

TRIBUNE

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CITY OF NEW YORK



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Letter From The Editor

ON THE COVER we have a picture we have used before, but quite in the same way. In our issue of October 4, 1975 (Vol. 20, No. 20) we had used a picture with the mask set out in full laid down on the ground. We had thought, at that time, that the mask was one of the "devil" masks of the south of Ceylon and we had semi-jocularly commented on the role of Satan in modern times. Many of our readers had pointed out that we had made a grievous mistake in thinking that this was a "devil" mask—we have been told that there are 18 top devil masks but that this was not one of them. This, was said to be a "kolam" mask belonging to a genre connected with folk tales. We have not been able to educate ourselves much more than this. And there are not many people in the country today who know very much about masks. And there are also not many of the original and ancient masks left in the island today. More serious than the brain drain, as some people have recently discovered, has been the drain of our antiques. It is one thing to sell and export copies of masks, but it is a totally different matter to take away from the country original masks made decades (maybe centuries) ago and which had been preserved in temples, or the homes of the dancers themselves, or in the houses of their patrons. There are very few of these masks left in the island now. British governors did not carry away many of these masks to the stately country homes in Britain or the museums in that country. The antiquities they carried away were of a different order; statues, sculptures, jewels, brass and silver handicrafts and the like. But in more modern times there has been a growing fascination in the west for other antiques from this part of the world. Masks, furniture, boxes, and what not, have all been carried away. Those who took them away claim they paid good prices in good money for what they carried away and that these objects of art and utility were better looked after in the affluent and rich countries than in decrepit and poor Sri Lanka. One of the biggest buyers of antiques recently have been the hard-currency rich Japanese. Unbelievable stories of the fabulous prices they have paid, and been willing to pay, for antiques has been the talk of the jet set in Colombo. The affluent in the developed countries are no doubt entitled to purchase copies and replicas of our ancient antiques, but in this century and era it is preposterous to allow foreigners to spirit away the best of the antiques still left in the country.

We have a closeup of the *kolam* mask on the cover this week. We have been provoked into doing this because some readers of *Tribune* who have been fortunate to visit some countries in Europe recently have told us that some of the finest collections of Ceylon masks are found in some of the lesser known museums of Europe. In the opinion of one reader the finest collection was in a museum in Switzerland. He said that he had seen masks which he had never seen in this island—although he is an enthusiast in antiques and antiquities and would go hundreds of miles to see a true and original mask. How did this collection of masks get to Switzerland? When did it go there? We know that the statue of Princess Tora was taken away by Governor Brownrigg. It would seem that this collection of masks had reached Switzerland in very recent times. But we are not certain. Did the museum purchase them from art collectors in England, a country which has had the closest links with this island? Or was it carried away by some tourists? This is something which must be investigated to enable the authorities to keep track of our antiques abroad and also to find out just how they were taken away from here—in spite of legislation to prevent real and original antiques from being taken away. Very recently, there was a seminar about the drain of antiques from the island. And some very valuable information became available to the public. It would be useful if the proceedings of this Seminar are published in all three languages and the booklet circulated island-wide so that the question of the drain of antiques receives the widest publicity. And those responsible for the Seminar would do well to look into the question of our masks in foreign museums. Most of them were taken away in the last twenty years, and it is also claimed by some that their export was covered by the appropriate permits. This will raise questions as to how these permits came to be issued and whether the permits related either to the masks in question or even whether they should have been issued at all. *Tribune* has been never chauvinistic or jingoistic about our past or our culture, but we have always been totally opposed to the taking away of antiques which must remain in Sri Lanka.

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LETTERS

* Janawasamas

Sir,

Apropos the remarks made by the Governor of the Central Bank in his recent address to the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, which received wide publicity in the *Daily News* and the subsequent comment of the Chairman of the State Plantations Corporation (S.P.C.) which was a very weak attempt to side track the attention to Board of Directors of the S.P.C. from the well timed observation of the Governor, my remarks to follow too may be of help to all and sundry!

As one who has worked within the Agency House organisation and having sampled the working of the S.P.C. for a short space of 2½ mths it is most pertinent to make the following observations and enlighten the many who have been led to believe that the S.P.C. is equal or superior to the former Agency Houses. Much publicity and propaganda have been carried out as to the efficiency, capability etc; of this Corporation and that it is capable of delivering the goods, following the Nationalisation of the Estates. Fortunately for the country the Minister of Agriculture formed his own organisation from the 1st of April '76 and comparison of the S.P.C.—which has been in existence for over 10 years and considered the Senior partner, with this new organisation will show you as to how efficient the S.P.C. is after so many years of existence. One will naturally ask the question are they capable of meeting the challenge, having 10 or more years experience behind them. If they continue it will not be long before we start importing tea for internal consumption, if the powers that be do not pull their fingers out FAST, to arrest the rot, lethargy, inefficiency incompetence and the subtle sabotage that is being tolerated.

1. It is 2½ mths. since a section of the estates were transferred to the S.P.C. and they have still to open Bank accounts for these estates. The Janawasama came into being on the 1st of April and their Bank a/c's were in operation on the same day.

2. The Superintendents on S.P.C. estates are compelled as a result to fritter away their time either on a phone call to Colombo or to travelling between the nearest S.P.C. estate with a bank a/c, or a Bank to collect whether it be petty cash or cooly pay.

3. Invariably when cash requisitions are made the bureaucrats in Colombo will disallow a major portion, for reasons best known to them, causing more problems on the estate.

The opposite is true of the Janawasamas: here the officers are regularly checking by contacting the estates as to whether monies lodged or requisitions forwarded, in the event these are late in the post and cash requirements fully provided.

4. A supplies division is maintained for the purchase of essential articles for the Corporation's properties however the service available is most shoddy and down right unsatisfactory. It is rumoured that four persons are responsible for the ordering of the Tea chests components i.e. panels, battens, linings, and fittings (nails and aluminium strips). Due to either lack of coordination or ignorance estates are always receiving components in different ratios, causing further headaches regarding the packing and despatch of teas to the auctions. You will realise how chaotic it is when I state that there over 2 million pounds of sorted tea on the factory floors. All a result not of the recent news paper stories! You can estimate the loss to the Country due to this fiasco!

As for Janawasama, their teas are moving from the estates to the auctions without undue difficulties.

5. Superintendents on S.P.C. properties are not allowed to make payments in excess of Rs. 1000/-. These payments have to be referred to Colombo. May good financial controls but certainly puts the brakes on at estate level and causes further problems for smooth administration of estates.

The Janawasamas have not changed any of the practices that were being followed when the Agency Houses were administering the estates, for very obvious reasons and this sector is working most smoothly.

6. Orders for fertilisers were placed but, so far these have not been processed and delivery orders made available to collect the fertiliser. The people down in Colombo do not appreciate that fertiliser application is subject to favourable weather being experienced. A phone call brings the standard reply—it will be posted the following week—when they mean the following month.

In most instances with the Janawasamas the goods will arrive on the estate within the week, failing a phone call will be given to estate explaining the cause for the delay—which is what one calls service!

7. The normal correspondence is received at the S.P.C. on the day following posting from most outstations. At the S.P.C. it takes over 10 days for the letter to reach the department or desk, and an answer may take well over 3-4 weeks. If one looks for a letter at the H.O. the relevant file may be missing or the standard reply will be the letter was not received. If search is made it will invariably found in the drawer of the desk where the clerk works.

8. Circulars are being despatched in the name of the Chairman by the numerous departments and in many instances these are done without the knowledge of the Chairmen, as has come to light to visiting delegation of trade unionists and others. One may well ask who is the BOSS?

9. The practice about the V.A. reporters are that these are sent direct to the Head Office and these along with comments from the H.O. referred to the estate for implementation. In the S.P.C. a report takes over 6 mths. to reach the respective estate and very often when the Visitor makes his next visit the earlier report has still not reached the Superintendent. Why employ a V.A. if reports are treated in this light hearted manner. The cause is H.O. inefficiency.

10. The tone and content of the majority of the circulars that have

The Editor's Notebook
does not appear this week.
The Editor is indisposed.

been received have been definitely aimed at the Senior Management of the estates. It appears as if a subtle campaign is or to discredit and blunt the enthusiasm efficiency, dedication of the estate superintendents, who have always been the vital back-bone of the plantation economy, despite whatever others may have to say to the contrary. If not for their dedication this industry would not have survived in the private sector!

The Janawasama or the other hand have taken a lot of trouble over their relations with the working planters, staff, labour as they fully appreciate the important of each segment for the success of the industry—politics apart.

H. To illustrate the above contention: much discrimination has been shown in a circular sent on leave terms to the management staff where they have been restricted to one days casual leave in the month, station leave is on very restricted basis, no vacation leave, no sick, leave. The Office, the field, and the factory staff are permitted their normal leave quota which they enjoyed when working for the Companies.

The primary duties of the Management is to devote his full time to supervision in which exposes him to the vagaries of the weather and is prone to fall sick, for which he will be penalised. Does this stand to reason?

The Janawasama on the other hand has not interfered with any of these conditions and as a result you find the gentlemen serving under them continuing to give of their best as of yours. It is obvious that the S.P.C. needs a course from Dale Carnegie on how to win friends and influence people. You may well ask why these difference should prevail, if both organisations are doing one and the same job. The answer is evident if you will investigate the composition of these two organisations.

The S.P.C. was set up to handle a few estates and unfortunately it has over the years become another Government Dept. and is strictly guided by all F.R., A.R. and E.C's. The entire Board and staff are government servants to whom initiative, innovation are unknown or unheard as they have been trained to work with their blind-

kers on. If the cream of the government servants were recruited, then their may have been a degree of deviation from the system. I must regretfully state that most of the people manning the Head Office are thoroughly incompetent and not fit to hold the jobs.

As for the Janawasama, they have seen the pitfalls of the S.P.C. or known the rotten state it was in and have adopted very bold methods and put aside 'red-tape' and got cracking with their assignment. If they are allowed to maintain this momentum I can see something definite being achieved. This is due to their having recruited correct personnel with experience in their specialised fields from the Agency Houses and Plantations to man the offices.

The S.P.C. has been attempting to open their Regional Offices for the past many months without success due to the pig headed attitude of the members of the Board. They may finally end up recruiting another bunch of mediocre persons, which will add more confusion to bad situation and aggravate things further. Who is there to worry! Who cares!

The Janawasamas have selected the best of the personnel when the Agency House were wound up. These gentleman were in no position to refuse the employment that was offered them at that juncture. They have come on employment with a severe salary cut, but most of them are not going to stay long as they are marking time till they can find better employment elsewhere. I believe some of the new recruits have already done so.

The S.P.C. too should be elevated to an A class Corporation and salaries re-structured, if they hope to create the correct climate and get the correct personnel. My original suggestion was that the entire Board be dissolved and I find that this has come to pass. I would suggest more capable and knowledgeable officers from the private sector be recruited if the Corporation is to produce the GOODS.

As it is the entire system is simply rotten and needs infusion of fresh blood quickly if it is to wake from its coma!

Sorry Sir, for taking your valuable time (and space) and it will

not be wasted if you will digest same and do the needful by giving this matter some form of publicity. I am as much as you are a nationalist and do not like to see the once prosperous industry ruined by a bunch of nincompoops.

Planter.

4.6.76

*

* Ceylon Tamils

Sir,

I read in the *Tribune* of May 1st 1976, Mr. Kahawita's point of view on the question of Ceylon Tamils. After a long time a prominent Sinhalese has cared (or dared) to grasp the nettle called the Tamil question.

As a Ceylon Tamil may I say briefly what I think we want. We have lived in this land for centuries and belong here. It is not only futile but even stupid to fight over who came here first centuries ago or even to hark back to the contest between Dutugamunu and Elahara. Today we have to get together to meet the challenges facing us. If France and Germany, who fought two bitter wars in my life time, can now get together, there is no reason why Sinhalese and Tamils cannot get together. They lived in harmony till Independence. It was a Ceylon Tamil who fought for justice to the Sinhalese after the 1915 riots. For the educated Ceylonese seat in Colombo a Ceylon Tamil was returned in preference to a Sinhalese. Anybody who suggests this can happen today will be considered mad—a measure of the deterioration that has taken place since independence.

It will not help to discuss here why it happened, except perhaps to say that minorities are generally favoured in the colonies—divide and rule. This should not be held against the minorities—it was not their policy. It will be more useful to find the way out. Fortunately the Ceylon Tamils are concentrated in the North and East of Sri Lanka, which are indisputably Tamil areas. This does not mean that Sinhalese are not there. In a united Sri Lanka every citizen will have the right to live where he wants to. As the Sinhalese are by far the majority community, I am prepared to

concede that Sinhalese should be the Official Language. But in Tamil areas, where a people of a different race, religion and language predominate, Tamil must be the language used. It is also necessary they be allowed to be in charge of their internal affairs. In spite of belonging to the same race, religion and language, if the claims of Scotland and Wales (not to mention Ireland) for Independence from the English, even to the extent of a separate legislature are now being gradually accepted, the demand of the Ceylon Tamils to manage their own internal affairs should no longer look preposterous to the Sinhalese. The simplest solution would be to make the Tamil areas autonomous regions. Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike contemplated this. On the morning after his surprising sweeping victory in 1956, Mr. Wilmot Perera, former M.P. for Horana, called to offer his felicitations. Mr. Bandaranaike told him: "I say, Wilmot, you should have contested this time. You would have surely won." Mr. Perera replied: "I did not because I do not agree with your language policy." Mr. Bandaranaike replied: "Ah, Wilmot, I will solve that through Regional Councils." (This is authentic, having been told by Mr. Wilmot Perera himself to the writer). Mr. Bandaranaike tried to keep his word and entered into the Bandaranaike-Chelvanayagam (B.C.) Pact, but was not strong enough to push it through—a weakness for which he paid with his life.

Now at a time when the Bandaranaike policies are ruling, it is necessary to ask what was Mr. Bandaranaike's thinking when he signed the B.C. Pact? In my view Mr. Bandaranaike was right when he said the only way to solve the Ceylon Tamil question was through Regional Councils.

The question of another minority, the Muslims, is often raised. That there is more than one minority group in a country is no reason for not treating all minorities with consideration. Every minority group has its special needs which a progressive government will heed. To form an autonomous region, however, there should be a concentration of a sufficient large number of that minority to make a regional council viable.

Almost a generation has passed since the B-C pact was signed and the politicians of both sides have taken extreme positions.

I agree with Mr. Kahawita that it is the duty of the concerned Sinhalese and Tamils to get together to solve the problem, which is heading for deep trouble to both Tamils and Sinhalese.

It is an urgent task.

Dr. R. W. C. Thambiah

L.R.C.P. & S. (Edin.) B.P.H. (Lond.)

71, Jawatte Road,

Colombo 5.

14.5.76

◆ Colombo City

Sir,

Like Nero fiddling while Rome was burning the Colombo Municipal Council and the Health Department are wrangling when cholera is threatening to endanger the lives of the people.

The Mayor should not dismiss lightly the possibility of the drinking water getting contaminated by the waste matter from sewer pipes. W.H.O. experts have been warning us from time to time that the sewer pipes, which were meant for a smaller population at the time when they were laid, would burst if new pipe lines are not laid and the old ones replaced. Of course, Mr. Fowzie, the present Mayor, is not responsible for this state though he had been a Member of the Council for several years.

