

# TRIBUNE

27TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION



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# TRIBUNE

Ceylon News Review  
A Journal of Ceylon and  
World Affairs  
Founded in 1954  
Every Saturday

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Vol. 26 — No. 48

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## CONTENTS

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR	1
—Marketing	
EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK	2
—Polemics - 2	
SHERLOCK HOLMES	4
—Phones, Hotels	
FILM FOCUS	5
—Idi Amin	
SRI LANKA CHRONICLE	9
—August 1 - 7	
WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF	12
—August 1 - 7	
FOREIGN SCENE	13
—Arafat: Pipeline: Afghanistan: Sikhs.	
AGRICULTURAL DIGEST	16
—Potato: Rice: Agribusiness: Mango	
DEVELOPMENT FORUM	20
—President: Gamini D. Plantations: Mahaweli	
SPORTSCOPE	24
—Spotlight, Chronicle,	
CONFIDENTIALLY	28
—French Connection	

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

AS THE PICTURE ON THE COVER will indicate we revert once again to the question of marketing of agricultural produce. It is true that the Production in the agricultural sector has shown some improvement, but those who know our rural areas and our farming communities are aware that production will double, treble and quadruple if farmers are assured of guaranteed sales and a reasonable price either for the domestic market or for export. Farmers who can produce more, do not, because they cannot sell the produce especially perishables like vegetables and fruits. The makeshift stalls which appear in the Wannu during and immediately after the Monsoon disappear in the seven dry months. **The problems of agricultural marketing cannot be overcome by ad hoc measures or individual public or private sector organisations. All these have failed. What is needed is a national effort combining the public and private sectors.** We propose to publish in the coming weeks a series of articles in our Agricultural Digest and/or Development Forum to draw attention to this grave problem which is undoubtedly the greatest obstacle to increased agricultural production. All increases in agricultural production except in paddy - where the market is (so far) assured - have been marginal. If a massive or dramatic improvement is to be effected the problem of marketing has to be overcome. But tamahas at the Colombo Quayside with TV cameras swirling in the midst of noisy hewisi bands and sprightly Kandyan dancers to mark the export of 100 tons of rice or 1000 kgs. of green chillies will not help. These are regarded as political gundus. Statistics about the export of gingelly, black gram or groundnut has little or no meaning for the ordinary farmer in over ninety percent of our farming areas. Only a permanent and a comprehensive system where the farmer can sell at the gate will inspire the necessary degree of confidence to make him decide to plant more and produce more. In this connection a reader has sent us a document on the subject of "Marketing of Agricultural Produce." It was circulated under the name of R.D. Banks of the well known firm of Forbes and Walker around July 1970. It was an excellent piece of work -- practical, realistic and pragmatic. We will cite extracts from this document in the coming issues of *Tribune*, but we will in this issue cite a few passages from the Introductory Note: "Since the marketing of our Tea, Rubber and Coconuts has been carried out over the years with a great deal of success and without material changes in methods and practices having to be introduced even in this modern age, to a very large extent there has never appeared to be any pressing need to worry too much about the marketing of these Agricultural products which have provided the means by which Ceylon has lived for very much longer than most of us remember. Whether or not the current practices and methods of marketing these products can be bettered, I wouldn't like to say, but the fact remains that to date everything we have produced has been sold, and although we are now apparently reaching a saturation point with Tea, we must not forget that the reason for our successes to date is that our produce has been marketable, and that the machinery for marketing has been efficient to the extent that it has almost been taken for granted; so much so, that most of us have almost forgotten that the very essence of marketing is nothing less than to produce the goods (i) that the customer wants, (ii) in the form that he needs and (iii) at the price he can pay. Only by observing these basic essentials to marketing have we been able to sell our goods, and only by continuing to observe them will we make a success of the Diversification Programme on which we are now embarked." These principles have to be applied in concrete terms to the produce of our non-plantation agricultural sector.

## Polemics - 2

On the Sunday July 25 *The (Sunday) Island* and the *Weekend* had gone to town once again about an attempt to foist a new anti-defamation law on the nation. The two government papers, the *Sunday Observer* and the *Sunday Times*, however, led the governmental counter-attack on July 25 by a diversionary strategem to assert that *The Island* and the *Weekend* had made a false and malicious statement by reporting that an anti-defamation Bill had even "brought up before Cabinet" and that it had been approved "in principle". What the government papers stated was perhaps strictly correct. No Cabinet paper had been circulated. No Bill had been presented. This did not satisfy *The Island*, but the *Sun* group did not challenge the government version. Understandably *The Island* had no option but to fire its own shots in self-defence in the polemical battle. It had apparently been taken up the garden path by "contact men" and the "catchers" of a Minister who had sold them a tendentious story no doubt to promote a sectarian or factional cause. *The Island* evidently had not checked whether it was a Cabinet Paper or a mere departmental document. But *The Island* gamely fought back to justify its story. On Monday July 26, its front page had a seven column banner splash DEFAMATION LAW: WHO'S FOOLING WHOM? and aid that: "*The Island* of July 18 exclusively reported on an attempt to muzzle newspapers during defamation suits. Our report was later supported by reports in the *Sun*. By a remarkable coincidence two anonymous columnists in the government-controlled newspaper the *Sunday Observer* and the Government-owned *Sunday Times* for reasons best known to themselves, yesterday, claimed that no such legislation had been proposed."

STRANGELY ENOUGH the Minister of Justice himself, in an interview in *The Island* confirmed that such laws were being considered. We reproduce the newspaper reports below for the public to decide who is fooling whom on the issue of the proposed anti-defamation laws. *The Island* reproduced fascimiles of what had appeared in its columns and that of the *Sun* and the *Weekend* from July 17 onwards. But these extracts did not answer the question as to "who is fooling whom?" The first question it should have asked was "who fooled us" because there is a difference between a Cabinet paper and a departmental memorandum (even though it may become a Cabinet paper in the fullness of time) and between a discussion on "a matter ... in principle" and an Amending Bill. Be that as it may, on July 26, it thundered forth in an editorial entitled FOOT IN THE MOUTH: "The

need for a free press is nowhere more apparent than in the monstrously paradoxical campaign launched yesterday by two government-oriented Sunday newspapers to pooh-pooh the news story in *The Island* two Sundays ago about the new defamation laws being contemplated by the Government. Our story said categorically that Minister of Justice Nissanka Wijeyeratne had proposed this package of defamation laws whose principle provision is that a newspaper has to cease publication the moment defamation case is filed. Bemused and thrown into total disarray by this scoop the *Sunday Observer* and the *Sunday Times* yesterday denied that there was any such move and said airily that "what is likely to have happened is that the views expressed by officials of the Legal Draftman's Department and the Ministry of Justice have been taken for Government decisions. Such absurd complacency drives home more effectively than anything else, we can say, the need for a constantly vigilant and unshackled press. While the Government's Sunday papers were living in a fool's paradise and saying that all this was just official tittle-tattle the Minister of Justice in an interview with *The Island* Sunday edition was saying 'that the government would give serious consideration to the proposed laws before introducing them in Parliament.' The Justice Minister did not say that this was just the views of officials in his Ministry. He did not say like the *Sunday Times* columnist that the proposed laws were a fiction. He did not say that newspapers and editors had unnecessarily panicked. He said quite categorically that the Government was discussing the proposals although nothing had still been finalised. The Minister's comments appeared in black and white in our newspaper yesterday and are the best reply possible to the two Sunday columnists. There was a strange similarity in the outpourings of these columnist twins. A gentleman who goes by the pompous *An Observer in the Times* wrote, "During the past week leading national newspapers blasted the Government with lead stories followed by hard-hitting editorial comments about some proposed anti-defamation laws...." While the *Observer in the Times* was thus obsessed with lead stories and hard-hitting editorial comments his twin on the *Sunday Observer* who goes by the more plebeian pseudonym of 'Grassroots' wrote: "Headline news stories and hard-hitting editorial opinion appeared condemning this 'horrendous piece of proposed legislation.' Though both were obsessed with hard-hitting editorial (the line that has been quoted is from this column of July 19) their explanation was the same. The *Observer* opined that 'at most such provision were only suggestions possibly made by bureaucrats and which may have been put down in the form of memorandum for discussion only' while Grassroots was of the view that "What some officials have been discussing as possible areas of legislation has (sic) been construed by some as accepted Government policy and Cabinet decision." We do not know what the Justice Minister himself a distinguished

TRIBUNE, AUGUST 21, 1982

product of the former Civil Service has to say about being labelled a "bureaucrat" by two columnists, but we did take in advance the gratuitous advice offered by the Observer that "they could easily have asked the Minister of Justice or the Minister of State -- both very amiable men. . . . We did ask Mr. Wijeyeratne and amiable man that he is, he told us that laws had been proposed and that the Government was discussing the proposals. If the Sunday twins need any more proof they are referred to the *Weekend* columnist Migara whose name has been even transpired in Parliament as a journalist who is very well informed about the goings-on close to the Throne. Migara said yesterday the Cabinet of Ministers also approved on principle a draft proposal made by the Minister of Justice, Dr. Nissanka Wijeyeratne to close down a newspaper once an action for defamation has been filed. No talk here of bureaucratic tittle-tattle or pseudo-legalistic piffle about memorandum for discussion only. We are happy that the Justice Minister has said that "since the Government is committed to the concept of freedom of the press we will give serious consideration to the proposed laws before introducing them in Parliament. But there is no discussion that can take place on such cardinal breach of press freedom."

***The Island* editorially thus raised some pertinent and valid questions but did not answer the question "Who's Fooling whom!". The Government had no doubt been caught on the wrong foot and it did not know how to get out of the pickle except by the rather amateurish gimmicks it set out in the Sunday papers of July 25. Even if "The Island" did not waste its powder and shot in a polemical article the ordinary man in the street has enough sense to know that the government was only trying to wriggle out of a difficulty without having to sack a Minister and some departmental officials.**

It was now left to the President to save the situation and he did it in his characteristic style. The *Ceylon Daily News* on Thursday July 29 had as its first item in its front - page column CABINET DECISIONS the legend: NO CABINET PAPER ON DEFAMATION SUITS AGAINST THE PRESS. "President Jayewardene asked the Ministers if any of them had sent any Cabinet paper at any time on the subject of defamation suits and the press. No such Cabinet paper had been submitted by any member of this government."

The *Sun* (29.7.82) had a longer report CABINET NOT AWARE OF DEFAMATION LAWS and said "The controversial proposals to amend the existing law of defamation will not get into the country's statute book after all. No Cabinet paper embodying these proposals has been submitted official Cabinet spokesman Ananda Tissa de Alwis said yesterday. President J. R. Jayewardene, he said, had asked Ministers at yesterday's Cabinet meeting whether anyone of them had

TRIBUNE, AUGUST 21, 1982

sent Cabinet papers on this matter. The answer was no he said. Replying a question by a newsman whether any proposals were submitted to the Attorney-General on this subject Mr. de Alwis said proposals were submitted on all sorts of matters but no Cabinet paper had been forwarded on anti-defamation laws. *Sun* of July 19 stated that the proposal for such legislation had been vetoed by the Attorney-General on the ground that it violated fundamental rights of free speech, expression and publication. In another report, *Sun* stated that this matter would be discussed by the Parliamentary Consultative Committee on justice, among other matters, when it meets today."

*The Island*, 29.7.82 made a heroic attempt to stage a save-the-face rearguard (in retreat) action by reporting the Cabinet spokesman in a facetious tongue-in-the-cheek style: "There has been no Cabinet Paper on the subject of 'Defamation suits and the Press', Cabinet spokesman and Minister of State, Anandatissa de Alwis told a Press conference yesterday following the Government's weekly Cabinet meeting. The Minister said that President J.R. Jayawardene had asked his Cabinet colleagues at yesterday's meeting whether any of them had submitted a Cabinet Paper on the subject of 'Defamation Suits and the Press.' The Ministers had told the President that none of them had presented such a Cabinet Paper Mr. de Alwis said. The Government was apparently reacting to news reports in *The Island* and a non-governmental newspapers during the last few weeks which said that Justice Minister Dr. Nissanka Wijeyeratne had proposed a package of anti-defamation laws under which a newspaper could be closed on the mere filing of a defamation plaint against it. Mr. de Alwis dismissed the news reports as "a tissue of lies" and added that "no Minister of Government has been involved in any of these." *Note by Editor:* On Sunday July 25 the Minister of Justice Dr. Nissanka Wijeyeratne in an interview with *The Island* Sunday Edition said in reply to a question on the proposed anti-defamation laws: 'There has been so much of incorrect information appearing in the press and it was felt that some action was called for in regard to matters relating to the forthcoming general elections where, if a statement is incorrect and of defamatory nature, it should be brought under the judiciary'. At yesterday's press briefing, Minister of State on being asked why the Justice Minister himself had confirmed the news reports said that Dr. Wijeyeratne was only pronouncing his 'academic view' on the subject. Were there no such laws proposed by the Minister of Justice, the pressmen asked Mr. de Alwis? Were they not referred to the Attorney-General? Did not the Attorney-General's Department rule the proposed laws ultra vires to the Constitution? Mr. de Alwis's answer to all questions was "No, No, No."

