

# Upsurge of Public Opinion In Favour of Coalition

Big Business interests and their mouthpieces in the daily press have become desperate in view of the surging tide in favour of a SLFP-ULF coalition, particularly after the May Day speech of the Prime Minister in which she outlined the dynamics of progressive unity in this country. There is no doubt that the pressure from common people in town and country is for the immediate conclusion of a SLFP-ULF-coalition on the lines suggested by the Prime Minister and which does not in any way contradict the policy statements of the ULF leaders on the really vital questions.

In the situation, the hysterical press campaign now being conducted to prevent the coalition is only possible in Ceylon with the press monopoly as presently constituted. The May Day "brick" of Philip Gunawardena that the Prime Minister had agreed to drop two Ministers—this incidentally drew rounds of prolonged applause from the mammoth crowd at Galle Face—has now become the last desperate straw which the reactionaries have clutched at in order to sabotage the coalition.

These vested interests of big capital now hope to cause mischief at the executive committee meeting of the SLFP due to be held today to make it impossible for the Prime Minister to conclude an agreement with the ULF. Similar mischief is being raised through stories about last wills and testaments and confidential confessions to politbureaus in order to disrupt the ULF. Even dissolution has been threatened by the "Daily Mirror" in order to stave off the coalition.

It is necessary to reveal that the Prime Minister initiated her talks with the ULF after she had received a mandate from the Cabinet to do so. This had become necessary owing to the parliamentary crisis that had become acute owing to the go-it-alone policies of the SLFP which had brought it into conflict with its electoral allies in the ULF. It would appear that the Cabinet as a whole still has the same confidence in the Prime Minister even after all the mischief done by the daily press and the big business vested interests.

May Day also brought out all the current overtones in regard to the coalition. The ULF leaders while insisting on the virtues of the ULF programme reflected in no uncertain measure the senti-

ment among common people in favour of the coalition. The UNP showed its frustration and indignant horror at the growing unity in the ranks of the progressives, and had no other argument than to wave aloft the banner of anti-Marxism coupled with scare stories of "dictatorship." The UNP has also recently brought up the Sinhala Flag gundu in order to exploit the chauvinist instincts of the people through blatant misrepresentation. The Peking communists came out in their true colours when they opposed any collaboration with the SLFP branding it a capitalist organisation of reactionaries. Until now, the Peking-liners have been rather silent on local political questions (they have concentrated on international questions of revisionism and to a limited ex-

tent to local trade union problems), but now they are coming out into the open to present their thesis that only civil war and armed insurrection can lead to socialism.

The two SLFP Ministers whose scalps Philip Gunawardena has demanded as a precondition before a coalition kept away from the SLFP Rally at Independence Square and held meetings in-

dependently and jointly during the weekend. On May Day only Maitripala Senanayake sang the old familiar chorus that a coalition would mean that Philip Gunawardena would conspire against the Prime Minister, and he also indicated that he did not have the same objections to the LSSP. Maitripala Senanayake misjudged his audience because this cry of raising scare stories has been played once too often. And memories are not too short for people in knowledgeable circles to remember that it was Maitripala Senanayake who had joined with other reactionary Ministers in 1959 to oust the late Prime Minister under cover of fighting Philip Gunawardena. It is a criminal act to seek the political removal of a Prime Minister and the 1959 campaign of "10 Ministers" backed heavily by the Observer and Janata cannot be so easily forgotten. Nobody, least of all Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, is likely to believe Lake House headlines displaying Maitripala Senanayake's

scare stories of the Big Bad Wolf (Philip) C. P. de Silva entered the fray only after Philip Gunawardena brought the question of the removal of two Ministers into the open in a way that brought the Prime Minister into the controversy.

In the meantime, the Sunday Observer pulled out another hoary old political chestnut with the alleged Last Will and Testament of S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike (allegedly nominating Dr. N. M. Perera as his successor). The purpose of this story was obvious just as much as the Dawasa firecracker about Dr. N. M. Perera's Machiavellian plea to the LSSP politbureau to coalesce with the SLFP in order to destroy it from within. More and more such gundus are likely to come to the surface in the near future.

*But the tide for progressive unity grows day by day, and the natural and logical concretisation of this upsurge at the present stage is a SLFP-ULF coalition. If it materialises immediately the campaign for unity and the coalition carries with it the solution of the problems confronting the country.*

## SPOTLIGHT

### • Refinery • Fokker Friendship

#### Oil Cartel

Strange things seem to be happening in Colombo ever since international Crusader Raja Ratnagopal arrived on the local scene after meeting the appropriate Minister in London and elsewhere. First, a directive was received in Colombo whereby a Cabinet paper was hastily drawn up suggesting that tenders be accepted for the Refinery from a Jap firm, two U.S. organisations and the ENSA, the French combine. Next, with undue haste the Board of the Petroleum Corporation decided on April 4 to appoint the *Institute Francais du Petrole* (IFP) as consultants for the Refinery project.

By no stretch of imagination can it be said that the *Institut Francais du Petrole* is neutral being closely associated with the company *Francais des Petroles* (a member of the world oil cartel together with British Petroleum, Shell, Standard Vacuum Oil Co, etc.) The question is whether the IFP can be neutral in a tender bid between a company from the western private sector

and a socialist country.

It is felt that this *fait accompli* regarding the consultants was intended to by pass the best interests of the nation because the Petroleum Corporation and the Ceylon Government would become solely dependent on the "advice" on all technical matters on the consultants. Surely, there were better ways of ensuring the interests of Ceylon

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The last decision is indeed a strange one. On January 22, 1964, the Cabinet had decided that efforts should be made to appoint consultants acceptable to the two tenderers, namely the E.N I. and the Czech Technoexport. The spirit of such a decision was to appoint neutral consultants.



# HEADLINES OF THE WEEK

A summary of some of the principal items of news in the daily papers in the English language published in Colombo, April 29th to May 5th.

WEDNESDAY, April 29

The strike of the Lanka Petroleum Employees' Union which began on Monday continued today. The Ceylon Daily News reported that Joint Central Committee of the United Left Front decide to meet the Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike, to finalise the talks which Dr. N. M. Perera had with Government leaders in the last few weeks. The Ceylon Daily Mirror stated that canvassing for and against the coalition, within the SLFP ranks, has given way to "intimidation and blackmail." The Ceylon Observer, however, reported that there had been a shift of opinion in the anti-coalition group inside the SLFP that their position now is: if the Prime Minister wants a coalition, we will agree on Dr. N. M. Perera and the LSSP, but not on Mr. Philip Gunawardena. The Times of Ceylon headlined a story that it "learnt" the Prime Minister did not consider any of her Ministers "reactionary." Fighting has flared up on the Plain of Jars in Central Laos between Leftwing Pathet Lao forces and Neutralist and Rightwing forces whilst the Prime Minister Souvanna Phouma has initiated talks for "peace". President Sukarno has today ordered his Supreme Operational Command to step up Indonesia's 'confrontation' to crush Malaysia according to the Foreign Minister, Dr. Subandrio.

THURSDAY, April 30

The Lanka Petroleum Employees' Union called off its strike late yesterday evening after a further round of talks with the Board of Directors and reported for work today. According to the Ceylon Daily News, the Minister of Communications, Mr. Mahanana Samaraweera, told the Ministers that it was not correct to put the blame for all the country's ills on the port. He tabled for the information of the Ministers a statement of the rate of cargo handling in the port from January 1963 to April 1964. The ULF leadership has issued a statement that the report in the Ceylon Daily News on April 29 about ULF discussions in regard to the coalition were "incorrect and tendentious." The Ceylon Daily Mirror speculated on its front page that the coalition moves had become "deadlocked" again following a clash of opinion between the

LSSP and the MEP on the composition of the SLFP-ULF coalition Cabinet. The Ceylon Observer declared that the Federal Party will not be a "party to the defeat of the Government" if the SLFP-ULF coalition implements the language policy of the late Mr. Bandaranaike. The Times of Ceylon frontpaged a story that the anti-coalition group in the SLFP was playing for time by seeking a conference of the general membership to decide on the question of the coalition. Mr. Nehru and Sheik Abdulla yesterday began a crucial series of talks on the future of Kashmir.

FRIDAY, May 1

Sixteen major processions are scheduled to take place today to culminate in the different meetings at Independence Square, the Galle Face Green, De Mel Park, Hyde Park and the GCSU Headquarters. Two officers of Hotel Taprobane, D. T. E. Manampieri and Colin Perera, were stabbed to death by a dismissed employee yesterday afternoon. Government Electrical Engineers have called off their "work to rule" campaign at the request of the Minister of Land, Irrigation and Power, Mr. C. P. de Silva. North Vietnam has proposed that China and the Soviet Union resume their ideological talks of last year as a preparatory step to a world meeting of Communist Parties. President Ben Bella of Algeria, who is now on a State Visit to the USSR, has been awarded the Lenin Peace Prize for 1963. The United Nations mediator in Cyprus, Mr. Sakari Tuomija, has stated that the situation on the island "for the time being looks gloomy". Dr. Fidel Castro said that Cuba could not have an "eternal attitude of patience" towards U. S. surveillance flights and hinted that Soviet anti-aircraft missiles would be handed over to Cuban armed forces.

SATURDAY, May 2

May Day was celebrated in magnificent style yesterday. The ULF meeting at Galle Face Green was acclaimed to be the biggest and the most colourful, while the SLFP rally at Independence Square was the second largest. The Prime Minister in her speech appealed to all progressives 'to unite on principles common to us' whilst she affirmed her faith in Middle Path policies. The P. M. also stated that any reconstituted Cabinet would be of her own choice. At the ULF meeting, Mr. Philip Gunawardena had stated that at a meeting with the Prime Minister on March 8 she had undertaken to "sack" Messrs. C. P. de Silva and Maitripala Senanayake, and he urged upon the other leaders of the ULF not to join a coalition unless these two reactionaries were excluded. The Ceylon Daily News reported that Dr. N. M. Perera, at a May Day Rally Kesbewa yesterday morning had stated that "there was every possibility that the people will have a government which they have been anticipating by the middle of this month." Speaking at the May Day luncheon to foreign guests in Moscow, Mr. Khrushchov yesterday warned the U. S. that threats to Cuba and continued violation of her air space by reconnaissance flights "can have a disastrous consequences." Prince Souvanna Phouma, the neutralist Premier of Laos, has taken over the Defence Ministry in a bid to unify the armed forces and thereby bring greater unity to Laos. Portugal is determined to retain control of Angola and other Portuguese overseas territories despite United Nations demands that they be granted independence, declared the Portuguese Premier Dr. Antonio Salazar yesterday.

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SUNDAY, MAY 3

According to the Sunday Times, quit notices issued to public servants who have failed to qualify in the Sinhala proficiency tests will not be withdrawn as the judgement in the Kodeswaran case affected only the stoppage of increments. The Sunday Observer raised a question on the front-page whether there was a "last political will and testament of the late PM" in which he had nominated Dr. N. M. Perera as his successor, and whether this document was not being used by pro-coalition groups as a "secret weapon" in the coalition talks. The South West Monsoon was ushered in during the weekend with thunder, lightning and incessant rain. Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari, the Indian Finance Minister, in a warning against developing an attitude of complacency towards the border situation, stated that in 1966 India might expect fresh troubles from China. The American reaction to India securing Soviet help to build the Bokaro steel plant is said to be one "regret and misgivings." Syria has threatened to publish the minutes of the Arab summit conference held in Cairo last January "if Cairo continues to misrepresent Syria's attitude towards the Palestine question."

MONDAY, MAY 4

The Ceylon Daily News reported that arrangements are being finalised for the take-over of the Colombo Racecourse after the final race-meeting on Saturday August 29. According to the Ceylon Daily Mirror Mr. Philip Gunawardena's assertion at the ULF May Day rally the Prime Minister had agreed to sack Mr. C. P. de Silva and Maitripala Senanayake from the Cabinet had created a hornet's nest within the SLFP. The Ceylon Observer reported that Mike Ford, 25 year old Peace Corps worker from Colorado left Ceylon yesterday with his 19 year old Sinhalese bride, Kusuma Weerasinghe. The Times of Ceylon reported that work on the Steel Corporation site at Homagama had come to a near standstill because the ship carrying machinery, equipment and construction parts had been held up outside harbour. President Sukarno in a speech yesterday ordered his people to topple Malaysia in its present form, cleanse it of neocolonialists, and then hand it back to the Malaysians. Britain rushed troops by air to Aden yesterday to rein-

## Film on Premier



Soviet documentary film-makers have completed a new film, "Sirimavo Bandaranaike," describing the life of the first woman Prime Minister in the world. Since her life is inseparably linked with her country, Ceylon, the film is about the island as well.

Copies of the film dubbed in Sinhalese have been sent to Colombo.

The picturesque landscape of Ceylon — jungle, palm-trees on the beach and white surf — opens and closes this technicolour. It is the story of a people who won independence, of the assassination of Solomon Bandaranaike, the leader of the patriotic front, and of the important problems confronting the new Prime Minister, his wife.

"I wanted only one thing: to be a good wife and mother," Mrs. Bandaranaike confessed. "But things changed when my husband was killed."

Industrial development, a modern fishing fleet, mechanised cultivation of rubber plantations, and irrigation were some of the difficult problems that had to be solved. Much work and many controversial issues concerning the country's future were involved.

