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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

THERE IS ONE QUESTION on the lips of many people today. 'How will the rural people vote in the presidential and the parliamentary elections?' The rural community is not what it was ten or twenty years ago—not even what it was five years ago in 1977. The picture on the cover depicts the change that has come over a growing section of our farming community especially in the settlements. The young people of today especially the 18 to 25s, dress differently, think differently and act differently. Those between 25 and 40 constitute another category. From them comes the group that had suffered from repression against the 1971 insurgency. The over 40 or the over 45 are the diehard groups: the UNPers of the Senanayake vintage or SLFPers of Bandaranaike's *Ape Anduwa*. There are also territorial, racial, religious, linguistic and caste groupings. Whilst in urban areas these sectarian divisions may appear blurred, in rural communities they are still factors to be taken into serious consideration. But over all these there are a few issues of universal importance to all farming communities: especially the question of prices of the goods they have to buy and the agricultural produce they grow for sale. Next comes the availability of inputs for farming and easy credit to have working capital. Of emotive significance, are the acts of commission and omission of bureaucrats, together with the conduct, behaviour and accessibility of MPs and Ministers. In areas from which many have found employment in the Middle East, the tensions are less and the situation is very different. Those who are solely dependent on what they eke out of the land alone face unfold hardships on subsistence farming. *But there is not the slightest doubt that in all farming areas there is a widespread belief that the SLFP understood the problems of farmers far better than the urban-oriented UNP. This belief is mainly based on the fact that the SLFP had stopped the import of all commodities that could be grown here (potatoes, chillies, onions, subsidiary food crops etc) and farmers were able to grow more and earn more. The few rich in urban areas may have grumbled, but the millions in the farming areas benefited. The UNP however indulged in excessive imports to help urban populations and tried to induce higher agricultural production by dangling the carrot of export. But this has so far not worked. This policy has had a disastrous impact on the rural farming community.* The floor price scheme has come too late and it works spasmodically, unevenly and inefficiently. There are not enough storehouses and rural godowns for this scheme to work. From Jaffna in the North to Ambalantota in the South, from Kalmunai in the East to Kalpitiya in the West, there is a persistent feeling that the SLFP will always give the farmer a better deal than the UNP. Whilst one UNP Ministry promises to help the farmers by reducing or banning such imports, another Ministry keeps on importing more and more especially when the local harvests come in. If the President wants to win the confidence of the rural community for himself and the party, there must be a categorical declaration that in future the interest of the local agricultural producers will have priority over the importers lobby which caters only to a small segment of petro-dollarated society far better off than the farming community. The condition of many farming households is desperate and in desperation they will vote for any party that promises relief in this matter. **This is a matter to which the President should pay immediate attention. What is at stake is the way a large number of rural people in all parts of the country will vote. Mahapola scholarships, Swarnabhoomi deeds and Udagama houses are meaningless unless prices of agricultural produce are consistent with the current costs of production. If the UNP is to face the people with confidence, this credibility gap in the rural area must be corrected.**

Getting Ready

Colombo, September 4: A Special Gazette notification on August 30, fixed September 17 for nominations and October 20 for polling for the first ever Presidential election. The UNP has unanimously named the incumbent president J. R. Jayewardene as its candidate. There was no doubt about this choice at any time. But uncertainty has hung and still hangs over the SLFP (S) choice. The first announcement was that Hector Kobbekaduwa Minister of Agriculture and Lands in the 1970-77 Sirimavo Government will be SLFP (S)'s presidential candidate—with Anura to be the Prime Minister. This led to an uproar in certain circles of the SLFP (S). Old timers like T. B. Illangaratne and later recruits like Vijaya Kumaranatunga (married to second daughter Chandrika Bandaranaike) had raised serious objections. Thereafter Kobbekaduwa's name faded into the background for a while. And, at this stage, Anura's came into the picture. It was argued that even if the SLFP (S) did not get recognition as the successor of the original SLFP—many believe that the recognition was likely to go to SLFP (M)—Anura could contest the presidential election because as a MP he would be in the same advantageous position as a nominee of a recognized party. The anxiety on the part of Mrs. Bandaranaike to make Anura the SLFP(S) choice was regarded by many only as an excuse to perpetuate the Bandaranaike name and obtain a prescriptive right for Anura to lead the SLFP now and in the future.

A new situation has now arisen where Illangaratne has jumped into the Kobbekaduwa bandwagon and as we go press Secretary Ratnasiri Wickremnayake has written to a number of Opposition parties that Kobbekaduwa was the SLFP (S) choice. Illangaratne too has issued a statement to the same effect. Kobbekaduwa, too, in press interviews, has declared that he was the SLFP (S) candidate. The SLFP (S) daily *Dinakara* controlled by the Vijaya-K-Chandrika group has announced that Kobbekaduwa was the official candidate. In the meantime, Mrs. Bandaranaike has been fighting a rearguard action to have Anura as her "personal" candidate. She says that the announcement about the SLFP (S) candidate will be made on September 7 after a special meeting of the Working Committee to be held at Horogolla.

The CPSL, however continues to persist in its efforts to make Dr. Colvin R. de Silva the Common Opposition Candidate but has made little or no headway. The TULF at a General Council meeting held on August 28 at Trincomalee decided not to put forward a candidate for the post of President. It also decided not to support Kumar Ponnambalam if he came forward

as a nominee of the ACTC. He has now paid in his deposit of Rs. 50,000 being the first to do so. The hardline pro-Eealm group wanted the TULF to call for a boycott of the elections, but no decision was taken, the consensus being that the matter should be reviewed after all the nominations were received on September 17. There is also a trend of thinking that the TULF should permit individual Tamils to vote or abstain as it pleased them—a conscience vote. It is not yet definite whether Maithripala Senanayake, leader of the SLFP (M) will stand down in favour of Dr. Colvin R. de Silva as the common Opposition candidate. But the JVP is determined to field a candidate of its own. The main thrust of the JVP is to denigrate the SLFP and its allies in the 1970 government, the LSSP and the CPSL for the way the Sirimavo Coalition had dealt with young insurgents. And their attitude is understandable. Though the JVP is riven with factional and leadership conflicts, all sections are united in their bitter hatred for Mrs. Bandaranaike and her coalition partners who had carried their enthusiasm to fight the insurgency to the point of ruthless brutality and had given the Police and Army a free hand to assault, rape and kill youth suspected of being insurgents or sympathetic to the JVP.

IN THE MEANTIME, the Elections Commissioner is going ahead with his plans for the poll. There are 8,145,015 persons on the register i.e. all those over 18 and who are entitled to vote. According to the Elections Commissioner, the elections is expected to cost Rs. 55 million. There will be 10,000 booths and 60,000 persons will be required man the booths. Most of the booths will be in school premises and schools will have to be closed for about three days to make the arrangements. Candidates will also have air time. The Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation and Rupavahini will provide the opportunity for Presidential Election candidates to go before the people to explain their policies. Mr. D. T. D. Guruge, Director General of Broadcasting told the *Evening Observer* that 45 minutes will be allocated to each candidate which could be used on one occasion or in 15 minute talks on three days. Mr. Guruge said that the addresses should be direct talks to the people and no interviews will be allowed. On Television, opportunity will be given for debates among the contestants on specific issues but in that case a candidate cannot ask the viewers to vote for a particular party. The Director-General of Broadcasting will meet the Commissioner of Elections to arrange the details of the scheme. The Presidential Elections Act states "each candidate shall subject to conditions as may be determined by the Director-General of Broadcasting, upon application made in that behalf within one week from the date of nomination be entitled to the use of broadcasting facilities during a period commencing from the day after the last date fixed for making such application and ending 72

hours prior to the commencement of the poll." The Act also states where two or more candidates agree to debate any matter of national importance, it shall be the duty of the Director-General of Broadcasting to afford broadcasting facilities to such candidates. But the time permitted for such debate shall not exceed the time allocated for each such candidate under subsection 2 (i.e. 45 minutes). It also states "That the order on which each candidate should use the broadcasting facilities shall be determined (a) in the first instance by agreement among the candidates or (b) in the absence of such an agreement by lots cast or drawn in such a manner as the Director-General of Broadcasting may in his absolute discretion determine. The Act also adds no candidate shall save and except as provided in this section directly or indirectly use broadcasting facilities for the purpose of promoting his own election."

THERE IS STILL A GREAT DEAL OF CONFUSION about the voting and counting under the PR system. Mr. Chandrenanda de Silva, Commissioner of Elections, told the *Evening Observer* that he was unable to say when the election result would be announced. It will take a little time, he said, because it was unprecedented and it was the first time that a presidential election where the preference vote would also have to taken into account if there is no clear winner on the first count. Mr. de Silva explained that the first step would be the verification of ballot papers. The second stage would be to count the valid votes. If there is no winner the third stage would be to count the second and third preferences.

Minister Lalith Athulathmudali explained to the press the voting system for the presidential elections (*Sun*, September 1, 1982) to clear what he called "misunderstandings" about the system. "Nobody is obliged to mark all preferences one is enough. But he cannot mark more than three. If in the first count of votes any candidate gets more than 50 percent, he is the winner. If no candidate gets more than 50 percent then preferences will be counted. Candidates three, four, five and six will be eliminated and their preferences will go to the top two candidates. If there are no preferences to be allocated, then the candidate who polled the majority of votes in the first count will be elected President". These provisions are clearly set out in Article 94 of the Constitution, he said. The age qualification in 30 years. Article 31 specified that the following can stand for Presidential election: any person who is nominated by a recognized political party, and any person who is or has been an elected member of the legislation. The Trade Minister pointed out that for SLFP (S), either Hector Kobbekaduwa, Anura Bandaranaike, T. B. Illangaratne or Lakshman Jayakody can come forward on both accounts but Vijaya Kumaranunge would not qualify on the second count. Referring to the JVP, he said "People now assume that red means JVP not LSSP or CP. He predicted that the JVP would poll more

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votes than the LSSP. Each candidate will have to put down a deposit of 75,000 rupees which he will lose if he gets less than one eighth of the votes. On the question of TV and radio time, quoting 117 of the Presidential Election Act, Mr. Athulathmudali said each candidate could have 45 minutes on radio and TV which can be taken at once or in three 15 minute slots. The broadcasts will have to be taken between September 25 and October 16, 72 hours before the election and candidates will have to apply for airtime. If candidates want to debate they have to use this allocated time. The order of appearance will be by agreement or casting lots. The Director-General of Broadcasting will lay down certain provisions for the broadcasts and may ask for credits in advance to prevent mudslinging and abuse. **Speaking on his predictions for the forthcoming election, Mr. Athulathmudali was of the opinion that President J. R. Jayewardene would poll more votes than the UNP did in the last general election (50.9 percent), since there was no swing against the party. The SLFP would poll 30 percent (both factions) and the LSSP two percent.**

A certain percentage of the votes were unaccounted for the added. In the last election the TULF polled six percent. They have not nominated a candidate but the Trade Minister was of the opinion that the people in the districts of Vavuniya, Trincomalee, Amparai, Batticaloa, Mullaitivu and Mannar would vote for the UNP. The Ceylon Workers' Congress (1.1 percent) had pledged its support to the President. Independents had polled 5.6 percent in the previous election and these votes also had to go somewhere. The common candidate, Mr. Athulathmudali said, would not know what policies to follow since the parties disagreed on several issues. He said the Commissioner of Elections will have to decide, before nomination date, which faction of the SLFP to recognise. Mrs. Bandaranakie would not be able to canvass or support any candidate but she would have a chance to contest herself in 1988, Mr. Athulathmudali promised. He said there was no large "youth vote" since most young people voted with their parents. However, 1.8 million voters or 25 percent of the electorate would be voting for the first time. Even this Ministerial explanation has not helped to clear the present confusion.

SHERLOCK HOLMES

ANSWERS READERS' QUESTIONS

●FTZ (Korean) Mystery ●Tea Trade Uproar

Question : Have the South Koreans pulled out of the much-publicised FTZ shoe-manufacturing joint

venture (with the Government Leather Products Corporation)? Did not the Employers Trust Fund (ETF) invest heavily in this? Were shares not sold to the public?

Answer : Yes. There was a joint venture with a South Korean group with the Leather Products Corporation playing the role of local entrepreneur. The ETF did invest and shares were also sold to the public as guilt-edged investment. But there reports that all is not well. Production, it is reported, has been interrupted, temporarily. No official news has been released. Information, understandably, is hard to come by. Those who know are tight-lipped. But there is something amiss. There was a big publicity tamasha about the first consignment of shoes exported But, FTZ bazaar gossip today is that the South Koreans have done a "classic South Korean bunk" (in Hongkong lingo). The South Koreans having made their money, according to this gossip, by supplying the machinery (not of the best quality) at exaggerated and over-valued prices have quietly vamoosed leaving the joint venture company to carry the baby—to find working capital and do the drudgery of production and sale. Whether this "story" is true or untrue, only an official statement can clarify. The FTZ authorities would do well to tell the public whether the story going round the bazaar is a canard or whether it is false or whether it is a basketful of half-truths. At least, it will be comforting to know when production will start in real earnest again.

Question : *What is the rumpus about a recent appointment to the Tea Board? There has been a great deal of subdued agitation in some sections of the daily press about this appointment.*

Answer : The tea world is agog with talk about the appointment of Mr. Merrill J. Fernando to the Tea Board. Mr. Fernando is one of the leading exporters of tea in the island, but other exporters feel that as a member of the Tea Board, Mr. Fernando will have access to very confidential information relating to all aspects of tea marketing/trading. This will give him an unfair advantage over all other members of the Tea Traders Association. Tea Traders/Exporters, it is said, are required to provide the Tea Board with all information pertaining to each and every contract within 48 hours of confirmation. The Tea Board treats this information in strictest confidence and does not divulge it to any member of the trade. This will now not be possible, it is said, because of Mr. Merrill Fernando's presence on the Board. He will have access to this vital information.