An epilogue came in the *Daily News* column *A Look At Politics* by *Insider* on July 31, 1982: "The Bala Mandalaya came under a withering attack from Pre-

sident J.R. Jayewardene and several of his Ministers at last Wednesday's Cabinet meeting. The President, who is reputed for his restraint was discernibly angry as he unleashed a flurry of body blows on the mandalaya. 'We want peace, We want unity,' rapped Mr. Jayawardene, 'And I will not let any mandalaya or any other organisation upset it.' The Ministers knew that he meant business when the President warned that if the mandalaya continued its militancy with an idea of creating trouble, he would ban it. The Presidential outburst followed one of Mr. Nissanka Wijeratne's now expected but not eagerly awaited rambling homilies -- this time on the Bala Mandalaya. The Justice Minister was apparently trying to pilot a defence of the Bala Mandalaya arguing that it could be made use of by and for the UNP. But the President unceremoniously grounded him. Principles, he cautioned, should guide them -- not expedience. The Bala Mandalaya was taking cover under race and religion to attack the UNP. And that he would not tolerate. Mr. Jayawardene told the Justice Minister that he (Mr. Wijeratne) was entitled to do whatever he wanted with the mandalaya. That was his business. But as President of Sri Lanka entrusted with the ensuring of peace and national harmony he would not tolerate an organisation of whatever race or religion which sought to sabotage the UNP's quest for national security. 'The people are supreme. They elected me President and my duty is to them. Their interests come first,' proclaimed the President. He then grappled with a Nissanka Wijeratne reference to Buddhist monks. 'I have the greatest respect for those gentlemen of the Sangha who genuinely serve the interests of Buddhism,' he said. But he had no time for monks who dabbled in politics. 'They are politicians, not priests' he observed. Mr. Jayawardene pledged to continue doing for Buddhism and Buddhists all that he possibly could without hurting other religions. He reminded the Ministers that it was he who enshrined Buddhism in the Constitution. Article 9 of the Constitution states: 'The Republic of Sri Lanka shall give to Buddhism the foremost place and accordingly it shall be the duty of the State to protect and foster the Buddhist Sasana while assuring all religions their rights'. Mr. Jayawardene has a reputation for economy and restraint in his remarks. But he was so ruffled about the Bala Mandalaya's unholy mission that he recalled how during Mrs. Bandaranaike's regime the monks were shabbily treated. When the UNP came into power, however, the Buddhist hierarchy was given all the privileges worthy of religious dignitaries. 'Like houses and Benz cars,' added a Minister. 'Yes' said the President. 'In return the monks are hostile to us.' **But it did not end at this. There was a final tidbit -- it had been referred to in other papers as well: "Ministerial interviews to a morning daily (not the Daily News) accused for carrying on a deliberate smear campaign against the Government are frowned on by the President Ministers have been requested to use their judgement more wisely when they give inter-**

**views in future to that paper. And so, too, advertisements."**

*To Be Concluded.*

X X X

SHERLOCK HOLMES

**Answers Readers,  
Questions**

## \*Telephone \*Hotels Corp

**1. WHY IS IT DIFFICULT TO REACH THE "TRIBUNE" OFFICE ON THE TELEPHONE? THOUGH THE RINGING TONE IS HEARD AT THE "TRIBUNE" END NO ONE SEEMS TO BE PICKING THE 'PHONE UP !**

This is a question that must be addressed to the Minister of Telecommunications, his officials and perhaps the French Connection. At the *Tribune* office no ringing is heard and the line is dead for incoming and outgoing calls. The line has been dead (this time) from July 29 to the time of writing (August 10). The line has similarly been dead for 10 days in May and 14 days in June and also for several days in the first part of July. *Tribune* staff is now tired of keeping a count of the days the phone goes dead. In the last one year, the phone has functioned for less than half the days. But *Tribune*, like other subscribers, pays the full yearly rental for 365 days (in advance). Complaints have been registered by *Tribune* with all the numbers kept open for 'faults'. But they have been of no avail. When officials are contacted, they mumble a few excuses. Amongst them: (a) the underground cables have been damaged; (b) linesmen have gone off to the Middle East; (c) over 2,000 phones in your zone dead, why do you grumble so much?

This story of the underground cables being damaged has been repeated so often that nobody takes it seriously now. It has been trotted out for the last three years ever since the French digital connection appeared on the scene. Linesmen have certainly gone out, but you speak to linesmen still here (and who are planning to quit) they say, "the big shots and all the higher ups (even middle rankers) get 'cuts' and 'commissions' from the contractors and suppliers and they can therefore afford to stay in this country on the pittance paid as salaries. We have no way of earning more money except by slaving in hot arid deserts. . . . " And about the 2,000 phones dead, the less said the better. And to silence the local press, the local

TRIBUNE, AUGUST 21, 1982

agents of the French Connection seem to have decided to use palm grease lubrication. But they caught a Tarter in a *Sun* reporter.

**2. IN THE "CONFIDENTIALLY" COLUMN OF JULY 24, THERE WAS A REFERENCE TO THE AFFAIRS OF THE HOTELS CORPORATION IN 1981. HAVE "TRIBUNE" INVESTIGATIONS REVEALED ANYTHING STARTLING !**

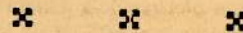
The preliminary investigations show that (1) the Corporation has suffered losses in three operations: (a) the Railway Catering Services; (b) the Transport Division and (c) the Tourist Shop and (d) it has made profits in all other operations. The tourist shop has been shut down. One reason given for the loss is that the rent for the shop was jacked up from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 50,000 a month. The landlord was the Ministry of Trade. This increase of rent from Rs. 60,000 to Rs. 600,000 a year, it is said, made it impossible to run the shop on a profitable basis. *Tribune's* investigators have not yet turned in the full report on the Railway Catering Services and the Transport Division. There has been mismanagement and corruption, but both are keenly competitive fields. The private sector in transport is powerful and can undercut any State sector transport service and it can also grab business in ways that can only be termed throat-cutting. We will revert to this in a subsequent issue. We will also have a fuller answer about the Railway Catering Service. It is spread over the entire railway service and the ramifications (island-wide) are many. There is a mudalali mafia on a zonal basis which any public sector organisation will find difficult to tackle or compete with.

In the meantime going through the audited Balance Sheets in the context of independent reports, *Tribune* Investigators have found that the Ceylon Hotels Corporation (CHC) had the following profitable operations. (1) *LIHINIYA SURF HOTEL: 1981*, Operational Profit of Rs. 2,291,109; 1982 Operational Profit for the first six months of Rs. 2,100,000; (2) *HOTEL SUISSE, KANDY: 1981*, net profit Rs. 4,350,843; 1982 for first six months Rs. 2,214,581; (3) *QUEENS HOTEL, KANDY: 1981* net profit Rs. 3,714,687 and 1982 for first six months Rs. 2,787,028; (4) *HOTEL SERUVA, POLONNARUWA, 1981*: net profit Rs. 150,000; (5) *HOTEL CEYLON INTERCONTINENTAL*: The CHC has increased its shareholding in Hotel Services (Ceylon) Ltd., the owning company of the Hotel Ceylon Inter-Continental from Rs. 2.5 million to Rs. 5 million.

Further the CHC has also shown profits in (a) *BMICH CATERING SERVICE*: the CHC Catering Service at BMICH achieved for the first time a turnover of Rs. 1,000,470 and maintained the same high standards in catering to major International

and national conferences as it did when it was sole Caterer to the Non-aligned Summit Conference; (b) *Travel Bureau*: from a loss position of almost Rs. 20,000 in 1980, the Travel Bureau has earned a nett profit of Rs. 488,469 in 1981. In spite of increased rentals which have almost escalated a hundred fold and massive new competition from a host of new Travel Agents. The CHC has managed to strengthen its Reservation systems for our Resthouses and has the following new Agencies: Hokke Club of Japan, Travel International Ltd., Jebson Travels Ltd., Hongkong, Temple Publicity Services, Bangkok, Australia/Sri Lanka Travel Ltd., (c) *Air Port Catering Services*: The CHC had won a three-year contract from the Airports Authority to run the public Restaurant and the Transit Lounge Restaurant at the International Airport at Katunayake. In the first 6 months of operation this project recorded a nett profit of Rs. 749,451.

**These are some of the facts our Investigators have so far been able to find. The question uppermost in shareholders' minds is why a dividend of 21% in 1980 dropped to 6.5% in 1981. This is a question for which our Investigators will seek to find an answer. They have also not been able to get any information about the profits (or losses) of the new DEHIGAMA HOTEL in Kandy.**



#### FILM FOCUS

### Idi Amin

IF SEX AND VIOLENCE are the usual crowd-pullers on our local screens up to now, then yet another dimension in mass appeal has emerged in the past few weeks by the box appeal of a film on the life of Ex-President Idi Amin of Uganda, whose forte was unmitigated brutality, Amin who cocked a snook at the civilized norms of administration as head of a state, and escaped just before Nemesis overtook him has an account to settle for the nearly 500,000 brutal killings, during his shocking reign. As the film in question does justice to what was recent history in Uganda, let us take a look into the bio data of Amin, who still breathes in some hideout somewhere. He was born of a poor farming family in Koboka (Uganda) in 1925. Terminating his education in the fourth grade, he began his military career a few years later in the Kings (British) African Rifles and fought in the World War II Burma campaign travelling through Sri Lanka. Back home in peacetime, he fought against the tribal marauders and was promoted a corporal in 1949. Then followed several years of action in Kenya, fighting the Mau Mau guerillas. He became a sergeant major in 1957, and a major in 1963 that brought him high office as the Deputy Commandant

of the Ugandan Army and air force in the following year. He also qualified for this appointment by the special military training, he underwent in UK and Israel -- nations that he hated later on. Another major factor in his meteoric rise was his friendship with Dr. Milton Obote, a leader in the struggle for Ugandan independence who became the first Prime Minister of the new nation. It did not take long for the corruption of military power and a love for his uniform and medals to grow on Amin's crafty mind, and Obote too became suspicious of him. While Mobote was attending a Commonwealth leaders Conference in Singapore, Amin seized power in a lightning coup with the help of the Army and the Police on 25.1.71.

"I am not an ambitious man" he said, "I am just a soldier with a concern for my country and its people, guided by a firm belief in the equality and brotherhood of man and in peace and goodwill to all" and is familiar hymn of many tyrants, as most of us have learnt from history. Promoting himself a General of the Ugandan army, and its President, he did improve conditions in Uganda for a beginning, lawlessness waned and foreign investors were inveigled into his "web." He bared his claws soon after and the reign of terror began. At the instigation of Libya, he sent the Israelis packing from his country and expelled all Asians, who were the backbone of Uganda's middle class -- 90% of Ugandan commerce and 50% of its industry being in Asian hands. Chaos in the country's economy brought ruin, and it was bereft overnight of its managerial, technical and professional personnel. Then he directed his fire against Uganda's 300,000 Roman Catholics with mass arrests of the clergy and the expulsion of all foreign missionaries. British correspondent's Union of the *New York Times* had summed the situation; Amin has broken every rule of statesmanship and established a sinister state that would startle fiction writers." Dissidents were dragged by dozens to the horror chamber, bodies of prominent citizens were washed up on the shores of lakes, tourists molested and entire army units that rebelled massacred in their barracks by Amin's secret service (SRB). His underestimation of Tanzania's President Nyerere led to his downfall and escape -- away too from his many wives and children -- with the Tanzanian troops hot on his scent. A massive man, 6 feet 4 inches tall, Amin ruled Uganda with a mixture of terror, black populism, a hatred of the British, and a juvenile cunning that was more cleverly calculated than most of his critics would care to concede. Zambia's President Kaunda and the then British Prime Minister Harold Wilson expressed open doubts about Amin's sanity. Union of *New York Times* postscripted that "to discuss him as just plain crazy is to underestimate his shrewdness, his ruthless cunning and his capacity to consolidate his power with calculated terror." And now to the film which unfolds the horror of it all.

**THE RISE AND FALL OF IDI AMIN** (English) : I saw this film on its 40th day's run at the New Olympia Theatre and it was a full house as it had been at every previous show. The film owes its appeal partly to the ease with which Joseph Olita took on the main role of Amin and the rest of the way by the naked brutality that was portrayed, running all too close to the demonic rule of the dictator. Commencing with the coup that swept Amin to power and his maiden speech of repeated "Thank You's" for the victory, his schizophrenic personality began to emerge slowly and surely. Some of the heartrending highlights of the film were the murder of Uganda's Chief Justice in his Chambers for disobedience of Amin's fiat and the assassination of the Catholic Archbishop -- the executioner being Amin himself, who thereafter staged an accident to soothe the conscience of the world. His evictions of the Asians and the distribution of the spoils to his henchmen were very vividly portrayed. There was also a touch of humour in his going off course in a motor race to pick a pretty spectator on the sidelines as his future bride -- or at least one of them. Amin's psychic hatred for the British came off in jets throughout the film -- getting the British Ambassador to bow before him and also getting four Englishmen to carry him on a Palanquin. He however caught a Tartar in trying to cow down the British by holding reporter/Novelist Dennis Hill as a hostage demanding the personal intervention of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth on Ugandan soil. He was to free him later. Dennis Hill appears in person in this film. His ignorance of economics was also brought to the fore when he orders the Bank executives to "find the money," when the financial resources around were dwindling. The camera switched on constantly to the chamber of horrors, which was run by a Colonel Fyrouk Minawa, a trusted Nubian slave in "Belsen" style. The elimination of victims was done by the minute, with the coup de grace being given with a sledgehammer blow on the chest. The Entebbe rescue was embossed realistically, with the Israeli precision attack at its best which caught Amin literally with his pants down for there was a lady in his bed! The only hostage left behind, the aged Dora Block, was gunned down at the hospital as an instant reprisal. Driven by sheer brutal power, Amin meets his "waterloo" on the Tanzanian Border, when his gamble to provoke President Nyerere, boomerangs with devastating consequences. With Amin toppled from his Tower of Power, sanity returns to Uganda and these sequences are well taken in the film -- an exemplary effort that portrays in celluloid the darkest and bloodiest pages in the history of an attractive African country. Even the squeamish should see this film which is haunted by the spectre of a ruthless dictator who is yet alive somewhere, somehow, probably with daydreams making a return.

**ANY WHICH WAY YOU CAN** (English) : A Warner Brothers sequel to the film "Every Which Way but

TRIBUNE, AUGUST 21, 1982



Loose" where Clint Eastwood is back again as the tough prize fighter on a truck, Phil Beddoe, laying it thick when this chips are down. With the identical cast in the preceding flim, which includes an orang utan who packs a powerful left hook as his master and with a penchant for relieving himself with gusto in Police vehicles, to embarrass the cops. The film sags in the middle., but picks up to a sirring climax, with one of the best long drawn out street fights I had seen in a film. It keeps clean all the way.

James N. Benedict.

Govt.



Notice

**The Land Acquisitiou Act (Chapter 460) As Amended by the Land Acquisition (Amendment) Act No. 228 of 1964**

It is intended to acquire the lands described in the schedule below for a public purpose. For further particulars please see the Gazette Extraording of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka No.205/6 of 11.08.1982

**SCHEDULE**

*Situation* : Horehinna, Kadadora Colony, Harangala Udagammedda, Harangala Pallegammedda, Aluwela Gammedda and Harakwadiya Villages in Tispane Korale, Kotmale Divisional Revenue Officer's Division in Nuwara Eliya District.

*Preliminary Plan Nos. and Lot Nos* : lot 1 to 143 in Preliminary Plan No. Nu/799.  
lot 1 to 26 in Preliminary Plan No. Nu/800.

Acquisition & Resettlement Office, Kotmale Project, Maswela. 10-08-1982

**S. Hulangamuwa**  
Addtional Government Ageut Nuwara Eliya Kandy District & Acquiring Officer (Kotmale).

TRIBUNE, AUGUST 21, 1982

**THE MIRACLE**

**At the Tribune**

A miracle did take place. On Thursday August 11 two angels came to the office and within 15 minutes the telephone that was dead for over 10 days (in the latest spell) suddenly came to life. And it has stayed that way so far. And we are keeping our fingers crossed that there will be no early demise again.

A letter to the Minister had done the trick. *Tribune* does not like to trouble Ministers, weighed down with the burdens of State, with trivial matters like individual telephones. But, in desperation, we had appealed to Minister Wijetunga. And it worked. To us it was nothing short of a miracle. Everybody knows that it is extremely difficult for a newspaper, however small, to do without a live telephone in this electronic age.

August 14, 1982

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# **MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING & CONSTRUCTION**

## **National Housing Development Authority V A C A N C Y**

### **POST OF DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER (HOUSING ESTATES) Grade 11**

Applications are invited from citizens of Sri Lanka for the above mentioned post in the National Housing Development Authority.