Despite the pressure of her commitments Mrs. Bandaranaike still found it possible to accept an invitation to visit the U.S.R. The film shows the rousing welcome she was accorded as soon as she stepped onto Soviet soil in October 1963. It shows construction sites, blast furnaces, and cotton plantations. The film was directed and shot by Arkady Zenyakin, who accompanied Mrs. Bandaranaike everywhere — visiting students, building workers and Young Pioneers in Moscow, to Leningrad, Tashkent, Volgograd, and the Volgograd Hydropower Station. Mrs. Bandaranaike left the following inscription in the visitors' book in Lenin's apartment in the Kremlin. "It seems we have seen for ourselves the simple way of living of this great man, and his own greatness."

After the visit, Zenyakin flew to Ceylon where Mrs. Bandaranaike specially asked him to take shots of working women, as well as young people and Colombo University students, who, she said, represented the country's future. She also asked him to reflect the extensive aid they had received from the Soviet Government and people.

The film shows life in Ceylon, as well as the building of new industrial enterprises, where Soviet and Ceylonese specialists are working side by side. It concludes with the words: "Be happy and flourish, the sunny island of Lanka! Morning has come to your land. May it ever be cloudless."

Lyudmila Vasilyeva  
Moscow News

yake from the Cabinet had created a hornet's nest within the SLFP. The Ceylon Observer reported that Mike Ford, 25 year old Peace Corps worker from Colorado left Ceylon yesterday with his 19 year old Sinhalese bride, Kusuma Weerasinghe. The Times of Ceylon reported that work on the Steel Corporation site at Homagama had come to a near standstill because the ship carrying machinery, equipment and construction parts had been held up outside harbour. President Sukarno in a speech yesterday ordered his people to topple Malaysia in its present form, cleanse it of neocolonialists, and then hand it back to the Malaysians. Britain rushed troops by air to Aden yesterday to rein-

force hard-pressed forces fighting a mountain battle with tribal guerrillas.

TUESDAY, MAY 5

The Prime Minister, in a statement issued yesterday, stated it "was incorrect" that she had agreed to "sack" Messrs. C. P. de Silva and Maitripala Senanayake from the Cabinet as alleged by Mr. Philip Gunawardena in the May Day rally on May 1. The morning Sinhalese daily Dawasa published a document which it alleged was circulated by Dr. N. M. Perera to the LSSP politbureau explaining the need to coalesce with the SLFP in order to "split the SLFP" and thereby wean away the anti-capitalist

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# WESTMINISTER CRETIN

Whatever be its final outcome by the time this article appears in print, ever since it became known that the progressive forces within the Sri Lanka Freedom Party and the United Left Front were having talks to coalesce on a principled basis and on an agreed programme as a basis for a broad-based and effective Government, the reactionary rightist elements within the SLFP and outside it with the help of the daily press have been going the whole hog with little or no success to raise various fears in the minds of the masses in the fond hope that they will balk a Coalition Government.

Broadly, these fears may be summarised in one sentence that if the SLFP and the ULF coalesced it would immediately result in the doing away with the parliamentary democratic system of Government based on the Westminster model, which Britain bequeathed to us when the country obtained independence and result in a ruthless dictatorship.

## Positive Proof

Strangely and significantly, however, the people who more

than any other race in Asia, bar Japan, read newspapers have not in the least reacted to these fears. Indeed, on the contrary, they seem to welcome it because they know that it is only under a truly Democratic Socialist Government that there will be progress and development and that they will have everything to gain and nothing to lose, except their chains.

# must go

suit the genius of our people to make political independence more tangible, real and meaningful to them. As it stands today, parliamentary democracy of the Westminster type has turned to be in those South East Asian and African countries, where it was rigidly introduced by Britain to be a virtual farce, a deformity and a caricature a veritable Cretin—of a system that is only appropriate to Britain where it has grown over the centuries.

To simple men like me, democracy as I understand it, is not the abstract West-

to the hilt to the Anglo-American bloc in consequence of which the UNP could not even dare, even it wanted to, follow an open door policy in diplomacy and trade with the socialist bloc, the only exception, of course, being the trade pact with China.

The circumstances which compelled the UNP to conclude the pact are fairly widely well known. The UNP carried out this shut door policy to such stupid lengths that it even refused to permit a Soviet soccer team to visit the island to play a friendly match with the local team or a scientific team to make observations during a solar eclipse. This the UNP did not because it feared that communism might infect our people, but in order to placate the Anglo-Americans whose behests it was prepared to carry out at all times. Afraid to displease its masters, the UNP in spite of its brand of "socialism", which only its camp followers understand, refused to transform the colonial based economy into an independent and dynamic one. In actual fact, Britain and the United States effectively controlled the politics and the economics of Ceylon through the UNP.

Even today on many vital questions on which the SLFP took a very clear stand to break the foreign stranglehold on the country's economy by nationalising the oil trade, insurance and restricting the business activities of the foreign owned banks, the UNP was never one with the Government but clearly on the side of these foreign interests. If ever it supported the Government in any of its progressive measures the UNP did so for reasons of political and tactical expediency and not motivated by any love for the country and its peoples.

On the intrusion into the Indian Ocean by the US nuclear Seventh Fleet which threatens the sovereignty and independence of the newly emergent countries of Asia, including Ceylon, the UNP has not so far categorically stated that it opposes its entry. Yet with its tongue in its cheek the UNP leaders go about the country saying that they too are followers of the Bandaranaike policy of non-alignment.

## Open Door Policy

As against this when the revolutionary change came over Ceylon in April, 1956, with the victory of the SLFP-MEP led by the late Mr. S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike his Government reversed the policies hitherto followed by the UNP by abrogating the Defence Agreement with Britain which bound this country hand and foot to the Anglo-American bloc and by pursuing an open door policy in diplomacy and

in trade with every country regardless of its political ideology. Thus for the first time Ceylon became truly independent politically.

Admittedly, though the Government got off to a very good start, it failed to energise society which had been hitherto divided into many watertight compartments towards the new values of equality and secularism to make political independence more meaningful to the masses because of its rigid adherence to the politics of the Middle Path; the halting and vacillatory attitude to important and vital political and economic questions and above all to its failure to replace the Westminster cretin with a Government within the framework of Democratic Socialism to suit the genius of an awakened nation from a deep slumber.

The masses, who had pinned their faith in a Government of their choice felt hopelessly let down; they did not feel that they were active participants in a new scheme of economic development and activity; they felt that they were being merely led by those at the top of the bureaucratic machinery which to them was completely unreal and unrelated and bereft of something basic to a Socialist Government and Socialist planning.

Though undoubtedly the second SLFP Government of Madame Sirimavo Bandaranaike went a step further to give concrete expression to the socialist objectives set out by Mr. Bandaranaike by taking over the foreign oil companies, insurance companies and restricting the business activities of the foreign banks in the teeth of vehement opposition, threats and blackmail, the country's economic progress remained static due to the limitations imposed by the Middle Way politics within the framework of the Westminster cretin.

## Middle Way Politics

Experience gained during the last eight years or so has proved beyond every tinge of doubt that if the SLFP Government is to take this country forward it should immediately go beyond the politics of the Middle Way, coalesce with the progressive forces in the ULF and replace the Westminster cretin with a People's Parliamentary Socialist Democracy in which all the the progressive parties will have a fair share of active participation in the political and economic development of the country.

While it is no doubt gratifying that even at this somewhat belated stage the progressive majority within the

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INDUSTRIES  
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Shell Brand  
Pure Aluminium  
Hollow Ware



Agents & Secretaries:-

**BHATT  
&  
KAMANI  
LTD.**

But how far are these fears real or founded? The very fact that our people have not reacted to these fears is the most positive proof that they cannot be fooled all of the time by the purveyors of these diabolical lies and half truths and the daily press which dish them out day in and day out.

If, however, one makes a close study of these so called fears one cannot escape the conclusion that what the rightist elements fear is that the capitalists and the monopolists whose interests the former represent and safeguard both inside and out of Parliament will lose their power, position and privilege that they have built for themselves and for their children when a truly Democratic Socialist Government of the People is established. But they lack the courage to admit it.

There is no gainsaying the fact that today almost everyone from the Parliamentarian to the worker in the Port and the peasant in the paddy fields realises that the Westminster system which the people are being called upon to defend to the last drop of their blood by its protagonists is the instrument of exploitation and stagnation and a stumbling block to the progress of the country. It must, therefore go and forthwith and be replaced by a system of Government which will

BY

Reginald A. Nicholas

ern idea of democracy based on Westminster but a government by the people in fact in which the sovereign power—political, economic and social—resides in the people of this country, and that all people regardless of their race, colour, language, caste and creed, enjoy not merely in theory but in actual practice and reality that this democracy will give to every man and woman the basic and vital necessities of life and end the exploitation of man by man.

## Comparison

It is now well to consider whether this Westminster based Government practised faithfully by the United National Party which had been in power since 1948 when Ceylon obtained independence and the Sri Lanka Freedom Party which succeeded it in April, 1956, there has been a fulfilment of the conditions stipulated above. A brief comparison becomes necessary.

Under the UNP rule from 1948 to 1956 sovereign power, except in name, never resided in the people of this country because the politics and the economics of the country were dictated to by Britain, in particular, and the United States, in general. The country's strategic naval and airbases were ceded to Britain and thus it was committed

MAY DAY APPEAL

# PM's Unity Call

## TO WORKING - CLASS LEADERS

It gives me great pleasure to be here with you today for your May Day celebrations which are being celebrated this evening in accordance not merely with the traditions of the working-class throughout the world but in our own traditional and customary style. I trust, on this occasion, that some of the thoughts and ideas that I propose to dwell on will be the subject of reflection by every one of you.

May Day is a symbol of the emancipation of workers throughout the world. When my late husband ushered in the People's revolution in 1956, I know it was a thought dear to his heart that our rural farmers should stand shoulder to shoulder with their fellow-workers in the towns in order that the Socialist victories of our generation should not be lost by differences and wasteful quarrels among ourselves. The unity and support of the working class is an essential condition for economic development, and for the ultimate defeat of reaction and capitalism in all its forms in our country.

To us it seems an unfortunate thing that the workers of Sri Lanka have not been led hitherto towards the realisation of this truth. What is important to every one of you, as workers, is not the subtle differences in the teaching of Lenin and Stalin or the ideological differences existing at the moment between certain Socialist countries, or the merits or demerits of individual Socialist leaders. What the workers in this country need is a realisation of the differences between their friends and their enemies; the recognition of the pitfalls of capitalism and reaction.

### Middle Path

I have heard it said by some that the Middle-Path policies of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party have reached the end of the road; I have heard it said that the Sri Lanka Freedom Party is more dangerous to the working-classes than the United National Party which has already been identified as the arch-enemy of progress and of the working-classes. If such arguments are addressed to you consider in all honesty whether you can accept them.

While other political parties have preached revolution, we of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party have actually ushered in a peaceful revolution without guns or bloodshed and in such a manner that the worker and farmer feels that he has the right to walk with his head erect and live as a free man and not a slave in the country of his birth. Some political parties have talked of nationalisation in the abstract, but we

of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party alone have put into practice the theory of nationalisation in regard to many essential institutions of our economic structure. If our nationalised ventures have not reached perfection, is it not because those who preached nationalisation have sought to reap the fruits of what they have not sowed before they were ripe?

The Middle-Path policies of the late Prime Minister have won for us world-wide acclaim in international affairs, and we have refused to be brow-beaten by political or economic pressures under any circumstances. Our Independence, which became a reality for us in 1956, is something that we cherish and are unwilling to barter for a mess of pottage or under threat of warships in the seas around us.

### Unity Essential

From 1956 onwards the late Prime Minister and his Party have sought unstinted co-operation of the working-class and of its leaders. Our sweeping victories at the polls in April 1956 and in June 1960 were achieved by the farmers and the workers joining hands to rout their common enemy, the United National Party, with all its resources of power and money both local and foreign.

Sri Lanka Freedom Party Governments have always deliberately sought the support and co-operation of working-class leaders and we consider it unfortunate that at various times the working-class leadership of this country has not found it possible to accord us that measure of support.

In my view this has been a tragedy not only for the working-classes but for all sections of progressive opinion. So far as we are concerned, notwithstanding past differences, we still seek that same support not through any sense of weakness or lack of confidence in ourselves, but because we firmly believe that the unity of rural and urban workers is essential for the wellbeing of our country and we believe that in order to quicken the pace of Socialist growth it is the bounden duty of political leadership to

The Prime Minister's speech on May Day is a historic landmark in the progressive movement of this country. It is a clear and concrete appeal to all anti-Right and anti-Capitalist forces to unite in order to build a Ceylon along democratic and socialist lines. This is an appeal which Tribune has been making over the years, and last year when the differences between the anti-Right forces were sharp, Tribune had taken the initiative to call for a SLEP-ULF Coalition as the only way forward in the present situation. We publish the full text of the Prime Minister's Speech as officially released



respond to the demands of the underlying interests, whose representation is their responsibility.

Ours is a small country, but the tasks before us are great. Our primary aim is to achieve an equitable distribution of wealth and a rate of economic growth which would ensure a good life for all. In order to achieve this we have worked and we shall be working through our existing democratic institutions. But if we are to work effectively I must stress with all the emphasis at my command that the progressive forces of this country should unite and co-operate.

### Two Camps

Today the country is broadly divided into a capitalist camp

and a socialist camp. The United National Party stands as the sole bulwark of the capitalist force in Ceylon. The progressive Socialist forces on the other hand are divided ideologically and otherwise into various groups with various shades of opinion united essentially in principle but often differing as to method. It was the endeavour of my late husband and it is my endeavour, too, to weld the now scattered progressive forces into a strong unity, so that the social, economic and political changes of 1956 should uninterruptedly go on benefitting the large mass of the people of this country and ensuring for future generations a better and more prosperous life.