It is also said that the Tea Board from time to time formulates and implements tea trading and export policies, many of which are of a highly sensitive and confidential nature. Prior information of these

policies, particularly duty charges, by any member of trade can be of utmost significance and substantial advantage to that member. By being on the Board Mr. Fernando will have prior knowledge and this, it is stressed, will be unfair and unjust by other members of the trade. According to knowledgeable sources, the Board also implements overseas marketing strategies and decides on promotional support for individual exporters of Sri Lanka teas. Early information of this nature will readily be available to any of the members of the Board, it is argued, and again Mr. Fernando will have a decided advantage over others in the trade. The question asked is whether there is not be a serious conflict of interests? The rumpus about Mr. Merrill Fernando has also brought into focus the case of Mr. Mahinda Dunuwille, who it is said, is in somewhat a similar position. He was earlier Director General of the Tea Board and it was made out that his presence on the Board was absolutely necessary to ensure continuity. But it was believed that this would be only for a short time. To tea traders it would appear that no person, directly or indirectly associated with the Export and Trading of Tea, should be appointed to the Board of the Sri Lanka Tea Board. **It has been stressed that if the Tea Board wishes to have the benefit of both Mr. Merrill Fernando and Mr. Mahinda Dunuwille's experience they could serve on Advisory Committees such as the Consultative Committee and thereby make a useful contribution.**

LETTER

Killer Bills

Sir,

My electricity bill upped by one thousand four hundred percent—is it fair? I received my electricity bill for the month of April 1982 only on 24.8.82. Had my income tax payments, EPF payments or ETF payments got delayed by one fourth this extent, penalties are operative under the relevant ordinances. However, it may be that the public servants of today are immune to any sort of punishment for whatever delay in the discharge of their duties. It is not the delay that concerns me but the most unfair increase of the electricity bill on account of one reason or another.

If the price of any marketable commodity was increased by one hundred percent by the private trade, it would be the topic of the day, and the government would have reacted immediately even to the extent of enacting laws to protect the consumer.

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Although the consumers of electricity have been patiently bearing up the periodical increases in the electricity charges in the last few months it has become an unbearable item of expenditure to the average consumer. *Electricity has become an essential commodity for persons living in the urban and semi-urban areas. It is therefore our wish that the government would look into the matter in a more rational and practical way even though that much of agitation has not been made up to now.*

I have consumed 560 units of electricity for the month concerned. This is the normal consumption for operating the water pump, house-lighting, fridge, fans and the surgical-instrument-sterilizer used for the practice of my profession. The electric kettle is used only twice a day -- once in the morning and again in the afternoon and the cooking is done with firewood, in order to minimise the use of electricity, heeding the Department's advice. According to the earlier rates (i.e., before adding the fuel charges) the amount payable by me would have been as follows: 560 units at -/12 cts. per unit, Rs. 67.20., Meter reading charges Rs.10.00, Total Rs.77/20. But the total amount, according to the present "Jig-saw puzzle" calculations of the Department has brought the amount to Rs.1,082.50 which is one thousand four hundred percent of the amount according to the earlier rates... Is this fair?

(Dr.) T.G.D.CHANDRA PERERA,JP.

66, Attanagala Road,
Veyangoda.



FILM FOCUS

The Christ Film

The Bible has been a rich source for many Hollywood films based on the "Life of Christ" and that a local production is now before the cameras would be a matter of joy for Christians in Sri Lanka. Whether it would be in colour or not, is not to the knowledge of this column and further details would be made available to *Tribune* readers in due course. Christ is to be portrayed by the now mature actor Vijaya Kumaranatunga and photography is in the expert hands of Donald Karunaratne. The Christian clergy too have been requested to be present on the sets, in an advisory capacity, to ensure that accuracy is maintained in filming. If this effort is a success it will be dubbed in Tamil too. It can very well turn out to be a perennial for many years to come-- during the Christmas and Easter seasons. This column would therefore request the film makers to view some of the major sequences in Cecil B.D.Milles "The Ten Commandments" and "Ben Hur" -- two films that portrayed sequences in the Life of Christ with precision and truth. While the former spanned the entire

B. C. to A. D. period, the crucifixion scene in "Ben Hur" was one to remember for a long time. Even the pulsating chariot race in this masterpiece was dwarfed by this final sequence. The controversial "Jesus Christ, Superstar", too, took on Calvary with a musical pathos and less criticism, while a Tamil film "Annai Velanganni", with a preponderant Hindu cast, signed off with a remarkable crucifixion sequence at curtains. To digress a bit without any offence, one wonders whether the Catholic Film Office, the OCIC would reing to bear its expertise and knowledge in the making of this film.

KIRI SUWANDA (Sinhalese): This film is the maiden colour creation of that up and coming young Director Anton Gregory who from being an understudy has moved up painstakingly in his profession. He has mixed all the requisite ingredients for maximum audience appeal, and has used the star material at his disposal with intelligence. The story, with the shades of the "Duhulu Malak" film plot, as a pace-setter, centres around a family, where the husband, an eminent lawyer Merrill (Vijaya Kumaranatunga) is too engrossed in his practice to make a success of his marriage and this stales his relationship with his attractive wife Maathri (Geetha Kumarasinghe), a person who had rebounded to marital status from an intense college romance. The lover boy was roled by by Sanath Gunatilaka. She had forsaken him under parental pressure. And then she found herself left high and dry in her new walauwa home. She becomes a victim of a "wolf" on the prowl in Tissa Wijesurendra who fails at a crucial moment. Maathri's mother (Leena de Silva) witnesses the tragic scene and requests her daughter to make a quick exit to keep hearth and home intact and carries the secret which bears relevance to the film title to her deathbed, Merrill, having gradually got over the shock of separation, is now on the bench helped on to the position by his attractive secretary (Sobitha Perera). The final confrontation between the judge husband and the long lost wife in the dock, is linked firmly by their son at the bar, Although hitched to a formula run, it stands out of the ordinary even in this category of films. Geetha shone most of the way with a very commendable performance in affluence and poverty. Swarna Mallewaratchi, Jeannita Samaraweera and Manel Wanaguru add to the aura of beauty that is spread out evently in the film. Director Gregory has done an excellent job. **NENJATHAI KILLATHE** (Tamil): This film had a successful run in India, but it did not evoke the same response locally. It disappointed me. A starlet Sudarshini is the main attraction in a romantic story between two young "dawn" joggers who step into each others hearts and consequent opposition from the elders, a wounded sister -in-law being the main culprit. The veteran Telugu actor Sarath Babu roles an unhappy husband resigned to his fate, but there is not much scope for him in the film. the rave being Sudarshini who overacts.

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SITU DIYANIYA (Sinhalese) : A compact film in colour by Herbert M. Seneviratne, with a simple story that goes off the groovy track to provide excellent family entertainment. The story is spun around a stepmother (Sriyani Amarasena) stepdaughter (Palika Dilrukshi in her maiden appearance) relationship where it is the former who becomes the tormented victim with a helpless husband (Gothami Pathiraja) unable to sprinkle oil on the troubled domestic waters. Sriyani excels as usual with teenager Dilrukshi certainly holding promise for the future. The veteran director makes no secret of the fact that " a departure from the beaten track is the only way for Sinhala cinema to survive the onslaught it faces today." This film certainly lives up to that belief.

James N. Benedict

NEW POLITICAL PARTY

Podujana

Public attention has been focussed mainly on the established and recognised Parties. But new Parties and new groups of Independents are springing up. We publish a short note about a new Podujana Party that has started to spread its wings from Matale. It was sent to us by its founder leader Herath Ranbanda.

UNP-SLFP see-sawing politics has been going on for the last 34 years. To the leaders of these Parties and their supporting allies in the LSSP, CP, TULF, TC etc., and their cohorts and cronies it has been only a political game. But what of the ordinary people and the country? These leaders themselves are now aware that their time for reckoning is close at hand. That is why J.R. Jayewardene, as PM once stated " I see in the FTZ a means of solving the unemployment and cost of living problem. But in the event of the failure of the FTZ and other economic measures of the Government, I foresee new and unknown forces coming to power . . . " in the NSA in January 1978.

PODUJANA PARTY (PJP) which was initially an Economic Club interested in the socio-economic developments in the country, foresaw this situation long ago and has not put forward a detailed work-programme that offers the speediest and most effective and efficient path for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of our people and the country, ravaged by centuries of imperialist, colonial, neo-colonial, foreign and local capitalist exploitation and domination and provides for the radical transformation of the existing system -- politically, economically and socially towards the establishment of a genuine free, equal, united and prosperous democratic socialist society, within the context of our own social, cultural and religious background for the rise and well-being of ALL. This transformation is founded upon the effective transfer

of the political and economic power from the exploitative capitalist class to the ordinary people and thereby the ordinary people of the country will for the first time become fully independent, have access to the productive resources and become empowered as masters of their own destiny. *Economically*, the programme identifies all the available resources, and means of production in the country, releases them from the present inhuman and exploitative regimentations of the on-going bankrupt capitalist system and re-directs them for their optimal use in an organized and planned humanistic economy, geared to the people's needs, aspirations and priorities on the fundamental principles of national politics (instead of narrow parochial and sectarian policies), economic democracy, man and labour centredness (instead of capital and profit centredness), needs orientation (instead of profit maximisation), self-reliance. self-confidence, appropriate technology (instead of direct transfer of technology) full employment, greater productivity produces own control, equal opportunities, greater prosperity, economic equality, and right and liability of all to labour. No one will be allowed to hoard, waste or misuse the national resources nor will the few be permitted to indulge in expensive and privileged life styles at the expense of the vast mass of the ordinary people.

THE PROGRAMME INCORPORATES every province, every district, every town, every village and every resident of our country and makes our rural areas the axis of our national development efforts. The programme includes appropriate measures to institutionalize effective transfer of power of decision making to the ordinary people at the village, district, provincial and national levels. The present DDCs will be abolished and production oriented regional bodies of people's representatives at grass-roots level will be established for self-determination for all our people. For a quicker economic take-off loans already taken by the workers will be initially nullified, New loans will be granted without sureties for productive ventures for those who have the know-how and initiative drive. School children will be given free books and clothes, prices of essential goods will be reduced. A social security scheme that will cover everyone will be introduced. In the social sphere, the programme offers appropriate measures to elevate the position of man from the present state of degradation, inequality and domination have entrenched reverence for opulence and ostentation, power and privilege, pride and greed, selfishness and self-centredness, arrogance, rudeness, conceit, incivility etc. All these evils will be rooted out forthwith. The traits of publicity and flattery instead of hard work, false promises, garlands, family bandyism, tamashas, globe trotting etc., which have been extolled over the past 34 years by our rulers will be debunked and stamped out.

THE PROGRAMME rediscovers our great national, religious and cultural heritage, regenerates and re-educates the individual person with a total revolution

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in attitudes, values, priorities, motivations and a way of life to facilitate the speediest construction of the new society endowed with peace, non-violence, happiness, prosperity, unity, stability, patriotism, freedom, equality justice, democracy and mutual love and respect. It guarantees free and critical press, free radio and other mass media and contains measures to break up the concentration of the productive wealth of the country in the hands of the few and to redistribute the same to the vast mass of the dispossessed and disinherited. Further it guarantees a free, fearless, impartial and independent judiciary as the final arbiter of the rights of the citizens according to law. It emphasises that UNITY is STRENGTH and that more and more we are united, the more and more we all become great. Therefore it gives greatest priority for the re-establishment of Unity among all our people and provides measures for national consolidation on the basis of equality, mutual understanding love and respect in the building of ONE LANKA-ONE NATION, ONE NATION-ONE FAMILY. This programme of action which will effectively solve the burning problems of unemployment, food, clothing shelter etc., of the ordinary people of the country in a very short period of time and then make us one of the greatest and most prosperous nations in the world in our own life-time, now awaits the victory of PODU—JANA PARTY at the forthcoming General Election.

LEADERSHIP : Herath Ranbanda, the leader of Podujana Party is a farmer, poet, teacher, scientist, engineer and development planner of international repute. He has done a fair deal of travelling covering many countries in Asia, Europe and Africa. Many of his colleagues have even abandoned well paid employment abroad and have joined him as founder members of the Party for the sacred cause of putting right the affairs of their own motherland. They all are ordinary people born in humble homes who had modest beginnings, suffered and struggled but fought their way against the present oppressive system of patronage, familism, favouritism, discrimination etc., and emerged as self made men and women of our country. The present Central Committee of the Party consists of the following members: 1. Herath Banda, 2. Dr. D. Jayaraman, 3. S.D. Wilson, 4. Aziz A. Jaleel, 5. K.M. Seneviratne, 6. Lalith Ravindra Francis, 7. Dr. D.W. Sahabandu, 8. W.M.S. Warnasuriya, 9. Mahinda Perera, 10. T.A.R.W.M. Tilakaratne, 11. Somapala Kariyawasam, 12. D.S.C.P. Jayatileke, 13. Somachandra Bakmeedeniya, 14. P. Thavam, 15. Hemamala Herath, 16. Somasiri Werapitiya, 17. A.H.P. de Silva, 18. Gamini Jayasuriya, 19. Leslie de Mel, 20. S.A.M. Yoosuf, 21. Abeyratne Yapa Bandara, 22. Walter M. Seneviratne, 23. A. Ratnayake, 24. Dr. Somi Ranasinghe, 25. Victor Ratnayake, 26. Ranjith Kumarasiri, 27. W.M. Samarasekera, 28. Dr. R.D. Chandrasena, 29. R.M.Madduma Bandara and 30. M.H. Dhammasiri.

PUBLICATIONS : Podujana Party's Foundation Document dated 19/7/1977, Party Constitution, a 4-TRIBUNE SEPTEMBER 11, 1982

page booklet circulated in July 1979 (Sinhala and Tamil) two bulletins named "YOUR PARTY IS PODUJANA PARTY" and PJP GETTING READY FOR GENERAL ELECTION issued in 1980 and 1981, PJP ELECTION MANIFESTO - 1982 and the books named SRI LANKAN POLITICS - 1, DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISM and DESAPREMAYEN ODAWADIWA DARUDARIYANTA KAWIWALINMA LIYA LIPIYAK by Herath Ranbanda himself are of significant importance. Most of these booklets and leaflets have been posted to all the schools, temples and churches in the Island.

NO AFFILIATIONS : PJP has no affiliations with UNP, SLFP or any of the red Parties in the Island. None of them seems to have a clear out political philosophy nor any remedy for the burning problems of the masses. A change from UNP/SLFP to a red Government is only suicidal.

PROPAGANDA WORK : PJP has launched its publicity campaign under its gold colour flag in July 1977 and since then there have been few hundred indoor-discussion-meetings, seminars and public platform meetings throughout the country. PJP NEWSPAPERS has also started a newspaper by the name PODUJAN-AHANDA. Subscriptions for this will be received by the PJP Headquarters at the current rate of Rs. 30/- for 12 issues (Circulation only with in the Island). **GENERAL ELECTION :** PJP is now busy in preparing itself for the forthcoming General Election. The set target is to contest all the 24 District even as an Independent group. **HEAD OFFICE/PJP :** 52/4, Gongawela Road, Matale, Sri Lanka.