1. The functions attached to the post will entail a wide spectrum of activities connected with the sale, disposal and overall management of housing schemes.
2. The job calls for leadership qualities, Public relations and other management skills, to plan, develop and organise the Sales & Management Division of the National Housing Development Authority.

3. **Qualifications :**

- (i) Posses a degree in Science, Arts, Estates Management, Economics, Sociology with at least 12 years experiences at Executive Level, in the State service of the Private sector. Of this experience, a minimum of 3 years should be at Senior Management Level;

*OR*

- (ii) Post Graduate Degree in a relevant field with at least 6 years experience at Executive Level and a minimum of 2 years e\*perience at Senior Management Level.

4. **Age :** 35 - 48 years.

5. **Salary :** Negotiable.

**Other Benefits :** Medical benefit scheme, Annual Bonus, Payment for unavailed Medical Leave, Housing facilities.

6. **General :** Applications should be forwarded along with complete bio-data to reach the undersigned by registered post on or before *30th August 1982*.

*Chairman,*  
5th Floor, National Housing Department Authority,  
Sri Chittampalam Gardiner Mawatha,  
Colombo 2.

## August 1 - 7

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, AUGUST 1:** The Government has decided to guarantee Airlanka's loan of 117 million US dollars from two leading international banking institutions for the purchase of Tristar 11011-500 long-haul aircraft from Lockheed California Company Corporation, USA—*SO*. An island-wide seminar on poisonous snakes and the indigenous snake bite cures is to be held in Sri Lanka; over 1,000 indigenous doctors throughout the island and delegates from several Asian countries are expected to participate in this seminar to be held at the SLFI next month. The next of kin of the Police and service personnel who fell to terrorist bullets or while on operational duty over the past five years are to receive the full salary and allowance of the deceased officers up to the time that they would have reached 55 years. Government is considering the establishment of a butanol plant for the production of substitute diesel and gasoline. Ayatollah Ebrahim Amini, a special emissary of Ayatollah Khomeini, leader of the Islamic Revolutionary Movement of Iran, yesterday called on all non-allied nations to refrain from participating in the forthcoming Nonaligned Nations Conference scheduled to be held in Baghdad. The dusk to dawn curfew in the Galle municipal area continued for the third day meanwhile police chief Rudra Rajasingham yesterday directed Superintendents of Divisions to immediately set up peace committees in all towns and villages within their areas—*WK*. A police spokesman said yesterday that the situation in Galle was under control and no fresh incidents of violence had been reported on Friday night; combined Police and Army patrols are maintaining law and order in the Galle Municipal area. Aviation fuel is in short supply at the Katunayake airport. The short-fall today is as much as forty percent of the daily peak demand informed sources have disclosed—*IS*. In a statement issued by the General Secretary of the All Ceylon Tamil Congress Mr. Kumar Ponnambalam has stated that the TULF should contest the Presidential elections to fulfil the ambitions of the

TRIBUNE, AUGUST 21, 1982

Tamil-speaking people in this country and in order that such a contest could be considered as a referendum—*DP*. Except for a few all Tamil youth who have been detained for a long period without trial will be released in the next ten days in stages—*VK*.

**MONDAY, AUGUST 2:** Tourism to Sri Lanka took downward trend from November last year and the last winter season can be described as a "no growth" period, Mr. H.M.S. Samaranayake, Director General of the Ceylon Tourist Board said. The Ceylon Petroleum Corporation will play a major role in the development of the Colombo Airport Katunayake; authoritative sources said nearly Rs.200 million would be spent by the CPC from commercial bank borrowings for this purpose. The People's Bank today launches a new pledge loan facility under which a customer can borrow 70 percent of the gold value of pledged jewellery at current market prices—*CDN*. Cuba, the current Chairman of the Non-aligned Movement will this week seek a mandate from the members of the Movement whether or not to postpone the Seventh Summit scheduled to be held in Baghdad beginning September 7. The emergency was declared not with the intention of postponing elections but to restore order and peace in the country; so observed President J.R. Jayewardene at the annual prize distribution of the Dharmaraja Vidyalaya, Kandy—*CDM*. All police and armed service personnel serving in the north are to be covered under a new high risk group insurance scheme. The Government yesterday put into effect tough security precautions in the city and suburbs in a bid to thwart organized attempts to unleash violence, cause disruption, communal animosity and unrest. Sri Lankans living overseas will not be able to exercise their franchise at the next Presidential or General Elections. T. Thirunavukkarasu, MP for Vaddukoddai, passed away yesterday night at a private hospital in Jaffna, he was 49. The country's second investment promotion zone is to be set up in Anuradhapura shortly. No new projects involving public investment will be undertaken by government for the next two years due to "resource constraints"—*SU*. The General Secretary of the All-Ceylon Tamil Congress Mr. Kumar Ponnambalam has charged that the TULF is reluctant to contest the forthcoming Presidential Election because of an assurance of support given by the party to President J.R. Jayewardene—*IS*. Priority is to be given for the development of the Mannar and Vavuniya districts; the schemes prepared for the two districts have been finalised by the government—*DP*. Oil exploration work has been started in the northern sea region from yesterday; the American vessel "Western Endeavour" is being used for the purpose; the work is being carried out in the seas between Point Pedro and Neduntivu—*VK*.

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 3:** Thirty young women will shortly begin exciting new careers in the Sri Lanka Air Force; they will begin their training about September 15, the Air Force Commander Air Vice Marshall Dick Perera said—*CDN*. A steady exodus of qualified engi-

needs is threatening to cripple the Overseas Telecommunication Service Sri Lanka's major link with the outside world; some of the highly qualified men have already left the Department; others are making plans to go thus forcing officials in the Ministry of Post and Telecommunication to examine employing engineers from Sweden and Japan; this is as a temporary measure till the staff situation improves. An official committee will monitor all financial allocations to ongoing developments projects. Import liberalisation and the decontrol of most prices provided an immediate boost to Sri Lanka's manufacturing industry excluding tree crop processing, one of the hardest hit sectors during the period 1970-77 according to a World Bank report—*SU*. The Ceylon Workers' Congress, which represents plantation workers of Indian origin, will back President J.R. Jayewardene at the Presidential election, CWC leader Thondaman said yesterday. A team of CID officials is likely to visit Italy to interview the pilot and cabin crew of the Alitalia Boeing 707 which was hijacked by Sri Lankan Sepala Ekanayake; according to informed sources a CID team had just returned from Bangkok after interviewing officials and others who were directly connected with the Bangkok hijacking. The State Engineering Corporation has written off Rs.24 million as bad debts for the year 1980 for which Board authority had not been obtained up to the date of audit, says the Auditor-General in his report on the Corporation for the year 1980. The Ministry of Plan Implementation has organised an island-wide survey on mass media with the assistance of the Ministry of State and the Department of Census and Statistics—*IS*. The telephone charges for India have been increased four-fold; this increase will take effect from the beginning of next month—*DP*.

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4:** Taxpayers owe the Department of Inland Revenue Rs.3,500 million. Mr. Ronnie de Mel, Minister of Finance and Planning, said; the World Bank at the recent meeting of the Aid Sri Lanka Club in Tokyo, has drawn pointed attention to the fact that Sri Lanka should make a more systematic attempt to mobilise local resources to offset the expected decline in foreign aid from 1983. Foreign Minister A.C.S. Hameed will lead a high-level delegation to the second UN conference on "the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space" to be held in Vienna, Austria from August 9 to 20. A survey of the pearl oyster banks off the Mannar coast will be carried out next February. Dr. Hiran Jayewardene, Chairman National Aquatic Research Agency (NARA) said yesterday. The Communist Party is negotiating with all Opposition parties to field Dr. Colvin R. de Silva of the LSSP as the sole candidate to contest President J.R. Jayewardene at the presidential election—*CDN*. A "Pool vote" for capital expenditure will be a new concept in the government's sixth and final budget due to be presented in Parliament in November this year; this vote for which a reasonable allocation will be made in the budget is to be strictly administered by a Committee of Secretaries to Minis-

tries, authoritative government sources said. The Cabinet has named a six-member official team to evaluate the seven international offers for the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation's Oil Tank Farm at China Bay—the biggest oil storage facility in the Indian Ocean. President J. R. Jayewardene will address the space conference in Geneva by satellite on August 9—*SU*. The bitter rivalry between the Uma Maheswaran and Prabhakaran factions which surfaced recently in the form of pamphlets in Madras is likely to have adverse effects on applications for bail by five Sri Lankans which are to be taken up in the Madras High Court, reports from Madras said—*IS*. Students who have obtained admission to Universities should inform the Ministry of Higher Education within ten days of the receipt of the letter received by them that they have been selected; failure to do so will result in the admission being cancelled and granted to another student; this new scheme will be implemented from this year.—*DP*.

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 5:** A road repair programme costing Rs.44 million and covering 240 miles of municipal roadways has been launched by Colombo's Mayor Sirisena Cooray. The State Fertiliser Manufacturing Corporation has closed a deal with the Agricultural Corporation of Burma, for the export of 50,000 metric tons of Urea valued at Rs.184 million in foreign exchange, Mr. Peter Abeysirigunawardene, the Corporation's Chairman said yesterday. The curfew in Galle operative since Friday was lifted yesterday, the Defence Ministry said; the ministry said the emergency regulations and press censorship will continue until further notice. The Sirima SLFP will shortly begin talks with anti-UNP parties with a view to agreeing on a common candidate for the Presidential election, Mr. Ratnasiri Wickremnayake the party secretary said yesterday. With 49 sales conducted during 1981 at which 199.5 million kilos were sold, Colombo remained the largest auction centre for tea globally, states the Ceylon Tea Review 81 issued by Messrs Forbes & Walker Ltd—*CDN*. Attempts are being made to have the Batticaloa District Development Council dissolved especially following the recent impasse between the Chairman (who is a member of the Tamil United Liberation Front) and some of the United National Party stalwarts—*CDM*. The Ministry of Higher Education will shortly finalise protocol with the Soviet Union, that will specify the local qualifications equivalent to the degrees conferred by Russian universities. The Committee of Development Secretaries will this week examine a Rs.150 million project to streamline the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation's fuel distribution system the blueprints for the project have already been prepared and work will be initiated after the Development Secretaries scrutinise it. The United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) will allocate 1.7 million US dollars for the provision of contraceptives to Sri Lanka its representative Elena Visuri announced yesterday—*SU*. At a stormy meeting of the politbureau of

TRIBUNE, AUGUST 21 1982

the SLFP(S) held yesterday Mr. Hector Kobbekaduwa was chosen as the party Presidential candidate; Mr. Kobbekaduwa is reliably learnt was strongly backed by the Kumaranatunga faction of the party. Bangladesh will participate in the seventh Non-aligned Summit in Baghdad next September, the Foreign Ministry in Dacca announced today—*IS*. The Working Committee of the All-Ceylon Tamil Congress held a meeting at Jaffna yesterday and unanimously decided to nominate its General Secretary Mr. Kumar Ponnabalam as the candidate to contest the Presidential elections to be held shortly—*EN*.

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 6:** Tea prices have never been as good as they are now since the boom year of 1977, the trade said yesterday, in a market report, Eastern Brokers, the Colombo broking firm has said: "It is interesting to note that since April 1977 (this was the boom year) we have not seen such high price levels for teas in general." Mr. A. Amirthalingam, Leader of the Opposition, yesterday told parliament that it was necessary that all parties sit down and think of a way of preventing communal violence rather wait for something to happen and then take action to control it. The Minister of State Mr. Anandatissa de Alwis yesterday called for a political truce on experimentation with the plantation industry—*CDN*. The government has been advised against the extradition of hijacker Sepala Ekanayake to Italy to face criminal proceedings already instituted there; this recommendation has come from Attorney General Shiva Pasupathi who has advised that it would be more desirable to try him in Sri Lanka. President J.R. Jayewardene yesterday said that he was happy over the manner in which the Kandy Esala Pehara was conducted this year despite the numerous problems—*CDM*. Two of Sri Lanka's most wanted men who were taken into custody by the Madras Police last May after a shootout at the Pondicherry Bazaar were yesterday released on bail of 3,000 rupees each. A Government probe is underway to ascertain how funds accrued from a tea sales campaign in Australia purportedly for the benefit of tea workers had been spent; the move came as detailed investigations were underway into the activities of a social organisation said to have received large sums of money from these sales. The number of Sri Lankans missing in war-torn Lebanon is around 6,500; Red Cross officials said yesterday applications to trace these missing persons continued to come in with 227 persons having been traced so far—*SU*. The Attorney General's Department had filed an indictment against the former SLFP MP for Rattota Mr. S.B. Yalagame for not being able to explain how he had acquired wealth during the period 1970-73, a spokesman for the Department said. With the all island Emergency now on and the only recognized political parties are to be permitted to hold political meetings the question has cropped up whether the SLFP (S) SLFP (M) or both will be allowed to hold political meeting; this is because neither faction has yet been recognized by the Elections Commissioner. The Prime

TRIBUNE, AUGUST 21, 1982

Minister R. Premadasa told opposition members in Parliament yesterday that the Government would go to the polls sooner than they thought it would. The Ministry of Higher Education will not increase the intake of medical students to the medical faculties of the Universities for the next five years due to lack of funds, increased costs and inadequate facilities; at present, the government spends over Rs.75,000 on each medical student who passes out of the medical colleges; according to Health Ministry sources, at least 650 more doctors are required for government hospitals to work effectively—*IS*.

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 7:** The Tamil United Liberation Front will not resort to cheap stunts and put forward candidates to contest the presidential election; our objectives are known and we will work towards achieving our goal—*Eelam*; so said TULF General Secretary A. Amirthalingam before he left for India on Thursday when asked whether the TULF would field a candidate for the presidency. Sepala Ekanayake, the Alitalia aircraft hijacker who is now in remand will be produced before the Chief Magistrate of Colombo Mr. Kiithie Sri Lal Wijewardene, on Monday—*CDN*. A New Civil Procedure Code (CPC) to replace the existing Code will be presented for consideration of the Government by the Sri Lanka Law Commission; this is to overcome present day difficulties in implementing provision of the existing CPC and doing away with this outdated legislation—*CDM*. A Presidential poll in Sri Lanka before the year ends is now a certainty; while the Department of Elections has begun making detailed preparations, President J. R. Jayewardene, informed Government sources said yesterday, has cancelled two overseas trips planned for this year—next month's Non-Aligned Summit Conference in Baghdad (Iraq) and the Commonwealth Conference in Adelaide (Australia). Political observers in the North were yesterday discussing the significance of a surprise unity talks move by Tamil Congress Presidential candidate Kumar Ponnabalam with political strongmen in Jaffna; the move, described by observers as "significant in relation with the General Election that will follow the Presidential election" had been taken to present a common Tamil candidate for the Presidential election—*SU*. Representatives of ten political parties of Tamilnadu were associated with a special meeting yesterday with the five Sri Lankans who were arrested earlier in Madras and were released on bail; the five Northern militants Uma Maheswaran alias Muhunthan, Praphakaran alias Karikalan, Sivakumar alias Raghavan, Jotheeswaram alias Kannan and Siveneswaran alias Niranjan were advised by the party leaders and lawyers concerned to refrain from any violence during their stay in India—*IS*. President J. R. Jayewardene announced yesterday that if Mrs. Bandaranaike made a personal appeal to him to give back to her the civic rights that were withdrawn, he would pardon her—*VK*. The management of the factories of the Flour Milling

11

Corporation at Colombo and Kattakuliya will change hands this month—DP.



WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

## August 1-7

### ASIA

**INDIA**: Premier Indira Gandhi told the Foreign Policy Association in US that India will never attack Pakistan irrespective of the fact whether there is a war pact or not. Foreign Office spokesman confirmed that there was a difference of opinion between India and the United States over the reprocessing of spent fuel at the Tarapur Atomic Reactor centre. **PAKISTAN**: The main opposition parties demanded the release of all political detainees before the independence day celebrations. **JAPAN**: Typhoon Bess ribbed through central Japan towards the North causing damage to men and material. The text book dispute between China and Japan continued over the weekend and the Chinese have withdrawn the invitation extended to the Japanese Minister of Education. Premier Zenko Suzuki was concerned that this row may mar his visit to Peking next month to participate in an event to mark the 10th Anniversary of the establishment of Sino-Japanese diplomatic relations. Indian Premier Indira Gandhi stopped over for a day in Tokyo on her way back from the United States and agreed with her Japanese counterpart that relations between the two countries should be enhanced. **CHINA**: The *People's Daily* attacked President Reagan's international posture as contradictory and hegemonistic. The American guarantee to Taiwan to abide by the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979, the paper charged as contradicting the US professed one China policy. It also pointed out how US was promoting her grain trade with Moscow while discouraging her European allies over the pipeline issue. Visiting French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson said France condemned Vietnamese occupation of Kampuchea but would not help the return to power of former Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot. Cheysson told his hosts that the inclusion of Khmer Rouge in the anti-Vietnamese Kampuchean coalition was unacceptable to France. He defended France had the right to receive Vietnamese Foreign Minister. China demanded that the US should return her leading tennis star HU NA who had sought political assylum in the US. Failure to return her may add to the already strained diplomatic relations between the US and China over Taiwan. **SINGAPORE**: The officials accompanying Dalai Lama did not rule out the possibility of an armed insurrection in Tibet against the Chinese masters. But they admitted it would be a futile exercise against a strong military power like China. **INDONESIA**: Indonesian Minister of Religious

Affairs said that his country could provide a homeland for Palestinian guerillas in one of its 13,000 islands if the Arabs were reluctant to accept them. But Suharto had not expressed any view on this matter. **HONGKONG**: Britain's 99 year lease of Hong Kong will expire in 1997 and this has already driven many investors panicky about the future. The stock market and currency rates have already begun to show a downward trend and Peking's silence over the issue has caused anxiety in business circles. **SAUDI ARABIA**: King Fahd told a US Congressional delegation that if the United States was not careful in handling the Lebanese situation then the actual beneficiary would be the Soviet Union. **ISRAEL**: The Israeli Cabinet was reluctant to waste its time on the question of accepting the UN ceasefire observers; it was keen to have the PLO guerillas evacuated from Beirut as early as possible. Defence Minister Sharon and Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Rafael Eitan said that the Israeli troops have captured the airport area in order to counter PLO guerilla attacks. In an article in the *New York Times* Israeli opposition leader Shimon Peres said that his country should take the initiative to establish a "Palestinian-Jordanian State". **LEBANON**: The US Middle East negotiator Habib was busy exchanging proposals and counter proposals regarding the evacuation of PLO guerillas. Israeli forces continued to pound Beirut causing more damage to Governmental buildings, hotels and hospitals. **PAPUA NEW GUINEA**: Micheal Somare was elected as the new Premier of the country. **AUSTRALIA**: Premier Malcolm Fraser told his Chinese hosts that if Pol Pot clique were not included in the anti-Vietnamese Kampuchean Government in exile it could have hoped for a wider support.

### AFRICA :

**KENYA**: An early morning coup to overthrow the civilian government of President Moi was foiled. The coup was planned by the Air Force officers. Government forces have arrested nearly 3000 people most of whom were Airforce men for participating in the coup. **ZIMBABWE**: The Government of Premier Mugabe feels that the recent incidents like the attack on Zimbabwe's main airport, kidnapping of six foreign tourists were not isolated but connected ones organised by both local and foreign opponents of his regime. Opposition leader Joshua Nkomo met Premier Mugabe to discuss the state of violence that had been perpetrated on the country for which Nkomo was held responsible. Nkomo had denied all such allegations and had decided to join the Premier in search of ways and means to combat violence. **MAURITIUS**: Mauritius will take the Diego Garcia issue to the United Nations and the International Court of Justice at Hague if it fails to win its sovereignty over the island in discussions with Britain. **LIBYA**: Organisers of the OAU summit were very sceptical whether all the heads of state would attend the parley at Tripoli. They were split over the

TRIBUNE, AUGUST 21, 1982

admission of Polisario's Front Saharan Republic. There were others opposed to the summit being held in Libyan capital.

## EUROPE :

**SOVIET UNION:** The Soviet leader Brezhnev has appealed to President Reagan to stop the Israelis eating further into Beirut annihilating the people there. The Soviet Union has banned US diplomats based in Moscow making use of its beaches. This came as a retaliation to the ban imposed by a New York suburb on Soviet personnel making use of its beach, Golf course and tennis courts. **VATICAN:** Vatican has opened diplomatic ties, for the first time since the Protestant reformation with the Scandinavian countries of Norway, Sweden and Denmark. **UNITED KINGDOM:** British Government has instructed their firms not to comply with US embargo on delivering equipments for the construction of the Soviet West European gas pipeline. The *London Times* suggested that Shultz, US Secretary of State should meet the PLO leader Yasser Arafat. **UNITED STATES:** Indian Premier Indira Gandhi returned home after explaining to the Americans India's position in international policies. Indira Gandhi told the National Press Club in Washinton that Indira was irked by US cuts in foreign aid, especially in the contributions to international lending institutions. President Reagan had told Israeli Foreign Minister Shamir to end the violence in Lebanon and restore essential services of food and medicine to West Beirut. At the same time the US warned the PLO to leave Beirut at the earliest.

## THE FOREIGN SCENE

ISRAELI JOURNALIST

## Interviews Arafat

The celebrated leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, Yasser Arafat, recently gave a remarkably outspoken interview to the distinguished Israeli journalist, Uri Avnery, who visited him in his headquarters in beleaguered West Beirut. Avnery is the editor and publisher of the Israeli weekly, "Ha-Olam Ha-Zeh" (This World) and also one of the leaders of Sheli, a political party that advocates peace between Israel and the Palestinians. He was a member

of the Knesset (Israeli Parliament) until 1973 and again from 1977 to 1981. For this historic interview with Arafat, he is being threatened with treason charge by the hardliners in Israeli Government. The text of the interview is being reproduced here from "THE TIMES", London (July 8, 1982) which it is duly acknowledged here.—Editor.

IT WAS A UNIQUE MOMENT, but a sad one. Never before has Yasser Arafat, leader of the PLO, received an Israeli. Now, when it had come about, the situation was desperate. West Beirut seemed to be condemned to annihilation, the options for peace vastly reduced. I had been asking to interview Mr. Arafat since I first met Said Hamami, the PLO representative in London, eight years ago. "The time is not ripe," was the standard answer. Last Friday, I was in East Beirut. From my hotel I rang Mr. Arafat's office in the West. The secret number had been given to me -- also by phone -- by a PLO representative in Paris. I asked to be allowed to cross the front line and interview him. After an hour, in the middle of the night, Mr. Arafat's assistant called back. He asked me in perfect Hebrew to come over at 10 a.m. the following day (July 3) and ask for Ahmed at the PLO roadblock. It was a spooky experience. Two of the staff of my magazine were with me. We had passed the Phalangist and Lebanese army roadblock now there was nothing in front of us but an earthen, roadblock manned by wildlooking PLO fighters with Kalashnikov rifles. What if there has been a hitch in the arrangements? What if no Ahmed was there? What if I would find myself among a bunch of trigger-happy fanatics? But somebody was waiting. No Ahmed, but an old friend Ghazi. He had been sent because I knew him, and because he could identify me and avoid a trap. From there it was easy. The PLO fighters proved to be friendly; their morale seemed to be high, but fatalistic. We crossed the city in Mr. Arafat's car -- children playing, men going to work, women shopping, a football match in a schoolyard, a functioning city, a beautiful capital; in the private apartment of one of his assistants I met him: a person very different from his television image, informal, friendly, and soft-spoken. We talked for two and a half hours. The interview was quite clearly a signal to Israelis. The old slogans were still there, somewhere, but the message was unequivocal: peace now is possible. The following are extracts from our conversation:

*Avnery:* I think this war happened because the great majority of Israelis, who I think are basically peace-loving people, have become convinced by our official propaganda that the PLO does not really want peace.

*Arafat:* The PLO? You know, it is not so. We have declared our approval for the American-Soviet communique in October 1977. ( This communique provided

a basis for the solution safeguarding the existence of Israel and the rights of the Palestinians. It was revoked by the Carter Administration after a visit by Moshe Dayan to Washington. We have declared our approval and appreciation for President Brezhnev's initiative (of last year) *Avnery*: Which says that the security of all states in the area, including Israel, which it explicitly mentions, will be safeguarded. *Arafat*: You see, when we have said OK to this initiative, this means that we accepted all its items. We said that it is a good platform for a peaceful settlement, for a just settlement, for a peaceful solution in the Middle East. And you remember that I myself have declared that the Fahd proposals are a very good platform for a solution in the Middle East. So we give many signals that we are looking for peace. *Mahud Labadi* (PLO Spokesman): Mr. Avnery has proposed in 1970 a federation of semitic peoples, a semitic union. *Arafat*: Inshallah (If God wills it.) *Avnery*: You see, I believe that in the end after everything is finished there should be an Israeli state and a Palestinian state, with its capital in East Jerusalem, and there should be a general regional organization unifying all the Arab states and Israel together in one economic and political union. *Arafat*: Abba Eban proposes a Benelux. (Meaning a union of three states, Israel, Palestine and Jordan.) Yes. *Avnery*: If there is a chance for an honourable move out of here where do you think it is possible to go? *Arafat*: To Palestine. *Avnery*: I mean tomorrow, not next year. *Arafat*: To Palestine. It is my right. You go there? *Avnery*: Today. *Arafat*: You think that you have the right to go there and I have no right to come back? Where to go? I am a human being too; Where to, except my homeland? I want to go to my homeland. *Avnery*: When you say Palestine, what do you mean by Palestine? *Arafat*: For all of us? All Palestine. For you and for us. *Avnery*: Together, you mean? *Arafat*: Together, why not? *Avnery*: You don't mean a separate state for the Palestinians? *Arafat*: You know our famous slogan: a democratic secular state. If this is not the solution, then two separate states. *Avnery*: About what part of Palestine are you taking for the Palestinian state? *Arafat*: We are ready to live in any part of Palestine from which the Israelis withdraw, or which will be liberated. Any part. *Avnery*: In practice, this means the West Bank and the Gaza Strip? *Arafat*: Any part. *Avnery*: Does that mean peace, real peace? *Arafat*: Yes, it does. It's not the Palestinians, it's the Israelis who don't want it. And yet, the Jews should know better than anyone else that even if they succeed in annihilating half a million Palestinians in Lebanon, four million will remain elsewhere and carry on. Can Israel fight forever? Where will it be in 10, 20, 50 years?

Never before had the readiness of the PLO for peace been stated so clearly; never to an Israeli, never by the chairman. This could have been a great, a unique opportunity; a moment for a De Gaulle, for *la paix des braves*. But Mr. Begin is no De Gaulle, and Mr. Sharon

has quite a different frame of mind. After five hours we again crossed the roadblocks of four trigger happy armies. By that time there was a fifth. While we were inside the besieged city, our own army had taken position to cut it off completely. The roads, the water, the food. A few hundred yards from the crossing a battle was in progress, Israeli tanks advancing, perhaps in preparation for the final assault. Before taking my leave to meet the Lebanese Prime Minister, Mr. Arafat asked me if I would go straight back home. When I said yes, he asked sadly: "Why can't we?" Even before reaching Israel, I heard on the wireless that Israeli Cabinet Ministers and MPs were demanding my indictment for treason.

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A VIEW IN THE U.S.A.

## The Pipeline

By Dean Rusk

**The writer was Secretary of State from 1961 to 1969. This is the second of two articles. Below is an abbreviated extract of an article which he wrote in the "Washington Post."**

Any new administration must make the sometimes difficult transition from campaign rhetoric to the responsibilities of office in the real world. Political campaigns and party platforms exist in the world of opinion; their primary purpose is to solicit votes. The generalities of campaign oratory and party platforms simply do not deal with real problems in the real world which have dozens and dozens of secondary and tertiary questions surrounding them. Those who carry public responsibilities live in the world of decisions -- a vastly different world from the world of opinion. A case in point has to do with the administration's attitude toward the contemplated gas pipeline from the Soviet Union to Western Europe. The point is not really whether such a pipeline is right; opinions may differ on that, and it is entirely appropriate for the administration to make its concerns known to America's friends in Europe. However, no one has appointed the president and the secretary of defense to be the den mothers of Western Europe. European leaders are grown men and women -- many with far more experience in world affairs than America's leaders -- who are entirely capable of assessing their national interests and the requirements of their national security. It is destructive to North Atlantic relationships for the United States to try to reach out and impose its own law and policy upon American-owned subsidiaries that are organized under the laws and policies of their host countries in Europe. Friends in Europe are allies, not satellites. It was encouraging to hear Shultz underline the impor-

TRIBUNE, AUGUST 21, 1982



tance of continuity in foreign policy and his determination to seek a broad-based, bipartisan approach towards the rest of the world. America is too large, powerful, rich and influential to dart about like a hummingbird to sniff at each alluring blossom; it must be reasonably predictable for friends and adversaries alike, or it can inject disarray into an already troubled planet. Unanimity is not possible, but a broad consensus is there for those who are willing to participate in building it....