I would therefore like to appeal to all those who have the welfare of the workers and the peasants of this country at heart to rise above petty differences and unite on the larger ground of those many principles common to us all. This is the only way, as I see it, of meeting the threat imposed on us by the firmly integrated forces of capitalism and reaction in this country.

### Responsibility

At this juncture, the political leadership of the working-class, to whom I have extended this invitation of co-operation, owe a great responsibility to their own.

It is imperative that past differences should not be revived to create acrimony and bitterness and that our thinking should be directed to our common hopes and aspirations for positive Socialist achievements in the future rather than to create artificial divisions among ourselves on real or imagined grievances of the past.

A great deal of speculation has taken place in our so-called national Press on the prospects of co-operation between other Socialist parties and ourselves.

I must warn you against the dangers of paying any heed to

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## MEET

Alagu Subramaniam's

# "THE BIG GIRL"

at

Wijaya Lucksmi Book Depot

WELLAWATTE

or at

CENTRAL BOOK DEPOT

JAFFNA

Rs. 3-00

# Czechoslovak Day

## 19 years of growth

May 9th is Victory Day in Czechoslovakia, the day of its liberation by the Soviet Army and the beginning of a new life. In May 1945, the Czechoslovak State of 1938 was not just restored. The defeat of the fascist powers in the Second World War and the general changes in the world were the international factors which did not remain without an influence in Czechoslovakia, from which the Hitlerites had been driven after their six year occupation.

Czechoslovakia celebrates the 19th Anniversary of freedom from Nazi rule on May 9. This article briefly outlines what 19 years of free Czechoslovakia have really meant.

their way into some of the National Front parties.

They caused constant friction, hampered the nationalisation of industry, the work of the government and the representative bodies, and sabotaged the government programme. The systematically prepared political crisis culminated in February 1948. The Czechoslovak people gave a

by

S. VLCEK

And so a people's democracy was formed in Czechoslovakia in which the Czech and the Slovak working people, united in the National Front of Czechs and Slovaks, took over power. There are five political parties in the National Front headed by the leading Communist Party of Czechoslovakia; mass organisations—trade unions, youth, women's cultural organisations, etc.

But the political development in Czechoslovakia in the first postwar years was far from simple. The big business circles unable to resume leadership in their former political parties, which had been discredited by their capitulationist and collaborationist position in the war, made

clear answer to the attempt to revert things back to pre-war capitalist conditions: those who had represented the reactionary element in the government were removed from their office by constitutional means. Political power passed over completely into the hands of the working people.

Soon after that the second stage of nationalisation was started, so that the socialist sector of industry represented 95 per cent, finance was completely nationalised, so was

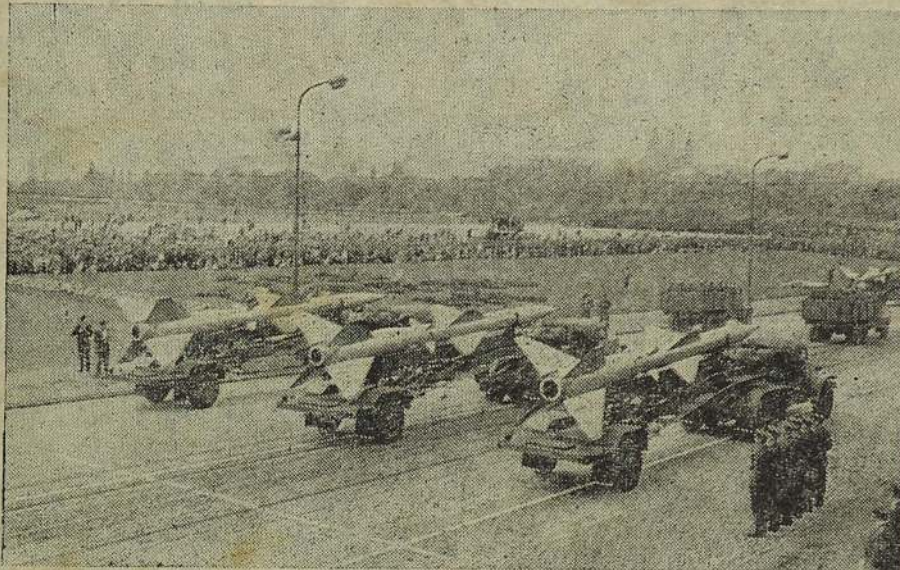
foreign and whole-sale trade, the socialist sector in the country-side continued to be expanded as the farmers who received land in the land reform, began to form unified agricultural cooperatives.

The entire system of the organisation, management and financing of the national economy was gradually changed. The first five-year plan, which followed the successful two-year plan (1948-1949) was

therefore not only a matter of the fulfilment of the production plans but of finding suitable forms of management of and planning the economy.

It was only with these prerequisites that the great development of industry, unprecedented in Czechoslovakia, was made possible: the industrial output in Czechoslovakia grew almost four and a half times that of the pre-war years, in some branches Czechoslovakia surpassed even the most

It is not easy to give a picture of Czechoslovakia today because it is not only a matter of putting down figures on new dams, plants, mines, power-plants, hospitals, nurseries, on the output of electricity, steel, TV sets, shoes, the increased number of students in various institutes of learning, reports of scientific discoveries, works of art, etc.



MAY DAY RALLY SCENE IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

advanced capitalist countries. In the per capita steel production, for instance, Czechoslovakia is ahead of Great Britain and the United States, in the proportional production of iron, she is ahead of Britain, the US, France, in the cement output, she has outstripped the US, Britain, France and Canada.....

Economic development—especially the increase in the industrial output—was naturally reflected in the growth of the living standard, in the improvement of social security and old age pensions, in education, health care, culture, physical training and sport. Czechoslovakia has ranked among the countries with the best health care systems in the world for many years. There is one doctor for each 538 persons and 125 hospital beds per 1,000 people. All medical treatment, medicines, spas and sanatoriums are free. All schools, including universities and specialised schools are also free of tuition.

The changes in the economic, political and cultural life in the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic have substantially influenced its relations to other countries. They have enabled Czechoslovakia, as one of the countries whose industry is capable of producing the most complex machines and equipment for most industries, to supply industrial equipment needed by the young developing countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

Czechoslovakia, like the other socialist countries, does not make any political conditions with its economic assistance. This is in conformity with the main principle of Czechoslovakia's foreign policy, a policy of friendship, peaceful co-existence and active co-operation with all peace-loving countries.



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# Land Of The Literate

"To be cultured means to be free", said Jose Marti. In another context, he stated, "children are the hope of the world". In keeping with these teachings, the Declaration of Havana condemned illiteracy and the absence of teachers and schools, and proclaimed before America the right of children to receive free instruction, practical and scientific, the right of intellectuals, artists and scientists to fight through their works for a better world and the right of the people to convert their fortresses into schools.

Today education and culture reach every citizen in Cuba. They are now the patrimony of the people. In the incredible period of one year, illiteracy was eliminated. Ninetyseven per cent of the people are no longer illiterate, and the balance three per cent are people who were unwilling to study. The mass publication of scientific, philosophic and literary books has speeded the process. Cuba today is truly "territorio libre de Analfabetismo" (a country free from illiteracy).

## Education

Prior to 1959, corruption reigned in educational matters, as in other spheres. Teaching positions and teaching titles were sold. Relatives and friends of professional politicians became teachers, though not qualified as such. Even entrances to schools were dispensed by friendship or political influence. This form of corruption went up to the highest level of education — the universities.

Tens of thousands of rural children, therefore, had no

education whatsoever. Schools and teachers were sadly lacking. For every one hundred children registered in primary schools, 85 never reached the third grade and only six went as far as the sixth grade. Local politicians devoured the school budgets, while there was no money for school supplies, the school breakfast and textbooks. Usurpers were appointed "professors", while genuine teachers were unemployed. Many schools were in a ruinous condition.

School texts were distorted, and students of history were taught that "the United States had helped Cuba to gain its independence and sovereignty." Education and culture were only within the reach of the very rich people, while the children of common workers and poor farmers had no opportunity to study. A very small number from the poorer classes reached the university level after staggering sacrifices by the parents.

There were two types of schools and universities, public and private. Three of the six

universities were private. There were 736 private schools and colleges.

## Reform of Educational System

The Castro regime had three great problems: The first was the reform of the Educational System; the second, the raising of the educational level of the people, and the third, the participation of the masses in education.

The whole Educational system was transformed to meet the demands of the new society. The reform was achieved by legislation. The National System of Education covers teaching from the pre-school age up to the levels of higher education. The accent is on vocational training.

All education was declared to be compulsory, free and public, and the benefits of the teaching services were guaranteed to all citizens. Former school proprietors were indemnified in appropriate cases. Schools in Cuba had always been non-sectarian.

This act of nationalisation wiped out the former abuses, such as, the exploitation of teachers and employees by school proprietors, the exclusion of Negro pupils and teachers in the "exclusive" schools, and the levying of fees. Text-books were now given free. The homes of the big bourgeoisie, who left Cuba, were put to good use as classrooms.

Teachers welcomed the new system, for they derived many,

by  
**E. R. S. R. Coomaraswamy**

The new system calls for six years of primary teaching, with a short pre-school stage, followed by three years of basic secondary education (Junior High School) Then the students goes to special Technical Schools or pre-University School (High Schools) or schools of Business Administration or Commerce. This is followed by courses in colleges of Technology or colleges of Education, which are either children's or youth Farm School.

In Cuba, the accent is more on class-rooms than on huge school buildings, where much space is wasted in an effort to please the vanity of parents. Ceylon should follow this example and build more classrooms, as has been repeatedly stressed by that great educationalist, Mr. P. de S. Kularatne. Every year thousands of new classrooms are being built or requisitioned by the conversion of former military barracks into fully equipped school buildings. Soldiers are now building schools. By 1961, the Ministry of Education had in three years constructed 671 rural primary schools 326 manual training shops, 113 laboratories and one college-Preparatory Institute, one school city and six technological schools. Today, these figures have further increased. In 1958-1959, there was accommodation only for 702,198 pupils in the primary grades. In three years, it rose to 1,253,375 and today it has increased much more.

## Nationalisation

On July 6, 1961, all teaching institutions were nationalised.

benefits, including social security, insurance, retirement benefits, and better salaries. Earlier, the salaries were so poor that they had to resort to private tuition or other part-time employment. Today, the government also subsidises the families of intelligent university students, who are married. There are over 70,000 scholars enjoying the benefits of the scholarship plan. There are also seminars and courses to improve teachers.

Till 1959, the citizens of Cuba had been abandoned to illiteracy and ignorance. Many had no cultural training and about one million people were illiterate. Those who had learnt had proceeded on the average only up to the third grade. The earlier system existed only for the privileged.

Today, there is an efficient and adequate system with technical and scientific preparation for the masses. The education itself promotes hatred of war, love of peace and love of country and freedom. Everywhere, education is free. In 1958, the budget appropriated 74,177,088 dollars for Education, much of which was never used for this purpose. The 1962 budget allocated 270,356,117 dollars, to be honestly administered for education. Every year the figure is to be increased. The Zapata Swamps were one of the pilot areas of the literacy campaign.

## Masses & Education

As education is intended for the masses, they also participate in this work — in planning, orientation, direction and teaching administration on all

levels, from the school level to the national level. Thus, a large majority of the population is involved in the process of education. Education itself is scientific in content and method. It is calculated to develop a better type of human being. This it undoubtedly will.

To ensure the people's participation in this task, there is a National Council of Education, in which the Ministry of Education and representatives of the people's revolutionary and mass organizations are represented. School councils Municipal councils and Provincial councils work in collaboration with the National Council.

At the request of the government, the youth of the country have formed themselves into contingents of volunteer teachers, after intensive training by the Institute of Higher Learning. Under the Oriente Plan, Peoples' Teachers have been selected from the youth all over the country. Volunteers, who placed their services at the disposal of the government, had no thought of payment or personal comfort. They made up the Frank Pais Vanguard Brigades.

Teachers are trained at the colleges of Education at the various Cuban universities. Sons and daughters of peasants and workers now become teachers. In Batista's time, they constituted only two per cent, of the number enrolled. There are Training centres for primary teachers also.

## Universities

Before 1959 the universities produced "lawyers" who had a warped sense of legality, "graduates" in philosophy and letters, who knew little of either, "educators" with no real cultural base or teaching orientation and doctors who had no proper facilities for practice or further study.

Today, the universities function according to a plan based on the needs and objects of the new society. A superior council for the universities coordinates and nationalizes the teaching, while the Supreme Government Council has equal representation of the student body and the faculty.

The universities today provide facilities for scientific research and a direct link between education and agrarian and industrial production. Thus, schools of Agronomy are located in zones of agricultural development and they work jointly with the State Farm and the Cooperatives. The new university in Havana is close to the sugar factory so as to facilitate technical research. The schools for the workers at university level are functioning in the universities of Las Villas and of Havana.

The Castro regime took over the private university in Havana which was exclusively for the rich in the pre-1959 era. The university of Havana, with its thousands of pigeons, now caters to all classes. At the same time, a new university

continued on page 14

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# SHIPPING SCANDAL

On Tuesday, April 29, sixty bags of sugar believed to have been stolen from the Food Control Department Wharf at the Port, were seized by the Fort Police. The number of thefts and pilferages in the Port has increased to alarming proportions, and from the reports we have now received, thefts and pilferages appear to be minor peccadillos compared to the organized looting that is going on at present.

On the 22nd of April the Ceylon Daily News reported on its front page that the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Cooperatives on the orders of the Minister had interdicted a supervising officer following an alleged racket detected in the unloading of food cargo.