NEXT WEEK

- Election Undercurrents
 - Anatomy of Separatism —Khalistan
 - Kohomba For Insecticides
 - Futures Trading or.....?
 - Electricity Tariff
-

JUST OUT

THE INDUSTRIALISED NATIONS OF THE WEST AND THE THIRD WORLD

By

S. P. Amarasingam

In this study, we have set ourselves the task of examining this new methodology and strategy of the continued exploitation of the developing world. We will scrutinize the mechanics, the techniques and arithmetic of how the western governments and monopolies still virtually plunder developing countries in the same way the old colonialists had done. The new sophistication is to have a larger local elite to share some of the booty and collect the crumbs. But this does not change the exploitation of the majority of the people and the natural resources of the countries concerned.

The real question is to find out the true nature of the economic relations between the developed and underdeveloped groups of countries in the present world market economy. An effort will be made to unravel the intricacies that stem from this question. To understand the problem more clearly we will look at developments in Sri Lanka as well as some other Third World countries. But an overview of the major developing countries involved in the market economy of the world dominated by the industrial nations of the West will reveal the true character of the present confrontation between Rich and Poor countries or what is euphemistically called the North-South crisis.

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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 22: President J. R. Jayewardene said yesterday that Presidential elections would be held soon if the court gives its verdict in favour of the third amendment to the Constitution. "Then our supporters who are saying we will come back in 1983 will be able to say we will come back in 1982" he said. The Examinations Department is considering whether or not to cancel the Physics I and II papers following the Jaffna incident on Friday; Commissioner of Examinations Gunapala Wickremaratne said yesterday that a cancellation of the papers depended on the investigations now being carried out—*SO*. Political circles do not discount the possibility of the Presidential election being held earlier than expected; political observers say that the likely month is September (next month) if the Third Amendment to the Constitution now before Parliament is successfully piloted through the Legislature. Militant Sri Lankan Tamil expatriates in London have planned a campaign for the release of Tamil Eelam political prisoners in Sri Lanka according to reports reaching here—*IS*. The Co-ordinating Bureau of the Nonaligned Movement will on Tuesday do its utmost to get a consensus from its members on the venue for the Foreign Ministers meeting next month—*ST*. President J. R. Jayewardene said yesterday that the order of priority in the party lists for the forthcoming general elections would be based on the votes cast in each electoral district at the Presidential elections. Film stars, politicians and various other highups in the private and public sectors are found to be the kingpins running bogus foreign job agencies through which several thousands of innocent people have suffered. The Land Reform Commission has begun consultations with MPs for the sale of 25,000 acres of Land *WK*. Government sources said yesterday that the Parliament may be dissolved before the Presidential election and a snap general election may be held—*VK*. On the advice of the Ministry of Defence, a change will be effected in the duties of Police officers in the

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North—*CH*. The Minister of Youth Affairs Mr. Ranil Wickremasinghe has decided to give employment to graduates in the Mahaweli Development Project; he said that he would give them land in the Mahaweli area—*RR*.

MONDAY, AUGUST 23: Trade and Shipping Minister Lalith Athulathmudali told a meeting at Palatota on Saturday that, if the Supreme Court ordered a referendum on the third amendment to the Constitution, the government could use that opportunity also to seek a referendum to extend the tenure of the present President by another six years—*CDN*. A Model Worker Scheme aimed at contributing to increased production and efficiency of public and private sector enterprises has been recommended by a committee headed by the Commissioner of Labour—*CDM*. A dawn fire at the Ceylon Match Factory at Kelaniya which provides 65 percent of the country's requirements caused heavy damage yesterday; according to a factory official, the fire had been the result of friction when labourers were packing the matches into boxes; it took the Fire Brigade one and half hours to douse the flames. The State Flour Mills are to be leased to the Prima Flour Milling Company next month—*SU*. The CID is questioning a proprietor and female shareholder of a Colombo blockmaking concern where investigators seized several blocks from which forged passport stamp seals of the Department of Immigration and Emigration had been turned out for the use of two foreigners now under arrest for smuggling counterfeit dollar notes into the country. A senior undergraduate of the University of Peradeniya has been suspended pending inquiries for allegedly ragging a fresher student in a hall of residence—*IS*. 137 workers in the Building Department in Batticaloa were put out of job; this was because they had given some of the Government contract work to private contractors—*ATH*.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 24: The authorities are becoming worried about the many Lankans getting "hooked" on heroin; addiction to this drug was uncommon until fairly recently, they said, but now the picture is changing. A World Bank mission to review the Kurunegala, Matale and Puttalam integrated Rural Development Projects arrives today. Colombo's Chief Magistrate Mr. Kirithi Srilal Wijewardene, yesterday refused on application by skipirate Sepala Ekanayake for the release of 4,500 US dollars of "frozen" money—*CDN*. The third amendment to the Constitution which provides for the incumbent President to call an early Presidential election will not require a referendum from the people; instead it could be passed by a 2/3rds majority in Parliament. The fourth successive five-year programme prepared by the Government for 1982-86 will require the investment of Rs. 98 billion which will be spent on social overheads, water supply, education, health,

irrigation and power—*CDM*. The proposed Third Amendment is not inconsistent with Article 3 of the Constitution which enshrines sovereignty in the people, the Supreme Court informed the President and the Speaker yesterday. Restrictions placed on the movements of Customs personnel working within the Colombo Airport are proving to be a setback to the Department's functions senior officers of the Customs say—*SU*. President J. R. Jayewardene has decided to set up a special police unit in Jaffna to counter propaganda by terrorist magazines and periodicals; this decision was taken at a meeting held by the President on August 16, with the officials of the Ministry of Internal Security and the Police Department—*IS*. Government stationery end up as paper bags and wrapper paper while the public are inconvenienced by a scarecity of many important forms—*CO*. A pipe-borne water supply system will be installed at the Amparai District with the assistance of the Government of Japan—*DP*. The State Plantations Corporation has been fined a sum of Rs. 18 lakhs for not paying provident fund dues on time; cheques that were issued by this Corporation are being returned by their banks—*ATH*.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25: Finance and Planning Minister Ronnie de Mel left for London yesterday at the head of a seven-member delegation that will attend the Commonwealth Finance Minister's conference on August 30—31 and will then fly on to Toronto for the annual meetings of the World Bank and IMF. An employee of the Police Department has been remanded over the alleged disappearance of 8 tons of Information Books. A record price of Rs. 300 per kilo for BOP was achieved at yesterday's tea sale in Colombo by an invoice from Bombagalla, Uva (Downside Estate); the old record of Rs. 290 per kilo was held by Uva Highlands Estate; Somerville & Co., sold the record-breaking invoice to Liptons—*CDN*. Carters in the city of Colombo will soon get their private parking space it was decided yesterday at a meeting the Mayor had with the representatives of the United Carters Association of Sri Lanka. Large scale pilfering has put Air Lanka's air cargo terminal in a chaotic mess; unaccompanied baggage and the gifts packages are broken open, contents robbed and in some instances the package repacked neatly with bricks and castaway bamboo pieces; the steady increase in these losses is causing serious concern to the Customs. Colombo University undergraduates yesterday handed over an unidentified man to the Cinnamon Gardens Police for allegedly ragging the new entrants. The third Amendment does not diminish or vary the franchise of the people; it will enable the President to discover the will of the people and they will be given the opportunity to express their approval or disapproval of this programme of action, the Supreme Court has stated in its ruling on the Third Amendment—*SU*. The number

of engineering graduates seeking admission to the Sri Lanka Engineering Service this year has been considerably higher than in the previous years—*CDM*. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has detected that private candidates seeking admission to Universities were resorting to unscrupulous methods to be selected; these students have not only resorted to giving false aggregate marks on the admission forms but have even forged signatures of Principals; some of them have even obtained bogus pupil's record sheets a document given by school Principals at the end of a student's school career—*IS*. High-ranking government sources said yesterday that the first Presidential election in the Republic of Sri Lanka will be held on October 18—*VK*. Letters calling upon 402 teachers to be appointed in Estate schools to appear for interviews are being posted—*DP*.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 26: The Cabinet yesterday took a series of decisions that will benefit a large number of government pensioners at a cost of Rs. 83.5 million to the Treasury. TULF leader A. Amirthalingam told a recent meeting that in the past the TULF did not participate either in the making of the Constitution or any of the amendments; the Opposition Leader said when the Third Amendment to the Constitution comes up for discussion, they would follow the usual practice and make a statement in the House and not participate in the debate thereafter—*CDN*. Over 6,000 Sri Lankans found employment in the Middle East and other countries in the first half of this year, according to official statistics released yesterday. Walker Sons & Co., Ltd., of Colombo has been awarded the Rs. 30 million piling contract for the proposed 32-storey city within a city Overseas Realty Bank Business Centre Project at Echelon Square opposite the Hotel Ceylon Intercontinental in Colombo—*CDM*. Government's sixth Budget will not be presented this year as scheduled, informed Government sources said yesterday; this decision was taken yesterday because both the Presidential and the general election will be held this year—*SU*.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 27: The second reading of the Third Amendment to the Constitution was passed in Parliament last night by a majority of 138 votes for the one—Mr. Sarath Muttetuwegama of the Communist Party voted against. Mr. Maithripala Senanayake, Mr. R. P. Wijesiri and Mr. Lakshman Jayakody of the two SLFP groups abstained from voting; the TULF was not present in the House at the time of voting. Prime Minister R. Premadasa moving the second reading of the Third Amendment to the Constitution Bill in Parliament said the Bill provided an opportunity for the people to express their views through the election of the President on the policies of the government, without having to wait for a period of six years. Post office officials and delivery peons have been questioned over the past week

by the CID investigating the mysterious disappearance of several forged dollar and Dirham notes amounting to Rs. 140,000, a CID spokesman said yesterday—*CDN*. The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Sri Lanka is estimated to have grown about 5.8 percent last year according to the annual report of the World Bank released yesterday—*CDM*. The World Bank in its annual report for 1982 has once again warned that unless Sri Lanka implements measures to maintain budgetary discipline with the same vigor as in 1981, expansionary pressures could well exert themselves and inflation may again reach worrisome proportions. The Sri Lanka Government is likely to reject a proposal by the Association of Natural Rubber Producing Countries to hold back 350,000 tonnes of natural rubber from the world market. Transshipment cargo recipients in Europe have protested to Airlanka regarding the losses and damage to goods at the Katunayake air-cargo terminal. This year's Mahapola lottery tickets will be printed with two serial numbers so that each ticket has a double chance of winning. Barrister-at-law Anura Coorey has gained the distinction of being appointed by the London Judiciary as the first coloured Magistrate in England—*SU*. While the total nett turnover for tea in 1981, increased by Rs. 375 million compared to the previous year, it is not possible to predict that the tea industry enjoyed a high level of profitability as the costs of production have gone up, says the Ceylon Tea Review 1981 of Forbes & Walker Ltd.—*IS*. A stock of dried fish has arrived at the Colombo Harbour. About 4,200 bundles of the dried fish which has arrived at the harbour will be distributed by the CWE to retail cooperative outlets soon—*DAV*.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 28: President J. R. Jayewardene yesterday initiated proceedings for a presidential election by proclaiming his intention of appealing to the people for a mandate to hold office for a further term. Prime Minister R. Premadasa yesterday asked all Government Agents to exercise utmost care in utilising government funds and resources and eliminate unnecessary overheads and waste. The West German Development Aid Agency KFW, will loan Sri Lanka 12 Million DM which will pay for 88 railway waggons and a shunting locomotive for the fertiliser distribution project—*CDN*. Kandy may soon have an Airport, on the recommendation of the Additional Government Agent, Sudath Gunasekera, who is in charge of the Victoria Project. The Tamil United Liberation Front is to have a seven-member Politbureau to carry out its political strategy in future. Prime Minister R. Premadasa yesterday told Government Agents to ensure that nothing unjust, unfair or illegal was permitted to be done at the forthcoming elections—*SU*. A foreign railway rolling stock building company, set up here with the approval of the Government to overcome the serious shortage of rolling stock, is threatened with closure as the CGR is unable to pay for the coaches which

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have been already delivered. The International Monetary Fund yesterday approved a 42 million dollar (Rs. 840 million approximately) loan to Sri Lanka to help the country overcome the effects of falling exports. Trap guns laid by big-time ganja cultivators to protect their cultivations from intruders are seriously hampering the anti-malaria campaign in several remote villages in the Tanamalwila region—*IS*.

THE FOREIGN SCENE

PACIFIC ALLIANCE

Why Seoul?

SOUTH KOREAN PRESIDENT CHUN DOO HWAN has come forward with a proposal to convene a conference of the leaders of eleven Pacific Ocean states: The USA, Japan, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore as well as South Korea and subsequently to give a regular character to such summit meetings. Seoul unequivocally expressed readiness to play the role of intermediary between the first and second fives. (i.e., between the developed Pacific Ocean states and the ASEAN members) in the cause of creating a so-called "Pacific community". Not so long ago, in Honolulu, Japanese Prime Minister Zenko Suzuki advocated such a regional association. Japanese monopolies became the initiators of this undertaking. By advocating an economic integration they are expecting to strengthen their positions in the Pacific Ocean area. The United States has perceived in this plan an opportunity to join the links of its military alliance in the region and at the same time to make ASEAN member-states accomplices in its hegemonist intrigues.

It is significant that neither the Japanese nor the Americans want to openly act as convenors of a "Pacific community". Tokyo realises that the Asian peoples have not forgotten the crimes perpetrated by the Japanese militarists—the creators of the "great East Asian sphere of co-prosperity". Washington is aware that the memory of the US aggression in Indochina is still more fresh. The idea of a "Pacific community", does not seem to have aroused enthusiasm among South-East Asian nations. That is, why the role of convenor has been given to Seoul. But this may not help. If the puppet dictatorial regime which is kept up by US military forces stationed in that country undertakes to publicise a "Pacific community",

many Asian countries will be put on guard. It is one thing to trade with South Korea but it is a different matter to be drawn into a political umbrella under South Korean aegis.

—OMEGA.