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INDIA WANTS CANADA

## To Extradite Sikh Extremists

*New Delhi:* At the instance of the Punjab Government, the Centre has approached Canada for the extradition of two Sikh extremists who are known to have taken shelter there. The response of the Canadian Government is not yet known. As New Delhi sees it, there should be no problem for Canada in extraditing those required in connection with criminal offences here. There is no need for an extradition treaty among the Commonwealth countries which have been meeting one another's requests in the past in accordance with an informal convention. The two extremists were charged with participating in the shooting incidents in Punjab towns, which had resulted in the loss of innocent lives. In all, five of those, connected with incidents of violence are abroad. The Union Government may approach other countries also for their extradition. The Punjab Chief Minister Mr. Darbara Singh, who was here spent some time in the Home Ministry, as part of his efforts to ensure that the extradition requests were followed up vigorously through diplomatic channels. He also acquainted the Ministry with the progress of investigations of different cases. Mr. Darbara Singh, who completed two years in office today, told a press conference that during this period he had to face 14 agitations apart from the spurt in Sikh extremism. Mr. Darbara Singh denied the charge that he had stepped up the drive against extremists now to scuttle the moves for reconciliation between the Akalis and the Centre. The Government drive, he said was directed criminals not against any political party. UNI reports from Julundur: Two bombs were hurled at Mr. Darbara Singh's ancestral home at Jandala Village about 20 km from here late last night. There was no loss of life when one of the bombs, country-made exploded damaging ventilators and glass panes. Experts have been sent for to defuse the other bomb—*Patriot*.

TRIBUNE, AUGUST 21, 1982

EDITORIAL IN THE  
"WASHINGTON POST", JULY 27, 1982

## Reagan's Pipeline Blunder

PRESIDENT REAGAN'S CAMPAIGN against the Soviet gas pipeline has every attribute of bad policy. It will not prevent construction of the line; at most it can only cause a limited delay. The West German Banks have now formally extended the loans. The Soviets will get the pipe. Western Europe will get the gas. The United States will get the losing end of a rancorous and divisive quarrel with its friends. That quarrel gives the Soviets an unexpected dividend in the pipeline deal. The United States has gone well beyond the conventional limits of an embargo. Mr. Reagan is trying to apply it retroactively, voiding sales that were perfectly legal when they were made. Worse, he is trying to reach across national borders to impose US law on foreign companies through their American owners or through licenses to American technology. The Europeans, Japanese and Canadians consider this to be a challenge not only to their foreign policies but to their sovereignty.

AMERICAN PRESIDENTS BEFORE MR. REAGAN have tried it, and there is a long history -- of which the White House seems serenely unaware -- of outrage in other capitals. In a press conference last week, Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau acidly observed that Europeans can see in the pipeline case why Canada has been taking extraordinary steps to protect its sovereignty. Canadians point out that the United States wants its companies abroad to be treated on the same terms as locally owned companies, yet it also occasionally wants the right to use them as instruments of foreign policy and to impose American law, regardless of any conflict with the host country's law. Canada is currently screening all new foreign investment and imposing discriminatory rules on foreign -- that is American -- oil companies.

THE DAMAGE DONE by the assertion of extra-territorial control is cumulative, and as the Canadian reaction shows it can be highly damaging to America business abroad. But, even more dangerous, these American claims strengthen all of the protectionist tendencies in government abroad. They give those countries reasons not to allow American technology and American investment in the crucial sectors since, as the argument goes, you can never tell when the United States will try to use them to push you into line with American foreign policy. You have probably seen the forecasts of another huge American grain harvest and another disastrous one in Russia. Of course the United States is going to continue selling grains to the Soviets -- and in a big way. As long as the United States sells wheat to the Soviets, Europeans will deride American efforts to disrupt their trade with the East. Steel tubing

and natural gas, after all, are hardly in the same class with the most sensitive of strategic commodities, grain.

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THE COLLAPSE

## Of Afghan Insurgency

By Girish Mathur

WHAT IS THE MEANING of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's letter to his followers among the so-called Afghan Mujahideen that Pakistan could not be counted upon for very long? The letter is significant because Hekmatyar's group Hizbe Islami (Party of Islam) is by far the largest among the bandits described as crusaders in a holy cause although his claim that his group enjoys the support of 66 percent of the Muslims of Afghanistan is fantastic nonsense. Besides, Hekmatyar is not a new Mujahid, a new crusader. His *Jehad* did not begin on December 27, 1979 when the Soviet forces entered Afghanistan, or even on April 27, 1978, the date of the Afghan Revolution. His *Jehad* began on July 21, 1975 when Pakistan instigated an insurgency in the Panjshir valley, north of Kabul, against the Daud regime. The insurgency failed but Pakistan's purpose was achieved. Hekmatyar claims he was the leader of the insurgency but highlevel Army officers in Islamabad say Hekmatyar and other leaders of the insurgency including Burhanuddiy Rabbani of Afghanistan's *Jamaate Islami* were under the direct command and control of the Pakistan government and decisions regarding their supplies and finances and timing of the insurgency were taken by the Pakistani authorities. Since then, Hekmatyar, Rabbani and others have been living in Pakistan on doles. From April 1978 their fortunes have taken a turn for the better and from December 27, 1979 they have struck a gold mine. And even Pakistan has been deriving the benefits of hosting them—the CIA is giving them so much money that even after the Pakistani go-betweens get their cut they have enough left to buy real estate in Pakistan's urban centres and in the mountain valleys of the border areas. When the 1975 insurgency collapsed some insurgents were captured and others fled to Pakistan. Of these captured 93 were put on trial and they were executed, 74 sentenced to varying periods of imprisonment and the rest acquitted. At such low cost, Pakistan was able to secure its terms from Daud regime, and ultimately Daud, Bhutto and the Shah of Iran entered into a conspiracy to convert Afghan into an American puppet state. But before the conspiracy could bear fruit Daud was overthrown and Afghanistan's destiny was taken by its people in their hands. Since then the United States and Pakistan

have been using these Hekmatyars and Rabbanis against the Afghan Revolution. Every revolution makes its refugees, but the Hekmatyars and Rabbanis and their followers who have settled down in Pakistan since 1975 are not the refugees from the Afghan Revolution. Nor are they *Mujahideens*, for their *Jehad* began much before the Revolution. They certainly create problems for the Afghan Revolution. The Panjshir valley is probably the only region which continues to create a problem for Kabul and during the current summer there were many clashes between the Afghan troops and the so-called insurgents. But even the Western press, which relies on reports from Western Embassies in Kabul, says the Panjshir insurgency had collapsed and there were no Soviet troops any more in the valley.

ALL THAT REMAINS OF INSURGENCY is banditry, which has been a normal feature of life in Afghanistan for more than two centuries, thanks to British policies during the days they ruled over India and had converted Afghanistan into a puppet state wrongly called a buffer state. Even this banditry is sustained from outside. It is Hekmatyar's link with Panjshir which gives importance to the letter he has written to his followers. As reported last week, Hekmatyar is afraid that Pakistan "*may not remain on our side*", obviously because Islamabad has agreed to talk to Kabul and the first round of talks has been held at Geneva and has registered some advance, even if it is marginal. But that is not the only point he has made out in his letter. He has also asked his followers to "get more arms, from everywhere, including secret ways, and use them". This means that the Afghan authorities have so tightened their security measures that the flow of arms to his followers within Afghanistan has become difficult. An element of desperation is discernible in his plea to his followers to somehow obtain arms from wherever they can and by any means. In fact, even communication with his followers seems to have become difficult, which explains why, as he says right in the beginning, he has not been able to visit them or contact them for months. **Even in this situation of desperation however, Hekmatyar refuses to be pressured by his patrons in Islamabad and Washington to merge his group with the other similar Mujahideen bandit gangs, which too have settled down in Pakistan and have acquired properties there.**

He has written: "They are trying to unite most of the Islamic parties. As for myself, I emphasise once again we do not recognize such an alliance. Everyone knows that more than 66 percent of the Muslims of Afghanistan are for our party, and after victory we can direct the new government of Afghanistan". He is afraid that the purpose of the alliance, which is being formed under pressure, is to deprive him

TRIBUNE, AUGUST 21, 1982

and his group of the fruits of victory of his imagination. It is because each of these gang leaders is seeking personal power that their differences have become irreconcilable although their disunity has made them ineffective. Reports suggest that the US has offered another 200 million dollars in military and economic aid if the Hekmatyar group merges with the others, who have already received almost an equivalent amount, in military and economic aid through the CIA over the last year-and-a-half besides what they have been getting from their oil-rich Arab patrons. There certainly are the ethnic-racial differences, also religious-doctrinal conflicts among the different groups which have links with different tribes. While some tribal chiefs, dispossessed by the Afghan Revolution, have gone to the USA (including some to Alaska) and the Mullahs left behind have found new followers in some Islamic countries whom they can fleece and live as peacefully as they did on the labours of the Afghan landless peasantry, the political operators are dreaming of the fruits of victory. These day-dreams come in the way of their unity. Even if they unite, the situation inside Afghanistan has no changed in the meanwhile that they cannot carry on their business. Hekmatyar's letter is not the only evidence of this. The manner in which the Panjshir insurgency has been crushed and a near-normal situation restored in recent weeks is evidence which even machines in the Western diplomatic missions in Kabul, which go on manufacturing all kinds of lies cannot refute.

## TRIBUNE

### Agricultural Digest

MORE ON THE

## Incredible Potato

by Robert E. Rhoades

**This is the concluding extract from the article THE INCREDIBLE POTATO from the National Geographic Magazine of May 1982. Last week we had published the first instalment.**

I thought of my recent trip to the Dominican Republic, where I learned the expression *estar en las papas* (to be in the potatoes.) That means a person has risen to afford more than a banana diet. In the Philippines, I

was told, potatoes are so expensive a housewife will top off her shopping basket with a few spuds to demonstrate that here is a family of means. Central to the work of the *Potato Center* is the *World Potato Collection* located in our research station at Hunancayo, high in the Peruvian Andes. "One potato, two potato, three potato, four." The jingle of my childhood echoed in my mind when I first saw the bewildering collection. But my count was way off. Stored in this germ-plasm bank are potatoes representing possibly 13,000 different native strains. Few resemble the potatoes known in Europe and America. "Native and wild species of potatoes are a gold mine of heredity," Orville Page, the center's director of research said. "They are the raw material plant breeders need to cross with modern high-yielding varieties to develop their varieties." Potentially, in terms of future food production they are of inestimable value. Besides safeguarding its potato treasury, the center is doing the main scientific work to improve true potato seed even as the Chinese experiment with it in practice. The center's plant breeders, working with the wild and native varieties, are also attempting to manipulate the potato's built-in their most to stretch its natural adeptability to both cold highlands and steaming tropics. Only a small fraction of the potato's genetic diversity is found outside South America. The rest is in native potatoes with such scientific names as *Solanum andigena*, *S. phureja*, and *S. stenogomum*. They contain genes resistant to diseases like late blight, wart, viruses X and Y, and others of the 265 diseases and pests known to plague the potato. There are even hairy-leafed species that trap insects with a sticky secretion.

The centre breeds for this genetic material and distributes seed for worldwide testing, generally in developing countries. Since this is a living collection, 8000 specimens are planted every year in the center's Andean fields. And, as a safeguard against crop loss, 5,000 have been sent in the form of seeds, to the National Seed Storage Laboratory at Fort Collins, Colorado. My colleague in charge of tracking down wild and native potatoes to "bring them back alive" for the World Collection is Peruvian Carlos Ochoa. His expeditions range from Mexico to the southern tip of South America. His prizes are getting harder to find: most Andean farmers are abandoning their traditional varieties for more modern, higher yielding kinds, and the wild potato's natural habit is being destroyed by population growth, grazing and logging. "Like your American eagle, many potato species are on the verge of extinction," Mr. Ochoa lamented. "Others have disappeared forever, and no amount of money will bring them back." But he is optimistic that genetic erosion among wild and native potatoes can be stopped if people care. "Just as the American eagle is being saved, so we can save the primitive potato. But if we destroy the genetic reserves of our major food crops like the potato, we could destroy ourselves." The Incas, though they knew nothing about genes, were aware of how

TRIBUNE, AUGUST 21, 1982

176

easily their basic food could be endangered. When their ancient kings called representatives from all parts of the empire to the sacred capital of Cuzco, they prayed for potatoes: "*O Creator! Thou who givest life to all things and hast made men that they may live, and multiply. Multiply also the fruits of the earth, the potatoes and other food that thou hast made, that men may not suffer from hunger and misery.*" Indeed few foods can rival this versatile vegetable, so long misunderstood in its great potential to feed our hungry planet, its fascination to science, and its legendary past, it offers much food for thought for all of us. I for one, will never again take for granted the noble tuber golden fruit of the earth, to which we owe so much.



RICE CULTIVATION- 3

## Recommended Technology

### RISE-BASED CROPPING SYSTEMS IN THE MINOR IRRIGATION SCHEME (1976-1982).

*Reporter: Derrick Schokman Published by Deputy Director of Agriculture (Research) No. 1, Sarasavi Mawatha, Peradeniya. May 1982.*

**Anuradhapura District :** In the Anuradhapura District (Ratnayake) 145 minor irrigation settlement schemes were introduced to the new technology in 1980/81. Rice was cultivated successfully in 3,295 ha during the first season. In the second season 40 reservoirs with adequate water were taken up for cultivation for the first time. 87 ha were sown with again with rice and 284 ha with other food crops -- mainly short-aged grain legumes, and chilli (for dried production) which could be continued into the following lesser rainfall period from late March to May. There were wide fluctuations in the yield of rice from 1050 to 4150 kg/ha, averaging 1800 kg/ha. This is still a poor yield, but it would be wrong to judge the success of the new technology by yield alone. What is more important is that all these farmers were able to successfully mature a rice crop with the new technology, when they had only rarely been able to do this before using the traditional cropping system. They were also able to ensure their seed paddy requirements for the next season. This assurance and the fact that some previously abandoned rice fields were also "resurrected" under the new croppings program made a significant impact on the farmer. Although it was not possible to monitor the yields of other food crops cultivated by farmers owing to a lack of staff, and the ad hoc picking and marketing practices adopted by them, the very fact that they were able to grow these crops successfully instead of leaving their rice fields fallow, has given them a new confidence. Unfortunately the Extension Staff were unable to exploit this new-found

confidence because of an unprecedented drought in the following year (1981/82). The rainfall in 1981/82 from mid September to January was below the critical limit of 500mm. required to raise a rice crop. As a result, Extension Offices have not been able to pursue the targeted program for 1981/82.

**Kurunegala District :** Better results were obtained in the Kurunegala District (Tenrekcon and Kumarsinghe). A total of 171 settlements were taken up for development in the rainy season from September to January (Maha) 1980/81. Rice was cultivated in 1982 ha: the average yield was 3477 kg/ha. In the following dry season (Maha 1981) 176 settlements participated in the cropping systems program but only 81 settlements were able to grow rice and even this was done on a limited scale ("bethme" system) below the spill on a collective basis. In the remaining 102 settlements, other food crops requiring a low water requirement were raised. No yield data was collected for the same reasons stated above (Anuradhapura District). In Maha 1981/82 the targeted figure was 500 settlements. This was exceeded by 103, bringing the total for that season to 603 settlements under small reservoirs. Owing to poor rainfall however, only 211 settlements were able to take a successful rice crop: crop growth was adversely affected in the balance 392 settlements. No production figures are yet available. The Yala cultivation (1982) had to be abandoned because of severe drought.