The "Daily News" reported as follows: "According to Food Ministry sources 10,000 tons of sugar due to the Food Department arrived a few days ago on a vessel. Yesterday the supervising officer, it is alleged, had signed and passed a receipt to the effect that the vessel had unloaded the entire consignment of sugar. However, on a certain 'tip off' received by the Ministry certain officials had been sent to inspect the vessel. These officials had discovered 500 bags of sugar hidden in the deep tank of the ship. The supervising officer was immediately interdicted and a full investigation has been ordered by the Ministry."

Tribune is able to disclose that the alleged incident took

place on board the "Trojan". The Tally Contractors appear to have given a full receipt certifying that the manifested quantity of 10,000 tons was duly discharged. And still 500 bags of sugar to the value of over Rs.50,000/- were left lying in the deep tank of the vessel. This is preposterous, and it calls for an immediate and searching investigation.

It would appear that this very firm of tally contractors had some two years ago certified that an excess of 477 bags of flour over the manifested quantity was discharged from a ship named "Classic". Such an excess was an impossibility, and it only proved the indifferent and negligent manner of the tallying, a responsible task which, if wrongly or perversely done, can involve Government and the country in very serious loss. The peccant contractors appear to have been let off with a warning on that occasion. Why? A complete investigation of their tallying since that incident is called for.

## Exchange Swindle

by

TRIBUNE INVESTIGATOR

however, a number of bags of rice—part of the Ceylon Government's consignment—were discovered in the holds. The bulk of them were in hatch No. 1. An inquiry will be held."

The name of this vessel is "Fortune Canary" which brought rice from Burma. All is not well with the Shipping Agency and Tallying activities that operate under the aegis of the Ministry of Food.

There was a time when we exposed, alone, the gigantic rackets and frauds of some Norwegian directors of the Ceylon Shipping Lines, Ltd. Now there appears to be a complete reorganization of this partly Government—financed Corporation under the direction of a former Food Commissioner, M.L.D. Caspersz, himself a very severe critic of the Ceylon Shipping Lines Ltd. when run by the Norwegians.

Meantime, a number of mushroom Shipping Agencies have sprung up, and the tally-

ing done by the Ceylon Shipping Lines Ltd. for several years has been fragmented. Several allegations of improper tallying have been made. If this state of affairs is allowed to continue, it will only bring the Ceylon racketeer into the international ring of currency defrauders, smugglers and short deliveries of goods; and while Government would be lulled into accepting seemingly low offers for freight, gigantic frauds would be encouraged to take place under their very noses.

It would seem necessary in the national interest to hasten the establishment of the Ceylon Shipping Corporation, and meantime immediately to entrust the Ceylon Shipping Lines Ltd., under the new management, to handle all Agency work including the local agencies for the State Shipping Enterprises of the Socialist countries, and also be responsible for the tallying of all Government cargo.

Local firms may continue to negotiate for offers for chartering of vessels for the Ceylon Government, although we would prefer that this service too is nationalised, but under no circumstances should inexperienced and dubious adventurers be appointed Charterers, Agents i.e. Agents for the "Charterers" who, in this case are no other than the Ceylon Government.

# Women in Czechoslovakia

In Socialist Czechoslovakia we find women at machines in factories, at construction sites, in transport and offices, in science laboratories, in operation rooms, at the university lecturers, desks and in projecting and planning of offices. There is no profession that would be inaccessible for the woman in Czechoslovakia. Women are also active in Czechoslovakia in public life, in the management of economy and administration of the country.

The principle of equal rights for women asserts itself most consistently. The most extensive opportunities for women to be active in public service offer the national committees of all levels, which, as agencies of the people, are to establish all prerequisites for the working people's most extensive participation in the steady development of society, and to enable them to make their initiative felt in practice, too.

The broadest basis for this activity—as far as women are concerned are the Women's Committees, in their implementation, of important tasks

in construction, in agriculture and cultural and educational work. Close to 12,000 women's committees (with almost 157,000 volunteer workers who have a great deal of accomplished work to their credit) exist in Czechoslovakia at present.

How do the women's committees originate and what is their actual work?

The citizens elect the women's committees at the national committee public meetings for two-year terms. Experienced women are selected from among those working in industrial production, agriculture, from among housewives, teachers, physicians etc.

The elected women's committee takes charge expanding and improving supply and public services in the community, it looks after the establishing of nursery schools and nurseries, it checks on the appearance of the community, it promotes the consolidation of unity between parents and



Women's Committees play a vital role in the fuller development of womanhood in Czechoslovakia. In this picture young girls are taking part in an open air meeting organised by one of the twelve thousand Women's Committees.

school, it sees to it that progressive methods be introduced into agricultural production, and is active in the educational endeavours, securing the women's steadily rising level within the sphere of its influence.

The women's committee guides the women in the improvement of their special work—qualification and organises lectures and meetings dealing with important domestic and foreign problems, arranges joint visits to theatres, exhibitions, concerts, etc for the women. This way, attending in the women's committees to the implementation of practical tasks in the community administration, women become the national committees reliable workers; and the national committees are a base from where women officials are selected for higher posts in higher level national committees. Here, tens of thousands of capable women prove well in the most responsible posts.

# Constitution Guarantees

## equal rights to all citizens

**COMMENT...**

**\* MAY DAY &  
\* CABINET MAKING**

\* **MAY DAY.** This year's May Day was indeed a most interesting phenomenon. Working people in their thousands flocked to the different rallies. The ULF drew the biggest crowd, the SLFP had the next largest. The UNP rally had a sizable crowd but not one to justify the present claim that the UNP had won the "confidence" of the "working class". The Peking-liners had their meeting at De Mel Park, but the headline they received in the big bourgeois press was meant to bolster their importance and vest in this caucus an unbelievable parity with the giants in the ULF. The Bala Tampoites held their durbar in the CMU hall, whilst other groups had their own sectional meetings. All in all, it was a true reflection of the democratic processes in this country. Two of the SLFP big shots, C. P. de Silva and Maitripala Senanayake, who now receive unlimited columnage in the big capitalist press, had their say in Walapana and Hingurakgoda, firing their broadsides from a safe distance, but with a certainty that every word they said would be magnified into blood-curdling headlines in the daily press. However, out of a large number of speeches on May Day, the Prime Minister's statement stands out as a beacon inspiring all progressive forces to unite on questions which are held in common. Elsewhere in this issue we have published the full text of this speech and we feel certain that in this speech the outlines of the PM's policy for the immediate future are discernible whether a coalition materialises immediately or not. It is possible from this speech to see some of the dynamics of the political situation: (a) if a coalition between the SLFP and the ULF materialises immediately; (b) if such a coalition does not come into being just now, there is a growing field of increased co-operation and understanding for the rest of the lifetime of this Parliament between the progressive elements in the SLFP and the saner and more realistic elements in the ULF which undoubtedly have the backing of the vast majority of the ULF rank and file, and thereafter (c) the emerging electoral agreement for a coalition whenever the General Election should be held. There is nothing in the PM's speech with which the ULF can quarrel, although her spirited reply to Pieter Keuneman's comments on the Middle Path policies of the SLFP at the 7th Congress of the Communist Party were in the best traditions of political polemics.

\* **CABINET.** However, the unpredictable Mr. Philip Gunawardena made a statement at the ULF rally which has made the immediate realisation of the SLFP-ULF coalition more difficult. It is one thing to demand that C. P. de Silva and Maitripala Senanayake be excluded from a Cabinet — or more realistically the demand should be to shift them from the present Ministries which they bungled—but, it is a totally different thing to drag the Prime Minister into the arena of controversy in regard to a private discussion at a time when the coalition talks on the present broad basis had not yet been initiated. The Prime Minister had no alternative but to issue a denial that what Mr. Philip Gunawardena stated was "incorrect", and in turn he had to assert that he made his statement on facts. Coalitions and Cabinets cannot be made by such statements about private discussions even at public rallies. Mr. Gunawardena, moreover, sought to commit the whole of the ULF to this position, and there is no doubt that only the big vested interests which are opposed to the coalition have drawn comfort from this unseemly controversy triggered by the MEP leader. What is worse is that Maitripala Senanayake and C. P. de Silva had been given a handle to utilise this controversy and side-track attention from the real matters arising from their failure as Ministers in the portfolios they hold now and draw red herrings about the motives of those who have pointed out the mistakes and misdeeds of the two Ministers.

\* **MAITRIPALA** It is time, however, for the SLFP itself to take stock of the work of these Ministers ever since they came into the Bandaranaike Cabinets in 1956 and to see whether their actions have not brought more discredit to the SLFP than otherwise. In this connection, particular attention must be paid to the work of Maitripala Senanayake who has been the secret voice of Big Business (particularly of West German vintage) on many vital questions, quite contrary to the policies of the SLFP from 1956. It should be remembered that until 1952/53, Maitripala Senanayake was in the UNP. He came into politics through the UNP and Dudley Senanayake had made him a Parliamentary Secretary (for Food). With the rice price crisis in 1953 Senanayake quit the UNP and remained an Independent until after the SLFP victory in 1956 when he joined the SLFP to become a Minister. His record since 1956 is a dismal one judged from the progressive angle. He had opposed the Paddy Lands Act — his reason was that Philip Gunawardena would have used it for his own ends. He had opposed the Co-op Bank Bill — because Philip had suggested it. He has always resisted nationalisation — and bus transport and the port were nationalised owing to public pressure and the insistence of Philip Gunawardena and William Silva in the first Bandaranaike Cabinet. In retrospect, it can also be shown that as the Minister in charge of the CTB he laid the foundation for the present mess. Apart from this, the role he played in organising the Cabinet "Strike" against the late PM with the

Czechoslovakia's Constitution, which was adopted in 1960, is based on the current stage of the country's development but at the same time indicates the trend of future development. In its first article the Constitution states that the Czechoslovak Republic is a socialist state based on the alliance of the workers, farmers and intelligentsia, with the working class at its head. It is a unitary state of two fraternal nations, the Czechs and the Slovaks, and is part of the world socialist system. It works for friendly relations with all nations and to ensure lasting peace throughout the world.

"All power in the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic shall belong to the working people".

sembly watches over the observance of the Constitution, elect the President of the Republic, and follows and controls the work of the Government.

The Constitution states that the guiding force in the society and the state is the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia which associates the most active and politically conscious citizens from the ranks of the workers, farmers and intelligentsia. The Communist Party is the leading force in the National Front of the Czechs and the Slovaks, which associates political parties and voluntary organizations of the people (the trade unions, the youth organizations etc).

The Constitution provides that Czechoslovakia's economic

operative ownership. National property includes particularly: the mineral wealth and basic sources of power, the main areas of forests, means of industrial production, public transport and communications, banks and insurance institutions, broadcasting, television and motion picture enterprises, and the most important social institutions such as health facilities, schools, and scientific institutes.

Land joined for the purpose of joint co-operative cultivation is in the joint use of unified agricultural co-operatives.

Within the limits of the socialist economic system, small private enterprises, based on the labour power, is permitted.

The Constitution guarantees the inviolability of the personal ownership of consumer articles, especially articles of personal and domestic use, family houses, as well as savings derived from work. It also guarantees inheritance of such personal property.

It can be said that the Czechoslovak Constitution is characterized by the fact that in a number of its articles it sets and formulates the trend of economic development with the objective of providing the material basis for the economic and cultural interests of the citizens. It expressly provides that the Czechoslovak State must pursue an economic, social and cultural policy, under which the growth of production, the growing living standard and the gradual shortening of the working hours will be paralleled by a continuous development of the physical and mental capacity of all the people.

### Equal Rights

All Czechoslovak citizens have equal rights and equal duties, irrespective of their national or racial origin. Men and women have equal status in the family, at work and in public activity. Their equality is ensured by the creation of equal possibilities and equal opportunities in all field of public life.

All citizens have the right to work and to remuneration for work done according to its quantity, quality and social importance. Work for the benefit of the community is, at the same time, the primary duty of every Czechoslovak citizen. All working people have the right to leisure after work (to paid holidays), the right to the protection of their health and medical care, the right to material security in old age and disability to work, and the right to education.

continued on page 16

BY

### A Special Correspondent

This statement made in the Constitution reflects the fact that the supreme organs of state power and the local organs are elected by the people and are responsible to the electorate for their work.

### Secret Ballot

The citizens of 14 million strong Czechoslovakia enjoy general, equal and direct suffrage (the right to vote belongs to all citizens who have attained the age of 18, while the right to be elected is acquired at the age of 21). They elect by secret ballot the 300 deputies of the National Assembly, the nationwide supreme legislative body, the deputies of the Slovak National Council, and some 200,000 deputies serving in the local organs of state power, known as the national committees. The National As-

sembly watches over the observance of the Constitution, elect the President of the Republic, and follows and controls the work of the Government. The Constitution states that the guiding force in the society and the state is the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia which associates the most active and politically conscious citizens from the ranks of the workers, farmers and intelligentsia. The Communist Party is the leading force in the National Front of the Czechs and the Slovaks, which associates political parties and voluntary organizations of the people (the trade unions, the youth organizations etc). The Constitution provides that Czechoslovakia's economic foundation is the socialist economic system which excludes every form of exploitation of man by man. This system, in which the means of production are socially owned and the entire economy is directed by plan, ensures, with the active co-operation of all citizens, development of production and a rise in the living standard of the population. This means that the work of every Czechoslovak citizen is work for the benefit of the community and, at the same time, for his own benefit.

The socialist economic system recognizes two forms of ownership-socialist ownership and personal ownership.

Socialist ownership can be either state ownership, that is ownership by all the people (national property), or co-

assistance of Lake House and Times will be remembered by all who know the politics of this period. His current boasts about the industrialisation he has achieved must be seen in the correct context: the policy of industrialisation did not come from him but from the whole Cabinet under pressure of circumstances and programmes, but the way he has implemented it has made a few rich men richer and ushered in the beginnings of a handful of monopolistic groups under his benign patronage. His performance in the Petroleum Corporation since it went under his charge especially his attempts to betray the nation's best interests in the matter of the Refinery are matters of the moment. It is difficult to see how the Prime Minister can resist the demand to remove him from the Cabinet, except perhaps by shunting him to a Ministry where he cannot do any damage in regard to key sectors of the economy. If Minister Maitripala Senanayake is able to see the writing on the wall he will voluntarily persuade the Prime Minister to appoint him to a high diplomatic post in a country like West Germany or Great Britain. Those who were at the ULF Rally will not easily forget the prolonged applause which greeted the statement of Mr. Philip Gunawardena that the PM had agreed to exclude C.P. de Silva and Maitripala Senanayake from the Cabinet. It was a spontaneous outburst from a politically awakened crowd, and there is no doubt that the common people in every part of the country are similarly politically alive to contemporary politics.



# Protest Letter

## strange death

Dear Comrades,

As you are aware the Report of 9th Plenum of the Central Committee and the decisions thereon were heard and discussed between January 23rd and February 6th. During this period, and especially when everything was concluded, I had occasion to examine my conscience, the conscience of an old Vietnamese communist, a son of the Vietnamese people, who devoted his whole life to the Vietnamese people and to the Vietnamese working class. My conscience is clear with respect to the Party, and to the people. It is clear with respect to the international communist movement, to the comrades and to those who sacrificed their lives, and those who are still alive, to my comrades both in the Party and in the international communist movement. I continue to consider that my loyalty to the international communist movement, whose vanguard is the C. P. S. U., and to our Party, has not been shaken at all by all that has recently happened.

That's why, allow me, to consciously and frankly state that I cannot accept and fulfil the decisions of the 9th Plenum of the C. C. of our Party about a new international political line which is fundamentally

opposed to both agreements on the Moscow meetings, to the 3rd Congress of our Party and to Marxism-Leninism the way it was understood by the absolute majority of the fraternal Parties in the world, and which serves as a guide to the fraternal Parties in their struggle for the achievement of new victories for the successful completion of building socialism.

The new policy of the Central Committee will lead North Vietnam which is in the throes of a socialist revolution and construction and South Vietnam where the national democratic revolution is going on, to the danger of isolation from the world communist and workers' movement, and also other great dangers.

Our ideal is scientific communism and not a religious and fanatical communism. Our ideal is proletarian internationalism and not nationalism. Our ideal is peace and not war.

It is for these ideals that we mobilise the masses, prepare the revolutionary forces for the liquidation of capitalism, colonialism, and imperialism. Our Party and our leaders should, by the force of historic conditions, act in accordance with traditions which stem from the

foundation of the Party in 1930, make the first Soviet state — the creation of the world communist and workers' movement — the symbol of faith, our support for forging ahead, for strengthening fraternal bonds, sealed with blood with the Communist Party and the people of China in order to strengthen by this way the solidarity, unity and unanimity in the international communist movement.

In this way we, our Party, would serve a useful purpose. But, we do quite the contrary. We attack and brand as "revisionists" the majority of the fraternal parties whose achievements and successes are indisputable. Acting in such a way, we, willingly or unwillingly, set foot on the road of split and factionalism in the communist movement, on the road of building "national communism" "specific", "Asian communism". This road is very dangerous for it is contrary to the tendency of modern development, to the interests of the Vietnamese people both in the North and in the South of the country.

For 36 long years I have been participating in the struggle. I have seen many generations of our comrades, witnessed countless victims —

Tribune's correspondent in the Far East has sent us an interesting and significant document, a letter circulated by a leading Communist of North Vietnam, Duong Bach Mai, among members of the Workers' Party of Vietnam. The letter is a translation of the Vietnamese original and our Correspondent vouches for its authenticity. What adds tragic poignancy to the whole thing is that this letter was dated February 6, 1964, at Hanoi, and that on or about April 4, 1964 Duong Bach Mai died, according to our Correspondent under "strange and unknown circumstances in Hanoi".

The world is today witnessing the strange and complicated phenomenon of a bitter fight in the international communist movement which has its repercussions in Ceylon itself and in every communist party in the world. Much as it is in the interest of the common people of Ceylon not to become involved in this "ideological conflict", it would be wrong to ignore this colossal fight between Moscow and Peking, and the overtones and undertones that have been set in motion in every country.

The Time and Newsweek of April respectively devote a great deal of space to this ideological conflict between Moscow and Peking and depict the current developments in the international communist movement from the angle of the Washington cold war enthusiasts. It is necessary, therefore, for neutralist, and non-aligned countries like Ceylon to assess and evaluate this conflict from its own standpoint. This letter of a "minority" North Vietnamese communist regarding the 9th Plenum of the Central Committee held in January-February this year throws interesting light on one aspect of this ideological conflict. The text of letter is as set out below.

and has all this only been to see our people deprived of their source of their belief, of their support in the struggle? It is thought that by criticising "revisionism" in some fraternal parties (for instance the C. P. S. U. and others), we only display our "love" for these parties for the sake of their "salvation". Though the talks with the C. P. S. U. have not been finalised, though the results of meetings are not known, yet the discussion of the decisions of the 9th Plenum of the C. C. of our Party was hastily organised for the whole Party and the people of Vietnam. I am afraid that finally this might lead us not to the goal of "saving" the fraternal parties, not to "loving" them, but to hating and attacking them.

My conscience does not allow me to keep silent, to stay aside. It does not let me sleep quietly! That is why I cannot remain indifferent and I must

state resolutely that: I DO NOT AGREE WITH AND SHALL NOT CARRY OUT THE DECISIONS OF THE PLENARY MEETING, and I hope, by doing this, to sustain the most ardent desire of my life — to defend my Party, to be always loyal to it.

I have carefully weighed all the pros and cons. To keep silent in the present situation would mean to take an irresponsible attitude towards the Party, to betray individualism which is typical of oppression of an exploiting class.

I shall not keep silent!

I am ready to face any difficulty that may arise from this decisive step I have taken!

I believe that in future our Party will cleanse itself of the charges I have made and that I shall be honoured and loved for this action I have taken.

Duong Bach Mai

February, 6 1964  
Sitting Hall in Ba Dinh,  
Hanoi.

### SPOTLIGHT

continued from page 1

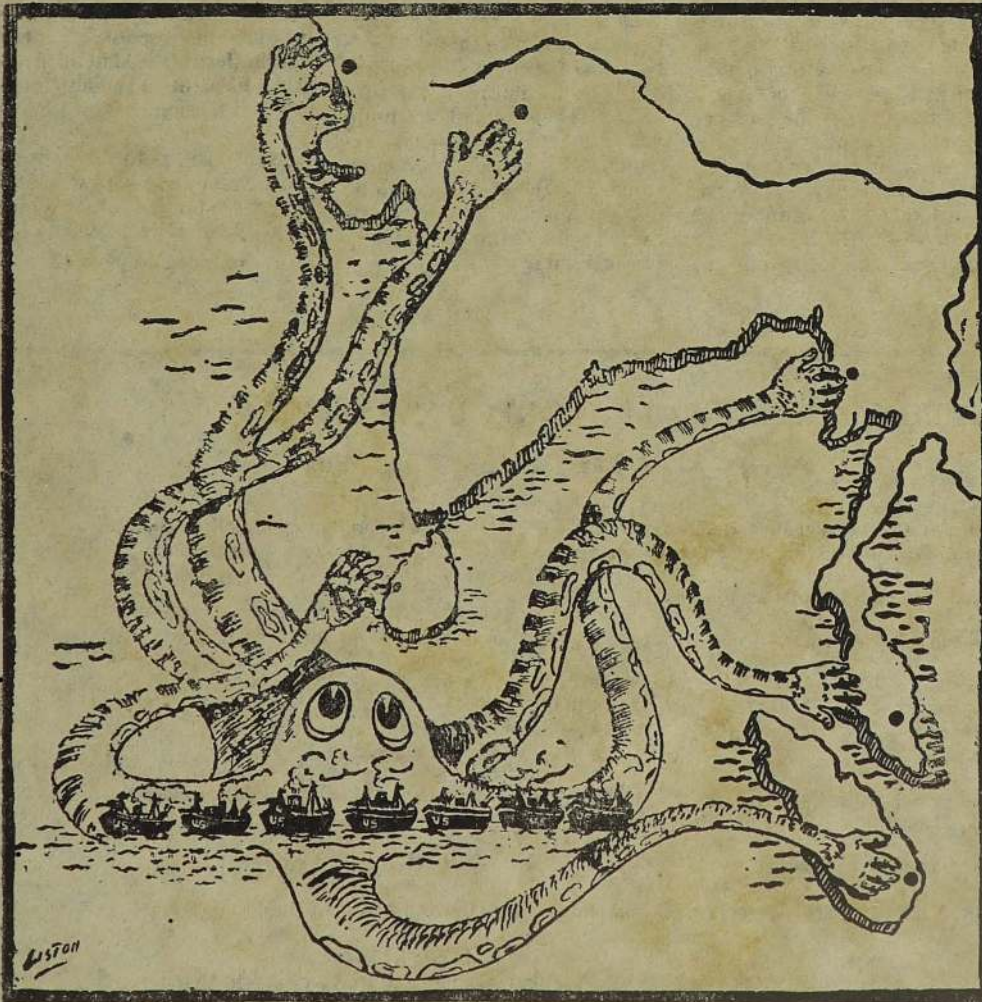
than appointing a pro-oil cartel organisation as the sole consultants. It is also necessary to mention that at the moment sales representatives of the Institut Francais du Petrole are moving heaven and earth to negotiate a long term contract with Ceylon for the supply of crude oil from the world Oil Cartel sources. Long before the question of the Refinery is settled, the representatives of the consultants are seeking to tie Ceylon to a long term contract with a western source where foreign exchange would ultimately become involved.

Government must now do something immediately to undo the mischief done by the Corporation by appointing a cold war partisan firm as consultants for the refinery project. There are various ways in which this can be done and the sooner remedial measures are taken the better it would be for the country.

Another matter in which the Raja Ratnagopal touch has been evident is the sudden outcrop of newspaper lobbying for the Fokker Friendship plane. A few days after he arrived, cautious paragraphs began to appear in the Observer first, then in the Daily Mirror, and thereafter there was an avalanche in all the papers, but the spearhead of this Dutch campaign came through the Daily Mirror and the Observer. The aim of this campaign was to pressurise the Government to rescind a decision to buy an AVRO plane on the specious ground that a "new" offer of the Fokker group had not been adequately considered.

At this stage, it is not necessary to go into the question of what happened before, but to note that the present one-sided press lobbying in favour of the Fokker Friendship plane is a reflection of the state of our daily press and the genius of Raja Ratnagopal. He has

continued on page 16



SEVENTH FLEET REACHES OUT

NEW SPIRIT

# TOURISM

## in Czechoslovakia

There is no point denying it! Mrs Ramsbottom-Smythe, who comes to this country expecting to put up at a hotel with roof-garden swimming pool and a round-the-clock dog-walking service, will be disappointed. In fact, she'll probably leave in a huff. And businessmen Elvin P. Everpleasant, who likes oysters for breakfast and prefers bourgeois and stripteasers to Pilsener and wholesome variety shows, will no doubt take his business elsewhere.

But Henry J. Tourist, who suggests politely that he prefers his ham, eggs and bath-water hot and who asks wistfully if there isn't a 24-hour dry-cleaning service as his train to Bratislava won't wait for the three-day cleaners—he is a fellow more to be pitied than censured. He is the sort of man who until now would return to Czechoslovakia with a crystal ashtray for cousin Oscar saying: "The Czechoslovak people are so friendly..... They went out of their way to show me the Old Town clock and to explain how the phone booths on Wenceslas Square work, but....."

### Not Good Enough

But why don't all the restaurants have clean towels in their washrooms.....!

But why don't all service station attendants wipe your windshield and check your tyres.....!

But why aren't there enough maps of Prague in bookshops during the tourists season.....!

But why must there be so much paperwork involved that a potential tourist decides he is better off in his garden deck-chair filling in visa applications and car documents, paying in advance and exploring an unexplored socialist land full of headaches and hazards.....!

Government ministers have stamped their collective feet. Enough of these tourist Buts, they say. Makeshift arrangements for tourists just aren't good enough. It is high time to scrutinise our facilities and resolve to treat the visitor from abroad with the consideration to which he would like to become accustomed. And so, grabbing the problem firmly between thumb and forefinger and looking it squarely in the eyes, they set up a committee—the Government Committee for Tourism.

The committee they set up is by no means run-of-the-mill. It is endowed with considerable funds and the authority to organise and direct foreign and domestic tourist travel and to supervise and coordinate the work of *Cedok*, *Tourista*, hotels and restaurants and other agencies with fingers in the tourist pie. The Ministers

this is being begun.) That brings us to roadside motorests—a modified sort of drive-in for the hungry tourist—we certainly need a few.....

The Committee's regional sub-commissions, meanwhile will stake out new hikers' trails, build new ski-lifts, put more buses and trains into service, raise hotel standards and sample their cooking. All existing hotels will be encouraged to be on their best behaviour. New ones will be built and others, in Prague, Bratislava and other places, will be promoted to the "International" status—ultra modern decor, speedy courteous multi-lingual waiters, choice of plum dumping or creme caramel, tripe goulash or roast pheasant..... That sort of thing.

Everyone seems to be getting into the spirit.

by  
**Leonara Stradalova**

### Snipping Red Tape

The travel agency *Cedok* announces that henceforth red tape will be snipped to a minimum. No more pay-your-stay-in-advance. Those often troublesome vouchers are now optional. The waiting period for visas is expected to shrink to 48 hours following further reciprocal negotiations with western countries. You can change your money—as much as you like, they remind you helpfully—at the border or inside the country. And ad-

A new spirit of humanism is sweeping through the Socialist world, and this article on the development of the Tourist Industry in Czechoslovakia, published by courtesy of Czechoslovak Life, reflects this new spirit. Much of it will apply with greater force in this country.

Yet amid all this genuine concern and good intentions, there is a sombre note of which the Government's tourism committee is well aware. A good start on all fronts will be made this year, but the process is essentially a long range one. It is no easy matter to raise all tourist facilities to accepted international levels within a short period of time. The problems, the committee realises, has as many aspects as an American has cameras.....

venturous people take their chances on booking hotel rooms on arrival (although it's more prudent to do so before leaving home). Your car, too will be happy. It no longer requires its own passport.

Customs officers—are facing the expected invasion of 1964 tourists with their customary courage. They warn of difficulties—not for the tourist, but for themselves. Their nightmares take form of endless streams of cars honking furiously at newly-opened border points. But these worthy people are expected to survive. In *Lidova Demokracie* (The Catholic Party's daily) they boasted quite rightly: "At Petrzalka near Bratislava, during the recent influx of thousands of Austrians week enders, the formalities for car passengers lasted an average of two minutes, including exchange of money. At another spot, twelve cars and four buses were processed in a total of sixteen minutes." (That's what we call Good Old Czechoslovak Efficiency!) And they added: "Customs officers are now studying foreign languages at special courses."

Even producers' cooperatives and shops run by Local National Committees are eager to improve the situation. They intend to build new car repair shops and expand their services. More souvenirs, they feel, should be put on display to tempt the tourist with Aunt Maud and Uncle Elmer in mind.

First and foremost there is the question of accommodation. The building of luxury and modest hotels and even camp-sites has, frankly, been neglected until the last year or two in favour of far more urgently-needed flats. This headlong drive to house each and every Czechoslovak family comfortably in the next few years still takes priority.

Then take communications: While the net-work of railways and highways is dense enough to delight even the most blasé statisticians, these aren't smooth enough or broad enough (in the case of highways) to satisfy the Ministry of Transport, much less many drivers of four-wheeled American ocean-liners. And up till now they haven't had to be. There simply hasn't been that much traffic. Modernising railways and roads is another long-term and costly undertaking.

### Simplified Formalities

This brings us to services, a matter which has been repeatedly raised by irate newspaper readers and Deputies calling for more and better everything for deserving Czechoslovaks. This question will be increasingly in the spotlight with Czechoslovakia's simplified tourism formalities and less international tension.

Many visitors to this country can't understand why we don't have more Pants-Pressed While-You-Wait, establishments.

continued on page 12

## CEYLON PETROLEUM CORPORATION ART COMPETITION - 1964

1. Entries are invited for an Art Competition organized by the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation in collaboration with the Arts Council of Ceylon, for paintings on themes to be announced by the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation.
2. The Competition is divided into two sections as follows:
 

(A) <b>Open to Adults</b> :- (Professionals & Amateurs)	(B) <b>Students</b> :- (8 to 14 years & 14 to 18 years)
---	---
3. **Prizes**— In Section 'A'  
 Rs. 1000/- first prize  
 Rs. 750/- second prize  
 Rs. 500/- third prize
 

In Section 'B'	Rs. 100/- voucher—1st prize
	Rs. 75/- voucher—2nd prize
	Rs. 50/- voucher—3rd prize
4. Please apply to the Public Relations Officer, Ceylon Petroleum Corporation, No. 113, Galle Road, Colombo 3, for details regarding this Competition.
5. **Closing date for entries will be 10th July 1964.**
6. An Exhibition of the Paintings will be held at the Art Gallery from 27th July to 1st August 1964.

113, Galle Road, Colombo - 3.

Public Relations Officer,  
CEYLON PETROLEUM CORPORATION

# SEVENTH FLEET

## US Big Stick in Indian Ocean

Reuter reported from Washington on April 10 the State Department announcement that "the units of the United States Seventh Fleet have moved into the Indian Ocean and are expected to cruise there for about six weeks."

On April 4, an aircraft carrier, three destroyers and a fleet oiler entered the Indian Ocean, passing through the Malacca Straits, and they would move up to Madagascar. It is understood that between 80 and 100 aircraft capable of carrying nuclear weapons will be aboard the carrier.

The Seventh Fleet was big news a few months ago when Washington announced its decision to extend this powerful armada into the Indian Ocean. Now that it has actually arrived, it is necessary for us to know a little more about it.

### Strongest in the World

The Fleet which the Americans hold to be the strongest in the world, comprises 130 warships and 650 war planes. The warships include four missile-armed aircraft carriers (the Hancock, the Shangri-La, the Bomom Richard and the Bennington), for atomic-powered submarines (the Sago, the Swordfish, the Halibut and the Sea Dragon) carrying nuclear-charged Astor torpedoes, four conventional missile-firing submarines, three heavy missile-carrying cruisers, and a sizeable number of anti-submarine craft and support vessels.

The Fleet's flagship is the 12,000-ton cruiser "Providence" armed with Terrier missiles. This year the Seventh Fleet is slated to be reinforced with atomic-powered Polaris submarines.

The Fleet's complement is around 65,000 men. Also under its command is the Okinawa-based 3rd Marine Division and a reinforced marine battalion permanently assigned to the ships. The marines total 24,000 men and the entire Fleet is under the command of Vice-Admiral Thomas H. Mourer, who himself is under the orders of the Commander in Chief of U. S. Forces in the Pacific, Admiral Donald Harry Felt.

The Seventh Fleet presently operates in an area that embraces one-fifth of the world's ocean surface. Its units are based at Guam, Okinawa, Japan, Formosa and the Philippines. The ships of the Fleet are frequent callers at ports in South Korea, South Vietnam and Thailand. In the last World War, this was the Fleet that played the role of chief striking force in occupy-

ing Okinawa and actually wresting it away from Japan.

On more than one occasion the appearance of this frightening armada has pushed up tension in the Formosa Straits, bringing the world to the brink of a thermonuclear disaster. The situation was particularly bad in the spring of 1962 when Chiang Kai-shek boasted that he was going to take a running jump at the continent right then and there. Buttressing his threats with deeds, Chiang ordered the beginning of mobilisation, called up reservists and moved his forces from inland to the Formosa Straits. Washington despatched ships of the Seventh Fleet to the region, its commander leaving nothing to doubt by explaining that an explosion was possible at any moment.

by

L. NATARAJAN

### Two Birds

On that occasion the Americans counted on killing two birds with one blow of this "sea stick" of theirs if Chiang was successful, to establish their own bridge-head on the continent and thus confront the Communist nations in Asia; or in the event of a fiasco, to jettison the discredited Chiang Kai-shek, replace him with a less odious figure and thus realise their obtrusive idea of "two Chinas".

The wily Chiang may well have signs, for he immediately backed down and deferred the invasion of Red China until he could convince his overseas patrons that he was the only one they could count on. Subsequent developments have shown that here on this count Chiang has made headway. This was confirmed soon after France established diplomatic relations with Red China. When Chiang retaliated by severing diplomatic ties with France and initiating large-scale four-week long manoeuvres—under the code name Back Pack—off the southern seaboard of Formosa, Washington promptly dispatched a 70-ship armada of the Seventh Fleet to effect a rendezvous with the KMT Navy.

The exercises reaffirmed Chiang's determination sooner or later to invade the continent and also demonstrated America's readiness to back the venture with the full strength of its "sea stick".

On many occasions this stick was brandished over Indonesia. Should a new rebel appear from some dirty cesspool in a remote part of that country, Washington would dispatch the ships and planes of the 7th

Fleet towards the shores of Indonesia to provide "moral" support to Sukarno's enemies. Such support was given, for example, to the "Darul Islam" rebels in Western Java, headed by Kartosuwirjo, the gangs of Daod Beureuh in Northern Sumatra and Kahar Muzakker in Sulawesi.

The U. S. gave military, as well as "moral", backing to these rebels by sending American pilots to bomb Indonesian towns and villages. The Dutch colonialists, too, enjoyed American support in their fight against Indonesia. This aid became particularly evident at the height of the struggle for the liberation of West Irian. Washington allowed Dutch warships and planes, airlifting reinforcements to West Irian, use the base of the Seventh Fleet.

The Seventh Fleet has caused a great deal of trouble for Laos too. Impeding the normalisation of the situation in that country, Washington, in the spring of 1962, dispatched ships of the Fleet to the Gulf of Siam to land American forces in Thailand. The ensuing virtual occupation of that country gave the United States a chance to interfere directly in the civil war in Laos.

On more than one occasion the "sea stick" has crashed down on the heads of the Vietnamese as well. Ships of the Seventh Fleet brought in American Task Forces' planes and helicopters which are taking an active part in the civil war in South Vietnam. The Seventh Fleet was also used to carry supplies of arms and other material to the forces of Ngo Dinh Diem. Experts of the Fleet are responsible for the use of toxic agents in the drive against the Vietcong which, besides destroying crops and farm animals, have killed many innocent and peaceful citizens.

A prominent role was assigned to the Seventh Fleet in the Saigon coups too. Testifying before a closed session of the House Armed Forces Committee, the Commander of the Marine Corps General Wallace M. Green, Jr., admitted that during the first coup last November, ships of the Seventh Fleet stood close to South Vietnam's shores with two marine battalions on board ready to provide support for the generals who had rebelled against Ngo Dinh Diem.

Two months had not passed since the first coup when the American began to show their displeasure with the new head of state, General Duong Van Minh, who, they thought, was lacking determination in fighting the Vietcong. Washington was also vexed by the fact that some members of the South Vietnamese Government

were making eyes at France, plainly sharing de Gaulle's view that South Vietnam's problems could best be solved by neutralising South Asia.

In mid January the cruiser "Providence" appeared in Saigon with Thomas Mourer, the Commander of the Seventh Fleet, on board. The U. S. Ambassador to South Vietnam Henry Cabot Lodge, came aboard the cruiser in a helicopter and held a two-hours secret conference with Mourer, during which as later became known, plans were discussed for a second coup in Saigon with possible support by the Seventh Fleet. Arrangement was also made for the maintenance of constant and direct radio communication between the U. S. Embassy and the Commander of the Seventh Fleet.

It is also reported that several days before that take-over Lodge radioed Thomas Mourer and requested him to be in readiness to provide support for the "insurgents" at the first signal. Mourer kept his word and on the day of the coup, January 30, two ships of the Seventh Fleet rode the waves off the shores of South Vietnam. The coup, headed by General Nguyen Khanh, passed off very smoothly however. It was enough for the Seventh Fleet to wait and watch.

Recent developments in Afro-Asia have been rather disturbing for Washington. In South Vietnam itself, the War has been going on so badly that the U. S. may soon be facing the choice of either sending in even more troops and money, or pulling out altogether.

The situation has become still less manageable for the Americans on account of the contradictions between Malaysia, on the one hand, and Indonesia and the Philippines, on the other. Despite talks between the representatives of these nations in Kuala Lumpur and the decision to effect a ceasefire in North Borneo, Indonesia is still viewing this brain-child of the British with suspicion and demanding that British military bases on the territory of the Malaysian Federation be dismantled.

### Indo-Pak Headache

The continuing aggravation of Indo-Pakistani relations has caused new headaches for the State Department. Pakistan has been loudly complaining that the military aid India has lately been getting from the United States and other Western powers has upset the balance of forces on the peninsula still further. President Ayub Khan and his government suspect that Washington has turned its back on its ally in SEATO and CENTO and has given preference to non-aligned India. This, the Pakistanis believe might lead to dangerous military bouts between India and Pakistan over Kashmir and the Hindu-Muslim communal clashes.

Lately new trouble spots have appeared in the Middle East and Africa. There have been mutinies inside the national army units in Tangan-

yika, Kenya and Uganda. The African soldiers have called for the removal of British officers and instructors. The patriotic forces of Gabon, angered by the continuing dependence of the country on France, staged a coup and ousted the French puppet, Leon Mba. The British, worried about their bases, reacted to these developments by intervening in Kenya, Tanganyika and Uganda, where they put down the mutinies and disarmed the local troops. The same thing happened in Gabon, where France used paratroopers to reinstate her stooge.

The Africa situation has become still more explosive due to the border disputes between Algeria and Morocco and Ethiopia and Somalia.

In the Middle East the situation deteriorated after Tel-Aviv's decision to reroute the Jordan river. The implementation of these plans would enable Israel to irrigate and make habitable vast areas of the Negev Desert. Israel could then accommodate another 1-1/5 million Jews from abroad almost double its population. Since Israel is receiving military and economic aid from the U. S., these plans are becoming menacingly real, a fact that cannot fail to cause justified alarm on the part of the Arab states. Their chiefs of states held a conference in Cairo and decided to do all they could to prevent Israel's plans from being carried out. Israel, notwithstanding, has not given up its intentions, whose realisation would inevitably result in open military conflict between it and the Arabs.

Taking into accounts the tense situation in Asia and Africa, and seeking to stave off further failures in various parts of the globe, Washington has decided to take action and apply the "big stick" method with still greater determination. This way has come the decision to extend the beat of the Seventh Fleet into the Indian Ocean.

Late last year the Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Maxwell Taylor, visited India and Pakistan and informed Prime Minister Nehru and President Ayub Khan of the American plan concerning the Fleet.

In mid January, Malaysia's capital, Kuala Lumpur, played host to Admiral Harry Felt who discussed with Prime Minister Tengku Abdul Rahman problems relating to the Federation's defences and Indonesian "aggression" in North Borneo. Felt also talked with the Tengku about plans for the dispatch of the Seventh Fleet ships to the Indian Ocean, a piece of news that was very well received by the Malaysian Premier who for his part, pledged complete cooperation with the Fleet. He did voice some concern about Indonesia's objections to the plan. Felt, however, assured him that the Americans were not going to pay heed to anyone's objections and stated that the Seventh Fleet was roaming the entire area anyway.

To be concluded

# PM's SPEECH

continued from page 4

that kind of thing and I must particularly warn all members within my own Party not to be drawn into irrelevant Press controversies as to whether individuals should or should not be taken into my Government and whether certain individuals ought to be classified as progressive or reactionary or indeed as to whether certain policies of my Government require change or modification.

As I have said before, the nature and composition of my Cabinet are a matter for me and me alone and nobody, whether in my own Party or outside it, has any right to tell me whom I should not have in my Government. You may rest assured that I shall not permit any such views to influence my judgement as Prime Minister and that in every action that I take I shall act within the spirit of the

mandate I received by the free votes of the people at the 1960 Election.

As far as policies are concerned, there can be no question. We are a Democratic Socialist Party and within the framework of the Law and the Constitution I shall not hesitate to use the powers vested in me as Prime Minister to benefit the rural and urban working-classes of our country and to guide them further, step by step, sturdily an independently along the Socialist road.

## Economic Growth

In thinking broadly of the future, the first essential element then must be an established base of political

co-operation among our workers, but that alone is not enough. We must build our economic growth-rate to impressive heights. Our per capita national income in real terms must increase each year not by one or two per cent but by a planned rate of at least ten per cent. To achieve this is not impossible.

Indeed, with the abundant resources of fertile land, plentiful water, established export markets, established plantation industries, we should find it easier to make an economic break-through than other countries less fortunate than ourselves.

But it will require, as I have always said from the days

I first assumed office as Prime Minister, a measure of sacrifice, hard work, and untiring endeavour if we are to achieve these goals in our time.

The working-class, too, has a great responsibility in this matter. If we are willing to work harder and accept sacrifices, we can within 5 years increase our national wealth one and a half times over. In ten years we can more than double our national resources. We can become less dependent on exports and imports and external prices, but these ideals can only be fulfilled if we first establish unity among ourselves and accept conditions of hardwork and sacrifice towards this definite objective.

The Resolutions presented by you today are essentially practical ones. My Ministers and I welcome the interest of the workers in increasing efficiency and the reduction of maladministration and corruption in the various Departments and organizations in which you work. However energetic my Ministers may be in seeking to track down and eliminate corruption, they cannot really make an impact unless they have your disciplined co-operation, and that I know you will give them in unstinted measure. Several of the Resolutions introduced by you last year are in various stages of implementation and I should like to promise you that everyone of your Resolutions will be carefully considered.

In conclusion, may I wish you all, as workers, happiness, security, and a life dedicated to the greater service of your country in the year to come.

## NEW SPIRIT

continued from page 10

Quick-As-A-Flash Photo-Developing services and Rent-a-Car agencies (your choice of colours), not to mention a larger collection of hot-and-cold running waiters. What's so difficult? One thing is the labour shortage. There aren't enough working people to go around. Industry wants them. Agriculture wants them. Science, medicine, education, transport, the shops.... In fact, the entire economy is bidding for them. And up to now it has been more important to build giant turbines and Diesel locomotives, to breed cattle and harvest crops than to operate a Rent-a-Car agency (your choice of colours).

And so while the competition for manpower rages, the tourist-in-a-hurry often has to wait. But over the next few years things may well be sorted out. Meanwhile, when Henry J. Tourist says goodbye to the hotel staff and his pretty *Cedok* guide and returns to Boston or Bristol this autumn, he may very well exclaim: "It was a lovely holiday! The castles, the mountains, the forests, and Prague.... Those Czechoslovaks are fine friendly folk. Of course, touring the country does have its wrinkles, BUT....

"But you should see how the people are tackling these problems!"

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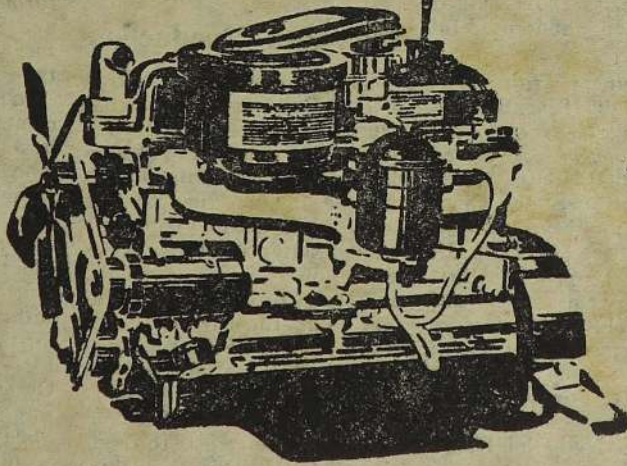
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# U. S. UMBRELLA

In recent years a large group of countries, the emerging nations first and foremost, have made non-alignment the basis of their foreign policy. On the hand, a number of young states see their most reliable protection in the umbrellas of the military alliances created by the Western powers.

The aggravation of the situation on the Indian-Chinese border made Prime Minister Nehru the object of severe criticism on the part of his enemies and the pro-West Opposition for not being able to find a suitable nuclear umbrella for India. The revealing arguments they put forward give food for thought.

What are the military and economic advantages derived by the member-states from participation in military pacts? Pakistan, India's neighbour, presents a good example in this respect being simultaneously a member of two military blocs — SEATO and CENTO.

## Military

During the period of its alignment in blocs and close ties with the Western powers, primarily the United States, Pakistan received about 900 million dollars worth of U. S. aid which, however, (and this was admitted by W. Averell Harriman, U. S. Under-Secretary of State) was mainly used for military purposes.

Participation in military blocs makes it necessary to maintain military expenditure at the highest possible level. Thus, Pakistan's current military spending comprises about 60 per cent of the state budget. This figure grew by another 100 million rupees during the past year alone. However, every state budget has a limit: if you increase certain items of

expenditure, you correspondingly have to cut down on others. And in this case government officials and members of Parliament invariably choose such items as education, the medical service, etc. In this respect the financiers in the Pakistani government are no exception to the rule.

by  
**TRIBUNE DIPLOMATIC  
 CORRESPONDENT**

The Pakistani press has often referred to the appalling state of education in the country. Due to a shortage of funds the school network is practically not extended at all and teachers receive a beggarly salary, less than night watchmen or office boys. In Karachi, Pakistan's major city, about one half of all children of school age are deprived of the possibility to study.

There are constant reports of outbreaks of cholera and smallpox in various districts of the country but the number

## in Pakistan

of doctors continues to be quite insufficient; only a small part of the population receives preventive inoculations, and this is by no means the poorer sections which suffer the most from various epidemics.

To be fair, it must be pointed out that SEATO created a number of medical centres in Pakistan. However, it is common knowledge that the medical personnel of these centres as a rule have no time to inoculate the local population and render it medical aid.

## Negative

Participation in military alliances has also had a negative effect on Pakistan's economy. A number of strategic roads were built for the transfer of troops, say, to the Northern and Eastern borders of Pakistan. Aerodromes have been built in the country but they

The arrival of the Seventh Fleet in the Indian Ocean poses the very important question as to whether it is beneficial to countries in Southeast Asia to seek to 'develop' under the American Umbrella with US aid. Tribune's Diplomatic Correspondent examines the position of Pakistan in this context and suggests that participation in US-organised military pacts and receipt of US aid will not solve fundamental problems confronting newly emergent countries.

are closed to the civil air-lines. The communication network has also been expanded (with-in the framework of a plan elaborated by SEATO and CENTO strategists).

As a result of the tremendous expenditure for the construction and re-construction of military objectives, the country is experiencing a permanent inflation. Pakistan's budget for the 1963-64 fiscal year envisages an increase in direct and indirect taxation to the sum of 300 million rupees. The immediate result of the adoption of the new budget was a noticeable rise in prices on necessity goods.

In recent years the prices have soared by 20-45 per cent. This in turn leads to the steady deterioration of the living standards. The average month-

ly income of a worker's family in Pakistan is less than half of the subsistence level. There are about 13 million fully and partially unemployed in the country, i. e. up to 14 per cent of the entire population.

The fact that Pakistan allows itself to be guided solely by the United States in the field of economy and policy has brought about a situation when in 1962 the latter controlled more than 40 per cent of the country's imports. The overseas firms sell the bulk of their goods at so-called "American prices" which exceed the world market prices by 30-50 per cent.

Such are some of the most noticeable results of Pakistan's participation in the military blocs of the Western powers.

## Westminster . . .

continued from page 3

SLFP Government has realised the need to coalesce with the progressive forces outside it, it is utter boloney for the Rightist reactionaries to go about threatening the masses that this will result in the doing away with parliamentary system of government and that they will lose their inalienable right to elect a Government of their choice. While it is no doubt true that Marxism has proclaimed the inevitability in certain circumstances of a vio-

lent revolution as the midwife to a socialist society in which a People's Democracy will flourish, conditions today are such that a peaceful transition from capitalism to socialism can be achieved through the parliamentary system. This is no mere idle or deceptive talk; it is within the realms of possibility.

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for 43,000 students is being built in Havana. It is a magnificent four year project with dormitories for all students. It is to commemorate the memory of Jose Antonio Echevarrey, a former Head of the university, who was a freedom fighter and was killed by the Batista regime in 1958.

### Advances in Education

Every large house of the rich, who left Cuba, in Fifth Avenue and other large residential areas, is now a boarding school for rural children. These girls wear pink shirts and grey skirts. There are 55,000 such children. The large building of the association of (rich) Spanish People is now the pioneer palace to educate children. The former yachting club is now used by scholars.

The class room idea has resulted in several modern class-rooms, which are the units of the schools. 14,000 class rooms have been built since 1959.

The old kindergarten system has been replaced by a functional system of practical pre-school education, where the children can exercise

their initiative. This is offered at the Elementary schools, at "Infantile Circles" and "Infantile Homes".

In less than four years, the Castro Government gave the children of Cuba more school supplies than former regimes had furnished in 25 years. Millions of dollars were spent for school furniture and equipment and in the first 3½ years, children in the primary grades had received from the Government 10,400,000 textbooks.

Backward students were assisted by a special campaign of the Ministry and the National Union of Educational Workers, involving extra work for teachers and students, to catch up with their fellow-student teachers in Cuba look upon their responsibilities as far more sacred than any demands for privileges.

The teaching in the modernised secondary schools is linked up with actual productive work. Each school has its own workshop for industrial art and the emphasis is on the sciences, mathematics physics and chemistry. Each school has laboratories, wood working shops, electrical and metallurgical shops and shops for mechanical drawing and draughtsmanship. *There is at*

# Cuba

continued from page 6

least one such school in every town with over 2500 inhabitants. In 1958, 27, 278 entered Junior High School. In 1962, the figure was 92,000.

In view of Cuba's growing industrial needs, teaching is directly linked with production. The socialist countries have assisted much with modern machines, tools, furniture, equipment and instruments. In 1959, there were 5,300 technological students. In 1962 there were 20,000. There are Technical schools and the Technological Institute. Already sugar-cane harvesting machines, replacement parts and many other articles are being manufactured and valuable foreign exchange is being saved.

### Raising Educational level

The year 1961 was "the year of Education" in Cuba. In 1960, there were 979, 207 people who could not read or write. On January 1, 1961, the campaign to wipe out illiteracy began, and a National Committee to combat illiteracy was set up. A Primer and a Teaching Manual were printed. There were only 35,000 teachers, but the people themselves organized 121,000 "people's teachers". In May, 100,000 young students formed themselves into a Teachers' Army and went to the mountains and inaccessible places to teach. Thereafter, the labour brigades, "Patria O muerte" were formed with 15,000 workers. They bore the torch of literacy to other rugged parts of Cuba.

By the end of the year, the campaign was over and successful. The masses assembled in the Plaza of the Revolution on December 22 to hear Castro declare Cuba, "territory free of illiteracy". Over two million people were involved in this victory over illiteracy. Only those who refused to learn, the aged and the mentally and physical incapacitated ones did not profit from the campaign. It reduced the illiteracy index from 23.6% to 3.9%—Cuba became one of the foremost nations of the world in literacy and went ahead of the United States, which has appalling degree of illiteracy, especially in the south.

In February 1962, the campaign to improve the workers' level of education began. There are over 30 000 Family study circles now, supervised by qualified guides and helped by a member of the Department of Workers' Education and a teacher. There is a special Teaching Aid (Arma Nueva) for the follow-up courses. At the end of 1962, there were about half a million students following these courses in 15,300 class rooms. There is also a Workers' Ad-

There are special courses for women of humble means, who were formerly confined to domestic service: Many of them are now working in banks or as chauffeurs or House Mothers in boarding house.

There are also Night Schools for Adults. The practice of 'adoption' of rural schools by workers or members of mass organizations in the cities, who contributed articles and took a personal interest in the school has brought the city dweller and the farmer closer to each other—a principal objective of the Revolution.

### Cultural Progress

In its cultural policy, the Government endeavours to select from the inheritance of the past the values most worth preserving and to stimulate, aid and guide the peoples' institutions in their effort to improve their culture. This work is carried out by the National Council of Culture.

Musical activity has been encouraged throughout the country, resulting in the concerts of the new symphonic Orchestra, the professional study of music by many, the Cuban Institute of composers the annual Cuban Festivals of music and operas and operettas. The symphony orchestra is considered one of the best in Latin America.

The National Ballet of Cuba is very popular. The ballet dancers perform from eight to twelve times a month in Cuba and tour abroad. They carry art to the people.

Capable theatrical artists no longer have economic insecurity. The Government gives them full support in order to pursue the work they love as a full time occupation. The National Theatrical of Cuba, seminars in Dramatic Art, the Library of the National Theatre and the annual contest open to all authors in Cuba have all assisted the development of the theatre in Cuba. The Children's Theatre, operating at three levels, develop the art among children.

Stress is laid on the cultural function of motion pictures. Such pictures are produced in Cuba by the Cuban Institute of Motion Picture Art.

The museum and Art Galleries in Cuba are very impressive. In 1961, the Napoleonic Museum was opened, displaying the fabulous collection of Julio Lobo a sugar baron of the Batista era. There are also the National Museum and museums to elevate the cultural level of the people. The Ernest Hemingway Museum is preserved. Hemingway spent his last years in Cuba.

Culture is no longer confined to Havana. Provincial Art galleries have been set up. Exhibitions are moved from province to province by the Department of Cultural Coordination.

The schools of Art are intended to instil in students a complete understanding of art in its relation to society. A large new Art school was nearing

completion in Havana. It has several domed structures and was designed by students of the fifth grade. It will have branches inter alia for Music, Ballet, Plastic Arts and Drama.

### Sport

The Department of Physical Education, in co-ordination with the Institute of Sports, Physical Education Recreation directs, orients and supervises a rational system of physical education, including different sports, in schools.

The sports stadium in Havana can accommodate 18 800 people. (Cuidado deportiva). It has a large stage and a swimming pool and skating ring under the boards. It was started by Batista, but had to be completed by the new regime. The games include baseball, football, basketball tennis, volleyball athletics. All sports materials, such as racing bicycles are provided by the government. The former greyhound racing stadium is now a stadium for schools. This country club Park club for golfers is no longer confined to the rich. Golf is now open to all:

### Church in Cuba

In Cuba today, freedom of religion is guaranteed to everyone and religion is taught in the Churches. There is a large statue of Christ in the Fort above the Port of Havana, erected in Batista's time.

*I attended Sunday mass at the Church of San Carlos. It was so crowded that there was not even sufficient room to stand. The devotees were both young and old and belonged mainly to the working groups. The rich Catholics are mostly in the States now. Two large Churches are the Jesus de Miramar Church and San Antonio Church in Fifth Avenue. The Church of St. John Bosco is a popular Church. The ninety acre Columbus cemetery with its tombs of pure Italian marble is a reflection of the opulence of the few in old Cuba.*

Early in December, Christmas decorations and parties could already be seen. *But there are Catholics who do not now practice their religion and the blame must rest fairly and squarely on the priests who ministered to the people in Cuba during the Batista regime. Those priests identified themselves too much with the rich and privileged classes, interfered in politics and favoured reactionary elements so much that the common people lost confidence in them. The air conditioning of the larger churches, to which the rich went, did not add to their prestige. Today all Spanish priests, who appeared to have encouraged a counter-revolution have been sent back to Spain. There are only Cuban priests, who look after their flocks and leave politics alone.*

Cuba shows that the Church can exist without

continued on page 15

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# ON THE SCREEN

★ **SPECIAL "FREIGHT BREAK"**! William Castle, master of the macabre, is at it again. Castle's newest adventure into the realm of horror is "HOMICIDAL," the story of a psychotic killer, now showing at the SAVOY CINEMA. Jean Arless is introduced to the screen in the new Columbia release and the film stars Glenn Corbett, Patricia Breslin, Eugenie Leontovich, Alan Bunce and James Westerfield.

The story—Miriam Webster's visits to the gloomy old mansion she lived in as a child give Emily a chance to escape for a while the routine of attending a mute and paralysed old woman, Helga, who had been the nurse caring for Miriam's half-brother Warren. Helga is unable to communicate her deathly fear of Emily, whom she knows to be a homicidal

maniac. When Warren comes to pay his annual visit, Miriam learns he and Emily are married, about the same time, Miriam's boy friend Karl begins to suspect Emily of a recent, vicious killing. He and Miriam discuss the situation with Warren. Karl goes for the police, Miriam and Warren, enter alone. When he doesn't come out, Miriam enters to discover Helga has been murdered. As she backs away in terror, the psychotic killer, with a newly sharpened knife in hand follows her.

The film has all the shock elements and comes equipped with another of William Castle's unique showmanship tricks. Some of the "Homicidal" plot ingredients, which virtually assure a full measure of entertainment for the horror fans, are the maniac killer's



Vijayakumari in "KUNKHUMUM" now showing at the GAIETY THEATRE and other centres in the Ceylon Theatres Ltd., circuit.

menacing of a completely paralysed, mute old woman, the nocturnal prowls of the killer seeking a new victim, and the ruthless destruction of a completely unsuspecting victim, during a mysterious midnight wedding.

Robb White penned the screen-play, and the movie is produced and directed by William Castle.

★ **ANOTHER SHOCKER** — Metro-Goldwyn Mayer's "THE HAUNTING" starring Julie Harris, Claire Bloom, Richard Johnson and Russ Tamblyn, now being screened at the MAJESTIC THEATRE is based on Shirley Jackson's novel "The Haunting of Hill House," and deals with the field of extrasensory perception and explores the psychic unknown, and is set in an old country house—the 'Hill House,' a strange and awesome place where the dead are never still, and twilight zone of terror and fear exists. The movie directed and produced by Robert Wise, travels the strange forgotten paths of the supernatural, and the climax of this chilling story is macabre in the extreme.

★ **CEYLON STUDIOS** Production "SULAILITHA SHOBANI" opening on Friday 15th at ELPHINSTONE, ROXY, and 18 other centres in the Ceylon Theatres Ltd.,

circuit is a story of love and sacrifice.

Shobani is the daughter of a poor widow and her mother who is helped by her nephew, Ananda in the Army, waits for the regular remittance. As Ananda is unable to obtain leave he entrusts the payment to a superior officer, Keerthi to be handed over, but he loses the address and is unable to fulfil Ananda's request.

Meanwhile the widow's house which is mortgaged to Keerth's father is sold, and the widow dies of shock.

Shobani wants to take revenge on the person who was responsible for her mother's death, but is prevented by Keerthi's who falls in love with her and marries her.

Keerthi's father thinks this marriage is below his dignity, and separates the couple. Shobani gives birth to a child and is stranded, and in this state she meets Ananda, and he reunites the couple again.

The film has in its cast Ravindra Rupasena, Lena De Silva, Boniface Fernando, Clarice De Silva, L. M Perera, Primila Kuruppu, Piyadasa Wijekoon, Udula Dabare, Joseph Seneviratne, Lilian Edirisinghe, David Dharmakirithi and Nancy Dias.

This movie with no dances has eight songs with music by R. Muthusamy tuned to the lyrics by Chitranaanda Abeysekera. The songs are rendered by play-back singers, H R. Jothipala, Sujatha Perera and Lata Walpola.

The film is directed by Robin Tampoe.

## Cuba

has clarified this in no uncertain terms.

### The Priests

continued from page 14

any trouble even in a socialist State so long as her priests are untrammelled by loyalties to lost political causes and they minister to all, both rich and poor with equal devotion, as directed by Christ, without becoming the ministers of the rich, and not ministers of God, as was the case in Batista's time. If the Church opposes socialism, it cannot progress, for the teachings of Christ were essentially socialist in nature and the great Pope John XXIII

In Batista's time, the Press was the tool of the dominant class. No labour leader or honest peasant or intellectual was praised by the Press. But the lackeys of the ruling class were shown up as super-intelligent stars. False prestiges were built up and true values and honestly won prestiges were destroyed.

Today, the Press plays a great part in the new orientation of the people. The journalist class (though not the former proprietors) are firmly behind Castro, who has predicted and is working out a great career for journalists.

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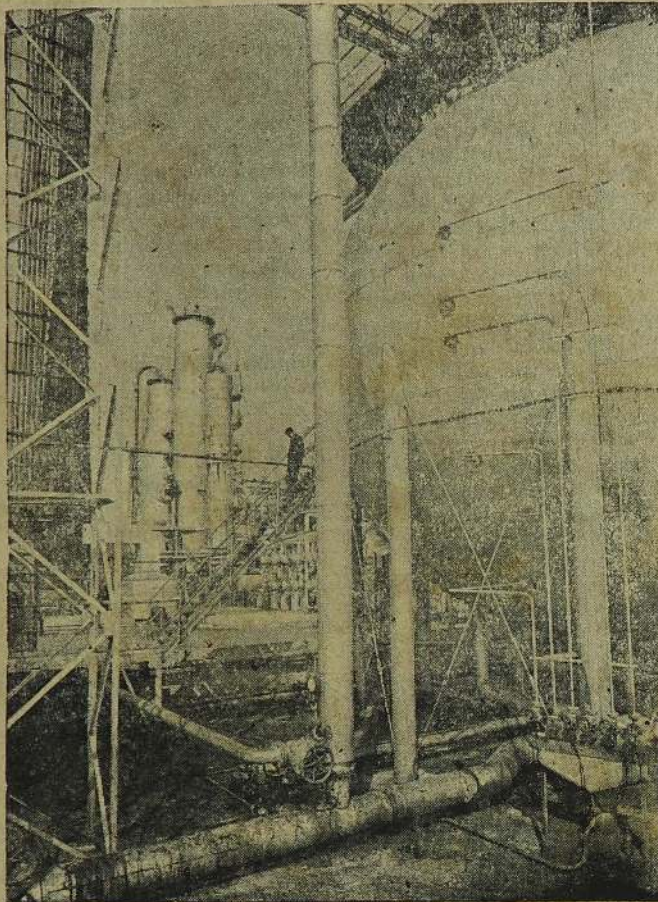
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Moscow State University building.

Photo by S. Smirnov

## Constitution

continued from page 8

These civic rights are not merely proclaimed in the Constitution. They are ensured by the whole socialist economic system. It is a well known fact, for example, that there is no unemployment in Czechoslovakia, that all medical care, including hospitalization, is free, that all education is free (this year school children received free textbooks worth 7.5 million crowns), etc. (more than Rs. 5 mil.)

The Constitution also protects motherhood, matrimony and the family.

In conformity with the interests of the working people all citizens are guaranteed the right of expression in all spheres of life of the society, in particular the freedom of speech and press. These freedoms are secured by the fact that publishing houses and printing presses, public buildings, halls, assembly grounds, as well as broadcasting, television and other facilities have been made available to the working people and their organizations. Citizens and their organizations also have the constitutional right to submit their proposals, suggestions and complaints to the representative bodies and to other state organs. The state organs must take responsible and prompt action.

The Czechoslovak Constitution guarantees the inviolability of the person. Nobody can be prosecuted except in cases authorised by law and by due process of law. Nobody can be taken into custody except in cases prescribed by law and on the basis of a decision of the court or the public prosecutor. The Czechoslovak judiciary is based on elected and independent courts. The Constitution also guarantees the inviolability of the home, the people, privacy of the mails and all other forms of communication, as well as the freedom of domicile.

## Religious Freedom

Everybody in Czechoslovakia has the right to profess

any religious faith or to be without religious conviction, and to practise his religious beliefs in so far as this does not contravene the law. Foreign citizens persecuted for defending the interests of the working people, for participating in the national liberation movement, for scientific or artistic work, or for activity in defence of peace are granted the right of asylum by the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.

All the above provisions of the Czechoslovak Constitution

are consistent with the democratic traditions of the Czech and Slovak people, which were created in the course of the centuries old struggle for social, national and religious freedom. They promote the everyday participation of the citizens in public life so typical and of Czechoslovakia. The National Assembly approved the Constitution only after its original draft had been amended according to suggestions submitted by the citizens in a nationwide discussion which lasted for several weeks.

## HEADLINES OF THE WEEK

Continued from page 2

elements in the SLFP. The Ceylon Observer, in the afternoon, published an angry denial by Dr. Perera that the document was a "clumsy forgery." The report quoted Dr. Perera as saying that he was "contemplating legal action." The Observer quoted "another LSSPer" as saying: "This is a CIA style fabrication with the obvious intention of obstructing a SLFP-ULF tie-up." The Observer also reported that the editor of the Dawasa, Mr. D. B. Dhanapala, as saying "we challenge Dr. N. M. Perera to sue us if it is a forgery." In the meantime, Mr. W. Dahanayake had issued a statement to the press that if there was a "will" in which Dr. N. M. Perera was nominated the late PM's successor it was a "forgery." He claimed that Mr. Bandaranaike had declared at the last cabinet meeting the late PM had attended that Mr Dahanayake would act for him in his absence. "If, therefore, anybody was named the successor to the late Prime Minister I was." Prince Souvanna Phouma flew to the Pathet Lao headquarters at Khang Kay to seek the co-operation of his half brother Prince Souphavang. The New York Times yesterday declared that the Soviet offer of aid to build India's big steel mill at Bokaro "represents a major defeat for the United States in a crucial area of the cold war."

## SPOTLIGHT

continued from page 9

certainly got some boys in the newspaper world working overtime on this job. It is known in knowledgeable circles that there is a great deal in favour of the AVRO (in fact, more than the Fokker Friendship when the future of Air Ceylon is taken into consideration), but because the AVRO does not have the super salesman personnel of the Fokker Friendship variety, our daily press has not risen to its defence. If AVRO also employs the same tactics, there would be plenty of fun and game for the newspaper boys.

This is another matter where the Government must tread warily, particularly because there at present a Dutch invasion of Ceylon doing the darndest to make Ceylon go the Fokker way.

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