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RUTH FIRST

Murdered

RUTH FIRST is personally a stranger to me, but she is a "kindred spirit" in course of human civilisation in a barbaric world. Let it be known that there are many "strangers" in this world who bemoan her loss. We have read in the *Ceylon Daily News* of 19th August 1982 the following: "Ruth First one of the most prominent South African opponents of apartheid, was killed yesterday when a parcel bomb exploded in her office in Maputo, the official Mozambican news agency AIM reported. The agency quoted an official of Mozambique's security service as saying the attack resembled others in Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Lesotho and Zambia which were proved to be the work of the South African secret services. Miss First was a leading member of South Africa's banned African National Congress (ANC)—Reuter." *Ruth First* is a white woman from Johannesburg, married to Joe Slovo (one of the three barristers whom the South African Government sought to disbar for political reasons) and is the mother of three daughters. Four days after she returned from her investigative journalism and socio-political study of South West Africa (Namibia) she and her husband were put under house arrest for five years. Ruth is a graduate in Social Science of Witwatersand University. She was the Johannesburg Editor of three papers banned by the South African Nationalists—the *Guardian*, the *Clarion* and the *New Age*. She was one of the 156 people accused in the 1956 Treason Trial. she has been under orders that anything she writes cannot be published in South Africa.

When she went to Windhoek to do research on Namibia, the Archivist withdrew from her all documents dating from the end of 1946. That was the year South Africa rejected the United Nations Organisation's request to put the mandate of South West Africa under international trusteeship. South Africa has defied the world body ever since. South Africa's institutionalised serfdom on a basis of colour is (from a Christian point of view if that means anything today) is a sin crying to heaven for vengeance. As a Roman Catholic I find it difficult to see how a Christian in South Africa can kneel before the image of Christ crucified and pray to the Father in heaven when across the state *colour* is the measure of the servitude within the heavenly father's family of children. Let us be honest. The Church and the State are equally guilty in

this barbarism. But now the battle lines are being drawn for the holocaust South Africa is an "ally". But Christians might remember the old saying "Who sups with the Devil dies at his dinner". Ruth First is dead. Shed a tear. If you wish to understand the spirit that animated her read her book *South West Africa*, published by the Penguin African Library 1st Edition 1963.

G. I. O. M. Kurukulasuriya

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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION INVESTIGATES

Israeli Crimes

Nicosia, Aug. 16: An International Commission for inquiry into the crimes of Israel against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples is continuing its work in the Cyprus capital. Witnesses who have seen with their own eyes the Israeli crimes in Lebanon climb the platform one after another. Their testimonies and the photographs submitted by them irrefutably prove that Israel is waging in Lebanon a criminal war the aim of which is extermination of the Palestinian people and massive, completely unjustified, destruction of Lebanese cities and villages. The Israeli military have turned Lebanon into a ground for testing the most up-to date types of weapon leading to large-scale slaughter of peaceful population. The witnesses speaking before the Commission have refuted the lie of official Israeli propaganda that Israeli troops "have been giving medical aid to sick and wounded Lebanese and Palestinians." *How it was actually the Commission heard from the Mellers, a Norwegian couple, who were at Saida at the time of the invasion of southern Lebanon by Israeli forces.* Meller worked at the centre for mentally retarded children, and his wife at a hospital. After occupying Saida the Israelis arrested 90 percent of the male population of the town, including medical establishment personnel. The attempts by Meller and other foreign doctors to alleviate the fate of the wounded and the sick met with humiliations from the occupation administration, which was led in Saida by Israeli Colonel. A. Moser. Soon the Norwegian doctor himself was arrested and sent to a concentration camp. He saw how his colleague, a Palestinian doctor, was chained so he could not render medical aid to the prisoners. The Palestinians were all the time held under a scorching sun with their hands raised upwards. They were beaten with sticks, rubber clubs and hoses for any "offence." Those who could not stand on their feet were left tied in the blazing sun. From the basement of the school in the yard of which the concentration camp was set up, Meller heard shots and the cries of the tortured. He saw prisoners being beaten before getting on the buses that took them to Israel. Officers not only did not stop the outrages of soldiers, but encouraged them by their own example.

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Members of the Commission were greatly impressed by the testimonies of Greek doctors. Papageorgiou, L. Floros and K. Alexiou who spent almost a month in besieged Beirut. The doctors organised an exhibit of photographs made by them in the Lebanese capital; a part of these photographs were submitted to the Commission as material evidence. Heaps of ruins on the sites of dwelling homes and hospitals, disfigured bodies of peaceful inhabitants--this is what Israeli aggression has brought the Lebanese and the Palestinians. The Greek doctors saw thousands of cases of people being hit by cluster, pellet and phosphorus bombs. As other witnesses, the doctors noted the courage and heroism of Palestinian fighters defending their freedom and independence. Appealing to the duty and conscience of the international public, the participants in today's hearings demanded immediate action to curb the aggressors and the rendering of the promptest aid to the Palestinians and the Lebanese —IPS.

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VOA COMMENTARY

US Aid to Rehabilitate Lebanon

Beirut, September 1: The United States will provide funds for relief and reconstruction in the aftermath of the war in Lebanon, said the top US Assistance official. And, added M. Peter McPherson, Administrator of the US Agency for International Development, "the Lebanese Government will provide the leadership, we also expect Lebanon's other friends to give support. This is going to be an international effort." In a statement after two days visiting in Lebanon, McPherson noted that President Reagan has requested relief funds, most of which must be voted by the Congress. Following is the text of McPherson's statement: "This is my second visit to Lebanon in the past two months. During my current visit, I met senior officials of the Lebanese government, including the President and the President-elect, representatives of the voluntary relief agencies and international organisations, and officers of the US Embassy. These discussions indicate that the immediate needs for disaster relief in Lebanon are largely being met, although continuous monitoring is required, and shelter will need to be provided for about 60,000 people before the fall rains. The questions of rehabilitation, however, is another matter, both in West Beirut and in the South. The extent of devastation in West Beirut is clearly very great. However, an on-the-ground assessment is required before we can determine the damage and the necessary response. The Lebanese Government will provide the leadership in the rehabilitation. We also expect Lebanon's other friends to give support. This is going to be an international effort. As for our own role, the President has requested 65 million dollars for

relief and rehabilitation in Lebanon. Fifty million of this money must be voted by Congress. The first priority of this money is for relief, and about 13.5 million has been spent, largely for relief. I discussed the further needs with Secretary Shultz at the White House before I left Washington and have had several discussions here. Pursuant to these discussions, we are now announcing 30 million additional dollars of US Government guarantees for repair or reconstruction of power, sewer and water facilities damaged by the recent hostilities. These guarantees are from authority already voted by Congress. Details are to be worked out. I will report to the President and the Secretary of State upon my return on my findings here."—USIS.

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MILITARY FORCE

Against Cuba

Havana: There is a colossal need of a good dose of good sense and realism in the USA to face the clumsiness of certain politicians. A proof of it lies in the resolution recently passed in the Senate authorizing the Administration to use "all the means" at its disposal, including troops, to oppose a supposed Cuban threat in the continent. The Resolution, proposed by Senator Steve Symms of Idaho, was approved by 79 votes in favour and 27 against. During the debate, according to the international press agencies, Senator Charles Percy criticised the draft saying it amounted to a "Gulf of Tonkin resolution for Cuba." Percy was referring to a resolution passed in the sixties which was utilized by President L.B. Johnson for intensifying the US aggression against Vietnam. He added that the resolution could be useful to the Reagan Administration in sending American troops to Cuba without having to get the previous approval of The Congress as set in the law on Powers of War of 1973. The resolution has been repudiated by representatives of Latin American Governments such as the Mexican, Nicaraguan, Venezuelan and by political personalities of the most diverse tendencies of the world public opinion. The content of the Symms Amendment is a clear expression of how some politicians in the USA fail to finally understand that American imperialism has no right to stand as the policeman of the world and much less to insult the dignity of our peoples. The Amendment significantly coincides with the intensive preparations carried out by the USA to transform Honduras into an operational base designed to launch offensives in the region. Nicaragua has repeatedly denounced that the USA is stimulating an isolationist policy against that country as well as a military harassment through mercenary groups and the army of Honduras. In regard to El Salvador the direction of the steps given by the American Government is completely opposed to a peaceful solution. The support to the regime of that country is increasing. One need not be a poli-

tical analyst to reach the conclusion that the Symms Amendment strengthens the position of those in the Reagan Administration who favour a direct intervention of the USA in El Salvador under the false pretext of "the danger of the Cuban subversion."

Those in Washington who cherish the idea of a direct Yankee intervention in Central America and sharpen the teeth with this incredible manifestation of senselessness would do good to bring back to mind the lesson taught to the American troops in Vietnam. Our country is part and parcel of the great Latin American family. We have learnt how to live under the dangers of permanent threat during the last twenty four years; we are not for climate of confrontation but it does not frighten us either. The Symms Amendment brings to light in a provocative manner and menacing tone the possibility of aggression against Cuba, but we should warn and reaffirm that, for a long time now our country has been ready for a contingency of that kind. In the already long history expanding along the latest twenty four years, the Symms Amendment is a new step which adds up to the route of senselessness, blindness and disgracefulness followed by the different US Governments in relation to Cuba. The coarse and threatening parlance used by the imperialists can go well into the ears of those who lack a motherland, dignity, or the courage to defend a cause, but it will never be effective on a people that has been ready to fight and die ever since it gained freedom and justice. It is very probable that by the time Mr. Symms was beginning to do politics in Idaho, and may be before that, the Cubans already knew how to shout "Country or death, we shall overcome."—PL.



38th ANNIVERSARY

Romania

Bucharest: We live in a very complex epoch in international life. The old balance of forces established after the Second World War no longer corresponds to the new international realities. Colonialism has been liquidated, tens of independent states have emerged which together with other small and medium-sized states make an important force of international life. More and more states and groups of states claim a more important role in world politics, and wish to assert themselves independently. The equilibrium based on military blocs also no longer corresponds to the present historical realities. The old contradictions have grown sharper and new economic and social contradictions have emerged. The contradiction between socialism and capitalism is manifest in various forms, but a new contradiction took has emerged, which keeps sharpening, consequent to the world's division into developed countries and developing countries. Since the attempts so far to come to some understandings as regards the liquidation

of under-development and the achievement of a new international economic order have failed to yield the expected results, the contradiction between the developing countries and the developed countries grows ever stronger becoming one of the fundamental contradictions of our epoch. The gravity of the current international situation is also determined by the sharpening of the world economic crisis, whose effects bear on all countries and are accentuated by the high interest-rates policy which brings about huge difficulties in the unfolding of the economic activity and worsens still more the developing countries' situation. A huge negative influence on international life, on the economic crisis and world instability is caused by the arms race which has attained such a level as no people can bear it. Military expenditures are expected to reach this year some 600 billion dollars. Adding to all this is the sad reality that there are in the world a series of conflicts and military confrontations and new ones emerge almost every year.

This is how President Nicolae Ceausescu of Romania evaluates the current situation in the world. We are virtually traversing a period of re-arranging of the balance of forces, of attaining a new world equilibrium among various states and groups of states. It can be assessed, as President Nicolae Ceausescu stresses, because the new equilibrium will be based on a greater diversity of centres of power, and will take account more of the role of the third world, of the small and medium-sized countries, of the developing and non-aligned countries. In order to last, the new balance of forces and the new equilibrium should rely on principles of equality, observance of independence and non-interference in other people's internal affairs. "All this calls more than ever for the rallying of all peoples' efforts so as to end the international tension, to halt the course toward confrontation and war, resume and further the policy of detente, observance of national independence and peace. It is necessary that everything possible be done so that the military way, that force be no longer resorted to in the settlement of the various interstate disputes and action be taken for the cessation of the present conflicts and their negotiated settlement. To this end, the efforts should be intensified for a global peace in the Middle East, conducive to Israel's withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967 and the settlement of the Palestinian peoples' rights based on their right to self-determination and to an independent Palestinian state. The establishment of peace in the Middle East should ensure the independence and integrity of all states in the region. Romania considers it necessary that an international conference be organized, under the UN auspices and with the participation of all interested states, inclusive of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation, as the only representative of the Palestinian people. Likewise, everything possible should be done for the cessation of the war between

Iraq and Iran and the settlement of all issues between the two states by negotiations. It is also necessary that all conflicts or disputed issues now existing between states be solved in the same way.

Considering the multiple problems existing today in the world, Romania considers it necessary that a special body be created within the UN that should act for the organisation of negotiations and the settlement of the issues among states only by negotiations. The central question of international life is now the struggle for halting the arms race, for the passage to disarmament, nuclear above all. The peace movements and demonstrations in Europe and in many other parts of the world show the universal yearning for peace. The Romanian people have joined in such demonstrations, organized numerous peace meetings, the signing of appeals for disarmament and the like with the confidence that they are of special importance in halting the arms race, in sparing mankind the horrors of nuclear catastrophe and in ensuring world peace. Romania has firmly demanded the immediate halting of the arms race, the freezing of the military expenditures and the gradual passage to their reduction by at least ten percent by 1985, for the renunciation of the actions of strength, of military manoeuvres and demonstrations of any kind by the frontiers of other states. Romania greeted the proposals of comrade L.I. Brezhnev regarding the reduction of the atomic weapons, and the proposals of US President Ronald Reagan in connection with the beginning of negotiations on the reduction of the strategic nuclear weapons. She also hailed the understanding reached between the USSR and the US on the beginning of negotiations on strategic weapons. Romania has shown special concern about the emplacement and development of medium range missiles in Europe, requesting the halting of the emplacement of these missiles, the withdrawal and destruction of the existing ones. Considering that the very existence of European peoples is endangered, Romania considers it necessary that all states of the European continent should participate in negotiations and in attaining a proper accord.

On August 23, 1982, the Romanian people celebrated the 38th anniversary of the anti-fascist and anti-imperialist revolution of social and national liberation, which ushered in a new era in Romania's history - the era of deep-going democratic transformations, of full accomplishment of national independence and sovereignty, of economic and social progress, of Romania's affirmation as free and dignified nation among the nations of the world. The revolution of social and national liberation was the finale to the Romanian people's century-old struggle for national liberation and social progress. It was accomplished by a broad front of all anti-fascist, democratic, patriotic forces at the head of which was the Romanian Communist Party.

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The RCP was the only force to resolutely stand against the war and to act for the rallying of all patriotic, anti-fascist forces. On August 23, 1944, in favourable international circumstance determined by the victories of the Soviet and allied armed forces, by the struggle of peoples in Europe against German fascism, the armed insurrection started in Romania. The political regime of the military-fascist dictatorship was overthrown, the dependancy on Hitler's Germany was liquidated and Romania joined the anti-Hitler coalition. In a historically short time. Romania traversed several historical stages -- from the democratic revolution to the socialist one, now traversing the stage of building the multilaterally developed socialist society. A unitary socialist economy has been developed in industry and agriculture, relying on the joint ownership of the working people as ownership of the entire people, and on the cooperative ownership on the means of production, the socialist principle of distribution has been implemented. On these bases, the productive forces have greatly developed, Romania turning into an industrial-agrarian country with a strong industry and developed agriculture in full progress. As compared to 1938 -- the year with the most advanced economy prior to the second world war -- the Romanian industry produces today 48 fold more.