**Comparison of Progress in Anuradhapura and Kurunegala District :** It would appear that the new technology has had a favourable impact on ensuring a successful rice cultivation during the first season (Maha) in both Districts. Yields too have been increased from a previous average of 1290 kg/ha to 1800 kg/ha in the Anuradhapura District and 3477 kg/ha in the Kurunegala District. The higher production figures for rice in the Kurunegala District may be attributed to two factors: a more favourable rainfall situation and a wider spread of semi-dwarf improved varieties. Anuradhapura District farmers still tend to favour the cultivation of tall varieties (e.g., 62-355) of lower production potential, but which are more tolerant of moisture stress conditions. A shortage of water in the second season has limited the cultivation of rice to only 2.6% of the total extent in the Anuradhapura District, and other crops to 8.6%. In the Kurunegala District during the same season, 60% of the settlements raised rice, and the balance 40% other food crops. Whether this reduced cultivation is due to a real shortage of stored water, or mismanagement of stored water, or other constraints has yet to be ascertained.

*To be continued...*

TRIBUNE, AUGUST 21, 1982

## India's Experience

by Bharat Dogra

LATER IN THE MID SIXTIES when the high yielding fertilizer responsive varieties started spreading in India there were some other changes as well. In 1966 some provisions known as 'self help measures' are added to PL 480 to which recipient countries had to commit themselves. These measures generally included creating a favourable environment for private enterprise and investment', and development of the agricultural chemical, farm machinery and equipment transportation and other necessary industries, the use of 'available technical knowhow' as well as programmes to control population growth. The 1967 PL 480 report noted that in India fertilizer consumption has tripled in two years and that 'India has sought to increase the attractiveness of private investment in fertilisers, particularly from overseas earlier restrictions on investment, pricing and distribution which have been deterrents, have been erased.' Commenting on these changes another western scholar **Lester Brown** notes, "During the mid-1960s, a number of countries including India..... received large loans from USAID to finance imports of sorely needed fertilisers. At the same time the US and the World Bank put a great deal of pressure..... on the Indian government, to encourage multinational corporations to invest in local production capacity. The Indian government changed its policy abruptly.... to permit these firms to price and distribute their products in India. Joint ventures between Indian and foreign firms were specially encouraged. on the developments taking place in the early years of the green revolution, *The Christian Science Monitor* noted at that time that American business insisted on importing all the necessary machines and equipment for fertilizer plants under construction, even though India could have provided some of them. They also insisted on importing liquid ammonia instead of using Indian produced naphtha as the fertilizer feedstock. Finally they were able to fix the prices, the distribution circuits and the profit margin.

**Here it should be pointed out that the structure of the fertilizers and chemical pesticides importing agribusinesses is such that the prices are artificially fixed very high, much above the actual cost of production. The aim is not to maximise production but to maximise profits. Once developing countries become**

TRIBUNE, AUGUST 21, 1982

**dependent on large scale imports of these inputs, they have to pay these artificially fixed high prices. Thus the initial expenditure incurred by the developed countries by giving funds, technical aid experts etc., is recovered many times over in the form of expansion of markets. Another aim of agribusiness in developing countries is to directly control or indirectly control or indirectly utilise the cheap hand and labour resources of the developing countries to meet the food needs of the developed countries, and earn massive profits in the bargain. These are any number of examples which show how in African, Asian and Latin American countries experiencing extreme food shortages, large areas of land were utilised under the pressure of agribusiness for the production of cash crops for sale at cheap prices to these firms. These firms processed these crops and sold them at fabulous prices in developed countries, while the food grain shortages accentuated in the developing countries. A famine stricken land, thus, may grow flowers for export !**

In developed countries the trend is more and more towards the consumption of meat products. Large areas of land are devoted for the production of feed grains including high protein feed grains the most important of which is soya bean. These feed grains are then fed to poultry, pigs and cattle whose meat eggs at dairy products form a substantial part of the diet of the affluent world. In this context, western agribusiness has been trying to get cheap cattle feed from the developing countries. In India in recent years a large area of land has been brought under soya bean cultivation, and this area is rapidly increasing. This development has been aided by foreign funds including those from the EEC. Most of this crop is being exported for feeding cattle in the developed countries, adding to the previous export of oilcakes. Similarly the fisheries sector has become more and more integrated in the international market in recent years. While consumption of fish by the poor people of coastal areas is declining the export of fishmeal at cheap prices to feed the poultry and cattle of developed countries has increased. In view of the food grains shortage in the country, is the diversion of land for producing soya meal or diversion of fish from coastal areas to the developed countries justified? Those in charge of agricultural planning in India decide whether millions of people will continue to remain hungry or not. With the utmost dedication they should devote themselves to the service of the poor man in the country and not allow themselves to be influenced by the various tactics and pressure of western agribusiness.

Net Imports of Foodgrains lakh tonnes		Import of Fertilizers lakh tonnes of nutrients	
Year	Imports	Year	Imports
1965	74	1964-65	3.0
1966	103	1965-66	4.1
1967	87	1966-67	9.0
1968	57	1967-68	14.9
1969	38	1968-69	11.9
1970	36	1969-70	8.8
1971	20	1970-71	6.3
1972	-05	1971-72	10.0
1973	36	1972-73	13.2
1974	48	1973-74	12.4
1975	74	1974-75	16.0
1976	64	1975-76	15.6
1977	64	1976-77	10.5
1978	10	1977-78	15.2
1979	-10	1978-79	19.9
1980	-04	1979-80	20.1
1981	22		

Source : Derived from Economic Survey 1982.

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LASER

## For Grain Growing

Maize-growers of Kazakhstan in the Soviet Union have increased the gross harvest of grain without applying additional quantities of fertilisers. They were assisted in securing this by biophysicists of the Kazakh State University. Many farms, on the basis of their recommendations, treated the seeds before sowing with laser radiation for stimulation. Though the power of the red ray of a laser device is several times smaller than that of an ordinary electric bulb, its effect on the growth energy of this valuable farm crop is truly miraculous. The plant whose seeds were treated with radiation, compared to the control ones, sprouted more vigorously, more quickly developed a root system and yielded weightier cobs. APN.

MANGO

## Stem Borer

For mango growers of Tamil Nadu a stem boring beetle has become a big botheration nowadays. The small beetle, 50 mm in length, with two prominent red spots on the back and thorny outgrowths, projecting from the sides has emerged as a serious pest recently, and causes heavy economic loss to the farmers. Mostly restricted to the base of the trunk and stout branches, the young grubs of mango borer tunnel through the stem, eating away the nutrition-translocating systems and ultimately kill the trees. Depending upon the intensity of attack the affected

trees show symptoms such as withering of leaves and twigs, and drying of entire tree. Early stages of borer infestation in mango trees can however be easily identified on closer observation of trunk and main branches. A white or yellowish exudate dripping down the bank, abnormal dropping-off of leaves and accumulation of grass at the base of the tree, indicate the occurrence of the stem-borer.

Almost all varieties of mango fall victim to the stem-borers. Older trees are more prone to this attack, than young trees. Excepting the Nilgiris, the devastating pest has been noticed in all other districts of Tamil Nadu and the incidence is particularly heavy in North Arcot and Tiruchi. **As prevention is always better than cure, prophylactic spraying with 1% Nuvacron (2.5 ml. per litre of water) once in two months is considered ideal to protect the crop. Swabbing the barks with 0.5% DDT or BHC (10 gm per litre of water) will also give good results. Affected trees, if spotted early, could be recovered by following the control measures suggested by the entomologists at the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University. The scientists recommend that half-tablet of Celphos must be dropped into each bore hole and sealed for effective killing of the insect pest. Alternatively 20 ml. fluid of Navan 0.1% (1 ml. per litre of water) can be applied into the bore holes using a syringe.**

Though, this is the cheapest method because of its poor stability an immediate spraying of the tree with the same fluid is needed for a sound protection of the crop. For young orchards spraying with monocrotophos at bi-monthly intervals for three times in a year is recommended by the scientists. Use of Rogor along with pesticides prescribed against mango hoppers will also prove highly beneficial in checking stem borers. By this a considerable saving in the cost is achieved besides an equally effective treatment, according to the entomologists—Hindu.

## TRIBUNE DEVELOPMENT FORUM

THE PRESIDENT

## And the Plantations

It is heartening to note that the Plantations are once again looking forward to better days. Sources in the Tea Trade say that the current prices are similar to the prices in 1977 (which can be considered the boom year in recent times.)

Since nationalisation, the Plantations went through many changes. Hector Kobbekaduwa wrote the script but many actors played in the drama. He himself played the main role. Ratnasiri Wickramanayake perhaps played a minor one. But their drama did not last long. Hyppily the UNP came in with a more pragmatic Minister in Mr.M.D.H.Jayawardena. Despite Mr.M.D.H. Jayawardena's resignation from his Cabinet position, he is still hailed as a gentleman in the highest sense of the word. He understood the Plantations, but he could not do very much as the outside intervention was far too great.

President Jayawardene, conscious of these features, took the Plantations under his wing and the picture that is now emerging is indeed somewhat encouraging. The planters themselves (they are difficult to please) seem to be happy. What took the previous administration many years to straighten out - the planters' salary - the President did within a few months. When everybody said that the planter was a rogue, President Jayawardene had the guts and the courage to say "No. I trust you. You are better than the best planters in the world." Perhaps it is this trust, manifested not only in words but also in deeds that has made the Plantation Manager wake up from his slumber and deliver the goods.

The Estates are looking far better than they ever did. Despite some square pegs in round holes, production appears to be increasing and generally the nationalised Plantation sector is doing far better than the other nationalised sectors. Not only have the planters benefited but for the first time in the long history of the Plantations the worker has been given his rightful place. Something that was amply demonstrated at the JEDB All Island Sports Meet which was held in Colombo last year. A moving occasion like this has never been witnessed in the annals of Plantation history of this country. The burly planter was engaged in a duel of tug-of-war with a scrawny worker. The planter won but the main thing is that the worker took part. Despite the fraternal feelings generated by such social events, the output in the Plantation has in no way diminished. The worker seems to be responding in more ways than one to better treatment. It augers well for Sri Lanka if the Plantation Industry under President Jayawardene is able to expand and maintain its position as this country's number one exchanger.

**Various statements are made, some responsible, some irresponsible, about gems, textiles and tourism being the number one exchange earners to this country, but suffice it to say that tea, rubber and coconut still lead and it is hoped that under President Jayawardene, the order will not change in the future.**

*Pertinax*

## REPORTAGE

# The Correct Approach

THE MAHAWELI MINISTER, at a meeting held recently in the Operations Room of the Mahaweli Authority, reviewed the progress of the Accelerated Mahaweli Programme. All the high ranking officials of the Ministries of Mahaweli Development and Lands & Land Development were present at this meeting. The Minister expressed complete satisfaction with the development of the headworks at Victoria, Kotmale, Maduru Oya and Randenigala. He however stated that downstream development has got to be looked at from a completely different angle -- from the human angle. He stated that thousands of people who have been uprooted from their traditional homelands are being taken to alien areas. He directed his officials therefore to give these settlers the maximum facilities and afford them all opportunities to gather up their lives after leaving their homelands.

**He further directed his officials that political functions, image building, etc., of Ministers should cease and that all officials should perform their work without having any consideration to the election that may be held shortly. He further stated that there are no political decisions, but only right decisions and wrong decisions, and he exhorted his officials to look at human problems, not in political terms but in human terms. He stated that the era of people being labelled as belonging to one party or other must stop and this country as a whole, must progress with the vehicle of progress being the Mahaweli programme.**

He also went on to state that the Programme is being amply supported by the national will of the people, as almost 15,000 members of the public, representing all political hues and shapes are visiting the Mahaweli areas everyday. He told his officials to stop talking about the Minister but get on with the work as ultimately "we are the trustees and are holding these positions in trust for the generations that are yet unborn." Mr. N.G.P. Panditharathne, Director General of the Mahaweli Authority, stated that usually in the last year of a Government office, bureaucracies do little work, but however it was heartening to see that the Ministries of Mahaweli Development and Lands & Land Development work is going on without any consideration of the elections etc. The Mahaweli Minister assured his officials that they would receive his complete support even if they made a mistake in the discharge of their duties, provided that mistake was bona fide and in the better interest of the people. He went on to state that audit reports, accounts books and balance sheets do not account for human history, Human history is the history of man, land and water and the inter-connection of these three elements.

## Bank Overdrafts

By A Special Correspondent

The biggest criticism levelled against the nationalised plantation industry is that the SLSPC and the JEDB operate on huge bank overdrafts. A table we published in our issue of July 31 (page 20) showed the amount of money the government has drawn as net revenue from the tea industry. The improvement in the agricultural condition of the estates (at least those of the JEDB) and the increased production in spite of the alienation of tea lands have been possible only because of the bank overdrafts being used as "capital". In this article a special correspondent examines the problem and throws light on a subject which has been the subject of much controversy. In a subsequent article, the writer will examine various ways in which these overdrafts can be liquidated.

- Ed.

The liquidity situation faced by the State Plantations Corporation and the Janatha Estates Development Board has now reached a critical stage. This requires immediate remedial measures both in the interest of the tea industry and national economy. If this problem is allowed to fester further, the production of tea as well as the development of the tea plantations are likely to be seriously affected. Once the industry is allowed to fall into a state of neglect, the time span and the investments required to rehabilitate it to the expected standards will be enormous.

**Reasons for the liquidity situation :** This crisis situation has arisen due to a contribution of several factors. Some of the immediate reasons leading to this situation are :

(1) sharp fall in tea prices since June 1981. On an average, prices fell by over Rs.4/- per kg. in the second half of 1981 as compared with the first half. The decline is more pronounced in the low-grown teas; (ii) steep increases in electricity and fertiliser costs. The electricity surcharge rose by almost 300% whilst the fertiliser prices were increased by early 130% since June 1981 (100% in November 1981 and a further increase of 30 % in March 1982); (iii) the increase in the daily labour wage rate by Rs. 2/- since January 1982. This increase alone accounted for an increase the cost in of production of tea by Rs. 1.60 per kilo

-gram; (iv) the rent for storage of tea in Colombo shot up by 33 1/3% from 15 cents to 20 cents per kilogram.

Although there was an export duty reduction in November 1981 to the extent of Rs. 2/50, it proved inadequate to meet the spiralling increase in the cost of production listed above. The duty reduction was fully absorbed by the increase in the wage rate and other increases incidental to it. Apart from the immediate reasons listed above, there were factors which have contributed over the last three years to this financial binding.

