions of rupees worth of ships, some of which are not yet fully paid for, and a paid up capital of only Rs. 42 million. Last year CSC earned over Rs. 100 million. The corporation has been profitable for many years and has been paying for the fleet it has built up since its founding by its own earnings. It is unlikely that the Treasury will be in a position to infuse new capital into the Corporation in the context of the country's tight liquidity, but the Ministry of Trade and Shipping is exploring the possibility of drawing in needed capital from other public sector ventures within its own umbrella. There is no government decision on this yet, but it may be possible for the CSC to trade its equity in lieu of cash to organisations like the Port Authority and the Insurance Corporation to which it has to make substantial payments, sources said. Business circles make the point that the shipping industry goes through periods of dooms and slumps and most shipping lines must ride out the storms, the CSC is no exception". **That this "Ceylon Daily News" story first raises an alarm about a storm that has enveloped the CSC and then endeavours to pour oil over troubled waters by saying that (a) economies would be affected, (b) that such difficulties were inevitable in the business of shipping with its global implications? That this pre-emptive attempt to calm fears that are likely to erupt when troubles overtake the CSC made persons put on their thinking caps?**

That the second story was also (obviously) another pre-emptive strategy to save the reputation of the CSC? That the headline was of the alarmist sensational order but the final conclusion was a whimper to say what a good boy the CSC has been? That the headline was: **CSC TRIMS ITS SAILS IN ROUGH WEATHER: SCUTTLE NEW SHIPS DEAL SAYS TREASURY** and the report read. "The Treasury has recommended that the Ceylon Shipping Corporation cancels a multi-million dollar ship building contract awarded to an Argentine shipyard in the context of the Corporation's current financial difficulties. The capital commitments entered into by the Corporation are so heavy that it will necessarily have to cancel the Argentine contract and bring the capital commitment down to more realistic levels' the Treasury has reported. CSC too admits that in the present situation 'some hard decisions may have to be taken and has advised the Ministry of Trade and Shipping that the 'Argentine contract obviously needs review'. The *Daily News* yesterday exclusively reported that the current slump in shipping worldwide has hit CSC hard and that every effort is now being made to trim a projected Rs. 70 million down to Rs. 50 million. One of the major problems faced by the Corporation is to meet its debt servicing and repayment obligations for the purchase of new ships to augment its present fleet, comprising mostly ships over 20 years old. The three ships that were to be built in Argentina were intended for the Corporation's most important (and lucrative) run on the UK/Continent trade. ..."**That the "CDN" report offer some ways out suggested by officials of the CSC to make everything look hunky dory? That matters cannot be left at this specially in view of several memoranda that have been circulating in commercial and political circles on CSC's Spending Spree? That the memoranda may be the work of "disgruntled elements but after the CDN's coverup stories the matter needs further investigation?** That the rest of the CDN cover-up story read: "... in these circumstances the CSC may have to strengthen its UK/Continent run with time-charted ships which are easily and cheaply available in today's slump market. Regarding the Argentine contract, some of the options now available to the Corporation include cancellation of the contract or its sale to another purchaser, buying one ship and cancelling two, or making a lease-purchase arrangement if a purchaser can be found..." That thereafter follows a further apologia of how well the CSC has functioned and saved the country billions of rupees in foreign exchange and concludes with a pat on the back: "it is generally conceded that CSC has been one of the success stories of state enterprise and much of its current problems are due to factors outside its control". That this is a matter that must be critically examined?



Notice Under Section 7 of the Land Acquisition Act, (Chap-460) As Amended by Land Acquisition (Amendment) Act No.28 of 1964

The Land Acquisition Act. (Chap 460) As Amended by the Land Acquisition (Amendment) Act No. 28 of 1964. Notice under section 33

Ref No. 11/7/5/70

Reference No. LL/A/7158

The Government intends to acquire the Land described in the Schedule below, for a public purpose, for particulars, please see the Gazette Extraordinary of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, No: 201/9 dated 15.07.1982.

I, Gananatha Abeygunawardena, Acquiring Officer, Ratnapura District in terms of the Section 33 of the Land Acquisition Act (Chapter 460) as amended by the Land Acquisition (Amendment) act No. 28 of 1964, hereby give notice that the undermentioned amount being compensation of the land described in the schedule hereto have been paid to the the District Court, Ratnapura to the credit of the case noted against it to be drawn by the person entitled to the Amount.

SCHEDULE

District : Anuradhapura
D.R.O's Division : Kekirawa
G.S.'s Division : Tulane No. 65 A
Name of Village : Malawa (Kekirawa Minor Division)

SCHEDULE

Name of Land : Batuhena Dambulla Rd Assesment No. 30
 " " " " 32
 " " " " 34
 " " " " 36
 " " " " 38
 " " " " 40
 " " " " 42
 " " " " 42/1
 " " " " 42/1

Description of the Land The Land called Keenatenna-watta and Kolonnawatta, 75 A. 1R. 11P. in extent surveyed and depicted as lot Nos. 269,270, 272, 274—288 in Extract No. 2 to V. P. 911 and situated in Buthkanda village, 205 Kolonna Gramasevaka's division, Kolonna Korale, Kolonna D.R.O's division, Ratnapura District.

Amount of compensation and Interest.

Rs. 1, 00,330.00

Plan No. : F. V. P. 864 Sup. No. 7
Lot No. : 265 - 273

Case No 256/Reference

The Kachcheri,
 Anuradhapura.
 21st June, 1982.

K. D. S. Nanayakkara
 Acquiring Officer,
 Anuradhapura District.

Gananatha Abeygunawardena.
 Acquiring officer, Ratnapura District.

The Kachcheri, Ratnapura.
 16th July, 1982



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