In 30 years of socialist construction, the per capita consumption of meat rose 3.7 times, milk 1.6 times, eggs 4.5 times, sugar 4 times, vegetables more than two fold etc. Whereas in 1950 the per capita income in Romania was 15-20 times lower than in the developed countries, it is today barely 4-5 times lower at the most. The results achieved by Romania, its big socio-economic changes, are the outcome of the work of the working class, peasantry, intellectuals, of all working people, irrespective of nationality, of the whole people, who translate into life the policy of the Romanian Communist party.

TRIBUNE

Agricultural Digest

THE EFFECT

Of Grass On Trees

By A. Howard, C.I.E., M.A.

Summarised for the Tropical Agriculturist by A.W.R. Joachim, B.Sc., Chemist, Department of Agriculture, Ceylon.

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INTRODUCTION : Although trees flourish generally when surrounded by communities of grasses and herbs, cases have been known to occur in which grass is able to suppress certain species of trees. One such example is that investigated by Bedford and Pickering at the Woburn Experiment Station where it was found that fruit trees such as apples, pears, plums and cherries failed to flourish under grass on a heavy clay soil. Forest trees are better able to resist the effect of grass than fruit trees. Thus in the tropics, grass-land after enclosure becomes covered by shrubs and trees with remarkable rapidity. The injurious effect of grass on trees was attributed by Bedford and Pickering to a soil toxin produced by the growth of grass and which acted as a poison towards the roots of trees. This soil toxin has never been isolated. It was found to disappear in a very short time when the drainage water containing it was aerated, and was not observed on permeable, well-aerated soils. The problem therefore needed further investigation. Since 1914 the influence of grass on trees has been the subject of investigation at the Pusa Research Institute. Two problems have been kept in view, namely, (1) why grass is so injurious to fruit trees: (2) the nature of the weapons by which forest trees vanquish grass.

1. The Factors : Pusa is situated on the old alluvium of the Gangetic plain. The soil is a highly calcareous, silt-like loam. There is no line of demarcation between soil and sub-soil. The percentage of Calcium Carbonate is over 30. The phosphate content is below the average. Nitrogen shortage is rectified by the addition of organic matter. The water level is 20 feet below the surface. The average rainfall is 47.5 ins., most of which falls during the monsoon period (June 15th to October 15th). The temperatures of air and soil begin to rise from about the middle of February till the end of May, (2). **Growth of Trees and Grass at Pusa :** In the case of trees flowering the production of new leaves and shoots takes place during the hot season (March to May). The growth of grass corresponds, with one exception, to the growth of trees. In the hot dry months of March, April and May grasses cease to grow when there is no competition between the grass and trees. (3)

The Experimental Fruit Plot : In 1914, eight species of fruit trees were planted out in three acres of uniform land. Twenty four trees of each kind, raised from a single parent were set out 20 feet apart each way. The trees were : 1. Plum, 2. Peach, 3. Custard Apple, 4. Guava, 5. Mango, 6. Litchi, 7. Sour lime, 8. Loquat. Two years after planting (1916) when the trees were fully established, a strip about the middle of the plot comprising nine trees of each of the eight species was laid down to grass -- *Cynodon dactylon*. The two end plots served as controls.

In 1917, three years after planting, when the grass was well established and its injurious effects on the young trees was clearly marked, the three southern trees of the grass plot were provided with aeration trenches, 18 inches wide and 24 inches deep, filled

with broken bricks. Three trenches were made at equal distances between the lines of trees. In 1921 to ascertain the effect of grass on established trees in full bearing, the southern strip of the northern control plot was grassed over and has been so since. The harmful effect of grass on fruit trees at Pusa was found to be more intense than on clay soils like those of Woburn in Great Britain. Several species were destroyed altogether within a few years. As great differences in root development were observed between the trees under grass with aeration trenches, and under clean cultivation, the first step in investigating the causes of the harmful effect of grass was a study of the root system (under clean cultivation) and correlation of this with the growth of the above-ground portion of the trees. Detailed work was carried out in 1921 and was repeated in 1922 and 1923.

2. THE ROOT SYSTEMS OF FRUIT TREES

UNDER CLEAN CULTIVATION : The root systems of three deciduous trees, the plum, peach and custard apple was studied. The plum has a two-root system firstly the superficial and consisting of large, freely branching roots running more or less parallel to the surface in the upper 18 inches of soil. From the under side smaller members are given off which grow vertically downwards to just above the water-table. During the hot period root absorption is confined entirely to the deeper layers of soil. In heavy monsoonic weather only the surface roots are active. The root system of the Peach is similar to that of the Plum. The Custard apple flowers in early April and the fruit ripens in August and September. The root system is similar to that of the plum and the peach.

The root system of the Mango, Guava and litchi : ever-greens -- resemble in many respects those of the three deciduous species already described. The large superficial roots give off smaller branches to the deep soil layers which maintain the growth in hot season. The early rains bring the surface roots into action. In the Guava the reddish roots are very strongly developed. There is an abundant superficial system which gives off numerous branches which grow vertically downwards. As in the plum, peach and custard apple the whole of the root system was found to be active at the beginning of the hot weather. Irrigation during hot weather is a decided advantage. New growth of the Litchi begins in December, flowering takes place in February and the fruit ripens in May. As in the mango, the extensive superficial roots give off branches which pass down into the deep soil layers. The deep root system however, is not so strongly developed as in the mango, hence it is grown where the ground water is comparatively near the surface. The root system of the Lime is similar to that of the Litchi. The Loquat flowers twice a year, first in August and again in January and

February. Only the latter flowers set fruit. The Loquat has two root systems and the periodicity of root activity resembles that of the Mango.

To Be Continued...

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COMBATING

Termite Attack on Crops

By Dr. D. Rajagopal,
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TERMITES are highly organised social insects. They are also called "White Ants", but they are neither white nor belong to the group of ants. The close association of termites especially with field crops and forest plants has attracted considerable attention, primarily because of the heavy damage they cause. According to reports the loss to agricultural crops by termite attack alone amounts to Rs. 230 - 280 million annually in India. In addition they are also known to play an important role in rapid turnover of organic matter in the ecosystem. Two types of termite habitats are seen, the *soil inhabiting* and the *wood inhabiting*. The soil inhabiting termites are quite common and dominant ones in the soil as mound or pest builders either below or above the ground level. Wood inhabiting termites are mostly arboreal types, which construct their nests either inside or outside the tree.

Termites have a fascinating biology. The individuals are differentiated into various castes or morphological forms as apterous sterile workers, soldiers and fertile reproductives from which the queen and king are formed in the colony. Newly emerged individuals are capable of developing into any caste depending upon the requirements of the colony. The reproductive caste consists of winged males and females. They leave the nest at the particular time of the year, usually during monsoon season, attracted to the light, shed their wings. They search for a new nesting site and copulate. The female termites lay the first batch of eggs in about 2 - 4 weeks after emergence. During its life, the female termite undergoes several internal changes manifested externally by the increase of abdomen and size. It reaches its peak production in about 3 to 4 years when it lays anywhere from hundreds to a few thousands of eggs per day depending upon the species. The termites live in a special hard earthen cell called royal chamber situated in the centre of the termite mound below the ground level. In some species, fungus colonies are present in the mound which provide necessary food and humidity. Workers are responsible for all activities except repro-

duction and defence, which are done by queen and soldiers, respectively. The population varies from 15,000 to 500,000 individuals per colony depending upon the size of the mound and species of the termite. A colony may live for 25 to 50 years under natural conditions.

FIVE SPECIES OF TERMITES are known to damage the plants in Karnataka. They are *Odonototermes obesus*, *O. Wallonesis*, *O. brunneus* and *Mictotermes obsei*. Crop plants like sunflower, maize, groundnut, soyabean, niger, wheat, sugarcane, coconut are subjected to the attack of termites. The forest trees like eucalyptus, casuarina and silver oak, etc., suffer much due to termite attack. They attack the roots inside the soil and cause wilting and drying in many of the agricultural crops. The crop loss caused by termites ranges from 6% to 25% in wheat, while in sugarcane 40% to 60% of the eye buds in the newly planted sets are destroyed often necessitating replanting. Delay in harvesting groundnut, sunflower, niger, soyabean and maize will give more opportunity for termites to cause damage. *Post monsoon season is the common period of termite infestation on grasses and trees. They construct covered earthen runways which may be tunnel like or in the form of sheets over the soil surface or at the base of vegetation. The forest and orchard plants are subjected to the attack at three stages, in the nursery, after planting and early establishment (up to 2 years). The attack is normally confined to roots and collar region of the plants and the bark will be completely eaten resulting in yellowing, wilting and drying of plants. Plants beyond two years will not suffer much unless they are injured either mechanically or due to infection. Otherwise termites feed only the dry bark. While in crops like maize, sunflower, groundnut, niger, oats and sets of mulberry plants either die or lodge due to destruction of root-system by termite attack. In addition, termite-attack would be seen on dung, leaf litter, root stubbles etc., under natural conditions causing loss of organic matter. Continuously irrigated crops and grown in deep black soils will be free from termite attack.*

Control Measures :

(a) *Field Crops* (1) the termite colony must be located and destroyed in case of those species that build conspicuous mounds, by breaking open the nest and removing the queen termite (2) A most effective method of killing the mound building termites is by poisoning the mounds, either with a fumigant (aluminium phosphide 2 tables/1 metre diameter, mound) or water emulsion insecticide (Aldrin 30 EC 0.5% at 15 litres of Solution/mound). (3) in field crops like sugarcane, groundnut, wheat, sunflower etc., treat the soil with insecticides like Aldrin 5% or chlordane 5% or heptachlor 6% dusts at the rate of 25 kg/ha before sowing or planting to prevent the attack of subterranean termites. (4) Frequent irrigation will also help in reducing the termite incidence.

(b) *Forest and Orchard crops* (1) The nursery beds are to be treated with chlordane or Aldrin 5% dust at 25 kg/ha before sowing, which provide efficient protection in the nursery; (2) Before transplanting into the pots or polythene bags from the nursery, soil has to be mixed with insecticides like heptachlor 6% or chlordane 5% or Aldrin 5% dust at 1 kg/cmt. of soil. Poalting should be done in the main field by leaving one inch of poisoned soil above the ground level and water should not be poured directly at the base. This will give protection for a period of 3 - 4 years in the main field; (3) Swabbing may be done in the case of established orchard plants with water emulsion insecticides like Aldrin or Chlordane at 0.5% concentration. —*Kurukshetra*

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ORGANIC RECYCLING

Plant Nutrients

Prof. B. V. Venkata Rao

ON-THE-FARM ORGANIC ANIMAL AND PLANT RESIDUES like farm yard manure and green manures play a major role in Indian agriculture in the replenishment and augmentation of soil fertility under intensive harvests. In the command areas of old tanks and river canals, yields to the order of 40—45 pallas or 35—40 quintals of paddy per acre was common. It is worthwhile, examining the basis of such impressive yields without the extra-farm urban generated inputs of the wide complex range of fertilizer products currently considered an inevitable part of high yielding variety crop culture. The magnitude of a crop depends upon the amounts and rate at which the essential nutrients are released to the growing crop. Among the several nutrients, nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium are required in sizable amounts and they are mostly supplied through single nutrient or straight fertilizers or compound or complex fertilisers containing more than one of these. The question is whether yield as farm fertilizer responsive hybrid short duration crop varieties can be obtained without the use of chemical fertilizers. The answer is in the affirmative, provided the soil plant nutrient content and its rate of release match the high magnitude and rate of synthetic activity involved in these varieties.

A high level traditional soil and fertility management, still in evidence in some parts of Karnataka and elsewhere in the country, is a pointer to this. At least efforts hereafter should be aimed at greater mobilisation of organic manurial resources so as to lessen dependence on energy intensive chemical fertifisers. A recycling of organic wastes provides soil with a supply of both major and micronutrient elements along with other plant growth factors such as hormones

and vitamins which may have a role in promoting soil micro-biological and other activities. In countries like China, night soil is being added to the land instead of allowing it through sewage systems with sustained advantage. Early Indian work has shown that well fermented cattle and human wastes coupled with good soil husbandry contributed to high soil productivity, including obviating of micro nutrients deficiencies and the promotion of the beneficial activity of microflora and earthworms. With a population of 230 and 680 millions of cattle and human beings respectively in the country, the potential for mobilisation of plant nutrients through animal, sewage and urban composts would be of the order of 3.1, 1.2 and 2.1 million tonnes of N, P 205 and K 20 more than the current consumption of them through fertilisers. This does not include nitrogen that could be mobilised through leguminous crop-plants and sources such as algae, azatobacter and azolla on which increasing focus is being laid in the past 3 to 4 years as organic source of nutrient supply.

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DANGER TO

Gene Bank Deposits

As long ago as 1976, one expert IBPGR crop committee estimated that between half and two-thirds of the seeds stored in the North were being lost for technological and financial reasons. Not long ago, a power failure destroyed a year's potato collection in Wisconsin, while two major US gene banks, experienced constant technical problems. Undoubtedly, the Third World also suffers these problems; however, they could be solved if adequate funds were made available for the conservation of genetic resources. Even stored seed needs to be grown out regularly in order to ensure its germination. Ideally, the seed should be returned to its original environment for the growing out. Otherwise genetic "drift" will eventually alter the character of stored seed and scientists will end up with seeds whose major trait will be their success at surviving in cold storage. Therefore, much of the material in the North's gene banks may no longer resemble what was originally collected. Finally, there is the urgent problem of disease. Scientists at the International Seed Pathology Institute in Denmark concede that unpublished, private studies show that as much as one third of the material in gene banks may be diseased. Some biologists have estimated that disease might effect as much as two-thirds of gene bank stores. Exotic seeds may have exotic diseases and testing facilities in the North are largely incapable of testing for the problems. When US officials combed the world for pea types in response to urgent industry demands in 1969-1970, they returned not only with

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useful material but with a host of new crop diseases encapsulated with the seed. About one third of the collection was diseased. However, the high risk of introducing new diseases could be avoided if the seed were stored in its homeland.

Not only do genetic resources require a massive infusion of money -- a fact uncontested in both North and South -- but Southern scientists would argue that the lion's share should go to the South for both personnel training and new buildings. In addition, money is desperately needed to create natural living environments for the wild relatives of important crops. The amount of money required is large -- perhaps \$ 100 million -- or about what the North now pays out annually to maintain its zoos. Northern scientists claim the South will never obtain this level of funding. Yet, at a technical conference held by the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources in Rome in April 1981, scientists outdid one another in elaborate and expensive storage ideas, including one for a massive global gene bank in Antarctica and another for a huge seed space station. In this view money is obviously not the problem. The problem is political. Since its inception in 1974, the IBPGR has assigned the United States "base" responsibility for global collections of wheat, sorghum and amaranth. Beyond this, the US' Fort Collins facility has accepted duplicate global collections for pearl millet, tomatoes and okra and has the "base" regional collections for new Rodld maize, rice, eggplant and some beans. All 10 crops have been offered by the BIPGR and nations have forwarded material to the United States on the assumption that it would always be freely available. Despite mounting pressure from Third World scientists the developing countries have global responsibility for only eight of 32 crops which IBPGR has designated for base collections. Of the eight, only tomatoes and rye stand out as being of major interest to industrialized countries. "Poor people's crops" are stored in the South. Crops of dominant economic importance are stored in the North.—*Development Forum*.

TRIBUNE

Spotlight on Matters Agitating Voters

WITH THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN IN FULL SWING, "TRIBUNE" WILL, UNTIL THE PRESIDENTIAL AND PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS ARE OVER, TRANSFORM THE SECTION SO FAR ENTITLED "DEVELOPMENT FORUM" INTO

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THE "SPOTLIGHT ON MATTERS AGITATING VOTERS". WE WOULD HAVE LIKED TO CONTINUE THE SECTION ON DEVELOPMENT FORUM" BUT WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO INCREASE OUR PAGES.—Ed.

ELECTRICITY BILLS—2

Domestic Consumers

By R. Kahawita

WE CANNOT BLAME the Planners and the Architects for this kind of social hybridization because they have been educated and indoctrinated to think that way. No doubt, it is unfortunate. But for them to carry it to the so called model village housing and to the twenty housing complexes in each political electorate is an unpardonable crime against our rural society. Our planners should have lived in a village for several months to observe the village life before they put their pencils to the drawing boards. What they have designed or copied do not fit into the average family-style". The average is around 2.4 million units. It is their life style that we are trying to change at the rate of hundred thousand units a year. We have almost hit the target in numbers, but not in human contentment. This is the ultimate evaluation of our stewardship. Now to fit our *average family* to this concept of "housing for the masses", electricity in the home becomes as essential as water. It is a basic necessity, not for good living, but to fit into the "planned living" of the concept. It may be, in keeping with this concept, that the Government is pushing on with an extravagant scheme of rural electrification, even though we will not be able to produce sufficient power to meet the present requirements for some years to come. But the "average family" will be hard pressed to meet the monthly bill for lighting at the present tariff. *Life has become hard for the "average family" under present conditions, and unless both husband and wife work, a family cannot make both ends meet. In this situation if they have children to be readied to be sent to school by seven o'clock in the morning before the parents themselves go to work, it is difficult to visualize the wife lighting the hearth and getting a cup of tea ready etc., in a hurry. On the other hand, if she could afford to pay for electricity, she could do the morning meal in a jiffy. This is only one example to show how the need for electricity is advancing into the average family life as a necessity.*

As the use of electricity becomes interwoven with daily routine of domestic work, there is a case to separate domestic use of electricity from other users

the industrial, commercial users, street lighting etc. These users are not so much worried about the cost of power to their operations. It is an input in production, distribution and management which is ultimately passed on to the consumer or user or the patron. Whether it is the manufacture of a pair of shoes, or retailing thereof, the gross cost of power is included in the final pricing of that pair of shoes. The consumer pays for it. Unfortunately for the house-wife, she cannot pass on the cost of fuel to brew her cup of tea to anyone; she has to gulp it. *This is the iniquity of a common tariff to all consumers of electricity. The industry will not shout, because it knows that someone else will subsidize him. It may be that the CEB has taken the cue from other parts of the world where power is as essential as water so that the rates are level. But Sri Lanka is not Britain. It is the same kind of kite flying we see in our rural housing.* More we think of the plight of domestic consumers more we are convinced that His Excellency has been misled by the CEB. It is true that the revised tariff was debated in the House and accepted by our representatives. This is inevitable when our representatives have lost their roots and the consumer is not represented at decision-making level to protect and look after his interests. There is supposed to be some sort of organisation within the Ministry of Trade and Shipping to look after consumer welfare and also a "National Pricing Commission" in the same Ministry. This is like asking the Jackal to keep watch over the fowl run.

It is urgent for the President to take a second look at the Electricity tariff as proposed by the CEB and implemented from 1.6.82 to grant some reasonable relief to the domestic users of electricity. It is prudent at the moment. We cannot keep on adding to his burden without limit. It is we who will suffer, not the CEB or those who grant us loans etc. It is we who have to face our voters and tell them what we have done so far. We cannot tell them that we have added a double bullock cart size load to their wheelbarrow load. Our own suggestion is that the first 300 units per month should be rated without any surcharge and the next 100 units per month a surcharge of 50% and the next 100 units per month a surcharge of 150% and anything above that limit i.e., 500 units a surcharge of 200%. When it comes to business establishments, commercial organisations, industries etc. etc. the minimum should be double the domestic rate. Today many an erstwhile residence has been rented out as offices, business premises etc., and they are now included in the domestic rate. Such premises should be brought within the suggested commercial rate. They will not suffer. This expenditure will be passed on to their clients. A rational scheme as the foregoing will not entail a loss to the CEB. We envisage an increase of revenue to the Board. We are suggesting a revision of the Tariff because we

claim to have some knowledge of the hardships of the wage-earners in this country both urban and rural. We have been studying their plight during the last four years or so and we were not able to find a silver line in their horizon.

WE WISH TO LOOK AT ANOTHER ASPECT of the surcharge and why the International Funding Agencies have a finger in our domestic pie. Our understanding is that the surcharge has become necessary to cover the high cost of fuel. We are thankful for this to our Arab friends. We always had two standby fuel-fired generators at Kelanitissa Power House. They looked after the peak loads. Since we came in, a battery of gas turbines have been installed at the Kelanitissa Power house to take over the additional loads due to industrialisation, tourism and the expanding economy to which we claim parentage. **However these turbines could not be put into commission for almost two years due to various reasons and to boot the manufacturers and suppliers of these turbines have gone into liquidation leaving the baby in the hands of the CEB. How and why we embraced somebody's baby is another story.** May it be so. The other day it was announced that the Gas Turbines were at last functioning. This was announced when the level of the Hydro Reservofrs were dangerously low. How long they will function efficiently is anybody's guess. It is like an arranged marriage. We cannot help it now. Bear it and see what could be done with it. In our opinion this is something that should have been set up in the Free Trade Zone to provide the bulk of consumers there, and if these were to be a surplus, to pump that into the "National Grid" so that you and we benefit by this Industrial extravaganza. As it is, you and we subsidize them according to the new tariff imposed on us. *It is another subsidized input like our cheap labour to reduce the burden of the Rich consumers in the Western countries. If we do not do this now can we ask for alms?*

In this unenviable situation what can we do to get back to where we were with the people at the 1977 elections? Fortunately we have the President to oversee the CEB after years of bungling. So let us look to him to give the domestic consumer some relief on whose goodwill our future depends. A revision of the current tariff on the lines suggested in the foregoing will bring some relief to the electricity using "average family" and also will justify our plans for rural electrification to take a necessity in "modern living" to our remote villages. We are sure to earn their good-will for having recognized their plight and given them some relief It will raise the hopes of others in other areas as well.—*Concluded.*

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FROM VEYANGODA

Tale Carriers

It is evident from records that even in the ancient past providing false information by cunning and designing persons had been on of the most powerful weapons used to destroy innocent and unsuspecting rulers. The importance of true information for proper administration is illustrated by fact that certain rulers are said to have roamed the streets and villages in disguise in search of first-hand information. Today one wonders whether those duty-bound to provide the government with correct information for day to day requirements, fulfil their duties honestly and efficiently in keeping with their responsibilities to the State and the public. It is not uncommon that, besides the public servants, individuals who claim to be closely associated with the administrators are in the habit of voluntarily offering advice and information of a nature not altogether correct but always not detrimental to their own interests. Though the administrative activities originating and based on this type of information leads to inconvenience and hardships to the helpless innocent public, it is only when a person in a position to contact and explain matters to those in authority is involved, that such misdeeds come to light. An incident of this nature which took place recently deserves to be spotlighted for the information of all concerned.

A religious ceremony for laying the foundation for a Vihara Mandira at Bodhi Mangalaramaya, Pattala gedera, Veyangoda, was organized to be held on Sunday, the 15th August 1982. The participant Buddhist Monks of the Three Nikayas were to be conducted in procession from a nearby road junction, opposite St. Mary's College starting at 9 a.m. that day. *Apparently based on false information given to the government, police banned the procession and the use of loudspeakers, just two days before the fixed date. It is said that these steps had been taken as the ceremony was reported to have been sponsored for boosting the activities of Buddhist monks supporting the cause of the Sinhala Bauddha Bala Mandalaya.* The residents of this area believe that the ban placed by the police on the procession and the use of loudspeakers was withdrawn consequent to representations made by some members of the organizing committee who are also supporters of the UNP in the area and the Venerable who are also supporters of the UNP in the area and the Venerable Induruwe Uttarananda Maha Nayaka Thero of Ramanna Nikaya, who was to preside over the ceremony, to the highest authorities of the government. It is only by their intervention that a disruption of a well organized religious ceremony to be participated by a large crowd of devotees was prevented. This incident therefore has necessarily

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to be viewed as an instance where the responsibilities of the state machinery in providing correct and timely information and advising the government, has failed miserably. In a situation of this nature the inconvenience and pain of mind caused to some individuals is not so much the matter for concern, but the damage that could be caused to the sanctity of lawfully elected government due to being briefed and misdirected into wrongful action by persons providing inaccurate information either by design or due to incompetence is really the matter for concern.

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

66, Attanagala Road,
Veyangoda,
23.8.82.

x x x

FROM BATTICALOA

Valayiravu Bridge

Here is a caption that awakens in the minds of the Batticaloa farmer steadfast nostalgic longings for a much-desired object that would have changed his life-style a great deal and that for the better. The Valayiravu Bridge that has been so designed and so sited as to span the Batticaloa Lagoon at a point where the Batticaloa-Unnichchai Road is intended to cross the Lagoon, is expected to serve the 30,000 acres of paddy lands and villages on the "western shore" of the lagoon. Work on this bridge has come once again to a dead halt. The bridge was to be completed by the end of 1981; and after some agitation on the part of the people, work was once again started. It went on for some time, and has once more been consigned to the limbo. Should the benign state continue the work on it, and complete it before the year 1982 is out, the people of Batticaloa will be very much beholden to the state.

K. Kanapathipillai

52, Nalliah Road,
Batticaloa,
20.8.82.

x x x

FROM ANURADHAPURA

Why?

Since independence obtained in 1948, successive governments, all claiming to be either Democratically Socialist or Socially Democratic, gradually brought about changes both in the administration and way of life of our people. There may have been floods, strikes, riots and even an insurgent uprising during this

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period, but it has to be noted that events have been moving gradually faster and faster. The momentum so gathered, composed of educational, social, cultural and even ecological and environmental, has produced the Sri Lanka of today. The various schemes, be it on the field of Agriculture and Irrigation, Health or Education, Transport or Navigation, has produced some speedy changes that some of the older generation are already asking the pertinent question QUO VADIS? And why this hurry?

Looking at things impartially and dispassionately, are we content? Is this the Isle of Paradise? With the spiralling cose of living, the mounting inflation, the export prices dropping, while we have to pay more and more for our imports, the frustration that is creeping into the minds of people everywhere in the country cannot be contained even with our Gem and Human Labour Trade with outside countries. With all the propaganda media, including our latest -- Rupavahini, there seems to be a feeling of less contentment among us than, say, about twenty five years ago! WHY?

Dr. G.T. Hearth.

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THE UNDERDOG

And Baby Hamu

This excellent piece by N.W.Samarasinghe appeared in the *Sunday Times* of September 5. More short articles of this kind will give the *Sunday Times* a new character and personality of its own. It will also help the ruling party to have an idea of what the underdogs-- who constitute the majority of voters -- feel. -Ed.

We had all gathered for dinner at the home of a leading lawyer who figured prominently in a political case recently. After the customary trading of insults and cracks about our school days, our personal occupations, political beliefs etc, the discussion came down to politics. Our host besides being a criminal lawyer, was also a newspaper man (once upon a time). He appeared to make a (serious) suggestion. All political parties he said have to pass on positions or give a place to (thanak) those camp followers and supporters, who run round with the heavy weights during campaigns, write adulatory pieces to newspapers and generally pay pooja to those at the high altar of power. These places (thanaks), take the form of Corporation Chairman, Working Directors, Ambassadors and other highly placed positions in Government organizations. A camp follower

is not always a good administrator. So these men (some of them) do irreparable damage to the Corporations they run and then to the country.

"Why doesn't some one" he said "being back these old titles." The knighthoods, the Maha Mudliyarships, the Ratamahathayas and a few new ones if necessary - depending upon the depth and the gradation of support, given by the particular person. These titular positions will do less damage - and possibly even swell the party funds. Apart from this the recipients will be resplendant in the regalia of head gear, frock coats and Coats of Arm etc. with swords and shields (Kadu Kastana). Their wives can then call themselves Hamus and Hamu Mahatayas and their houses "Walawwes". There is much to commend in this suggestion. There are unseen advantages too. Their children (the Baby Hamus) will rank high in marriage markets - they will also get front billing in political occasions like the Independence day celebrations etc. Apart from the inherent cynicism in this suggestion, there does appear to be some sense in it. Administrations will be run by the professionals, without the name dropping bungling, fumbling approach of amateurs. Meritocracy will have its place and the elite ranks of camp followers will swell with titular benefits, front seats and advantages in marriage markets. President Jayawardene does not need king makers. He has performed like a great general and even better as a statesman. For once somebody has led the country. The country is extremely conscious of this. So he will now have a chance to take a few more strides in the right direction of ridding the administration of these amaterus and conferring merit where merit is due.

N.S. Samarasinghe

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TASTE OF PARADISE

Who Is Responsible ?

By Jayantha Somasundaram

AT A CONCEPTUAL LEVEL it is possible to assume that the presence of a market economy, one where the market is sovereign and she alone determines the allocation of resources, will ensure rectitude. Since, the market is impersonal and indiscriminate, it will reward industry and ingenuity and eliminate corruption and inefficiency. But in reality one fails to find an immediate correlation on these lines. Even in the USA and other mature market economies the state of affairs is far from satisfactory. **In our own country, still in the grip of feudal social relationships, the shift from a regulated economy to a market-economy has in no way minimised the prevalence of nepotism and corruption. Our political parties are merely a reflection of our social**

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structure. And parties, particularly those at the apex of the political system, are machines riddled with power brokers who have to be appeased.

A leadership that ignores these vested interests or seeks to by-pass them in pursuit of honest government, can only do so at their own political peril. So we are left with the politics of patronage where nepotism becomes not an aberration but an integral part of the system. Government ends up as a vast superstructure of interlocking interests groups each one held together by family, caste, religious, racial or political loyalties. To tamper with this ossified structure requires a revolution in thinking, in loyalties and in courage. And such a revolution shows no sign of developing.

RESPONSIBILITY becomes ambiguous in a nepotistic situation. During the terminal stages of the last government, Finance Minister Felix Dias had two Secretaries, one was his wife's brother-in-law, the other an outstanding public servant - Dr. Lal Jayawardena. However the former was not obliged to take responsibility for his actions, even though he was given all the authority that a Secretary enjoyed. Instead, it was the career officer who would have to take full responsibility for the activities of the Ministry. This was a violation of the elementary concept of the unity of authority and responsibility. In contemporary times we have had a furore over the mishandling of tenders in the Ministry of Agriculture. Nepotism is a fact of life. So is corruption. Minister's children, VVIP's wives and children are given diplomatic appointments. Who will take the responsibility for their maladministration?

One of the noteworthy features of the present administration has been the inverse relationship between party seniority and ministerial responsibility. Senior hands have been downgraded. And instead the President has taken on a massive responsibility. Under his Ministry are a plethora of portfolios—from fertilizer to higher education, from airports to power. This is poor testimony to the abilities and integrity of his ministerial colleagues. Opponents criticise the Constitution as one which arms the President with authoritarian powers. But it is a necessity that is making his Secretariat an octopus. Time without number he has had to intervene to rescue a Department or Corporation from allegations of corruption and mismanagement. The most recent is the Department of Emigration.

IS THE OCTOPUS SYSTEM of Government more efficient? S. Thondaman when giving wage increase to the Milk Board attributed this generosity to efficient management. He was unable to tell his constituents on the tea plantations that they too would receive wage increases in response to efficient management in their Ministry. The Ministry of Higher Education which controls external university courses has qualified for the Guinness Book of Records. The BA 1979 Examination was scheduled for 1980, held in April

1981 and the results released in May 1982. Our flirtation with a neo-colonial form of economy has come late at the fag end of the post-war boom. The mercantile sector cannot meet the needs of expectant party supporters. The state itself has to subsidise them and provide avenues for them to feel adequately compensated for the support they extend to the ruling party. **There is no reason to believe that another party that takes governmental office will have an easier time. Nepotism and corruption have permeated our political fabric to such a degree that it has become an end not a means of public administration.**



SPOTLIGHT

WITH SPORTS IN SRI LANKA TAKING A NEW DIMENSION the heartening news comes that the government will spend more money for the development of sports than in the past five years. This assurance was given by none other than the *President Mr. J.R. Jayawardene* at the conclusion of the Sri Lanka Police Athletic meet at which meet he was the chief guest recently. The President added that as sports was now part and parcel of the life of the country the government had not spent enough money on the furtherance of sports. In recent times the Ministry of Sport had always been grumbling about the lack of funds to promote and develop sports in the metropolis as well as the outstations. Everyone will agree that a lot of latent talent is available, and available is plenty in the rural areas. For this talent to be spotted, brought to the metropolis and given the specialised training that is so very important requires money. One must also remember that a country is better known for the achievements of its sportsmen and sportswomen. When a sportsman performs well at home, or abroad at an international event his name is splashed across leading newspapers in the world. So the financial support in the country is of paramount importance.

Governments of countries the world over spend large amounts of money for the welfare, promotion and development of sports. And our President in following suit will certainly earn the encomiums from not only all sportsmen and sportswomen, but also those whom the President has appointed to guide the destinies of

sport in Sri Lanka. Sports, among other things helps mould character and take success or defeat in the true spirit of a sportman. The President's move to grant more funds for sport was further enhanced by a record-breaking effort by a sub-inspector of Police from far away Trincomalee, M. Perera who broke the 48-year old Putt Shot record which was to the credit of C.C. Dissanayake. Perera hurled the Putt a distance of 41 feet 2.2 inches. Dissanayake's record stood at 40 feet 2 inches. ALLROUNDER joins *Tribune* in congratulating the President for his initiative in providing more finances for the development of sport.

RUGGER: All's well that ends well. The Ceylon Rugby Football Club (CR & FC) after much agitation has finally agreed to play their SLRFU President's Knockout Tournament first round match against Kandy Sports Club at Kandy. This column drew attention to the CR & FC making lame excuses not to play this game in Kandy. We also stated that the decision to play the first round game in Kandy was taken at a meeting where all representatives of clubs had gathered. Whether this game was to be played at Kandy or not was in the balance for nearly three weeks. But at a three and a half hour meeting at its headquarters at Longden Place, the venue for this match was finally decided. The CR have now agreed to play the game in the Hill Capital. Kandy's request for playing this game on their home grounds was justifiable. They argued that it is unfair to promote rugby only in one area. After all, they are the only club keeping the game alive in the outstations. With this decision the CR & FC have shown themselves as real sportsmen. Kandy Sports Club, it must be accepted had been made to get a bad name when playing on the home ground for no fault of their's. Over enthusiastic supporters have been known to pelt stones and other missiles at opposing players. This was perhaps the reason the CR & FC did not want to play in Kandy. Now that Kandy Sports Club have been assured that the game will be played at Kandy, they must now get down to instilling in their supporters the need for sportsmanlike cheering and refrain from acts that will spoil the good name of the club and the district. We hope Kandy will take our advice.

CRICKET: On the topic of cricket, the Sri Lanka cricket team has been put into fine fettle and is raring to go on their tour of India starting in the second week of September. Now that we are a fully fledged Test playing side we must also maintain standards followed by other Test playing countries. It is heartening to note, therefore, that the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka has decided it fit to take a scorer along with them on their tour of India. The Pakistan tour had a foreigner scoring for us. Archibald Perera, the recorder of the Board, has been picked to do the job of scorer and he very richly deserves it. He has been with scores and scorebooks for a number of years and maintaining records comes naturally to him. In

fact, Archie has the distinction of improvising a score-book of his own. This book has come in for great praise by visiting managers and players. But while congratulating the Board for taking a scorer, we are inclined to find fault with the Board for not including a physiotherapist. Visiting teams bring along a masseur or a physiotherapist. So why not Sri Lanka? After a hard day's work on the field, it is of paramount importance that the players are given a rub down or as one could call it a massage. The Sri Lanka cricketers will certainly need this when one considers the heat in which they are expected to face the Indians. The Board will do well to consider including a physiotherapist, not only on this tour but also all other tours.

In Sri Lanka recently was Gamini Goonasena, a former Nottinghamshire, Cambridge, Boue and New South Wales and Sri Lanka leg spin googly bowler now Sri Lanka Cricket Board's representative in Australia and New Zealand. Sri Lanka is expected to tour Australia and New Zealand early next year and Goonasena feels that this first tour by Sri Lanka "down under" will be very important not only from the point of view of cricket but also as to how the players conduct themselves. Speaking to a leading newspaper here, Goonasena warned that Australia although not playing a Test against us are not going to take it lightly. All State sides that we are going to play will have outstanding Test players and Sri Lanka will do well not to take things easy. That the Australians gave us a tour at such short notice was entirely due to the efforts and friendly ties that exist between Goonasena and the Australian and New Zealand Cricket Boards. Goonasena paid a glowing tribute to Board President Gamini Dissanayake. He said that Dissanayake has not only streamlined, but activated the Board and that if the Board continues in the same vein, cricket in Sri Lanka was in for improvement by leaps and bounds. Goonasena also complimented the Board for picking C.T.A. Shaffter as manager of the Sri Lanka team to tour India. The Cricket Board will do well to consider Gamini Goonasena as manager of the Sri Lanka team that will tour Australia and New Zealand. Goonasena is quite conversant with the playing and weather conditions in these countries. It will benefit the game and our cricketers immensely if his expertise is sought. Former Sri Lankan off spinner and who was assistant manager on a tour of England some years back, Abu Fuard, too will be in Australia at about the time Sri Lanka is expected in Australia and New Zealand. He will no doubt make a good assistant to Gamini Goonasena. **The India Cricket Board has named a strong squad from which the team to play Sri Lanka will be chosen. Gavaskar has had the plaster from his leg removed and is under specialist treatment. The Indians are certainly not taking this tour lightly.**

All Rounder

STOP PRESS

Full Press Coverage

ALLROUNDER has suggested that a masseur or a physiotherapist should accompany the Cricket team to India: that one should accompany every team that goes for a Test series abroad. This is an excellent suggestion. But an equally important "must" is a team of sports writers to cover the matches (a) for the government newspapers — Lake House and Times, (b) for the private papers like the Independent Newspapers and the Upali Papers and (c) for the Radio — S.L.B.C. If cricket, and sports in general, in Sri Lanka is to improve qualitatively, our sports writers must be helped to go along with the teams. International News Agency coverage is inadequate for the sports activities of small countries, like Sri Lanka. And for our teams to be kept on their toes, and for them to improve, critical appraisal of the performance of each member of the team by Sri Lanka sports writers is essential —ED.



SPORTS CHRONICLE

August 22-28

SUNDAY, AUGUST 22: Three semi-finalists were found in the *Honda Trophy* under-25 cricket tournament after yesterday's matches. They are Bloomfield from Group B Nondescripts Cricket Club from Group C and Tamil Union from Group D. Colombo Schools scored an easy 8 wicket win over *Lincolnshire Schools XI* in the 50 over Cricket match played yesterday at Mount Lavinia. *Lincolnshire XI* 117 and Colombo Schools XI 121. Asian Games nominees Pheroze Billimoria and Ranil Pieris had little difficulty in winning their first-round matches, when *Royal Colombo Golf Club championships* started yesterday on the Ridgeways. Billimoria the third seed beat M. Chandraratne 4 and 2 while fourth-seeded Ranil Pieris beat H.A. Van Starfex 7 and 6. Jegath Fernando and Samantha Hettiarachchi scored a sensational upset win in the quarter finals of the Mixed Doubles event when they toppled the reigning National Champs and top seeds Niroshan Wijekoon and Kamani Wijesundera 15 - 1, 8 - 15, 15 - 8 at the *30th open YMCA Novices Badminton Championships* at Central YMCA Gymnasium Hall last night. Sunny Mount beat Eleven Youngsters by 4 goals to 1 in a *Colombo Football League A Division soccer* tournament match played at Campbell Park yesterday.

MONDAY, AUGUST 23: S. Thomas, Mount Lavinia, are the 1982 *Under 15 Division 1 Cricket Champions*; the Thomians clinched the title for the first time beating St. Peter's by 116 runs with 14.1 mandatory overs to

spare in the Final at Ananda Mawatha yesterday. S. Thomas scored 295 and the Peterites replied with 179. Colts became the fourth club to qualify for a semi-final berth in the *Honda Trophy Under 25, Inter Club 45 over Cricket Tournament*; yesterday they scored an easy win over Police and joined Tamil Union, NCC and Bloomfield who had clinched their places on Saturday. Ravi Subramaniam won his third consecutive Men's Singles Title and helped Aitken Spence make it three-in-a-row in the *Travel Trade Tennis Tournament*. On the Inter-Continental Courts yesterday Subramaniam beat Johnny de Saram (Walkers Tours) 6-2, 6-1 in the Singles while Ravi Thambiah and Chandra de Silva beat De Saram and Harish Weerasekera 6-4, 6-2 in the doubles. Aitken Spence took the Overall Title with 160 points from Walkers Tours (155).

TUESDAY, AUGUST 24: Bata won four awards in cricket when they drew with Kandy Greens. Kandy Greens CC 69 and Bata 176. Texwood Industries of the Free Trade Zone achieved a fine double when they annexed the *netball and Volleyball titles* at Texwood courts in the tournaments organised by the Katunayake Investment Promotion Zone Sports Club. St. Anthony's College, Katugastota, Blues scored an easy 38 runs first innings win over Maris Stella College, Negombo in their *Under 11 Cricket match* played at Katugastota recently. St. Anthony's College Blues 68 all out and Maris Stella College 30 all out.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25: St. Annes Kurunegala were 28 for 2 in reply to Nalanda Bs 173 on the opening day of their *Under 17 Division 111 Cricket Semi-final* at Campbell Place yesterday. St. Anthony's College, Kandy, emerged the Boy's overall champions for the third successive year with 82 points in the *Central Province Badminton Championships* conducted by the Central Province Badminton Association and YMCA Kandy, held at St. Anthony's College Hall recently. Dharmarajah College was second with 48 points. The Girls overall champions were Sanghamitta BMV, Matale with 66 points and Girls High School Kandy took second place with 33 points. In the opening match of the tournament sponsored by the Puttalam MPCS Union and conducted by the *Puttalam District Football League*, Puttalam MPCS Union soccer team defeated Puttalam Zahira Central College by 2 goals to one at the UN Playground.

THURSDAY AUGUST 26: Nalanda entered a *Second Under 17 Cricket Final* when their B team beat St. Anne's Kurunegala by 87 runs in a Division 111 semi final at Campbell Place yesterday. Nalanda will now meet Maliyadeva Kurunegala in the Division 111 Final. Singer Sports Club Ratmalana, scored their third win in the *Mercantile F Division tournament* when they routed Ceylinco A by 107 runs at the MCA grounds. Singer SC 206 for 5 wickets and Ceylinco 99 all out. Browns B led by Deraine Rodrigo, bagged their third consecu-

tive *Mercantile CA* cricket title, when they beat Hotels (Ceylon) Intercontinental by 7 wickets at the Bloomfield grounds. The win gave them the *Mercantile E division* title.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 27: Maris Stella College scored a comfortable 7 wicket victory over the touring *Lincolnshire Schools* Tea in their 50 over cricket match played on Wednesday at Negombo. Lincolnshire Schools 71 in 41 overs Maris Stella 72 for 3 in 33 overs. Nalanda's fast bowler K. Sarath de Silva rocked reigning champions Ananda on the opening day of the *Under 17 Division 1 Cricket Final* at Vihara Maha Devi park yesterday. De Silva with the fine figures of 26 overs -- 14 maidens -- 39 runs - 5 wickets sent Ananda reeling to 126 all out. Nalanda ended the day in a sound position with 39 for one wicket. Ananda A 126 and Nalanda A 39. The touring professional *Hongkong Rangers* completely outclassed and outmanoeuvred York SC 4 - nil in the last match of their tour at the Army grounds yesterday.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 28: In ideal conditions at the Saravanamuttu Stadium, Sri Lanka's top order batsmen hit peak form to put together a first day total of 289 for three wickets off 69 overs by the close in the 3 day practice match between Bandula Warnapura's XI and Mahes Goonetilleke's XI. Nalanda took the Junior Cricket Plum -- the *All-Island Schools Under 17 (Division 1) Cricket Title*. They crushed traditional rivals and reigning champions Ananda by 5 wickets in the final at Vihara Maha Devi Park yesterday. Ananda 126 and Nalanda 130 for 5 wickets. Sub Inspector M. Perera of Trincomalee broke C.C. Dissanayake's 48-year-old record in the *Put Shot* (40 ft. 2 ins) heaving the iron ball 41 ft. 2 4/3 ins at the Police Athletics meet at the Police grounds yesterday.

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POST - MORTEM

World Cup

-German View -

Italy beat West Germany 3 - 1 in the final to win the 1982 World Soccer Cup in Spain. Gerhard Seehase, of "Die Zeit," looks behind the statistics.

IF A TEAM IS TO HAVE A CRISIS DURING THE WORLD CUP, it had better be at the beginning. This has one big advantage; opposing teams tend to underestimate the after effects of wounded arrogance. In this year's competition proper in Spain, that happened to both finalists, Italy, the winner and West Germany was beaten in its first match by the lowly ranked Algeria. Italy could only draw three times in

its first three matches. Despite every football manager's yearning for tactical order, the game remains a bit of a mystery. And it's just as well. Otherwise the Germans would not have reached the final. As it was, Italy and West Germany learnt a great deal about themselves during the tournament so that when opportunity knocked a second time, they were quick to take advantage of it. The Germans jumped off their high horse, realising that soccer is all about using the feet. The Italians came to believe in the advantages of attacking. They outplayed the Argentinians and the Brazilians at their own game and dispelled the myth that defensive play is essential to the Italian game. Attack was the key to success. In the final, the Germans just couldn't keep up with either the intelligent play or the pace of the Italians.

NOW THE FLAGS HAVE BEEN ROLLED UP, the world champions have taken their triumph back home, the Germans their disappointment. As a World Cup, this year's doesn't come off too well. There were not many really good games. The final was dramatic, of course, and it was matched by 120 minutes of total drama in the semi-final when West Germany beat France after a penalty competition. The Spainards also handed out a nerve-wracking performance in their match against England. A nil-nil draw enabled West Germany to go through to the semi-finals. But these were matches of drama because of what hung on them. Every match played by the Brazilians, on the other hand, was a work of sporting art. Yet they couldn't reach the semi-finals. They were beaten by Italy. The French, called by some "the Brazilians of Europe" because of their elegance, could not take the barriers of concrete built by the Germans. In the case of both Brazil and France, it was a matter of technically better teams coming off worst against more aggressive opponents. **Is that a verdict against modern soccer? The answer is just not that easy. Because the Italians were also the craftier against Brazil and the German ball skills came alight after their fighting spirit was re-ignited. Was the soccer of Spain any better than in Argentina four years ago? No. This year's cup showed that the game hasn't advanced an inch. Many experts point to an ever increasing trend towards playing intelligence. They were proved wrong in Spain.**

WHAT WAS NEW ABOUT THIS WORLD CUP?" In sporting terms, nothing," says Gunter Netzer, a member of some notable German teams a decade ago. He was one of those who saw in Spain a brand of the game that apparently can exist without towering figures. There were the "directors" of course, those who put the pattern on the game: Platini of France for example; Zico of Brazil; Ardiles of Argentina and Antognoni of Italy. But in Spain they weren't able to make their mark. Antognoni wasn't able to play against Germany in the final, but that didn't stop Italy from winning in style. West Germany also had a shortage of key players. Pau,

Breitner, one of the hardest workers in the side, wasn't. Neither was Felix Magath, a man of considerable technical skill. He might have been, but he sat on the reserves bench most of the time. Indeed he was overshadowed by a more aggressive type of player such as Hans-Peter Brügge. *It was clear that the German team went for physical prowess rather than technical skill.* Despite the vast sums of money paid for stars like Maradona (the transfer sum for this Argentinian to FC Barcelona is put at DM 19 million.) Big personalities were missing. Sepp Herberger, manager of the German World Cup winners in 1954, could never have achieved this feat without a man like Fritz Walter to put ideas into practice. Helmut Schön could never have led his German team to the World Cup victory in 1974 had there not been a Beckenbauer, a playing genius, supplying the ideas in sweeper position. **The World Cup tournament in Spain showed us one thing: soccer has become poorer, and the huge sums of money paid for its star players cannot enrich the standard.**

ANOTHER SYMPTOM OF INTERNATIONAL SOCCER TODAY is that the players are turned into stars by the media. Many players do not deserve the treatment. In terms of his performance in Spain, Maradona, just wasn't worth the money. The German stars of this World Cup showed more physical than graceful qualities, but manager, Jupp Derwall, made the best of his team. The fighting type of player was preferred to those with greater technique. Bernard Foster instead of Felix Magath. Success proved Derwall to have made the correct decision, although this just wasn't enough to beat the rejuvenated Italians. Spain underlined another fact of soccer life; not only were the big personalities missing on the soccer pitch but the managers weren't exactly full of talent either. This applies to both Derwall and Italy's Enzo Bearzot. If they had taken their jobs really seriously, they would have avoided the dismal early displays by both teams. The first round was a sorry performance by a presumptuously arrogant German team, acting as if it had already won the Cup. To blame the manager? *From the Italian point of view:* the highly rated professionals of the *Squadra Azzurra* stumbled around the playing field as if they were shackled by tactical chains. They managed only three draws in the opening rounds. To blame? The manager. Just when it looked as if both teams had missed the boat, both trainers pulled their socks up. Derwall pinned his hopes on his side's fighting spirit, whereas Bearzot went for attack. The cleverer man won in the end. There was a huge difference between the first and the second final round. The Germans and the Italians reflected this. **A big mistake was to think that the clashes between the more favoured teams would automatically lead to the best games. The most boring games during the first final round were precisely those in which the allegedly big teams played against each other: West Germany against Austria, Italy and Poland, Yugoslavia and Spain. The greatest**

sensation was caused by the underdogs Cameroon, Algeria, Honduras, Kuwait. Not, because they had suddenly matured overnight, but because Europe's soccer national looked upon them, arrogantly, as lesser lights. Before the Cup, many expected the players from Cameroon to have thin legs, big feet and a childish nature. Yet they brought the Italians to the brink of defeat during the first final round (1:1). Spain confirmed the verdict passed in Argentina four years ago: the so-called classic soccer nations in Europe and South America haven't learnt a great deal. The two teams that reached the final, rising phoenix-like from the ashes of disappointment, took long enough to realise that their fans are not just interested in the right result, but in good soccer. The flags have been rolled up. The same flags in which the aesthetes, who prefer to see soccer in Brazilian and French style, and dried their tears a few games earlier.— *German Tribune*

Gerhard Seehase

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India's French Connection

IS IT NOT TRUE that the extracts we published in this column last week from an article in the *Madras Hindu* by C.V.Gopalakrishnan about the agreement concluded "in principle" between India and France on Telecommunications Equipment with the same company that has sold Sri Lanka a digital system has set many people thinking? *That it is necessary to cite extracts from the second half of the article regarding the misgivings entertained in responsible quarters in India about this French connection?* "Among the unanswered questions is how from the financial and the technological considerations, the CIT-Alcatel offer compares with that from other parties which had responded to the global tender? It is known that no comparison has been made with the other offers which are yet to be considered for the second electronic exchange factory with the same annual capacity to cater to 500,000 lines. The misgivings felt over the E-10B digital technology offered by the French company relate to its adequacy in respect of a number of factors. Among these are (1) its capability to perform in the Indian environment (11) whether it can meet the very strenuous traffic demands on it (111) its being relatively more expensive while serving exchanges of not more than 4,000 lines (iv) the capabilities of its stored programme control (SPC) technology. The French company is developing a more upgraded version, E-10-S, which will be ready in late 1983. This system, it is reported, has been offered to Pakistan. **The technical experts of the Posts and Telegraphs Department are aware of the possible shortcomings of the E 10-B digital technology.** Unguarded comments indicate that the P and T has accepted the technology with its eyes open, in view of the larger national interests which the Indo-French cooperation in telecommunications is expected to serve. The technical experts who had a role in influencing the Government's acceptance of the French offer are not babes in the wood. They seem to have ensured for India few "escape clauses" in the agreements reached with France." *That this extract speaks for itself? That the article then went on:* "A technical fee of about Rs.22 crores is payable to the French company part of it only after the first 10,000 line exchange is commissioned by the CIT-Alcatel engineers and it could claim to be 'proven' under Indian conditions. It is not known for certain whether it is open for India to seek from the French company, the more advanced version of E 10-S but it is believed that the escape clauses provide for this. A dilemma in which the Communications Ministry found itself while trying to take decisions on the offers of technology for building digital electronic exchange equipment arose out of the options it has to exercise. There is a continuous march

of technology and what is purchased a few years later would offer a lot more than can be had from the technology bought now. But it is a matter for judgment whether claims about the "provenness" of the technology to be bought later could be taken seriously and whether it would not be wiser to buy a technology available today when it is known to be proven. The Ministry will have to exercise such a judgment while choosing the technology for the second electronic exchange equipment factory from the offers it has received for the global tender." *That the article thereafter goes on to see how the Government of India can wriggle out of the French connection and examine other offers?* "Among the issues on which the Government will have to take a decision are whether it should stick to the already expired deadline of March 31, 1982 and proceed to the scrutiny of the technical and financial documentation it has received from the companies. If the Government decides to extend the deadline since this will give it a wider choice of upgraded technologies which are now in the anvil, the existing bidders will have an opportunity to enlarge the contents of their present offer. It will also elicit responses from new bidders who will come forward with claims about their technology being the latest in the field. One can be certain that a choice from these offers could not be expected for at least two years if not more." *That though the Indian government has accepted the French E-10B the article points out that the Government in bilateral negotiations should "try to obtain from the French Company the advanced version even for the first factory"?* *That the article also points out:* "Another nagging question still remains. If the Government decided to choose a collaborator different from CIT-Alcatel for the second factory, will the use of two different systems throw up complications for the country's electronic exchange network? According to one view, it will. Such a view had weighed with the Government when it decided to reject, two years ago, the offer from the LME-Ericsson of Sweden for the upgrading of the electro-mechanical crossbar system and to accept the Indian crossbar project. There is also the other view that it will be in the country's interest to induct another system for electronic exchanges as that can reveal the soundness of the claims of superiority made by rival parties." **That so far as Sri Lanka is concerned nobody will grumble about the French connection if the telephone system works? That the French digital system was installed (in part) in Colombo and some urban areas and the simple fact is that the system does not work? That the proof of the pudding is in the eating?**

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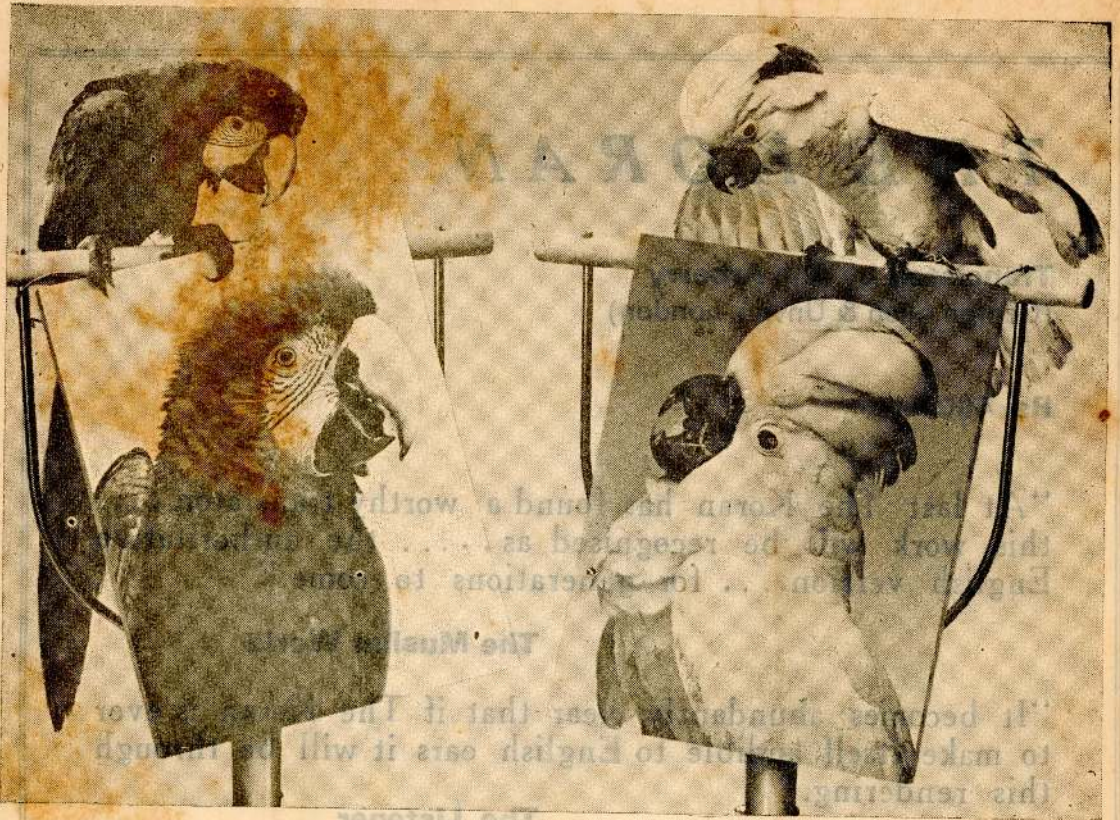
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