Since 1979, both the SPC and JEDB have incurred a cost deficit totalling Rs. 1,115 million in their operations as shown below :

	J. E. D. B. (Rs. Million)			
	1979	1980	1981	total
Loss before replanting	189.2	213.0	68.9	471.1
Net replanting cost	65.1	86.9	99.4	251.1
Capital expenditure	37.3	66.3	80.3	183.9
Total	291.6	366.2	248.6	906.4
Less Grants	62.7	2.2	166.4	231.3
Overall deficit	228.9	364.0	82.2	675.1

	S. L. S. P. C. (Rs. Million)			
	1979	1980	1981	total
Loss before replanting	50.6	(18.3)	99.0	131.6
Net replanting cost	51.6	46.0	72.0	169.6
Capital expenditure	73.9	114.6	97.6	186.1
Total	176.1	142.8	268.6	587.3
Less grants	1.6	112.7	83.0	147.3
Overall deficit	174.5	29.6	135.6	440.0

	Total 1979-81 (Rs. Million)		
	JEDB	SLSPC	TOTAL
Loss before replanting	471.1	131.6	602.7
Net replanting cost	251.4	169.6	421.0
Capital expenditure	183.9	286.1	470.0
Total	906.4	587.3	1,493.7
Less Grants	281.6	147.4	378.6

Aggregate overall deficit 675.1 440.0 1,115.1

The current year's operations are likely to result in further losses at the end of 1982. The projected figures of net sale average, cost of production (all inclusive) and the producer margins from 1979-1982 are given below :

	J. E. D. B.			
	1979	1980	1981	1982
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Net Sale Average	12.01	16.58	16.88	19.50
Final COP	14.37	19.18	19.63	23.58
Producer margin	(2.36)	(2.60)	(2.75)	(4.08)

TRIBUNE, AUGUST 21, 1982



	S. L. S. P. C.			
	1979	1980	1981	1982
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Net Sale Average	12.04	18.35	17.64	19.50
Final COP	14.29	18.28	19.67	22.80
Producer margin	(2.25)	(0.07)	(2.08)	(3.30)

It will be seen from the above that cash deficit of Rs. 1,115 million will be further increased by another Rs. 600 million at the end of 1982 at the projected sale prices and costs, making a total deficit of Rs. 1,715 million at the end of the year. The cash deficits shown above are being financed by the two Corporations in the following manner:

	J.E.D.B.	S.L.S.P.C.	Total
	(Rs. Million)		
<b>Internal Generation</b>			
Lease rent withheld	33.0	168.0	201.0
Depreciation	130.0	78.0	208.0
	<u>163.0</u>	<u>246.0</u>	<u>409.0</u>
<b>Bank borrowings</b>			
Hard Core overdrafts	380.0	300.0	680.0
Temporary facilities	100.0	100.0	200.0
Total	<u>648.0</u>	<u>646.0</u>	<u>1,294.0</u>

**Inadequate capitalisation of the two organisations from the inception of the nationalisation of the estates is another factor that has contributed to the present financial difficulties. Consequent to the Land Reform Law, the JEDB was entrusted with the management of 73,886 hectares (182,449 acres) and SPC with 98,325 hectares (230,666 acres). The funds approved for the JEDB for its working capital requirements to manage this acreage was only Rs. 2.5 million. The SPC was not provided with any additional funds for the purpose. Consequently both these institutions were compelled to resort to borrowings from commercial Banks for the purpose of financing their day to day requirements. This financial arrangement has affected not only the profitability of the Corporations, but also their liquidity position as it syphons off nearly Rs. 7 million monthly from each Corporation in the form of interest on the bank borrowings. Had the two Corporations been given adequate working capital, and had they enjoyed the necessary margins in their operating results, this impasse would not have arisen.**

With the financial structure explained above, the only course of action that could have been resorted to by both Institutions would have been to have an

effective control over their outflows to match their inflows each year. This could have resulted in a sharp reduction in development expenditure such as on replanting, factory development, housing etc. However, in the interest of the industry and the national economy, this was not resorted to by the Corporations and this fact is evident from the capital expenditure figures and replanting figures given above.

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IS MAHAWELI

## Only for Paddy?

by Alpha

ONE QUESTION that has now arisen is what should be done with the new lands that are coming under irrigation: 300,000 acres under the Accelerated Programme in systems A, B, C and G; 25,000 acres under Lunugamvehera and Inginiyitiya schemes. **So far most of these lands have been earmarked for paddy. Already national paddy yields have increased from about 45 bushels in 1972 to 58 bushels in 1981. Unfortunately no one has done studies forecasting confirmed demand for paddy and other irrigated crops in the coming years.** Some figures are available but they are best tentative guessestimates. The Department of Census & Statistics compiled the following for the Maha cultivation in 1980/81:

	Extents sown acres	Average Yield bushels	Production bushels
Major schemes including H Area	547,616	70.62	
Minor Schemes	373,001	52.67	
Rainfed	533,839	49.51	
Total	1,474,656	58.29	72,961,000

On this it would correct to say that there are about 1,500,000 acres of asweddumised paddy lands. Certain areas are subject to floods are not sown during Maha. The Census & Statistics Department had indicated that for Yala 1981, 684,864 acres were sown for Yala. This represents about 46% of the total extents of paddy lands. The average yield was 57.22 bushels per acre and the total production was 32,990,000 bushels.

The Food Balance Sheet prepared by the Department of Census & Statistics for the years 1976—80 gives an indication of the present consumption pattern of cereals.

Year	Rice Consumption		Wheat Consumption		Rice Imports	
	Total 1,000 M/Tons	Per Capita kg. per year	Total 1000 M/Tons	Per Capita kg. per year	Total 1,000 M/Tons	Per Capita kg. per year
1976	1,291	94	557	40.6	625	
1977	1,519	109	599	43.0	798	
1978	1,378	97	638	45.0	275	
1979	1,330	92	549	37.9	310	
1980	1,489	101	316	21.4	189	

It is not known the what the Mahaweli Authority has decided to do with all the lands coming under Irrigation. It is believed that feasibility studies for crop diversification has been carried out, but nothing is known to the public about what has been decided. The original plans of crop diversification, it is understood, have not met with much success. The possibility studies are still "preliminary" and have not been moved out of the pigeon holes to actual implementation. The construction of Lunugamvehera and Inginiyitiya Reservoir schemes the Ministry is proceeding with programmes for rehabilitation of "Gal Oya" Schemes Five Tank (Mahakandarawa, Mahavillachiya, Pava-kulam, Padaviya and Vavunikulam) and the rehabilitation of several hundred of village tanks.

Is all this for paddy alone ?

## TRIBUNE SPORTSCOPE

### SPOTLIGHT

## \*Athletics \*Cricket \*Golf

IT WAS A MAGNANIMOUS GESTURE on the part of the amiable Mr. Vincent Perera, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Sport and Chief Government Whip, when he presented **athletic equipment** worth Rs.3,000/- each to four Sri Lanka athletic champions -- Veemon Prematilleke, Ajit Jayakody, Deepika Rodrigo and Pushpa Malini Wijenaik. The Minister's gesture in helping these athletes from the outstations who have neither sophisticated equipment nor training grounds, will certainly be appreciated and acknowledged by all sportsmen, sportswomen and enthusiasts. The performance of these four athletes goes to underline the fact that dedicated, devoted, disciplined and talented sportsmen and women are mainly found in the backwoods of Sri Lanka. These are the places to which talent scouts should focus their attention in their quest for talent. Linus Dias,

24

S.L.B. Rosa and R.J.K. Karunanda just to name a few athletes who brought fame to Sri Lanka all hailed from the outstations. They played their part to perfection in bringing credit to their motherland. Mr. Perera said after the presentation: "It is highly creditable for these four athletes from the outstations, with hardly any of the facilities available in Colombo, to defeat their counterpart from the city. The aim of the Ministry of Sport is to help sportman and women from the four corners of Sri Lanka to take advantage of their talent and achieve high standards for their glory and more so the glory of the Sri Lanka. There is now a great resurgence of sports activities in the country and more talent is spotted. The Ministry is striving to provide all possible facilities to outstation sportsmen and women and this presentation is an encouragement to others to work hard and gain national status through their sports activities," concluded Mr. Perera.

Every athlete received a pair of track shoes, a pair of warm up shoes, a track suit, five vests, five running shorts and five pairs of stockings. The very promising Deepika Rodrigo was given a Discus, Putt Shott and Javelin and Ajit Jayakody a Discus. The presenting of this equipment by the Minister was prompted by the fact that *Veemon Prematilleke* (22) hailing from Nittambuwa broke the 10-year old record in the 10,000 metres which lay to credit of S.L.B. Rosa. Rosa's timing in this event was 30 minutes 45.2 seconds and Prematilleke clocked 30 minutes 39.0 seconds. *Pushpa Malini Wijenaik* (24) from Mirigama erased P.Wijenaik's 800 metres record of 2 minutes 22.4 seconds with a timing of 2 minutes 17.3 seconds. Hailing from Mahara and 24 years of age, *Ajit Jayakody* lowered Gerard de Silva's record of 136 feet 6 inches in the Discus throw with a heave of 136 feet 9 inches. *Deepika Rodrigo* (17) from Anuradhapura broke Shrahi Bongso' 1970 record of 120 feet 3 inches in the Discus with a throw of 123 feet 3 inches. These presentations made in appreciation of their performances should spur these athletes and all others to strive for greater heights and glory for themselves and their country in the future.

THE PAKISTAN CRICKETERS smarting from the ignominy of the defeat by England in the First Test at Birmingham blamed the umpires. They should have blamed themselves, their timidity and irresponsible approach for their bad showing. The worst thing one can do after losing a match is to squal. The English umpires, the Pakistanis must understand, are doing a job and endeavouring to do it to the best of their ability at all times. Intikhab Alam, a former Pakistan captain and now manager of the Pakistanis in England and who had a stint with Surrey in the English County Cricket scene, had this to say according to a *Reuter* report- "I have known English umpires for 20 years at a personal level, but the standard in this Test was disappointing." He further added, "From the first day we were finding that the balance of decisions went against us. Our major objections were to the umpires

TRIBUNE, AUGUST 21, 1982

inconsistency. If one man on one side is being given out and a batsman on the other side given not out in identical circumstances, the balance of the match is obviously altered. This is what we believe happened at Birmingham." According to Ken Palmer, one of the leading umpires in England, the two umpires in the Test were not happy about the amount of appealing by the Pakistanis. "They make unique pressure for umpires by appealing for everything. They are up in the air almost everytime the ball hits the pads or a batsman plays and misses. They obviously expect to get a favourable decision on all their appeals. But when 99 percent of them were ridiculous and they were turned down, the atmosphere becomes edgy and life becomes difficult, if not impossible for umpires." The Pakistanis accuse the English umpires but what have they to say about their own umpiring at home? *Times* Group Sports Editor, Elmo Rodrigopulle, who covered the Sri Lanka tour of Pakistan in March this year had enough of unkind things to say about Pakistani umpiring. So need we say more. Pakistan must forget about judgements on umpires and get on with cricket. The game is more important.

*Asantha de Mel*, Sri Lanka's number one allrounder is having a marvellous first season for Ramsbottom in the Lancashire League. The club has been so taken up with his performances that he has been offered another term with them for 1983. Peter Spencer, the club secretary speaking about de Mel had this to say: "We've been more than pleased with Asantha. We sincerely hope he will accept the terms offered him for 1983. He has promised to let us know his decision as soon as possible." De Mel is Ramsbottom's potent striking force with the bat and ball. He is likely to be recalled by Sri Lanka for their tour of India in September. With Ramsbottom well in line for the title, they would not like to lose de Mel during the vital finishing stages of the tourney. Ramsbottom play their final game on the day Sri Lanka will be playing India a one-day International in Jullundur. De Mel played under Clive Lloyd in a "benefit" for former Indian allrounder Kharsan Ghavri.

SRI LANKA'S WOMEN GOLFERS who have been showing more than ordinary skill in this sport were rewarded with a trip and will represent Sri Lanka at the Third Singapore Amateur Open Women's Golf Championships to be worked off at the Jurong Country Club course in Singapore. The foursome selected to represent Sri Lanka are Suwaneetha Selvaratnam, Rukmani Kodagoda, Oosha Chanmugam and Yvone Abhayaratne. In the foursome are two former national champions, Suwaneetha Selvaratnam (1977) and Rukmani Kodagoda (1977). The reigning national champion is Oosha Chanmugam. Yvonne Abhayaratne was runnerup to Oosha at the Sri Lanka Amateur Championship held at Nuwara Eliya early this year. The Sri Lanka Ladies Golf Union has also been informed that the 5th Asian Amateur Women's Golf Championships for the Queen Sirikit Challenge Cup will be held next year in Singapore. Sri Lanka hosted the last

TRIBUNE, AUGUST 21, 1982

Queen Sirikit Championships in March this year and Australia came out on top as they did last year in Japan. Thailand hosted the inaugural competition in 1979 which was won by Japan who repeated their success in Indonesia in 1980.

THE UNDER-25 INTER CLUB cricket tourney for the Honda Trophy sponsored by Stafford Motors got underway, but the weather proved a spoiler in several games that were down for decisions. The sponsors are offering Rs.11,000 in prize money and other incentives making it nearly Rs.45,000 to be won. The prize money to the winners of the tourney has been increased from Rs.3,000 to Rs.5,000 and the runners up will receive Rs.2,500 and now Rs.1,500 as last year. The individual awards for the final, however remain the same. "Man-of-the-match": - Rs.1000; Best Batsman Rs.500; Best Bowler Rs.500; The Man-of-the-match in the semi finals will receive Rs.500; Other incentives are that the eleven players in a team in the semi-finals and final will receive Rs.75 each and the 17 participating clubs will be paid Rs.400 each for expenses.

ALL—ROUNDER

SPORTS CHRONICLE

## August 1 - 7

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 1:** The CR and FC won the prestigious 100th *Rugger* encounter against their arch rivals the Havelocks by 13 points (a goal, try and penalty) to 7 (a try and penalty) at Longden Place yesterday thus retelling a story that took place in 1923 when these two forerunners in Sri Lanka rugby met for the first time. The semi-finalists were found in the *All-Island Under 17 Girls Schools Basketball Tournament* yesterday on the Good Shepherd Convent courts. In Group A, the semi-finalists were Good Shepherd Convent, Kotahena and Holy Family Convent, Kurunegala while from group B De Mazenod and St. Bridget's qualified for the semi finals. One new record was set up on the opening day of the *Schools Relay Carnival* for Daily News Trophies at St. Peter's grounds yesterday. The record was shattered by Ave Maria Convent in the heats of 4 x 200 meters Relay for girls Under 13; they clocked 2 mins, 04.0 secs. which bettered the existing record of 2 min 4.5 secs.