In about a few month's time some three thousand or more foreign delegates, observers and others are expected to come to Colombo to participate in the Non-aligned Conference to be held here. Anticipating this, a face lift is being given to the City of Colombo. Roads are being repaired and carpeted. Old and ugly buildings are being demolished and so on. The Council has even thought of appointing a Resident Engineer in the Town Hall premises "in view of the forthcoming Non-aligned Conference when it will be absolutely necessary to have an Engineer on call round the clock" and had passed a resolution that "for this purpose the present quarters occupied by the Caretaker be taken over and allocated to the Resident Engineer who will

be required to reside in these quarters." But the Council seems to have not thought of any possibility of the old and perforated pipe lines and sewers bursting due to heavy pressure that is bound to happen. It seems to be concerned only with the outward appearance as if the few roads repaired and the few buildings demolished will make the City the best in the world and would gain the admiration of the foreigners!

I shudder to think what will happen to our outward appearance if a few of the old and perforated sewer mains give way due to heavy pressure and what the foreigners will undergo and think about us leaving aside the health hazards that the entire population will be subjected to.

Arul

Colombo 13.
10.5.76

◆ SLBC

Sir,

We have been complaining—and to no purpose—about the inability of uncountr listeners experience in getting S.L.B.C. on any wavelength in the English medium from 8 p.m. to closing time, and before 6.45 A.M. For whom are they relaying the current Test Match commentaries? If it is only for the Low Country folk? Ceylon Tobacco Company should do well to save their money. And we pay for a licence!

Pat Ratnayake O.M.I.

Oblate Scholasticate,
Ampitiya.
5.6.76

* Tribune

Dear Sir,

Although the *Tribune* is expecting a different kind of letters from the *Tribune* readers, I wish to write something different. That, though the *Time*, *News Week* and *New Times* claim to be international in their news coverage and comments, I find that the appropriate journal of its kind for us is the *Tribune*. Readers who read the *Tribune* from cover to cover will endorse my opinion.

K. Manickavasagar
Librarian

Jaffna Central College,
Jaffna.
May 5, 1976

May 26 — June 2

A DIARY OF EVENTS IN SRI LANKA AND THE WORLD
COMPILED FROM DAILY NEWSPAPERS
PUBLISHED IN COLOMBO.

CDN—Ceylon Daily News; CDM—Ceylon Daily Mirror; CO—Ceylon Observer; TOCSL—Times of Ceylon Sunday Illustrated; DM—Dinamina; LD—Lankadipa; JD—Janadina; VK—Virakesari; ATH—Aththa; SM—Silumina; SLD—Sri Lankadipa; JS—Janasathiya.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 26: The Delimitation Commission handed its report to the President, Mr. William Gopallawa, yesterday: the Commissioner has recommended the creation of 17 new seats in the parliament: the new seats will be Biyagama, Maharagama, Ratmalana, Nuwara-eliya, Maskeliya, Karandeniya, Tangalle, Mullativu, Anamaduwa, Galgamuwa, Panduwas Nuwara, Wellawaya, Viyaluwa, Aranayake, Seruwila, Medirigiriya, Samanthurai and Hali-ela: the next NSA will consist of 168 MPs elected from 160 seats: the number of multi-member constituencies have been increased to six—CDN & CDM. Mr. R. Mahendran, MMC, was arrested by the Bribery Commissioner's Department on suspicion and produced before a Colombo Magistrate who remanded him—CDM. Mr. Manea Manescu, Prime Minister of Rumania, yesterday paid a tribute to the Prime Minister over the SLBC: he said Mrs. Bandaranaike is an outstanding personality of contemporary international life—CDN. According to a release by the Central Bank the country's foreign reserve has increased by Rs. 30 million than last year—LD. The National Prices Commission will soon announce a controlled price for beef and mutton: this follows representations made by butchers that it is not profitable to sell meat at the present controlled price—DM. According to the Police the report about the three Tamil MPs arrested and kept in custody for alleged offences had been handed over to the Attorney General and action against them will be decided only on the recommendation of the Attorney General—VK. According to the Lankadipa, Police in Chunnakam, Jaffna, arrested 16 more people who organised hartal in the peninsula on Monday: eighty per cent of the school children did not attend school on the hartal day. Mr. S. Thondaman, President of CWC, prior to his departure to Geneva to participate in an ILO Conference, told the Dinamina that he did not favour the Tamil United Liberation Front's separate state demand. Mr. M. Sivasithamparam, prominent member of the TULF and former MP for Udupiddy who was arrested and later released wrote a letter to the Prime Minister on her speech at Dambulla recently—VK.

THURSDAY, MAY 27: Romanian Prime Minister, Mr. Manea Manescu, will leave the island today after a four-day official stay in the island—CDN. Madame Nguyen Thi Binh, Foreign Minister of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam, presently on a visit to Sri Lanka, told the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation yesterday that both South and North Vietnams are now united and will be represented by a single delegation at the next Non-aligned Conference to be held in Colombo in August—CDN. Visas

will have to be obtained for all passengers to Sri Lanka inclusive of transit passengers from tomorrow to August 25 according to a government announcement: no tourists will be allowed after the 15th of July till the conference is over: tourists by charter flights will however be allowed to stay in the country provided they leave the island by 31st of July—CDN. Mr. T. B. Ilangaratne, Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs and Trade, summoned a conference of Government Agents and Political Authorities, on June 4, to discuss ways and means to bring down the cost of living—CDN. On a complaint made by Mr. Robert Senanayake, father of the MP for Dedigama, Mr. Rukam Senanayake, the Press Council delivered order censuring the Editor, Publisher and Printer of the UNP Journal *Siyarata*—CDM. According to the Daily Mirror, the country's food subsidy bill for the year 1975 reached a new high of Rs. 1,230 million: this amount is said to be Rs. 37 million over the previous year. Mr. Ronnie de Mel, UNP MP for Devinuwara, was awarded enhanced damages in a sum of Rs. 50,000 by the Supreme Court yesterday: earlier in an action he brought against the Associated Newspapers Ltd., the Colombo District Court awarded him Rs. 25,000 in damages: later the newspaper company appealed to the Supreme Court against the judgement of the District Court—CDM. Mr. M. Sivasithamparam, one of the Joint Secretaries of the Tamil United Liberation Front told the Virakesari the expected benefits for the Tamil community were not found in the report of the Delimitation Commission's report on electoral districts: Sir Lalitha Rajapakse, a former Minister of Justice and Sri Lanka's High Commissioner in the UK and later in France, committed suicide—VK. Mr. Prins Gunasekera, Secretary of the Sri Lanka Vimukthi Balavegaya and MP for Habaraduwa, urged the Government to release the four Tamil leaders arrested last week: Mr. Gunasekera in his appeal stated that in a democratic country one should have the freedom to oppose—VK. The Ceylon Transport Board decided not to pay several thousands of employees who are in excess in the Board's service: this decision has been taken by the Chairman in an effort to cut down waste in the CTB—JD. Mahaveli Development Board will divert the waters of the Mahaveli Ganga to the Nuwara Wewa in Anuradhapura starting from Poson Poya Day which falls on June 11—LD. The new controlled price of several consumer items will be announced today and the general public are requested to bring to the notice of the Competent Authority any instances where traders flout the price control—DM.

FRIDAY, MAY 28: The Government last night brought another 21 consumer items under price control: this makes the total number of consumer items brought under price control to 55, since last week: the Government also announced that it will reward members of the public who give information regard hoarding of consumer goods by traders—CDN. In a joint communique issued by the Prime Minister of Romania and Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike, on the talks held between the two, the solution to the problem of eliminating the economic backwardness and division of the world into rich and poor countries lies in the establishment of a new international economic order aimed at fostering the progress of each and every country and narrowing the gap between the developed and deve-

loping countries: Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike, Prime Minister, was at the Bandaranaike International Airport yesterday to see off the Romanian Premier—CDN. The Department of Agriculture will receive aid to the tune of UF £ 1.5 million from Sweden's International Development Administration (SIDA) for its health and production divisions to improve the artificial insemination service—CDN. Mr. C. Kumarasuriar, Minister of Posts and Telecommunications, in a statement to the press, said that the Prime Minister will soon take action to solve the problems of the Tamil speaking people of the country: he further said that she would disregard opposition from any quarters in her attempts to solve the problems of the Tamil speaking people—VK. The Prime Minister of Romania: Mr. Manea Manescu, has made an application to the Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike, to be admitted as an Observer State during the forthcoming Non-aligned conference: meanwhile yesterday morning a protocol of the first meeting of the joint committee for economic corporation between Sri Lanka and Romania was signed at the Temple Trees by the Prime Ministers of both countries—VK & CDN. The Cabinet decided not to appoint MPs for any post in the Co-operative sector and also to request resignations from MPs who are already holding offices in various co-operatives—DM. *Aththa* editorially criticised the instructions of several local bodies along the Katunayake-Colombo road which wanted the people residing on both sides of the road to modernise and decorate their houses in view of the forthcoming Non-Aligned conference: the paper said this order has been one of the causes of the reasons for losing the recent by-election at Ja-ela and when the general election is round the corner it will be foolish for the government to force people with such instructions. Mr. Kumar Rupasinghe will give his explanation to the letter from the Secretary of the SLFP, Mr. S. K. Suriaratchchi, who sought reasons from the former as to why he should not be expelled from the party for certain alleged anti-SLFP actions of Mr. Rupasinghe and his supporters during the May Day celebrations—JD. Government will shortly introduce emergency regulations to take stern action against those who rob or tamper with property belonging to the Railway, CTB, Electricity and Telecommunications Department—CDM.

SATURDAY, MAY 29: Mr. K. B. Ratnayake, Minister of Transport and Sports and Parliamentary Affairs expected in Sri Lanka today from an official visit to India told *Samachar* a team of technical men from India will visit Sri Lanka to study the railway's problems—CDM. The Central Bank announced that it had severed the link of the Sri Lanka rupee with the pound sterling with effect from May 24 and linked the rupee with "an appropriately weighted basket of currencies"—CDN. The Non-aligned co-ordination Bureau whose headquarters are in New York will move to Algeria where a ministerial meeting of the countries represented will be held from May 30th to June 2: Sri Lanka will be represented by a delegation of seven members headed by the Minister of Finance and Justice, Mr. Felix Dias Bandaranaike—CDN. The 5000-strong Nursing Services Trade Union Federation will meet on Friday to decide on the next step regarding its demand to the Health Department: the Union is agitated that none of its financial demands are so far met—CDM. The Ministry of Trade will soon establish Price Control

Courts to punish offenders under the new Emergency Price Control regulations gazetted by the Government—DM. The Communist Party of Sri Lanka (Moscow Wing) in an appeal to the Government wanted legal status given to actions taken by the Government regarding the use of the Tamil language: the Party has pointed out that giving legal status for the use of Tamil language is very essential in attempts to unite the split United Front and to defeat the reactionary UNP—VK. Mr. Abdul Rahim has been nominated by the Government of Bangladesh as its first Ambassador to Sri Lanka: Mr. Rahim was a Supreme Court Judge from 1966 to 72—VK. An explosion in a bus in the Jaffna bus stand caused extensive damage to the bus: meanwhile according to the *Virakesari* four Tamil leaders including three MPs taken into custody in Jaffna recently will be allowed bail soon. Mr. T. B. Ilangaratne, Minister of Trade, Home and Public Administration, has drawn up a plan to pay pensioners through banks instead of the present system of paying them through post offices—LD. Employees of all worksites of the State Engineering Corporation struck work from yesterday opposing the alleged anti-trade union activities of the Chairman of the Corporation—JD.

SUNDAY, MAY 30: A number of MPs; party organisers and politicians were seen in the Election Commissioner's Office to check the Delimitation Commissioner's Report according to which the next general elections will be held: according to the *Observer* the basic thinking behind the report was to provide increased representation to all communities—Sinhala, Tamil and Muslim—and create an opportunity for Indian Tamils registered as citizens under the Sirima-Shastri Pact, and certain caste concentrations to send their representatives to the enlarged National State Assembly—CO. Several persons have surrendered their unlicensed guns to the authorities under the amnesty given for unlicensed guns: a spokesman said the Government expects at least 3,000 guns to be surrendered under this amnesty—CO. The President on the advice of the Prime Minister will promulgate Emergency Regulations under the Public Security Ordinance which will impose only jail and whipping sentences on persons found guilty of stealing or retaining without lawful authority any property belonging to the Departments of Railway, Telecommunications, the Ceylon Transport Board and the Ceylon Electricity Board—TOCSI. The UNP will meet on Tuesday to decide whether the incident on May 20 in the NSA where two Ministers were involved in fisticuffs should be raised in the NSA as a matter of privilege—TOCSI. A Tax Court having jurisdiction over the whole island in tax matters will start functioning in the premises of a branch of the Inland Revenue Department in Bambalapitiya, Colombo, on June 15: Mr. Sirilal Perera, Additional District Judge, Colombo, will preside—TOCSI. Several organisations of medical practitioners have pointed out to the Government that if the present Rs. 3 million paid annually to the Treasury by the State Pharmaceutical Corporation in lieu of the FECS is abolished the exorbitant prices of drugs could be reduced—TOCSI. According to the *Janathaya*, indications are that the intended price reductions of several consumer items by the Government might be postponed owing to lack of finances. According to the *Aththa* the new controlled prices announced by the Government is only a confir-

mation of the prices already fixed by private traders for so many consumer items or just an increase on existing prices: the paper editorially criticised the new price control system.

MONDAY, MAY 31: At a mass rally held at Ambepussa yesterday Mr. Rukman Senanayake, MP for Dedigama who was expelled from the UNP recently, challenged Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, President of the UNP and the Leader of the Opposition, to resign his seat and contest him at Dedigama: he said he did not want to destroy the UNP but to gather the supporter of late Mr. Dudley Senanayake and form a Dudley Front and get back to the UNP without the present "stooges" in it—CDN. Mr. Hector Kobbekaduwa, Minister of Agriculture and Lands, appealed to all agencies dealing with nationalised estates to give top priority to the repatriation of all persons issued with Indian passports in terms of the Sirima-Shastri Pact: he further instructed the agencies to pay up all arrears and dues to the repatriations as soon as possible—CDN. The Attorney General will file indictment today before the High Court against three MPs and an ex MP belonging to the TULF who were arrested recently for allegedly distributing subversive literature in Jaffna—CDN. Under the Emergency Regulations gazetted all traders will be required to obtain new licences from tomorrow: the Competent Authority under the Emergency Regulations said issuing of new licences will be done over the counter when the forms are filled up and signed over a Rs. 1 stamp and licences will be issued up to the end of June—CDN. An incident where a postal peon, after a quarrel with his wife, lined up his four children aged 10, 9 and 8 against the wall and shot them dead has been reported from Kekirawa: later the postal peon shot himself and died: the wife ran away and escaped—CDM. The Workers' Charter will be submitted in the NSA tomorrow by Mr. Michael Siriwardene, Minister of Labour, for the Second Reading—VK. Several railway passenger coaches imported from Rumania by the CGR have been put in the Railway Yard because when the orders were placed for the coaches the necessary brake wagons for the coaches have not been ordered: 33 of the 140 coaches brought from Rumania are now being used attached to the Railway Department's brake wagons—ATH.

TUESDAY, JUNE 1: An official announcement from the Prime Minister's Office yesterday said the Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike, had nominated Mr. William Gopallawa, the present President, to be in the same post for another period of four years: the announcement further said that the nomination has been made on May 22 and Mr. Gopallawa will take his oaths tomorrow—CDN. Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike, addressing the gathering at the Bambalapatiya Hindu College, on the occasion of the school's silver jubilee, requested the masses irrespective of their nationality and political affiliations to refrain from inciting communal passions: in her speech the Prime Minister explained the several favours done by this Government to the Tamils of this country—CDN. Mr. S. K. K. Suriyarachchi, Minister of Small Industries and Co-operatives, said that following the Cabinet decision that MPs should not hold offices in the co-operative sector twenty MPs will be affected—CDM. The four Tamil leaders Messrs V. N. Vavaratnam, MP for Chavakachcheri, K. Thurairatnam, MP for Point

Pedro, Pundit K. P. Ratnam, MP for Kayts and Mr. A. Amirthalngam, ex MP for Vaddiccoda, who were arrested by the Police for allegedly distributing subversive literature in Jaffna recently, were released yesterday: they were kept in custody since May 22: the released leaders are expected to travel to Jaffna today by train—VK. A water-cut from 9 am to 6 pm will be imposed in the Colombo Municipal area from today until further notice—VK. Six policemen were remanded by the city Coroner for alleged assault on a mother of a bridegroom at a wedding house: the alleged victim succumbed to her injuries at the Colombo General Hospital: according to the evidence at the inquest the six policemen have gate-crashed into the house where a function was going on and allegedly assaulted the bride and her mother and later took into custody the groom and his father-in-law—JD. The new price control announced by the Government will soon be revised according to the Competent Authority, Mr. D. Wijesinghe—LD. All trained teachers were paid their new salaries from last month: they will be soon paid the arrears of the salaries calculated from January, 1974—ATH. From today onwards all MPs who stayed at the Srawasti will be paid an extra Rs. 100 for each sitting of the NSA: this arrangement has been made in view of repairs being effected to the Srawasti and accommodation at the Srawasti for MPs will be impossible: this is only a temporary arrangement—ATH.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2: Government of Libya has given one million dollars to the Government of Sri Lanka for the successful conduct of the forthcoming Non-aligned Summit Conference to be held in Colombo in August. In an effort to curb the unfair effect on local manufacturers, the Government has decided to fix ceilings on items imported under the CRA—CDN. Mr. T. B. Ilangaratne, Minister of Trade, Public Administration and Home Affairs who led the Sri Lanka delegation to the recent UNCTAD IV Conference at Nairobi said that the acceptance by the UNCTAD of the "the integrated programme for commodities" after several days of hard bargaining showed that the voice of the developing nations can no longer be ignored by the international community: Mr. Ilangaratne said this when commenting on the development at Nairobi—CDN. The Prime Minister yesterday appointed a seven-man special advisory committee of Government MPs to advise and implement the new price control regulations: the committee is headed by Mr. P. R. Ratnayake, Deputy Minister of Trade—CDN. According to the *Daily Mirror* the accumulated losses to the CTB till the end of 1975 was Rs. 195 million and the Minister of Transport, Mr. K. B. Ratnayake, has sought Government approval to write off the losses. Minister of Small Industries and Co-operative, Mr. S. K. K. Suriyarachchi's proposal to remove MPs from holding offices in co-operatives was severely criticised by MPs at yesterday's government parliamentary group meeting—CDM. Opposition MPs raised a breach of privilege at yesterday's meeting of the NSA over the arrest of three Tamil MPs: the leader of the Opposition, Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, said that MPs were protected from detention except on criminal matters: Dr. N. M. Perera, leader of the LSSP said that no MP could be arrested without the consent of the Speaker of the NSA: Mr. Stanley Tillekeratne, Speaker of the NSA, reserved his order on the breach of privilege—CDM.

Dr. N. M. Perera, Leader of the LSSP, told the NSA yesterday that the failure of the Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike, to appoint a President on the required date—May 22—was a serious breach of the Constitution. Mrs. Bandaranaike in reply said she handed the letter of appointment at Kandy on May 22 and the President had delayed the taking of oaths because he wanted to wait for an auspicious day: several Opposition parliamentarians said that the appointment cannot be considered as a private transaction between the Prime Minister and the President. Dr. N. M. Perera said that if the Speaker considered that this motion was urgent and was of public interest and if 20 members signed it he had to call for a debate on it—CDN. Arousing welcome was accorded to the three MPs and an ex MP who arrived in Jaffna yesterday after over a week's detention in Colombo—YK. The Ceylon Federation of Trade Unions in a letter to the Prime Minister requested her to pardon the 11 insurgents who have been sentenced to death for their involvement in the April '71 insurgency—ATH. The country earned a profit of Rs. 70.7 million through tourism within the first three months of this year—LD.

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INTERNATIONAL DIARY

May 26 – June 3

WEDNESDAY, MAY 26: President Ford welcomed Japan's approval of the treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapon. Japanese Minister of Justice told the Diet (Parliament) that so far over 180 people have been questioned by authorities over the Lockheed payoff scandal: Mr. Uma Inaba, also said that this figure included high Government officials. Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda spoke of a possible bloodbath in Rhodesia if Prime Minister Ian Smith remained intransigent over majority rule. 119 of the 154 delegates to the Republican presidential nomination convention in New York pledged support to President Ford giving his campaign a major boost on the eve of six primary elections: Vice President Nelson Rockefeller, the former State Governor, appealed for support for Mr. Ford. Nearly 450,000 people were rendered homeless by rising flood waters in the Northern Philippines: the floods were caused by a typhoon and over 50 people have so far died.

THURSDAY, MAY 27: EEC countries at the Nairobi's UNCTAD IV conference tried their best to agree among themselves in an attempt to prevent from failing to create a central fund for buffer stocks: West Germany and Britain were wide apart from their community partners towards the proposal of creating this fund. Japanese Prime Minister, Takeo Miki, said that he wanted to stay in power to uncover the Lockheed bribery scandal and also said he did not understand why some members of the ruling party wanted him to resign. US President Ford said that he would not permit Secretary of State, Dr. Henry Kissinger, to resign despite attacks on him by Right-wing Republicans in the Presidential primary election campaigns. Pakistan Prime Minister, Mr. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, speaking at a mass rally in North Korea said

the former US President Lyndon Johnson once considered Mr. Bhutto mad for suggesting a Sino-American dialogue: Mr. Bhutto was due to fly to China from Pyongyang tomorrow. Cuba told the United States that it will start pulling its military forces out of Angola: Dr. Henry Kissinger, Secretary of State of the US commenting on the Cuban assurance told a press conference in Luxembourg that the "Cuban move is a positive development and America is making its own checks into it". A package addressed to the Aerofloat, the Soviet Airlines, at New Delhi airport exploded: the package of explosives was flown from Bangkok to New Delhi by a Japanese Airlines jet: no one was hurt.

FRIDAY, MAY 28: The Arab League Council met in Cairo and adopted a resolution to be presented at the forthcoming Non-aligned nations conference to be held in Colombo: the draft stressed that the situation in Palestine and in the Middle East "is a threat to peace and world security". West German delegates at the UNCTAD moved to break the deadlock by modifying its hard-line position regarding the creation of a common fund to finance international commodity stockpiles and stabilise prices: the creation of this fund was demanded by Third World nations. Israel's Foreign Minister, Yigal Allon, declared his country's readiness to begin immediate discussions with Arab countries on either a full peace agreement or a lesser end-of-war accord. South Africa published a bill granting Bandustan State independence by which the state will become a black rule one: once the bill becomes law over a million blacks living in the State will be deprived of their South African citizenships: South Africa plans to grant independence to 9 states, leaving them for black rule, while holding back the rest of the country—nearly 87 per cent of the land—for the whites. President Ford won two more Republican election primaries in the states of Kentucky and Tennessee: political observers commenting on these two wins where Mr. Ronald Reagan was held favourite, said it will be easy going for Mr. Ford to be the Republican Presidential nominee.

SATURDAY, MAY 29: A United Nations Economic and Social Affairs official told the US Senate Investigating Committee that aggressive marketing of potentially dangerous drugs in Latin America by some US pharmaceutical companies is being openly supported by the US Government: the official further said that this is not in the best interest of the majority of people in Latin America. According to reports from Nairobi if UNCTAD IV gets no help from industrial countries—Norway, Holland and Sweden—the developing countries have made practical arrangements for the setting up of a common fund as a catalyst for commodity arrangements. A spokesman for the US State Department said that South Africa has the potential to manufacture an atomic bomb but it is not interested in doing so. The Indian Government will soon announce a 14-point code of ethics for the Indian press which will be made law soon. The US and its four Central Treaty Organisation (CENTO) allies at the end of a two-day ministerial council meeting in Britain called for renewed efforts to get a durable peace settlement and warned the Soviet Union that security in the CENTO region constituted an important element in European security.

SUNDAY, MAY 30: Soviet Prime Minister, Mr. Alexei Kosygin, arrived in Baghdad on a four-day official tour for talks on Middle East developments and bilateral relations. The University of New York, one of the largest in the world, was closed after defaulting on its 15 million dollar monthly payroll: the 19,000 Faculty members and other staff did not receive their pay cheques. Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda said that he will allow Rhodesian African guerillas to open a new front in Zambia against Rhodesia. The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting countries met in Bali, Indonesia, and decided to leave prices unchanged because they could not reach unanimity: according to OPEC sources this is the first time since 1973 the OPEC could not find a compromise on prices. The UNCTAD IV Conference in Nairobi agreed on recommendations to stop the Brain Drain from Third World Countries: this is the first document on which the rich and poor nations of UNCTAD had reached an agreement after a 23-day session: hopes of creating a Common Market Draft Resolution on commodities were bright on Friday night after Britain dropped its earlier opposition. The United States and Soviet Union on Friday signed a treaty limiting the size of peaceful nuclear explosions: this agreement has been hailed as a new step towards arms control both in Washington and Moscow.

MONDAY, MAY 31: China called on its people to continue the anti-rightist campaign and warned that capitalist roaders would still appear in the Chinese Communist Party. At a state banquet speech in Peking by visiting Pakistani Prime Minister, Mr. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Indian Charge d'Affairs and Mrs. L. L. Melhotra walked out in protest to a reference to Kashmir. M. Bhutto reiterated Pakistani's call for self-determination for the people of disputed Jammu Kashmir and this was later supported by the Chinese Prime Minister, Mr. Hua Kua Feng. The International Labour Organisation's Executive Board by a one-vote majority decided against giving a seat to a delegation of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation at a world Conference on Employment opening in Geneva next week. The Soviet Union accused the United States for not granting entry to USSR trade union delegations to visit US and requested them to change their attitude. Rhodesian security forces were threatened by a third front attack by Zambian based African Nationalists against the white ruled territory. Rightwingers of Lebanon threatened to destroy Beirut airport because it was claimed that arms for Left wing fighters were flown to this airport: meanwhile clashes between the Right and Left wing supporters continued in the streets of Beirut.

TUESDAY, JUNE 1: Representatives of rich and poor nations at the UNCTAD IV Conference decided at the sessions currently being held in Nairobi that they would meet again not later than March, 1977, to negotiate on a common fund to finance commodity buffer stocks. According to a spokesman of the Foreign Ministry Egypt has formally asked the Arab League to admit the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as a member of the league: at present PLO is an associate member of the 20member Arab League with no right of vote. Moscow Radio announced that the USSR decided to strengthen the defence capability of Angola: this announcement was made after a week-long visit of Angolan Prime Minister, Lopo Do Nascimento, to the Soviet Union. Philippines President,

Ferdinand Marcos, arrived in Moscow for a one-week tour of the USSR: at the end of the tour it is expected that both countries will establish DPL ties. President Makarios of Cyprus rejected a proposal by Turkish Cypriot as "totally unreasonable and unacceptable" to divide the island between the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities. Over 200 people lost their lives over renewed clashes in Beirut during the weekend. The Icelandic Government announced that it has decided to renew negotiations with Britain in an attempt to reach an agreement in the fisheries dispute between the two countries.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2: Finland will be the first neutral country to attend the forthcoming non-aligned nations conference to be held in Colombo in August: Finland will seek co-operation with the non-aligned countries on both bilateral and international relations. Two large columns of Syrian troops arrived in Lebanon yesterday: according to the Palestinian News Agency one Syrian brigade disarmed the Palestinian Commandos and Lebanese Leftists. Australian Government advised its Ambassador in Jakarta not to accept an invitation to attend the proceedings of the newly formed "people's Assembly of East Timor". Mr. Malcom Fraser, Prime Minister of Australia, delivering his first major foreign policy statement in Parliament declared that the Soviet Union was engaged in a major world-wide political offensive backed by force and propaganda: he called on Soviet leaders for a "tangible signal" to restrain military expansion. The Australian leader was concerned over clashes between the White House and the Congress which he said were weakening America's capacity to act effectively around the world: Mr. Fraser said that his coalition Government's foreign policy hinged on the US. The UNCTAD IV Conference held in Nairobi ended on Monday after agreeing on a program of action on the vital issue of commodities: in a roll-call ballot at the conference US State Secretary, Dr. Henry Kissinger's proposal for a Resources Bank was rejected. The Anglican Church of South Africa urged a national convention of all South Africa's peoples, whatever colour, to discuss the country's future.

THURSDAY, JUNE 3: In a joint statement by US Secretary of State, Dr. Henry Kissinger and Treasury Secretary Mr. William Simon, the United States warned the less-developed nations against following communist led parliamentary manoeuvres to scuttle US economic proposals: the statement was issued after Dr. Kissinger's proposal for an International Resources Bank was defeated 33 to 31 votes at the UNCTAD IV conference which ended in Nairobi on Monday. Jimmy Carter, lost the US Democratic party presidential nomination primary elections at Rhode Island and Montana and won in South Dakota. In an effort to aid the poorest of the developing nations the International Monetary Fund started to sell 25 million ounces of gold from yesterday: the proceeds will be used to start a special trust fund of the IMF. Leaders of the Rightist and Leftist rival forces met in West Beirut, Lebanon, to discuss ways and means of stopping the bloody clashes between the two forces. A Government spokesman in New Delhi said that the Indian Charge D'Affaires decision to walk-out during a speech by Pakistan Prime Minister in Peking, when the latter referred to Jammu-Kashmir dispute was justified.

BACKGROUND

Ministerial Conference

Of Non-aligned Countries

—Lima, August 15-30, 1975—

Below we publish the full list of participants, observers and guests who attended the Lima Conference which was the last big gathering of the non-aligned before the Colombo summit in August.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

1. AFGHANISTAN Area 647,497 sq. km. Pop: 17,125,000 Cap: Kabul;
2. ALGERIA Area: 2,381,741 sq. km. Pop: 14,012,000 Cap: Algiers;
3. ARGENTINA Area: 2,776,889 sq. km. Pop: 24,352,000 Cap: Buenos Aires;
4. BAHREIN Area: 598 sq. km. Pop: 215,000 Cap: Manamah;
5. BANGLADESH Area: 88,200 sq. km. Pop: 75,000,000 Cap: Dacca;
6. BHUTAN Area: 47,000 sq. km. Pop: 930,000 Cap: Timfu;
7. BOTS-WANA Area: 600,372 sq. km. Pop: 648,000 Cap: Gaborones;
8. BURMA Area: 678,033 sq. km. Pop: 27,584,000 Cap: Rangoon;
9. BURUNDI Area: 27,834 sq. km. Pop: 3,600,000 Cap: Bujumbura;
10. CAMBODIA Area: 181,035 sq. km. Pop: 6,556,000 Cap: Phnom Penh;
11. CAMEROON Area: 475,442 sq. km. Pop: 5,836,000 Cap: Yaounde;
12. CAPE VERDE ISLANDS Area: 4,000 sq. km. Pop: 300,000 Cap: Cidade de Praia;
13. CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC Area: 622,984 sq. km. Pop: 1,522,000 Cap: Bangui;
14. CHAD Area: 1,284,000 sq. km. Pop: 3,700,000 Cap: Fort-Lamy;
15. CONGO Area: 342,560 sq. km. Pop: 1,300,000 Cap: Brazzaville;
16. CUBA Area: 114,521 sq. km. Pop: 8,392,000 Cap: Havana;
17. CYPRUS Area: 9,251 sq. km. Pop: 633,000 Cap: Nicosia;
18. DAHOMEY Area: 112,622 sq. km. Pop: 2,686,000 Cap: Porto Novo;
19. EGYPT Area: 1,001,449 sq. km. Pop: 34,100,000 Cap: Cairo;
20. EQUATORIAL GUINEA Area: 19,414 sq. km. Pop: 281,000 Cap: Santa Isabel;
21. ETHIOPIA Area: 1,221,900 sq. km. Pop: 25,240,000 Cap: Addis Ababa;
22. GABON Area: 267,000 sq. km. Pop: 500,000 Cap: Libreville;
23. GAMBIA Area: 11,300 sq. km. Pop: 400,000 Cap: Banjul;
24. GHANA Area: 238,530 sq. km.

Pop.: 9,026,000 Cap.: Accra;
25. GUINEA Area: 245,857 sq. km. Pop.: 4,010,000 Cap.: Conakry;
26. GUINEA-BISSAU Area: 36,125 sq. km. Pop.: 800,000 Cap.: Bissau;
27. GUYANA Area: 214,969 sq. km. Pop.: 763,000 Cap.: Georgetown;
28. INDIA Area: 3,268,090 sq. km. Pop.: 550,376,000 Cap.: New Delhi;
29. INDONESIA Area: 1,491,564 sq. km. Pop.: 121,198,000 Cap.: Jakarta;
30. IRAQ Area: 446,713 sq. km. Pop.: 9,440,000 Cap.: Baghdad;
31. IVORY COAST Area: 322,500 sq. km. Pop.: 4,442,000 Cap.: Abidjan;
32. JAMAICA Area: 10,962 sq. jkm. Pop.: 2,000,000 Cap.: Kingston;
33. JORDAN Area: 97,714 sq. km. Pop.: 2,317,000 Cap.: Amman;
34. KENYA Area: 582,645 sq. km. Pop.: 11,694,000 Cap.: Nairobi;
35. DPR OF KOREA Area: 120,538 sq. km. Pop.: 14,281,000 Cap.: Pyongyang;
36. KUWAIT Area: 16,000 sq. km. Pop.: 711,000 Cap.: Kuwait City;
37. LAOS Area: 236,000 sq. km. Pop.: 2,962,000 Cap.: Vientiane;
38. LEBANON Area: 10,400 sq. km. Pop.: 2,787,000 Cap.: Beirut;
39. LESOTHO Area: 30,355 sq. km. Pop.: 1,043,000 Cap.: Maseru;
40. LIBERIA Area: 111,369 sq. km. Pop.: 1,171,000 Cap.: Monrovia;
41. LIBYA Area: 1,759,540 sq. km. Pop.: 2,010,000 Cap.: Tripoli;
42. MADAGASCAR Area: 587,041 sq. km. Pop.: 7,000,000 Cap.: Tananarive;
43. MALAYSIA Area: 322,633 sq. km. Pop. 10,798,000 Cap.: Kuala Lumpur;
44. MALI Area: 1,240,000 sq. km. Pop.: 5,022,000 Cap.: Bamako;
45. MALTA Area: 316 sq. km. Pop.: 350,000 Cap.: Valletta;
46. MAURITANIA Area: 1,030,700 sq. km. Pop.: 1,200,000 Cap.: Nouakchott;
47. MAURITIUS Area: 2,845 sq. km. Pop.: 887,000 Cap.: Port Louis;
48. MOROCCO Area: 445,050 sq. km. Pop.: 15,525,000 Cap.: Rabat;
49. MOZAMBIQUE Area: 783,000 Pop.: 8,500,000 Cap.: Lourenco Marques;
50. NEPAL Area: 140,797 sq. km. Pop.: 10,652,000 Cap.: Katmandu;
51. NIGER Area: 1,270,000 sq. km. Pop.: 4,126,000 Cap.: Niamey;
52. NIGERIA Area: 923,768 sq. km. Pop.: 56,510,000 Cap.: Lagos;
53. OMAN Area: 84,000 sq. km. Pop.: 155,000 Cap.: Dubai;
54. THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANISATION;
55. PANAMA Area: 75,650 sq. km. Pop.: 1,500,000 Cap.: Panama;
56. PERU Area: 1,285,205 sq. km. Pop.: 13,586,000 Cap.: Lima;
57. QATAR Area: 2,020 sq. km. Pop.: 75,000 Cap.:

Doha;
58. RWANDA Area: 26,338 sq. km. Pop.: 3,587,000 Cap.: Kigali;
59. SAUDI ARABIA Area: 1,750,000 sq. km. Pop.: 6,000,000 Cap.: Riyadh;
60. SENEGAL Area: 196,192 sq. km. Pop.: 4,022,000 Cap.: Dakar;
61. SIERRA LEONE Area: 71,740 sq. km. Pop.: 2,600,000 Cap.: Freetown;
62. SINGAPORE Area: 581 sq. km. Pop.: 2,050,000 Cap.: Singapore;
63. SOMALIA Area: 637,657 sq. km. Pop.: 2,864,000 Cap.: Mogadishu;
64. SRI LANKA Area: 65,610 sq. km. Pop.: 12,514,000 Cap.: Colombo;
65. SUDAN Area: 2,505,813 sq. km. Pop.: 16,067,000 Cap.: Khartoum;
66. SWAZILAND Area: 17,363 sq. km. Pop.: 421,000 Cap.: Mbabane;
67. SYRIA Area: 186,180 sq. km. Pop.: 6,098,000 Cap.: Damascus;
68. TANZANIA Area: 945,000 sq. km. Pop.: 13,634,000 Cap.: Dar-es-Salaam;
69. TOGO Area: 56,000 sq. km. Pop.: 2,022,000 Cap.: Lome;
70. TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO Area: 5,128 sq. km. Pop.: 945,000 Cap.: Port of Spain;
71. TUNISIA Area: 167,150 sq. km. Pop.: 5,137,000 Cap.: Tunis;
72. UGANDA Area: 236,036 sq. km. Pop.: 10,127,000 Cap.: Kampala;
73. UNITED ARAB EMIRATES Area: 81,700 sq. km. Pop.: 194,000 Cap.: Abu Dhabi;
74. UPPER VOLTA Area: 274,000 sq. km. Pop.: 5,300,000 Cap.: Ouagadougou;
75. DR OF VIETNAM Area: 158,750 sq. km. Pop.: 21,595,000 Cap.: Hanoi;
76. REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM Area: 173,809 sq. km. Pop.: 18,000,000 Cap.: Ho Chi Minh;
77. YEMEN-ARAB REPUBLIC Area: 195,000 sq. km. Pop.: 5,000,000 Cap.: Sanaa;
78. YEMEN-PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC Area: 313,600 sq. km. Pop.: 1,281,000 Cap.: Aden;
79. YUGOSLAVIA Area: 255,804 sq. km. Pop.: 20,257,000 Cap.: Belgrade;
80. ZAIRE Area: 2,349,709 sq. km. Pop.: 22,423,000 Cap.: Kinshasa;
81. ZAMBIA Area: 752,000 sq. km. Pop.: 4,500,000 Cap.: Lusaka;

OBSERVERS

1. BOLIVIA Area: 1,098,581 sq. km. Pop.: 4,931,000 Cap.: La Paz;
2. BRAZIL Area: 8,513,844 sq. km. Pop.: 95,300,000 Cap.: Brasilia;
3. COLOMBIA Area: 820,000 sq. km. Pop.: 21,117,000 Cap.: Bogota;
4. ECUADOR Area: 283,561 sq. km. Pop.: 6,200,000 Cap.: Quito;
5. EL SALVADOR Area: 21,393 sq. km. Pop.: 3,500,000 Cap.: San Salvador;
6. MEXICO Area: 1,972,546 sq. km. Pop.: 50,670,000 Cap.:

Lima Conference

Mexico City: 7. URUGUAY Area: 177,508 sq. km. Pop.: 2,886,000 Cap.: Montevideo; 8. VENEZUELA Area: 912,000 sq. km. Pop.: 10,500,000 Cap.: Caracas.

NATIONAL — LIBERATION MOVEMENT

(1) Arab Ligue, (2) ANC, (3) PLCS, (4) FNLA, (5) MPLA, (6) PAC (7) PSP, (8) OUN, (9) OAU, (10) OSPAA.

GUESTS

1. AUSTRALIA Area: 7,668,884 sq. km. Pop.: 13,500,000 Cap.: Canberra; 2. AUSTRIA Area: 83,889

sq. km. Pop.: 7,423,000 Cap.: Vienna; 3. FINLAND Area: 337,032 sq. km. Pop.: 4,697,000 Cap.: Helsinki; 4. GUATEMALA Area: 108,889 sq. km. Pop.: 5,348,000 Cap.: Guatemala City; 5. HONDURAS Area: 112,088 sq. km. Pop.: 2,600,000 Cap.: Tegucigalpa; 6. THE PHILIPPINES Area: 300,000 sq. km. Pop.: 37,959,000 Cap.: Manila; 7. PORTUGAL Area: 91,531 sq. km. Pop.: 9,500,000 Cap.: Lisbon; 8. ROMANIA Area: 237,509 sq. km. Pop.: 21,205,000 Cap.: Bucharest; 9. SWEDEN Area: 450,000 sq. km. Pop.: 8,100,000 Cap.: Stockholm.

AGENDA FOR THE LIMA CONFERENCE

1. Opening of the Conference.
2. Election of Officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
4. Consideration of applications for membership.
5. Review of the international situation, with special reference to:
 - (a)—The Middle East and the Question of Palestine;
 - (b)—Southern Africa;
 - (c)—Latin America;
 - (d)—Cyprus;
 - (e)—Indochina;
 - (f)—The Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace.
6. Review of the International Economic Situation.
7. Definition of a strategy aimed at strengthening the solidarity and mutual assistance of Non-Aligned Countries in the political and economic fields in case of threats or aggression against their sovereignty, security, independence and development.
8. Review of the implementation of the economic decisions of the Algiers Summit, and additional measures for strengthening the co-operation between Non-Aligned Countries:
 - (a)—Approval of the statutes of the Fund for Economic and Social Development of Non-Aligned Countries.
 - (b)—Implementation of the Resolution of the Dakar Conference;
 - (c)—Consideration of the statutes of the Information Center on Transnational Corporations;
 - (d)—Report of the Second Meeting of the Coordinators of Mutual Co-operation among Non-Aligned Countries and other Developing Countries;
 - (e)—Examination of the report of the Group of Experts on the Treatment of Foreign Capital in Non-Aligned Countries.
9. Examination of the preparations for the Special Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations devoted to development and international economic co-operation, with view of strengthening the common action of Non-Aligned Countries at that session.
10. Coordination and harmonization of the activities of the Non-Aligned Countries at the 30th Session of the United Nations' General Assembly, and measures for strengthening the role of the United Nations, in particular, assessment of international conferences such as the Law of the Sea, UNIDO, etc.
11. Preparations for the Fifth Summit to be Held in Colombo (Sri Lanka).
12. Other business.

HISTORICAL

The Struggle Of The Non-aligned Countries For World Peace And Elimination Of Military Bases

by T. Duraisingam

Attorney-at-law
Member, World Peace Council

THE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES from the time that they started functioning as a movement have worked for the reduction of international tensions, for the elimination of military bases and for world peace. The Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organisation, with its head quarters at Cairo, is a peoples' organisation having official support and recognition in most non-aligned countries. Its activities by way of seminars, conferences, consultations, etc., supplement the official exchanges that take place at various levels among many of the non-aligned countries. Our Association, the Afro-Asian Solidarity Association of Sri Lanka, is affiliated to this organisation.

The Afro-Asian Solidarity movement originated and developed in the process of the struggle for peace conducted by the Asian and African peoples, within the framework of the world-wide peace movement which unites peoples of diverse political opinions and religions who belong to different classes of society, but are at one in their desire to prevent war and assure lasting peace.

It was in June 1954 at the Meeting for Easing International Tension convened by the world movement in Stockholm, that the proposal for the international Afro-Asian Solidarity organisation was first mooted. On June 22nd and 23rd at the instance of the veteran Indian public leader Rameshwari Nehru, winner of an International Lenin Peace Prize, the delegates of the Asian countries of India, the USSR, the Chinese People's Republic, the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam, Japan, Syria and the Lebanon met during that conference. They decided to hold in Delhi in April 1955 an Asian conference for Easing International Tension. This conference was held on April 6-10, 1955 and it was attended by 15 Asian countries. At this conference the first inter-

national Asian Solidarity Committee was formed with a permanent secretariat consisting of representatives of Burma, Ceylon, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Pakistan, the USSR and the Arab countries. THESE DEVELOPMENTS led to the formation of the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organisation and its first conference was held at Cairo from 26th December 1957 to 1st January 1958. The president of that conference was Mr. Anwar Sadat who is today the president of the Republic of Egypt and the Secretary General of that Conference was, Mr. Youssef Sebai. The very first resolution adopted at this conference was the demand of an immediate and unconditional banning of the nuclear weapon tests, as a first step towards the complete prohibition of the manufacture, the stockpiling and the use of these weapons of mass destruction, and as a step towards universal disarmament. "In the name of peace and happiness of all peoples," this resolution further stated, "an agreement on this problem must be reached."

The declaration adopted at this conference stated: "Afro-Asian peoples believe that imperialist domination, foreign exploitation and the other evils which result from the subjugation of peoples are a denial of the fundamental rights of man and a violation of the United Nations Charter, apart from the other harmful effects on both governments and governed, which impede the development of peace and international co-operation. The continued existence of imperialism is not compatible with the new era the world is now passing through. Afro-Asian peoples firmly believe in the right of every people to secure freedom and independence." The declaration further stated that the Afro-Asian peoples desire unity. They also want to work together and to help each other in order to struggle for the welfare of the Afro-Asian peoples as well as that of the whole of mankind. They will devote their relentless efforts for the achievement of enduring peace in the world.

The declaration also stated that the ten principles adopted by the Bandung Conference of April 1955 should remain the basis of international relations and that they were fully convinced that if these ten principles are accepted, the

present world tension would definitely relax and the deadly fear of annihilation, that now grips the hearts of millions, can be lifted and that the foundations of peace cannot be firmly established until this tension is dissipated.

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU was one of the prime movers for the holding of the Bandung Conference. He was inspired by the vision of a united and reascent Asia. One of his first acts as the Prime Minister of India was to convene an Asian Relations Conference in Delhi. It was the success of this conference and his vision of a united Asia and also of a united Africa, which led to the holding of the Asian-African Conference in April 1955 at Bandung in Indonesia, and popularly referred to as the Bandung Conference. This conference was organised by Indonesia, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Burma and 29 other Asian and African states participated. The Prime Ministers of India, Indonesia, China, Sri Lanka and of a number of other states attended this conference as delegates. The Bandung Conference was an important landmark and has given inspiration to nations and peoples of the world. The ten point declaration to promote world peace and co-operation adopted at this conference and which was based on the Panchasheela principles has been used as the basis of declarations and the aims and objects of organisations for the promotion of peace and co-operation.

In 1954 India took the initiative with China in expounding the Panchasheela, the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence which formed part of the preamble to the Indo-China Agreement on Tibet. These principles are mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty, non-aggression, non-interference in each others national affairs, equality and mutual benefit and peaceful co-existence.

THE TEN PRINCIPLES adopted by the Bandung Conference as the basis for international relations were (1) respect for the fundamental rights of man and the principle and objectives of the United Nations Charter; (2) respect for the sovereignty of all peoples and the integrity of their territories; (3) recognition of equality among

all races and all nations, big and small; (4) abstention from all intervention in the internal affairs of other countries; (5) respect for the rights of every nation to self-defence, individually or collectively according to the United Nations Charter; (6) (a) abstention from the use of collective defensive organisations for the service of the private ends of any great powers; (b) abstention of any power from applying pressure on other countries; (7) avoidance of aggressive actions and threats and of the use of force against the regional security or the political independence of any country; (8) settlement of all international disputes by peaceful methods such as negotiations, conciliation, arbitration, judicial measures or any other peaceful methods chosen by the parties concerned, according to the United Nations Charter; (9) the development of our common interests and mutual co-operation and (10) respect for justice and international obligations.

It is unfortunate that due to major schisms and differences among the sponsors of the Bandung Conference, it has not been possible to hold a similar conference thereafter. This was a direct consequence of imperialist policy. When the imperialists ruled, they in keeping with their traditional policy of divide and rule, encouraged regional, national and religious strife among their subject peoples. Even after independence the Imperialists fomented and encouraged these divisions. They instigated separatist movements and border disputes. Territorial disputes between Indonesia and Malaysia and Philippines, India and Pakistan, India and China, Iran and Iraq, Yemen Arab Republic and Peoples' Democratic Republic of Yemen are traceable to the old-time colonial divisions of Asia.

In 1961 efforts were made by several nations to bring together the heads of states of Asia and Africa at another Asian-African conference. But this did not materialise. It was only possible to hold at Bandung, in April 1961, a conference of representatives from governmental and non-governmental organisations of Asian and African countries. This conference was organised by the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organisation. Several ministers of states attended

this conference. From Sri Lanka, Theja Gunawardena, Dr. Kumari Jayawardene and I attended this conference as delegates from the Afro-Asian Solidarity Association of Sri Lanka.

THEREAFTER, preparations were made to hold the second Asian-African Conference of heads of states in Algiers in November 1965. However, this had to be indefinitely postponed and the Bandung Conference has not had a successor so far.

However, the non-aligned movement can rightly be called, at the official level, the direct successor to the Bandung Conference. The leaders of the non-aligned countries have been for the past many years taking an active and leading part in the struggle for world peace and elimination of military bases.

It was at the initiative of our Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, that the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted, on December 16th 1971, its historic "Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace." Sixty nine nations voted in favour of the Declaration including the Soviet Union none against and fifty five abstained among whom were the USA, UK and France.

At the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference held in Colombo about two years ago the then Minister of Finance, Dr. N. M. Perera, clearly stated the Sri Lanka point of view when he addressed the conference. In his leading address he said "she (USSR) has no bases in the Indian Ocean. These provocative acts would compel her to put up bases. Nobody in his senses seriously believes that the USSR intends to occupy India or any other small country from Singapore to Laos or this puny little island, Sri Lanka. We have no fear of the Soviet Union. I am entitled to ask, are they being directed against countries like India which are moving towards socialism or China which has already built a socialist society or smaller countries in the Indo-China peninsula, Burma, Malaysia, Singapore and Sri Lanka? What else is the purpose of these bases? We have not asked for their protection. Does the United States think that she is the self-appointed policeman of the world? We do not want them policing this part

of the world. We are quite capable of maintaining peace and order in the Indian Ocean. It is these big powers who by their presence disturb and jeopardize the harmony and peace that now prevail."

THE WORLD PEACE COUNCIL and the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organisation, in co-operation with the All India Peace and Solidarity Organisation convened an International Conference against Foreign Military Bases in the Indian Ocean and to keep the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace. This conference was held in New Delhi from November 14 to 17, 1974. The main subjects discussed at the conference were Imperialist military bases in the Indian Ocean as a threat to the sovereignty, security and independence of the littoral states; Imperialist military bases as a support to the colonialist and racist regimes in Southern Africa; the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace.

This international Conference was fully supported by the Indian Government and the Indian National Congress. The Foreign Minister Y. B. Chavan, the Defence Minister Swaran Singh, the Petroleum Minister K. D. Malaviya, the Minister for Steel and Mines Chandrajit Yadav and the supplies Minister R. K. Khadilkar spoke at the sessions of the Conference. Ministers from the state assemblies also actively participated in the conference. A number of ministers of state and many leading personalities from the littoral countries of the Indian Ocean came as delegates to this International Conference.

The Indian Congress president D. K. Barooah, who presided declared that "peace in the Indian Ocean was not an issue of principles alone with India, but a matter of life and death."

"Establishment of a military base in Diego Garcia or in any part of the Indian Ocean was likely to create a situation in which all our efforts at peace would be completely frustrated" he said and announced that India was firmly opposed to conversion of the ocean into a war zone.

Terming the establishment of Diego Garcia base as an "unprovoked aggression" on the Peoples way of life in the littoral countries, Barooah said it was also a "grave

threat" to the security in the region. India or any other littoral country could not take this neo-imperialist move "lying down", he added.

An International Conference in Support of the Arab Peoples for justice and peace in the Middle East was organised by the World Peace Council and the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organisation and was held in Cairo on 25-28 January 1969. Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike was one of the chief sponsors of this Conference and she actively participated in it with a delegation from Sri Lanka. Mr. T. B. Illangaratne, the present Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs and Trade, and who is the president of the Sri Lanka Peace Council was also a member of this delegation.

We are happy that our Prime Minister has actively participated in practically all the Non-Aligned summit conferences.



BUILDING A VILLAGE HOUSE—81

Kantalai Remembered

By Herbert Keuneman

One's first view of the Kantalai of today (and, whatever today's justification, I see no need to apologize for comparing it nostalgically with the sylvan lake of fifty years ago) is, on approaching it from the southern side, an almost intimidating one: a great gash of bulldozed and graded earth and dumpered and otherwise earth-moved ground hacked about to form the 'new'—it isn't all that new—spill-way, gaunt steel gear on concrete piers, and an ugly pipe-and-concrete bridge although, at the moment, the windy waters of the tank are almost invisible from the point at which they will be constrained (it is continually hoped) to overflow.

Of course it is reasonable—it is essential—to provide all this; and of course it is reasonable to make it ugly, for that makes it cheap; if once one grants that it is reasonable to do little or nothing about the cancer-growth of population that makes all this unavoidable. But of course one may also recollect (of course without wishing them back) the former days, when,

further along the bund, the once isolated resthouse was not overhung by a congeries of government offices no more tasteful, naturally, than the spillway constructions and by type-plan residential quarters. May one not?

The old sluices, at all events—there are two of them—are still there; although one no longer knows if the old ghoulish tale is still told of either—one does not know of which; nor if the tale is told from the time of the British repairs in the early 1870s or from an earlier time—and perhaps it is as well that far-off things as sad as this remain forgotten; though here I am perversely reviving it for no better than memory's sake! And, perhaps, from a journalistic awareness that nothing currently is more favoured reading than anatomized brutality. Here is the story, anyway.

At some time or another, when one of the sluices was being built or rebuilt—something insists it was the more southerly, halfway along the bund—the work again and again collapsed each time it was tested, and the overseer in charge was at his wits' end. It was then appeared to him one of the gods, in a vision, and demanded as the price of success a human sacrifice and, moreover, the first born of two firstborns. Just such a victim occurred immediately to the overseer's mind: the young son of his elder sister, and his own favourite. But what is fondness when weighed against reputation? The uncle persuaded his sister to let the little boy accompany him to the works. There he bade his nephew lie on a bed, as it were, prepared for him amongst the blocks of stone and indicate thence the direction in which he saw the sun while a mighty stone was manoeuvred into place as he should direct. Fearlessly the child signalled it nearer and nearer above his head. The sand that clung to it showered over his face, and suddenly he cried out: 'amma, kan!': Oh! mother, my eyes! And then they let the stone fall. 'And to this day', a narrator would conclude, 'that is what the water says, bubbling through the haunted sluice: "amma kan! amma, kan!"'. But it is no use listening today for the piteous echo in any hope of trying to identify which sluice: today's water speaks today's language and only gabbles!

Even the Resthouse ghost has apparently been chased into retirement! and that was a very well-authenticated ghost indeed, as ghosts go. There were, to be sure, variations on the theme—a not uncommon phenomenon with hauntings—but not only were there many, each was stubbornly persisted in by whoever told the story. Also, there is evidence (of a sort) still to be seen. Or there was, on my last visit to the resthouse—I did not step in this time—in 1969. I will tell you one of these stories because I can vouch (and I do vouch seriously and sincerely) for the trustworthiness of those who shared the experience and for the complete faith in it all three of them never ceased to profess.

But first I must describe the resthouse as it used to be, and I think it is not much changed. Or it hadn't been, even seven years ago. The mosquito-proofing which figures in my tale had by then vanished, but the mosquitos, in justification, were far less; and the verandah which overlooks the lake had been enlarged; but that—then—was all. You entered the building from the portico and the small porch leading from it through a strangely, unnecessarily vaulted tunnel of the grey stone of which all the building was constructed, which opened in a few paces onto the verandah and the lovely reaches of the water below it. It was a corridor, in fact, but I call it a 'tunnel' because for some reason it always struck me chill.

Opening from the verandah, on the right as you entered, were the majority of the rooms, the pleasant dining room closing the far end; but on the left was 'Room No. 1', the Mosquito-proof Suite, a very desirable quarters indeed, whose possession was quite as status-symbol if more than one of the officials for whose use the resthouses first subsisted happened to be in residence at the same time! There was a bedroom with attached bath; a dressing room which housed as well, a spare bed; and a portion of the verandah, en suite; in all of which any access from or to the exterior (save a small door from the bathroom to the front porch) was completely screened by wire gauze so close that not the most famine-stricken mosquito could get in, but quite transparent

if there was illumination within and partly so even if there was strong enough light from outside. The proper entrance was a small double-doored box between the unscreened and screened portions of the verandah, which acted on the principle of an air-lock; you stepped in, demolished any mosquitos that had accompanied you, and thence entered the quarters proper. Very posh. But this was the haunted room.

Sometime in the earliest years of World War I three travellers reached the resthouse at dusk and took rooms for the night. They were L. M. (later Justice L.M.) Maartensz; my cousin Aline, his wife; and her brother Eric (Pieter's father). They were engaged in what was still a rather adventurous undertaking, a motor tour of the Island, but the Maartensz' faith in their car was profound. (To be sure, the car was a Ford—a brass-radiated bulb-horned Model T.. unless there was any model earlier; in which case it was that..and obvious members of the family, of whom none else then owned a car at all, used to allege that when the young couple in London walked into a West End showrooms and asked to buy a car the frock-coated salesman, after they had made their wants more specific, had said: 'Oh, you want a Ford!' and directed them to another quarter of the City—but the vehicle had performed as reliably as Ford had promised, and only the elephant-infested state of the roads had prevented their reaching Trincomalee, their real destination, by nightfall. Had Aline known about the ghost, she would have faced the elephants. For I should explain that she always had, in our family, an unquestioned reputation for the 'gift' of second sight and had proved it, both before and after, to (at least) the family's complete acceptance. But she knew nothing, and this she always insisted upon. So, it was from no pre-conditioning that when the Maartensz' things, as the married couple's were carried into Room No. 1 she immediately protested: 'L.—that was what she called the man, even after he was elevated, 'L, I can't sleep here: this room is haunted!'

In vain L assured her she would sleep even worse in another room, with all the mosquitos, and Eric,

though not urgently enough to quite persuade her, prophesied the same thing. She was adamant, nevertheless, and in the end her things and her husband's were deposited in the room across the tunnel from No. 1. Eric, for one, was jubilant, sure of a good night, and scouted any foreboding.

In the small hours of the morning the Maartenz couple were simultaneously awakened by a reverberating thud which shook their beds. Their first thought was for their car: elephant traffic along the bund was as yet not much less infrequent than more legitimate kinds, and the resthouse compound was not sacrosanct. A blazing moon was climbing. Though the car stood in shadow they could see it was quite safe; and though the bund was brilliantly lit up they could see it stretched quite empty on the right, while on the left an empty road curved away from it and round a hill. They were on the way back to bed, puzzled when a bright band of moonlight pouring through the gauze into the mosquito-proof verandah drew their attention to Eric within. He lay stretched on a lounge, his head tilted on his shoulder, a book fallen from his hand. On a teapoy beside him a big oil lamp had evidently guttered and gone out. It was clear he had had a bad night, whether as Aline had prophesied or whatever, and had been reduced to reading himself to sleep. Aline was all for waking him and gloating forthwith. But her husband's kinder counsel prevailed and she put the pleasure off for breakfast.

At breakfast, however, she could not forbear to rub it in. 'Well,' she chortled, 'you hadn't the good night you promised yourself?'

'Nonsense! I slept like a log.' 'Oh, but we saw you. You had to read yourself to sleep!' And she described the night's happenings.

Eric looked strangely. Like thoughtful. 'Come and see,' he said. So they opened the mosquito-lock and trooped in; and the place was arranged nothing like they both remembered it in the moonlight. Besides, the one reading lamp stood on the toilet table and it was full of oil. 'Honest to goodness', Eric affirmed, 'I really never slept better.'

The Resthouse-keeper had nothing to say, but looked as though he disapproved any enquiry. It was quite long after that any of them heard a possible explanation, and it went like this.

Several years previously, the 'explanation' stated, when the resthouse was still quite new, a planter on a shooting holiday had occupied Room No. 1. He was, that night, the resthouse's only visitor. He had been tired on arrival but had remained reading in the screen verandah when the staff had said goodnight and retired. The next morning the shocked servants found him dead. The verandah is—or used to be—covered by a 'shed' roof whose wall-plate rested on a series of stone corbels high on the wall. One of these had fallen and crushed his head in as he reclined. He lay stretched on a lounge, a book fallen from his hand, a lamp that had burnt itself out on a teapoy by his side. As far as I know, there is no record of any such accident nor has any of our family—certainly not, as they used ruefully to confess, Eric or Aline or her husband—been able to check it. An invented but would-be-true ghost story should have been better fabricated.

Another version, also from a cousin but on my mother's side, though less circumstantial seems somewhat better contrived. To me creepier, anyway. This cousin, also on a shooting trip like the ghost had been, was a member of a very large party: so numerous—and that night the rooms, too, were full—that they arranged to sleep on loungers and valises in the verandah. The mosquito-proofing had been removed by then so there was plenty of space. After half a night's sport...er, of 'waterhole' slaughter the party trooped back and disposed themselves to sleep. They were hardly comfortable, and my cousin shortly after came wide awake with a feeling of malaise so strong that he was constrained to sit up and count the sleepers over. They mustered correct. But the malaise would not leave him, indeed grew worse. It was not until broad morning that he realized: he had omitted to count himself; and yet the number had been perfect!

By way of contrast, a delightful tale far too good not to be true, told of the now vanished toddy

tavern which in my time was the only other building than the resthouse along the main road at Kantalai, is very much of this world. The tavern stood prominently at the junction where the road to Heen Ganga today turns off to the right. It was said that Governor William Manning still fairly newly appointed to the Island and determined to get the 'feel' of it, noting the tavern on the way to his first visit to Trincomalee and considering it sufficiently sequestered for his purpose, had the driver stop his car and despatched an errand for a bottle of the beverage that appeared to afford so many of his 'subjects' so much comfort and joy. The Lascorean Guard in all his glory stalked down to the tavern and returned with a bottle of the plebeian ferment, the Governor sipped it, judged it an overrated drink and tossed away the rest, and the car drove on. Picture the gubernatorial embarrassment, then, when on the return journey they came in sight of the tavern once more and there, hardly less prominent than the tavern itself, was displayed a notice-board which proclaimed in proud letters:

PATRONIZED BY H. E. THE GOVERNOR

This article hasn't a single mention of Eheruwewa in it? Well, fancy that! Upon my word!

* * *

ENDEAVOUR'S ALL

Some Memories And Reflections

By James T. Rutnam

Mr. James T. Rutnam has been associated with the **Tribune** almost from its very inception. He has written some of the most outstanding and noteworthy articles that have ever appeared in **Tribune**, e.g. *The House of Nilaperumal*, *Thambi Mudaliyar*, *Sirimavo Bandaranaike*, etc. On June 13 1976 he will be 71, still young in mind and heart, and energetic as ever. In this article he recalls men, matters and events which laid the foundations of the politics of the last fifty years.

—Editor.

I am, if I may use the expression, a successful failure. I had determined for myself from school days to be a politician, rather a patriot working for his country in Parliament. This I have been denied. But I believe I had achieved some measure of success in other fields, as a teacher for a short while, as a business man for some time and now as a research worker in history and archaeology.

At school I was the Secretary of the Debating Club. At the University College I beat my two rivals who subsequently became leading advocates—one a Q.C.—to the membership of the Committee of the Union Society within a month or two of my joining that institution. At the Law College I was the Prime Minister of the Law College House of Commons, besides being the Editor of the Magazine and winner of the Walter Pereira Prize for Legal Research. At the Y.M.C.A. Forum I was elected Speaker defeating an individual who loomed large in the public eye. I was then twenty-one years old.

I was also a member of Victor Corea's and A. E. Goonesingha's band of angry young men in the Young Lanka League and subsequently in the Ceylon Labour Union. In 1925 I joined the Progressive Nationalist Party formed by S. W. R. Dias Bandaranaike, R. S. S. Gunewardene and Valentine S. Perera. Indeed it was I who hailed Bandaranaike as "the hope of Young Ceylon" when I proposed a vote of thanks to him at his second public lecture in Ceylon at the Y.M.C.A. Forum to a crowded house in the main lobby. We became friends thereafter and had often met at Valentine S. Perera's office at 119 Hulfstdorp to plan and agitate for the country's good.

The Progressive Nationalist Party was started in October 1925, and we called ourselves an "advance party of the youth of Ceylon who aim to secure national emancipation" with the resolved object of attaining "such a form of self-government which is satisfactory in practice and consonant with our national honour." Our first Secretary was C. Ponnambalam who later became Mayor of Jaffna. Valentine S. Perera, R. S. S. Gunewardene, A. J. M. de Silva, A. de Fonseka, D. N. W. de Silva, M. D. A. Wijesinghe (who gave the Felix

Press for our printing almost free of charge) S. B. Ranasinghe, myself and a few others whose names I cannot now recollect formed the first batch of the "Bandaranaike policy" wallahs some fifty years ago. I attended the Ceylon National Congress Sessions at Galle in 1926 as a member of the Progressive Nationalist Party. I went from Colombo by train to Galle on that occasion. My travelling companions to the Congress were J. Aloysius Fernando, the famous Kalutara Proctor (a Roman Catholic) and the Rev. J. W. Perera Jayatunga a devoted Christian Nationalist from Ambatenapahala.

Soon I came to disagree with Bandaranaike. For in the Progressive Nationalist Party Bandaranaike had incorporated a fundamental plank viz. to agitate for a Federal form of Government for Ceylon. He had further written a series of articles in the Press in May and June 1926 extolling the Federal idea. I joined issue with him in the controversy and opposed him in a long letter to the Press. This was published in the *Ceylon Morning Leader* in July 1926 fifty years ago. I was a member of the Committee of the Progressive Nationalist Party to draft a Scheme of Constitutional Reforms to be submitted to the Ceylon National Congress, but I dissented from the General Report by opposing the Federal System. At a meeting when the Report was discussed my dissent was ruled "out of order" by Chairman Bandaranaike, who declared that it was against the fundamental creed of the Party.

Bandaranaike honestly maintained his unshakable faith in the Federal System. He was for the establishment of nine Federal States, and later three for the Kandyan Sinhalese, the Low Country Sinhalese, and the Tamils with special representation for the minorities in each of the States.

I raised eight objections in my dissent. Bandaranaike declared in one of his addresses published in the Press: "A thousand and one objections could be raised against the system, but when the objections are dissipated I am convinced that some form of Federal Government would be the only solution."

Bandaranaike and I parted company when Bandaranaike challen-

ged Goonasinghe for the membership of the Maradana Municipal Ward. I was Goonasingha's supporter, having earlier cut my political teeth under his auspices. That election was one of the keenest fought political encounters in those early days. R. S. S. Gunewardena was really the mainstay of Bandaranaike's campaign. But what tipped the scales was the emergence at the penultimate moment of the Maha Mudaliyar, Bandaranaike's father. He visited the homes of the great unwashed and that was enough in those days. That was, I would say, the last bid of Feudalism in this country.

That was also the first bid of Socialism. Both hit the same target, and Bandaranaike the son came out to mark a new stage in the political evolution of this country. One would have noted, as events showed, it is the same family that had come to ride the wave in both dispensations. You find this in other cases too. Although it might not be so in the particular case of Bandaranaike, who was I believe a dedicated patriot and a rebel in his own house, one has to admit that in most instances it is the opportunist and not the idealist that generally triumphs in a material sense. This is the moral of man's story from the beginning of time.

I was a boarder at S. Thomas College during the last days of the "Stone" Age and a day-scholar at S. Joseph's College under that great and good Rector, Father LeGoc. It was while I was at S. Joseph's College that we heard the thunder of Goonasingha, the Labour Leader, reverberating from the Railway grounds at Darley Road during one of those early Strikes. It was a memorable event which left a lasting impression on many of us.

At that time Ceylon was slowly trying to assert its independence. Goonesingha, E. T. de Silva and others who had formed the Young Lanka League, and who were responsible for the clarion calls that came from the weekly journal, *The People* were our daring political extremists. They found a prudent and responsible leader in Ponnambalam Arunachalam, a radical wolf in a conservative sheep's clothing. Arunachalam was then gathering the bold and timid ones together, patching up differences

here and there, and preparing after the humiliation and destruction of the Riots of 1915, a united counteroffensive against the British Raj. Arunachalam was my own political guru, and if anybody else gave me a pat on my back in those impressionable days it was Goonesingha. I should also place E. T. de Silva at this altar.

Despite occasional differences in politics, Goonesingha kept close to me to his dying day. A week before he entered hospital in 1967 and about a fortnight before he died, he brought me the manuscripts of his autobiography saying, "Jim, you are the man who will be able to look into this." A definitive biography of Goonesingha must be published, and when it is out, the country will discover how much faith, how much courage, how much steadfastness went into the making of this man who really broke open the doors of freedom for the worker. E. T. de Silva was struck down in his prime. Had he lived he would surely have been our first Prime Minister, notwithstanding the caste to which he belonged.

J. L. C. Rodrigo, the Editor of the *Ceylon Morning Leader*, indulgently crossed the t's and dotted the i's of my earlier essays into journalism. It was Rodrigo who gave me, when I was only eighteen years old, the conspicuous space in the editorial page of his paper for my tribute to Arunachalam on the morrow of his sudden death. There were other influences too at work, such as the Corea brothers, George E. de Silva and A. P. Van Reyk—besides my father, who spoilt me with a beam of pride in his eyes whenever he saw me enter the political lists. Of my mother, who died when I was nine years old, I recollect little; but my uncle Gate Mudaliyar C. Thiagarajah was a source of great encouragement.

When Bandaranaike became an active office-bearer in the Ceylon National Congress, the Progressive Nationalist Party was left to gasp and die. I had from early school days an appetite for research and for closer study of problems. My classmate and friend A. W. H. Abeyasundara, later a Judge of the Supreme Court, was then holding his first appointment as a Private Secretary to D. S. Senanayaka. We were all avid students

of politics, not excluding D. S. We started the Political Study Circle at Woodlands, Kanatta Road, Colombo, and the founders of this group were D. S. Senanayake Abeyasundara, D. B. Jayatilaka, G. K. W. Perera and myself. S. W. R. Dias Bandaranaike and J. R. Jayawardene joined us later. I remember giving the draft to D. S. Senanayake for his speech for the abolition of Capital Punishment, in the Legislative Council. I was then a member of the Society for the Abolition of Capital Punishment of London. Very few people know that it was Abeyasundara who introduced Dudley Senanayake formally into politics by presiding at his first election meeting at Dedigama.

D. S. Senanayake had a hand behind the scenes in the radical movement that developed with the agitation against the Poppy Day Fund in 1926. Few are aware of its beginnings. It started with a letter that I wrote to the Press in August 1926 pleading for the distribution of the Poppy-Day collections among the disabled in both the Allied and German Camps. "It would be", I wrote, "a noble gesture of victory to feel for the distress of the vanquished". But I found I had aimed too high. I was then a cosmopolitan at heart, having journeyed from tribalism, communalism, nationalism and internationalism. I have since become a humanist, which I believe is the end of my political quest.

Be that as it may, my friends suggested to me that we should organise a campaign in opposition to the Poppy-Day Fund to serve the needs of Ceylonese ex-servicemen. We arranged for a public meeting at the Tower Hall, and after receiving many refusals from some of our leaders, who were afraid of the Colonial Power, we succeeded in getting G. K. W. Perera, a brave man, to consent to preside. We gathered our veterans together and gave them the front seats in the hall. I was elected Secretary of the Public Meeting. Several of us spoke, including myself. Stanley de Zoysa made the first public speech of his career to the annoyance of his father. I was told he came straight from his class room to make the speech. Abeyasundara, A. T. G. Britto, Valentine Perera, A. J. M. de Silva, and Aelian Perera, a war-veteran,

were some of the other speakers. We were all marked men at the time. I believe we all had pages of honour in the Police files. As a counterblast to the Poppy-Day movement we organised a campaign to picket the poppy-sellers on November 11 that year. The previous night we sprang a surprise by pasting large posters on the walls of the town, especially in front of the fashionable poppy sellers' homes in the Cinnamon Gardens. The posters read:

*Why support Poppy Day Fund?
Ceylon's needs are greater*

Charity begins at home

We had a number of altercations with the Poppy Day society folk and the Police, and some of us were brought to the Police Station and the Court. The Cosmopolitan Crew of Lauries Road, Bambalapatiya also joined us in this movement. It was a Society established in 1925 "to promote unity and co-operation between the different races, creeds and classes resident and thus build up a Ceylonese nation." Membership of this Society was "restricted to those who are not members of any political association or racial or religious body." C. Ponnambalam was at one time the "Commander" of this Crew. Harry Gunawardana, the elder brother of Philip, was the Treasurer, and Hem' Basnayaka, who does not seem to be imbued with such high ideals now, was a member of its "Administrative Council."

Few are aware that some of the money given to print and distribute the posters, hire the hall, etc. for the Anti-Poppy-Day Movement came from D. S. Senanayake. We were asked to keep it a secret. D. B. Jayatilaka did not seem to approve of our devilment, and that was a reason for the secrecy. This effort of ours really started the *Suriya Mal* campaign, which was launched the following year when it was realised that we should offer a positive and not a negative approach towards the people. From our movement sprang the ultra-leftists of to-day.

I was Principal of St. Xavier's College, Nuwara Eliya for two years and there I introduced the compulsory study of Ceylon History, Sinhalese and Tamil. I also made Physical Education and Gardening compulsory. I led an unsuccess-

cessful Strike in Nuwara Eliya, gaining popularity nevertheless. The Daily News lashed out at me in its main editorial, calling me an "obstreperous schoolmaster who will soon have to take to his heels". I responded rather un-gallantly by calling the editor, S. J. K. Crowther a "cantankerous ex-padre who should go to his pulpit and learn the text. Every labourer is worthy of his hire". I was then twenty-four years old. Thus did the world move around me.

I stood for the State Council as a candidate from the Labour Party and was beaten, but not disgraced. I repeated my election bids on several other occasions as an independent candidate, and was defeated in every election. Once I was beaten by a small margin of votes, and I won the Election Petition that followed. My career would no doubt have been different had I been elected.

Black flags were flying in my father's house when I married outside my community. My wife, who mothered eight children, eventually won my father's heart as well. She is now dead. Her children arise and call her blessed, as do I. The Library in the Evelyn Rutnam Institute, now at the Jaffna Campus is her Taj Mahal.

In the twilight of life at seventy-one, I have resigned myself to part gracefully from it in the fulness of time. Love of letters I will not abandon, nor my zest for life. I set great store on honest endeavour. I have tried to be charitable, knowing only too well that if I knew everything I would have forgiven everything. In my own mind I have challenged all beliefs, but have never been sure of my own answers.

The thought and life of two men have largely affected my own—Bertrand Russel and Thomas Henry Huxley. Let me end in the company of their wisdom. The passions that have governed my life too, in the words of the former, "have been the longing for love, the search for knowledge, and the unbearable pity for the suffering of people." And I trust I too shall be able to meet the inevitable end with the following fulfilling thought that appears on the tombstone of the other:

Be not afraid, ye waiting hearts that weep;

For still He giveth His beloved sleep,
And if an endless sleep He wills,
so best.

INVESTIGATIVE—2

Wildlife And Nature Protection Society

By Tribune Investigator

The reek of snobbery taints, to this day, the image of the Wildlife and Nature Protection Society of Ceylon. There is no doubt at all that when the Society was formed, in 1894, and for many decades after that it continued to be the preserve of the sahibs. This, without a doubt, was the reason why the people of the country—I hesitate to use the word "natives"—felt that it was an exclusive Society of snobs. But this is a misfortune of the past and there is no reason to labour the point.

It is a great pity, though, that this impression has been allowed to persist and the blame must be placed firmly at the feet of the Society and those who administered it. The reason for the persistence of this image, put very simply, is this. The Society has shown a singular and absolute insensitivity to the monumental changes which have occurred within this nation in the recent years. This resistance to change; this lack of feeling for the people that mattered, has made the Society frigid and impotent.

This I know is a serious indictment yet it is true. A critical analysis of what the Society has claimed to have done for conservation will reduce these claims to the bombast of an eunuch. The Society has failed miserably in that it has not conveyed its message, of conservation, to the people that matter—those that have to live together with the wild animals that destroy their crops, endanger their lives and to a great extent influence their way of life. The people of the soil have never been given a place in the Society and it looks as if they never will.

It is to these simple, unsophisticated people that the message of conservation should have been carried as they are a confused lot. In the not too distant past, the rulers of this land came into their territory to shoot for sport. They came in all their grandeur, dispensed tawdry largesse and at the end of it all measured their tally of trophies before the befuddled eyes of the villagers—the very villagers who were fined if they so much as shot an animal for food or in defense of their crops. The villagers' concept of conservation was that they had to preserve wild animals for the "rulers" to collect more trophies. The "rulers" today are the "gentlemen poachers" who the Department of Wildlife Conservation had tried valiantly to stop by a total ban on shooting.

As recently as 1950 the Government had no separate department of Wildlife as we now know it. Matters pertaining to wild life were handled by a small branch of the Forest Department and, as a result, the activities of the government *vis-a-vis* wild life was little known to the public. The Society, on the other hand, assumed a very prestigious position as its top-crust members hobnobbed with the highest in the land. This was to result in a serious misconception that it was the Wildlife Society, and not the government, that looked after the wild life of our country. This misconception persists, particularly abroad, even to this day.

With the setting up of the Department of Wildlife Conservation, the authority of the government was made more apparent. It was now known that the programme of conservation was the work of the government and not of the Society. This shift of prestige was resented by the Society and often erupted in open conflict. The most unfortunate aspect of these skirmishes was that they not merely impeded the programme of conservation but often brought it to a standstill. This was possible, as the title-holders of the Society packed a fair clout which was used freely to re-establish their former status.

The Society, steeped in the traditions of a colonial era, refused to accept the position that

it no longer wielded the power it once had. It also refused to accept the position that they were a mere society which, at the very most, could offer suggestions but certainly not dictate terms. It is a well known fact that the corps d'elite of the Society had clashed with every Director of Wildlife Conservation. This "Bull in a China shop" attitude did not help the Society in any way as it only alienated the department and wrecked a programme of conservation which should have been carried out in a spirit of co-operation if it was to be a success. **The Society has wasted far too much time, energy and funds seeking to regain its lost prestige and neglected its primary function--conservation.**

There is no gainsaying the fact that the Society has done a certain amount for conservation. It has. What is in dispute and needs analysis is the quantum of actual work done as opposed to the boasts that have been made. If the last Annual Accounts of the Society are scrutinised it will show that a mere Rs. 982 had been expended on actual conservation and that too on a Turtle hatchery in Yala. There is no other item of expenditure which bears any semblance of having being spent on conservation. If this is so, the Society has done very, very little for its cause.

It may, of course, be argued that the funds expended on the publication of the "Loris" and maintaining perks for the membership should also be included in the schedule of expenditure on conservation. This cannot be done. The membership is already convinced and the publication which is circulated amongst these members, and are bought by a few who are not, carries a message of conservation to those already dedicated to the cause. It reaches those already convinced and not the millions yet to be instilled with the urgent message of conservation. This is the area of influence in which the Society should expend, freely, its affluence.

What, then, has the Society done? How true are its boasts that it alone keeps alight the flame of conservation? How true is it that this flame is kept alive by less much than a fistful of elitists who are more knowledgeable, more sincere and more dedicated than

the rest of the nation. How true is it that these knowledgeable, sincere and dedicated men had made the government look fools by pressing for the opening of a safari park and the larger and more fruitless Uda Walawe National Park (now abandoned) as they, in almost the same breath, advocated the closing of the ranges and made the hinterland, once again, a paradise for poachers? The answers are all there in the back-numbers of the "Loris" that lie on the bookshelves of city dwellers and not by the hearths of the people of jungle who could tell us what colossal blunders these have been. These volumes document the failure of a Society which has fought to retain the prestige it had lost, through its insensitiveness to change, and in so doing lost sight of its primary cause--conservation.

P.S. The Wildlife & Nature Protection Society is an Associate of the World Wildlife Fund and it is reasonable to assume that their views would necessarily, influence the quantum of aid we received from this Fund. We have received a pittance in comparison with countries like Nepal, Bangladesh and India to name but a few. Is it, therefore, incorrect to surmise that the views of the Society, which have been conveyed to the World Wildlife Fund, have not been too complimentary of the government's programme of conservation?

* * *

HERE AND THERE

BY DOPEY

Flour And Milk

For a quick meal we purchased a pound of American flour to bake the mundane "rotti" and a tin of condensed milk for a hot cup of tea. These two items were purchased from a Co-op shop--it is more appropriate to call these joints Government shops than Co-operatives--in one of our salubrious hill stations conditioned to attract the dollar rich tourists.

The label on the tin of condensed milk carried the legend of the brand name and figure of one of our legendary kings, nett weight

14 ozs., retail price Rs. 3/25 claimed to be "Ukku kiri"--"Condensed full cream milk sweetened to obtain with the contents of this tin one and a half pints (1 1/2 cf milk with sugar added, and two parts (2) of water by volume to the volume of milk in this tin." It is given in figures too to make sure no mistake is made. More, "It is fortified by the addition of 200 international units Vitamin A, 28 international units Vitamin D, and 0.14 mg. Vitamin B1 per ounce." A fantastic claim and how good the product of a national venture. What we found when the tin was opened was still more fantastic. We will come to this by and by.

The pound of flour was opened and while the coconut was being scraped to make the rottil we found the flour crawling all over the kitchen table. There were more maggots and vermin than flour in the pound. This was horrifying and quickly we scoured the town in search of a pound of bread. The bakers we contacted said they had given up baking bread because the flour was bad--(confirmed by a Government announcement over S.L.B.C. on 19.4.76 at 9.15 news). We finally were able to lay our hands on a pound loaf which was three shades darker than the brown bread that used to be marketed by Perera and Sons.

Hunger knows no quality, so the loaf, however putrid it was, disappeared. We inquired and we were enlightened that the flour now being distributed through the Government shops was the left over of the gift flour obtained in April 1975 to meet the Singhala New Year 1975 demand. Age and bad storage have developed the vermin in the flour which is really unfit for human consumption. But as the food situation in April 1976 too was critical, (till the new Canadian gift of 9,500 tons of flour were later ceremonially gifted at a quayside function and released to the public), the year old flour had to be issued for the 1976 Singhala New Year.

Getting back to our precious tin of sweetened Condensed milk, we pierced two holes as we were used to do with a brand of imported condensed milk so the contents could be poured out to the cup of tea. We tilted the tin, one hole up and the other hole over the cup

of tea, nothing happened, we squeezed, coaxed, turned, rapped, yet no response, and the tea was getting cold. So we cut open the lid in the fashion of opening a tin of Sardine. And lo and behold, there was a kind of gooye matter, something in between three quarter hardened milk toffee and a hard-set jelly of a diarrhoeal tint with streaks of brown shades, through the mass giving the effect of marble. We did not like the look of things but in sheer desperation to have our cup of tea—by now quite cold—after expressing a desire to live longer, we scooped out a spoonful of the gooye matter and tried to dissolve in; a cup of hot water as per instructions on the tin. It dissolved like a chunk of glue and gave the hot water the colour of milk. We added the brew to our cup of tea and immediately it curdled making the cup of tea look like a soup into which grated cheese had been added. The cup of tea and the black market sugar we had added to it all went phut. And we began to swear and curse in B.B., F.F., H.H. and in many more filthy words we were able to command in the languages we knew, not sparing even the name of our legendary king whose figure has been used to brand name the filth marketed as Condensed milk by one of our Government Corporations. If he heard what we said and what the descendants of his subject have done to his revered name he would have turned in his grave—may be his ashes would have danced as if they had contracted the St. Vitus' dance.

This is the plight of the suffering consumer, while the corporation officers who manufacture and market this muck as the genuine article must be quite happy and content that they have been able to dupe the voiceless and ignorant consumer, to earn not only their wages but the cudros of their Minister for their efforts to push on with the ministerial Policies of Industrialisation. This is how we try to save foreign exchange. There was nothing local in the tin, everything seemed to have been imported except the corrupt and inefficient expertise and management that went into the canning of the muck. The saving in foreign exchange is at the expense of our dying and ill-nourished babies, who need all the

vitaminized food to supplement the milk of the starving mothers. It is by selling this kind of putrid flour and milk foods that our own S.L.B.C. can announce in their hourly news in brief broadcast, that Corporation A and B have made a profit of "y" million rupees by selling poison to feed our babies—who knows this may be another insidious way of population control.

We paid Rs. 2/25 for the tin and as given in the instructions, the contents of the tin would produce one and a half pints of "Standard milk." So a pint of this milk costs the consumer Rs. 2.16 compared to the Rs. 1.10 per pint of fresh milk delivered at your door for the genuine wholesome cow's milk. In other countries condensed milk is cheaper than fresh cow's milk but here in Sri Lanka it is the other way round due to our misconceived ideas of industrialisation, saving of foreign exchange and the so-called socialisation to crush profit motives. Of course this is all Bunkum. All the corporations strive to make profits and when they do, there is no end to their crowing hourly over the S.L.B.C.

These are false concepts of industrialisation. The economic planners got away with the project by showing profits on paper and the consumer getting what he wants at a cheaper price than the imported item. On these premises a condensary was established at an enormous cost, paid in hard pressed foreign exchange all at once. If the country earned the foreign exchange in other ways and paid for the normal import of the finished article as was done before, the annual outlay of foreign exchange would be a fraction of the down-payment for the machinery and spread over many years with no problems of servicing and repayment of loans. And the consumer would have been better served than the present deal.

After the usual opening ceremonies and the accompanying curses on the colonialism of the previous Government, the sponsors and planners discovered that there was no milk to operate the condensary. So hey presto, cows were air lifted from here and there. The cows arrived and they then discovered that the cows were dry and no milk would be available: till the animals calve. Yes they

discovered that a cow must come into heat, then the bull must be put to the cow and if the bull did the works it would be another nine months before a calf was produced and then the milk to the condensary. Perhaps the economic planners thought the cows could be milked in any condition. Now the problem was not the cows, but how can the condensary be operated to roll out the tins on the promised day. The hungry and undernourished babies were (and are) crying for sustenance, import of milk had been banned and the Government policy gave rise to a blackmarket—in some socialist countries it is called "the Parallel market"—in milk foods.

There were tons and tons of milk powder in the E.E.C. market countries without buyers and the usable date or the "shelf life" of the milk powder was approaching, so the E.E.C. Ministers decided to sell the milk powder at cut prices to the underdeveloped countries and to the livestock industry. Who knows it may be this cheap milk powder that was reconstituted that went into our tin of "Ukku Kiri". Thus the ideas of saving foreign exchange by establishing a highly sophisticated and expensive condensary have gone overboard, and to keep the babies alive the emaciated mothers have to buy the tin milk in the blackmarket. The blackmarketeers are the only ones that seems to thrive on Government Policies meant to gain economic independence which we hear in every street corner gas bag screaming.

All our nationally owned industrial projects seems to be implemented before producing the raw materials to feed the industry. It has been always a case of putting the cart before the horse. With no exchange to import the necessary raw materials the venture becomes a crippling drag on our economic progress.

If the pound of flour and the spoilt tin of milk was handled by the private sector, the consumer had the right to haul up the offender before the courts and penalise him for selling adulterated food. In the case of the Government ventures, to whom can the consumers of this country complain? Today the consumer cannot complain against the Gov-

Algiers Meeting

Algiers, June 4,

The Non-Aligned Coordination Bureau concluded its conference here yesterday with the adoption of the final communique which expressed conviction that the coming Non-Aligned summit in Colombo will constitute an important event in the consolidation of the Non-Aligned movement. The Algiers Conference ended early in the morning with the final ministerial session. Algerian Foreign Minister Abdelaziz Bouteflika assessed this conference as a new success on the road marked by the non-aligned. There is no doubt, Bouteflika said, that the Colombo Summit will constitute one more step forward in the efforts of the non-aligned to construct a better world. It will be an important event not only for the non-aligned movement, but for the history of international relations as well, he said. The host country was thanked on behalf of the participants by Foreign Ministers of Tanzania, Cuba, Malaysia, Yugoslavia and Sri Lanka. They too pointed to the importance of the Colombo Summit.

The results achieved by the Ministerial Conference of the Non-Aligned bureau are of such range that they will enable the Colombo Summit to powerfully influence the whole of the further course of international relations. It is also estimated that the level of participants and observers in this conference, as well as the manner in which they discussed, constitute a powerful confirmation of the significance attached to this conference as the last gathering of the non-aligned before the pending summit in Colombo. The Conference too has approved that the Non-aligned movement has grown into a power short of which it is no longer possible to resolve any important international problem, nor further to promote world relations toward more democratic and equal co-operation among nations.

In Colombo, the non-aligned family will be increased in accordance with today's recommendation of the Algiers conference by at least three more members:

Angola, Seychelles island and Comodor island. A number of other countries, including some pertaining to bloc, has asked to attend the Colombo summit as guests, which will be definitely resolved in Colombo. They include Romania, Portugal, the Philippine, Australia and Switzerland. The difference on these requests have not been patched up yet, so that it is the Colombo Summit which will have the final say.

The Conference decided, in the course of its final work, to recommend more effective form of organisation and coordinations. These, however would not include establishing such structure which would turn non-alignment into a closed organisation. In this context, circles close to the conference point to the contribution of the Yugoslav delegation whose document on this matter has met with exceptional interest and support.

"We are looking forward with great optimism and new inspiration to the Fifth Summit Conference in Colombo" said the head of Yugoslav delegation, Foreign Minister Mr. Milos Minich after the Coordination Bureau conference concluded. We are sure, he added, the Colombo Summit will be a further manifestation of the unity and solidarity of all the non-aligned countries, a major contribution to strengthening the role and influence of the non-aligned movement in the solution of topical international problems and construction of new international relations, in the spirit of peace, equality and progress all countries and peoples.

Algiers, June 5,

The forthcoming Fifth Colombo Summit of the Non-aligned countries will represent an important turning point in the development of the Non-aligned Movement by contributing to the unity and solidarity of the Non-aligned Countries in their efforts to preserve peace and international security. This was stated in a lengthy communique adopted at the conclusion of the Ministerial meeting of the coordination bureau of the Non-aligned Countries on Friday in Algiers. Besides Foreign Ministers of 17 countries-members of the Coordination Bureau, the Algerian meeting—the last big Non-aligned meeting before the

Colombo Summit—was attended also by more than 20 representatives and Ministers of other Non-Aligned Countries. Sri Lanka's delegation was headed by Finance and Justice Minister, Mr. Felix Dias Bandaranaike.

On the recommendation of the Ministers, the Coordination Bureau of the Non-aligned countries, which is the principal organ for non-aligned Coordination and preparation for summit meetings—will now be enlarged and be composed of 23 non-aligned countries. The preparation for the Summit Meeting in Colombo, from August 16 to 19 have imparted a new impulse to the struggle of the non-aligned movement and all the others forces of peace and progress against the imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism and zionism and all other forms of the exploitation of national resources by foreign interests—the communique states. Therefore the Bureau express the conviction that the Fifth Non-aligned Conference in Colombo will be an important stage in the consolidation of the non-aligned movement by strengthening the movement's action and its increasingly great role on the international stage.

Reviewing the political situation in the world on the eve of the Colombo conference, the Bureau expressed its satisfaction with the process of decolonisation in Asia, and Africa, as well as Vietnams admission to the United Nations. The Bureau's members welcome the proclamation of the independence of Angola, stressing the victory of Angolan people has strengthen the cause of freedom and independence in Africa.

Considering the situation in the Middle East, the Coordination Bureau of the nonaligned countries welcomed the participation of the Palestinian Liberation Organization, as the authentic representative of the Palestinian people, in the most recent Security Council meeting on the Middle East situation and the Palestinian question. The Bureau condemned the expansionist, annexationist and colonialists policy of Israel, demonstrated also in the establishment of new settlement on the occupied territory. The bureau condemned the repressive methods of

the Israeli authorities in occupied Palestine and give full support to the Palestine Liberation Organization for the recognition of Palestine national rights.

Considering that Israel is systematically violating the fundamental principles of the United Nations charter, by continuing its aggression against the Palestinian people and the Arab countries in that region and by continuously refusing to respect the United Nations decisions, the Ministers request that the United Nations implement effective measures, including those envisaged under the article 7 of the UN charter. The final communique set out that the Palestinian question is the essential point involved in the Middle East question and it request that Israel withdrawn from all the Arab territories occupied since 1957 and that the Palestinian peoples national rights be restored, above all the peoples right to return to its country, and also its right to self determination and creation of its independent state in Palestine.

Expressing its deep concern with the situation in Lebanon, the Coordination Bureau forwarded an urgent plea to all the Lebanon parties involved in the conflict to end the fratricidal war, establish peace and preserve the unity, territorial integrity and independence of the non aligned Lebanon. The responsibility for the solution of the Lebanese crisis rest solely with the Lebanon, the Bureau considers.

In the final communique on the work of the Coordination Bureau, the nonaligned nations express their serious concern over the continued support given to the racist government in South Africa by Western powers. The Bureau condemned in particular the recent French decision to deliver one nuclear reactor to the South African regime. Reviewing the situation in Africa, the Bureau called on the French Government to give a true and unconditional independence to the people of the so called French Somaliland and Djibuti, condemned the French interference in the internal affairs of the Comoro Island. The participants in the Algiers Ministerial Meeting support the bold policy of the people of Zimbabwe in the struggle for free majority government.

The Coordination Bureau of the Nonaligned once again confirmed the right of the Saharan people to self determination. The Bureau confirmed also its support of the independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty of the nonaligned Republic of Cyprus and request again of all the status to respect these principles. The communique further stated that one of the essential principles of the nonaligned movement was the obligation of the movement members not to join multilateral military alliances with the big powers. In this section, the communique added: although the field of activity of the nonaligned countries has undoubtedly been enlarged, the world is still not free of the policies pursued by the big powers, nor has any progress been made toward disarmament.

Acknowledging the positive results achieved in so far, the Bureau cautioned that the process of relaxation of international tension still remained limited both in substance and geographically, and urged this process to be extended to the Mediterranean and the other regions of the world. The Bureau pointed out that the detente, if it is to be a true and lasting process, can in no event be reduced just to transplant the tension to other regions of the world.

The Foreign Ministers of the members countries of the Coordination Bureau repeated their support for the policy of the Peoples Democratic Republic of Korea and pleaded for the solution of the problem of the reunification of Korea by the Korean people itself and in peace and independence. It is necessary however, the Bureau stated that all foreign troops that are staying now in South Korea under the UN flag be withdrawn first.

The Coordination Bureau considered with satisfaction the role played by the Latin American countries within the nonaligned movement and gives full support to Cuba in its legitimate request that the base in Guantanamo, now occupied by United States, be returned to Cuba. The Bureau also gives its full support to Panama in its struggle for the realisation of its sovereignty over the Panama Canal zone, also occupied by the U.S. The participants to the Algiers

meeting expressed their deep concern over the dramatic situation in Chile and emphasized their solidarity with the Chilean people in its struggle for the restoration of democratic regime in their country. The Coordination Bureau also considered the situation confronting a number of nonaligned countries which are object of pressures and intimidation. In this respect, the Bureau draw special attention to the statement by Premiers of Guyana, Jamaica and Barbados against the attempts at destabilizing their governments.

Pointing out that the Indian Ocean Zone must be spared of the rivalry between the Big Powers, Foreign Ministers condemned foreign Ministry force displayed in the Indian Zone and expressed their concern over the military and naval activities in the South of Africa.

Communique further stated: the Bureau set out that in order to consolidate the co-operation among the nonaligned countries in order to eliminate all threats to their sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence and to contribute to the establishment of new international political and economical relations, founded on equality, justice and respect of the interests by their peoples, the participants in the Coordination Bureau meeting considered that the time has come for a revision of the United Nations charter. This question will be dealt with the Colombo Summit.

At its Ministerial meeting in Algiers, the Coordination Bureau also considered the international economic situation. While the developed countries have started recovering from the crisis brought about by recession, the developing countries continued to suffer the consequences of the continuous deterioration of trade conditions, the communique stated. In this section the communique also stated that the Paris Conference on International economic cooperation has achieved no palpable progress, that the developed countries have not reacted favorably to the proposals submitted by the developing countries and that the developed countries themselves are not presenting constructive proposals. The Bureau hence expressed the hope that the future nego-

tiations will yield in time concrete and satisfactory results and that they could be examined at the UN General Assembly Session.

The nonaligned countries must now, more than ever before, preserve their unity, the cohesion of the nonaligned demonstrated at Nairobi in relation to the acceptance of the programme of action, defered in Manila, and find the way for new negotiations. In that respect the nonaligned are calling for quick action in order to put into effect their solidarity fund. The Bureau decided also to recommend to the Fifth Summit Conference in Colombo to include in its agenda the point on the international monetary situation.

The Bureau considered also with favor the report that nonaligned and other developing countries which had met in Ljubljana and adopted a statute on forming the international centre for public owned enterprises. The Coordination Bureau also underlined the importance of an action taken to expand co-operation among the nonaligned countries in the field of information, as decided in the final report adopted at the symposium recently held in Tunis. This report will be considered by the Colombo Conference. The nonaligned Foreign Ministers welcomed with satisfaction the forthcoming conference of Information Ministers and News Agencies Directors—members of the nonaligned News Agencies pool, to be held in New Delhi in July. The bureau urges all non-aligned countries to take an active part in the new Delhi meeting.

Finally, the Bureau offered its support to the plans for sport co-operation among the nonaligned nations, welcoming the announcement of a special Algiers meeting to be held in July for the consideration of co-operation in the sports field. The program which will be there accepted will be submitted to the Fifth Non-aligned Summit Conference in Colombo this August.

Inania of this, that and the other

Barriers To Brother Hood

By INNA

Ten little Tamil girls and ten little boys were smiling feebly because they were being taken away, whisked away would be the right word, to a place in the north of this country and the man who had rounded them up smokec away happily, with gay abandon, for he was only putting in another feather into his cap: he was taking them for "work", but what we call "slave-labour", to some homes.

It is strange what lack of reflexion has done to consciences: state laws define that under-twelves cannot be taken for work, that their proper place must be in their own homes under the tutelage of their parents, and in school doing their studies. But for very long now, far too many people have refused to see that the Tamils are also people, real, live, genuine people, especially those who bore the heat of the day and trekked through dense jungle as they came from south India, worked for a pittance on our plantations, and still do, in order to give some men their cup of Tea.

Why should these children be child-labourers? Is it because the education system on many an estate is in a mess?

I've seen a frightened girl on a train, scared to death that she is going to some "home" in Colombo, and well might she be frightened, because the horrors of some concentration camps pale into insignificance in comparison with the cruelty practised in some homes, the "pirit-pan", the "Sunday Mass", the "coconut breaking" and the "Zaqat" regardless.

Instead of coming to the help of the widow and the orphan, the orphan leaves the widowed mother and comes to the help of some harassed Colombo, or other-town dweller. Why, there was the instance of a ten-year old up-country sinhala girl who was offered scholarships and the moon,

whose name was struck off from the state-school register, whisked away to a big town by someone described as a "kindly lady". The girl is fortunately now, back at her school in the hills, after her nightmare of two months' duration. Never believe these old-wives tales of scholarships and be on your guard against kindly ladies who make unkindness their past-time—the advice to be given to plantation and peasant mothers.

Then again I've seen a brave Tamil estate-worker who took his production War seriously, made good with his ten-feet by ten-feet plot of beans; brought the beans to sell them at the local *pola*. The big, fat, swaggering *mudalali*—with whom this place reeks while all eyes are half-shut because they exude very much grease and other bi-products—ordered this man to put down the bundle, the sack of beans he was carrying, prodded it with his stick, felt the sack with his *kolikuttu*-type fingers and said: "Beans? all right, take 30 cents a lb." Whimpering, he tried to protest: "but sir, I can sell them at the *pola* itself and I'll get..." The fat man burped and raised his stick and growled, showing strange tusk-like teeth: "Ehema baa: methena thiyala palayang". "You can't do that. Leave it here." He left it there, looked around, was called back to take his money and he slunk off dispirited. Beans were sold at 1.10 a pound that week, and that tyrant of a *mudalali* made nearly 300% profit, and this type of thing happens every Saturday and Sunday.

A priest known to me said appositely, "for me, this is the crucifixion that I can't do much about this. Those are the sufferings with which we supply for what is wanting in Christ's sufferings: that few people understand their anguish: that Colombo thinks that the "kingdom has come" when they have all the affluence and when it sucks dry whatever is produced in the hinterland: but more than all (he said) when most Sri Lankans think that Uva is a sad and bad word in Sri Lankan history."

Perhaps not "most", "few", but I've no proof, because if you talk about Uva to anyone it's all a question of "remote, lost in the wilds isn't it? Malariya no?"



Confidentially

On Tourists And Gimmicks

IS IT NOT A FACT that tourists flock to Sri Lanka because it is one of the cheapest places in the world to have a holiday? That whilst it is cheap for the foreign tourist, on the basis of what he has to pay in his own country for similar facilities and conveniences, the cost to the local resident to keep body and soul together has increased so much that Sri Lanka has become a veritable hell for him? That one of the local dailies, which performs double somersaults bragging about the millions the tourist trade brings to the island (without calculating how much of it goes out on imports in foreign exchange) cited a piece from the *Toronto Sun* in which a writer has sung the praises of tourism in Sri Lanka? That after the customary blah-blah about Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa which usually emanates from the *nouveau riche* types from the affluent West, the writer, Jack Gabriel, specially mentioned that Sri Lanka was one of the most inexpensive countries in the world? That a double room in the finest hotels cost only 30 dollars a day? That older but quite comfortable establishments charged less than half that? That "shopping, meals, and transportation are all inexpensive: and if that isn't enough, the government gives all visitors a 65 percent bonus when they change dollars into the local rupees or 165 dollars for every 100 dollars?" That the article continued "Colombo has modern skyscrapers and noisy, crowded market places that are fun to explore: running all over the place are unexpected red double-deck buses imported from England; one of Colombo's best features is that there is little visible poverty and you are not beset by beggars." That all this is very heartening for the bureaucrat, but history's verdict will be the foreign tourist in these critical times was subsidised at the expense of the local population? That a new class of hoteliers and travel agents had been created because of tax incen-

tives and CRAs whilst failing to create farmers of similar economic visits to produce essential food-stuffs? That, on paper, the statistics about increased income from tourists seems alluring but one has only to probe a little deeper to know that the ordinary people of Sri Lanka are getting a raw deal? That they are not able to get beef (in the premier city of Colombo) on more than two (or three) days a week? That in spite of controlled prices, the "medium" quality of beef costs around Rs. 4 a lb? That a good under-cut costs nearly Rs. 6 a lb (no questions asked and no complaints made)? That mutton is even scarce and it costs around Rs. 6 to Rs. 7 with bones? (That gone are the days when it was possible to buy meat without bones? That also gone are the days when bones cost less than the meat? That today bones and meat cost the same?) That eggs fetch anything from 55 cents each to 70 cents each? That the average vegetable costs over Rs. 1 a lb? That the cheapest vegetable is around 60 cts a lb (when available)? That "good" vegetables are all above Rs. 2 a lb? That "exotic" vegetables, like tomatoes and cauliflower, fetch (in season) anything from Rs. 3 to 6 a lb? That fish has reached even dizzy heights? That prawns cost now Rs. 7 to Rs. 15 a lb (glory be to exports and CRA mudalalis!)?

That no Sri Lankan will grumble if his income had gone up proportionate to these price rises? That if every Sri Lankan was given a 65% subsidy on everything he bought (or a 65% bonus on every rupee he spent whilst prices were pegged)—the same benefit a foreign tourist is treated—there will be no heart-burning? That the "new hotels all over the island, particularly in the larger cities, and the many mountain and beach resorts" that the *Toronto Sun* article speaks about is out of bounds for 99% of the Sri Lankan people (owing to the prohibitive cost)? That few Sri Lankans who flock to these hotels—less than 1% of the population—are the new rich CRAs, gem mudalalis, the new bureaucrats, the Corporation bosses and the like who seem to have the money to spend in these 5-star hotels? That it is difficult to see what propaganda gimmick the Government will resort to explain the creation of this new class of Social parasites?

That speaking of gimmicks it was interesting to hear the SLBC propound the virtues of diverting the Kelani Ganga to the NWP? That the effort to make it appear a brand new effort of the Government, there was a reference to some "estimates" made in 1961 and a Russian survey after 1956? That it was obvious even to the meanest intellect that the Kelani Ganga gimmick was only to make people forget the absence of adequate water in the Mahaveli and thereby fulfilling the boastful expectations proclaimed when the Mahaveli was (prematurely) diverted? That this new gimmick about the Kelani Ganga diversion will get exploded when it is known that as early as the 1930s and the 1940s, full and comprehensive schemes for the 55 (or thereabouts) big and small rivers in Ceylon had been worked out? That long before 1961, the capital costs (on the prices and charges obtaining then) had been worked out for these schemes? That the files in respect of these 55 odd river valley schemes had been deposited in the archives of the Irrigation Department? That it will be no surprise if white ants and other vermin have destroyed these valuable files? That now, from time to time, an ignorant public are told of new river valley schemes which were being thought up for the benefit of the masses? That it would be better for the Government not to indulge in this kind of gimmickry? That it would do better to rely on what it has done so far? That it should give due credit to where it is due? That more than gimmicks the Government must do something about the prices people have to pay for basic essentials? That the current gimmick about "systematising retail trade" through Emergency Laws, Controlled prices (to satisfy greedy industrialists) and Price Control Courts will, in the final analysis, incur the wrath of the people? That all this legalistic jugglery about price controls will undermine the "economy" of the rural farmer who produces food? That the prices guaranteed for his crops have become unrealistic in terms of the new (and highly inflated) "Controlled" prices for the 60 odd semi-industrial goods and manufactured commodities?



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