**MONDAY, AUGUST 2:** Galle Face Hotel beat Air Lanka by five wickets in the *Travel Trade Six-a-Side Cricket Tournament Final*. Trinity College Kandy scored an easy 9 wickets win over St. Peter's College B in their Sri Lanka *Schools Under 17 Cricket Tournament* pre-quarter final match played at Kandy. St. Peter 138 for 8 in 60 overs and Trinity 139 for 1 in 38 overs. St. Sylvesters retained the *Stubbs Shield*, when they came on top of this year's schools boxing Classic on Saturday at St. Thomas College Hall at Mount Lavinia. Boulton SC Puttalm scored an easy 5 goals to 2 win over Samanala SC Hatton in a *soccer match* played at Hatton recently. St. Sylvesters beat Dharmaraja 3 - 2 in a *Singer Shield Under 19 Soccer match*

25

played at Bogambara. In repeat Final of last year Isipatana beat St. Peter's by 9 points (goal, drop goal) to nil to bag the *Philip Buultjens Trophy* for the third year running in the *All-Island Schools Seven-a-Side Rugby Tournament* at Maitland Crescent yesterday. Ananda, Ave Maria Convent Negombo and Ceylonese Track and Field Club "Blues" carried away the Daily News trophies at the *Sri Lanka Schools Relay Carnival* concluded at St. Peter's College grounds, yesterday. The *Chand Trophy* for the Champion Women's Club team went to Sri Lak Athletic Club.

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 3:** Lumbini MV scored an easy first innings win over Kalutara's Holy Cross College and entered the *Sri Lanka Schools Cricket Tournament's Under 17 Division 3 quarter-final* round. Holy Cross 88 and Lumbini 123 for 6 at close. CTB beat BMC in the *Nationalised Services League Football Final 2-1* at Police Park yesterday. Prisons B beat Tulhiriya Textiles 3 - nil in the *State Services Hockey tournament* at Police Park yesterday. Shamrocks became Group A champions when they defeated YMCA Colombo 67 - 54 after leading 33 - 19 in the *John Exter Shield Basketball Tournament* match played at Police courts, Bambalapitiya.

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4:** The inaugural cricket match between the Association of Cricket Umpires and the Australian High Commissioner's eleven ended in a 100 run victory for the Umpires Association. Association of Cricket Umpires 221 for 6 in 30 overs and Australian High Commission XI 121. Blue Oceanic Beach Hotel, Negombo emerged champions at *Negombo Hotels' Seventh Annual Cricket Tournament* when they beat Dons Beach Hotel A in the final match played at the Negombo's esplanade. This was Blue Oceanic's third success in the series. Panadura SC defeated Kaluthara Physical Culture Circle SC by 58 runs on the first innings in their *Sir Cyril de Zoysa Challenge Trophy Cricket Tournament* match played recently at the Kalutara esplanade, Panadura SC 153 and Kalutara PCC SC 95. Municipal Sports Club won the *A Division Championship* at the 1981-82 annual cricket tournament conducted by Sri Lanka State Services Cricket Association which was concluded recently. Police A overwhelmed Prisons B 10 - nil in a *State Services Hockey League Tournament* match at the Police Park yesterday.

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 5:** The visiting Lincolnshire Sports Federation Junior (Under 16) cricket team from England lost their opening match to Trinity's Under 16 team by 113 runs in the one-day cricket match at the Asgiriya International Stadium yesterday. Trinity 215 for 5 declared in 209 minutes and Lincolnshire Juniors 102. The *Third Inter Club 45-over Under 25 Cricket Tournament* for the Honda Trophy got off to a sensational

start yesterday, when defending champions SSC were beaten by Colts at Havelock Park. Colts 175 in 38.2overs and SSC 148 in 39.1. overs. Trinity College Kandy scored yet another victory when they beat St. Thomas College, Bandarawela by 9 goals to nil in a *Schools Hockey Match* played at the Asgiriya International Stadium. Samanala SC Hatton scored an easy 6 goals to 1 win over Rovers SC, Negombo in their *inter-club soccer* match played at Dunbar Stadium, Hatton recently. Gemunu House emerged champions at the *Inter-house sports meet* of Dharmasoka College Ambalangoda held recently at the Ambalangoda esplanade. Asoka House and Vijaya House were second and third respectively.

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 6:** St. Thomas College, Gurutalawa, continued their winning streak when they defeated Royal College Colombo by 3 goals to 1 in an *Under 17 Hockey match* played at Gurutalawa last Sunday. Wehara Samagi SC beat Nissankapura SC by nine goals to two in a *friendly soccer match* played at Wehara MC Park, Kurunegala. Kurunegala RFC beat Kandy Lions by 11 points (1 penalty 2 tries) to 3 (1 penalty) at the People's Park Kurunegala in their *Upcountry League Rugger Tournament* match. Tangalla Maha Vidyalaya won the *under 19 boys' championships Elle tournament* of Tangalla in the Hambantota Education District. Passara MMV won the senior (*Under 19*) *volleyball* titles for both boys and girls at the recently concluded Passara interschools volleyball tournament organised by the Passara Education Officer.

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 7:** Araliya House won the overall team championship totalling 245 points in the Arethusa Maha Vidyalaya Inter House *Athletic meet* held at the Police grounds, Bambalapitiya. Asoka House finished second with 216 points and Rose House with a tally of 142 points came third. *Clifford Cup Champions* CH & FC were held to a 11-all draw by Air Force in their Second-Round replay at Longden Place yesterday after the Airmen led 7 - 3 at "lemons" - a fitting end to the League Competitions. Ford Rhodes and Thornton won the *Soccer Sevens* and *Men's Table Tennis Inter Audit Tournaments* held recently at the Sports Ministry. They beat Wickremasinghe Dayananda and Co. 4- nil in the *Soccer Final* and in a "home and home": *Table Tennis Final* the A team beat the B 3 - 1. Anton Silva caused a major upset toppling Bottom Seed Ranjan Fernando 29 - 25, 0 - 29, 29 0 19 in the Men's Singles Quarter-Finals of the *Federation Cup Carrom tournament* continued at the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation Recreation Club hall.

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**MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND  
CONSTRUCTION  
NATIONAL WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD  
Notice to Consumers of Water in Panadura and Kolonnawa  
Local Authority Areas**

The distribution areas in the Local Authority of Panadura and Kolonnawa have been declared as areas of authority coming under the National Water Supply and Drainage Board Law No. 2 of 1974. The distribution systems belonging to the above mentioned Local Authorities have been taken over by the National Water Supply and Drainage Board with effect from 1st January 1982 by an Order published in the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka No. 171/6 of 15th December, 1981.

All consumers within the Local Authority areas of Panadura and Kolonnawa and also the consumers outside the Local Authority areas who obtained water from the Panadura and Kolonnawa distribution systems will be billed with effect from 1st September, 1982, on a metered basis. Consumers of water who have not been metered so far are kindly requested to inform the Deputy General Manager (Project), and get their supplies metered, as failure to do so may result in disconnection when detected. All consumers billed on meter will be exempted from the water tax paid to the Local Authority included in their annual property tax.

To keep the water bills low, the consumers are advised to use water that is essential to them rather than allowing taps to flow undetected. We also advise that any leaking taps and overhead tanks should promptly be attended to before billing is commenced.

For example, an average family of 06 at the rate of one unit per day (1,000 Litres/220 gallons/1 cu : metre) will only have to pay less than Rs. 30/-. The tariff is as follows:—

Code	Description	Tariff
10	Private residence	1st 10 units, @ -/20 cts. per unit. 2nd 10 units. @ -75 cts. per unit. In excess of 20 units @ Rs. 1/75 per unit
60	Government Institution	Rs. 2/75 per unit
70	Commercial	Rs. 2/75 per unit
71	Tourist Hotels and Guest Houses registered with the Ceylon Tourist Board	Rs. 11/10 per unit
73	Shipping and Industries	Rs. 5/50 per unit
74	Unmetered Industrial and Commercial premises (until the meters are fixed)	Rs. 25/00 per month
80	Charitable and religious institutions and schools	As per domestic rate institutions and schools

Note : 1,000 litres or 220 gallons or 1. cu. metre - 1 unit.

Payment of water bills should be made in cash, cheques or money orders at the National Water Supply and Drainage Board (Project Office), Gallé Road Ratmalana between 8.00 a.m. and 12.00 noon and 12.45 p.m. to 3.00 p.m. on all working days. Payments also could be made in cash only at (1) The Bank of Ceylon, Panadura Branch, to the credit of the collection Account number 8905 and (2) The Bank of Ceylon Kolonnawa Branch to the credit of the collection Account number 808.

Complaints regarding damages to meters and against readings should be forwarded to (1) the OIC, Panadura Pumping Station, Weeraman Road, Panadura—Telephone No. 046/2368 and (2) the OIC, Kolonnawa, National Water Supply and Drainage Board, Kolonnawa Road Kollonnawa (behind Bank of Ceylon, Kollonnawa Branch). Complaints of bills and tariff should be forwarded to the Accountant (Revenue), at the National Water Supply and Drainage Board—Telephone No. 71/5997. Instructions regarding complaints, billing, etc. will appear on the reverse of your monthly bills.

**National Water Supply and Drainage Board,**  
Ratmalana.

**N. D. PERIS**  
Chairman

CONFIDENTIALLY

## French Connection

IS IT NOT TIME that something is done about the French Connection in our telephone system? That the *Sun* on August 6 carried a frontpage banner FRENCH MULTINATIONAL IN SEARCH OF A CONNECTION: THEY TRIED TO BRIBE ME? That the piece was by Tyrone Devotta? That this is how the report opened: "A bribe of Rs. 10,000. An air ticket to London and back with all expenses paid for a two-day stay in Paris. An all expenses paid holiday in Singapore. These were the carrots held up to me by a French multi-national coax me to sing hosannas in praise of their digital telephone installations. A Sri Lankan working for this concern even gave me a two-page draft on how it should appear in print. The handout began with the words: 'In spite of previous newspaper reports and propaganda against the French CIT Alatel Public Telecommunication Systems, the Indian Cabinet has finally approved the award to the French'. It went on to speak about the propaganda against them by competitors and extolled the virtues of their system". **That the build-up to the bribery scenario was set down thus:** "The Sri Lankan, an employee of this French multinational and a key figure behind the installation of the new digital telephone exchange in Colombo (French built), telephoned me around 3 p.m. on Monday and wished to see me. I had met him previously while on an assignment with the WEEKEND INSIGHT team on the country's telephone service. When I reached his office at No. 41, Alfred House Gardens, accompanied by a colleague, we were ushered to an air-conditioned lounge by this Lankan. There he told us of an Indian Cabinet decision to award a massive multi-billion dollar telecommunication tender to his Paris based company. He said the French Telecommunications Minister (L. Mexandeau) was arriving in New Delhi to meet his Indian counterpart (one Mr. C. M. Stephen). He told us to stand by since after his visit a formal announcement was due. This Lankan seemed to know even Indian Cabinet secrets. He said the official announcement of the tender award would be made this week. It has been confirmed for him by his Paris office. If I was not convinced, the Lankan said, I could wait till the official announcement appeared in the Indian press. He also told me that the WEEKEND INSIGHT report on the telephone system in which there were detailed references of doubts over the French system had been publicised abroad by his company's competitors. *As we finished the meeting and were walking out, the Lankan said he wished to speak to me privately. I presumed he was wanting to speak something confidential and accompanied him upstairs. We walked into one office room. There was a lady making a telephone call. So he took me to the next room and said: "I have Rs. 10,000 specially allocated for publicity. You can take this*

*money and use it anyway your wish". I refused the money. He insisted that I take it saying, "it is little benefits like this (Rs. 10,000) that make your profession worthwhile. The salary your company gives you is only a token". Showing discomfort at my refusal, he went on to say: "A sum of Rs. 50,000 could be made available to your Editor, if he wants it, in order to help give the necessary publicity. Please do not misunderstand me for offering you this money. This is the normal form abroad". When I really made him understand that I did not want the money, he said, "Then at least accept a trip to France or New Delhi".*

*That "TRIBUNE" does not know if there was any follow up? That this matter is one that the Anti-Bribery Department should look into? That there is no doubt that the attempted bribery comes within the provisions of the law? That some apologists for the French Connection have told Tribune that even if the Sun report were correct, it did not disclose any "offence" within the meaning of the Act? That if this is also the view of the Attorney General, then Government should take steps to take political action against the offenders? That for some years Tribune and other papers have drawn attention to the nefarious activities of some local contacts of the French Connection and how the country has been saddled with poor equipment (Hydroturbines in Laxapana, Gas turbines at Kelanitissa and Telephones in Colombo)? That whilst it is true that the French are capable of providing first class equipment, bribe monies and commissions exacted (or extorted) by officials and others probably compelled them to supply second rate equipment? That it is time something is done about it? That there is no doubt that the telephone service after the French digital system was introduced has gone from bad to worse? That we will soon have much to say about the New Delhi contract to the French, Company? That apart from supplying equipment the Franco-India contract is mainly about the setting up of factories to make telephone equipment? That this latest agreement is only an "umbrella over various agreements on telecommunications between the two countries"? That the agreements provide for French assistance to India in setting up a plant to manufacture electronic telephone switching equipment, supply of two lakh lines of finished equipment, research and development collaboration for development of the next generation system and training. France will also give financial assistance to the extent of 1080 million French francs for the project? That one does not know what the French Connection in India is like? That one does not know whether it is the first time that the French are entering the electronic telecommunication field in that vast subcontinent? That those who have endured the telephone system in New Delhi cannot complain about telephones in Colombo?*

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GARADS

# **MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING & CONSTRUCTION**

## **Urban Development Authority**

### **POSTS OF DEPUTY DIRECTOR (LEGAL AFFAIRS) – GRADE III**

Applications are invited from citizens of Sri Lanka for **2 posts** of Deputy Director (Legal Affairs) in the Urban Development Authority as follows:—

(i) **1 post of Deputy Director (Legal Affairs) —  
for prosecution work.**

*Experience and qualifications:*

- (a) Should be a registered Attorney - at - Law with atleast 8 years experience in legal work, particularly in prosecution work connected with unauthorised buildings in Colombo and other areas. Preference will be given to candidates with experience in the above mentioned work in a Local Authority.
- (b) Should be proficient in the Official Language.

(ii) **1 post of Deputy Director (Legal Affairs) —  
for work connected with acquisitions, lease of land etc.**

*Experience and qualifications:*

- (a) Should be a registered Attorney - at - Law with atleast 8 years experience in legal work connected with land acquisition, land leases, valuations, mortgage and contract procedure, conveyancing and should be able to attest deeds and legal documents.
- (b) Should be proficient in the Official Language.

2. **Age:** Candidates for both posts should be below 45 years.

3. **Salary Scale:** Rs. 2,450/-10x75– Rs. 3,200/- plus Govt. approved allowances.

*Note:* Selected candidate can be placed on a salary point above the initial of the scale depending on his/her qualifications and experience.

Applications stating full particulars relating to qualifications, experience, present employment and salary, etc., should be sent under registered cover to reach the Director (Administration), Urban Development Authority, No. 27, D.R. Wijewardene Mawatha, Colombo 10 on or before 31st August 1982.

Applicants in Govt. Departments/Corporations, etc. should forward their applications through the respective Heads of Institutions.

10th August 1982

CHAIRMAN  
URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY.