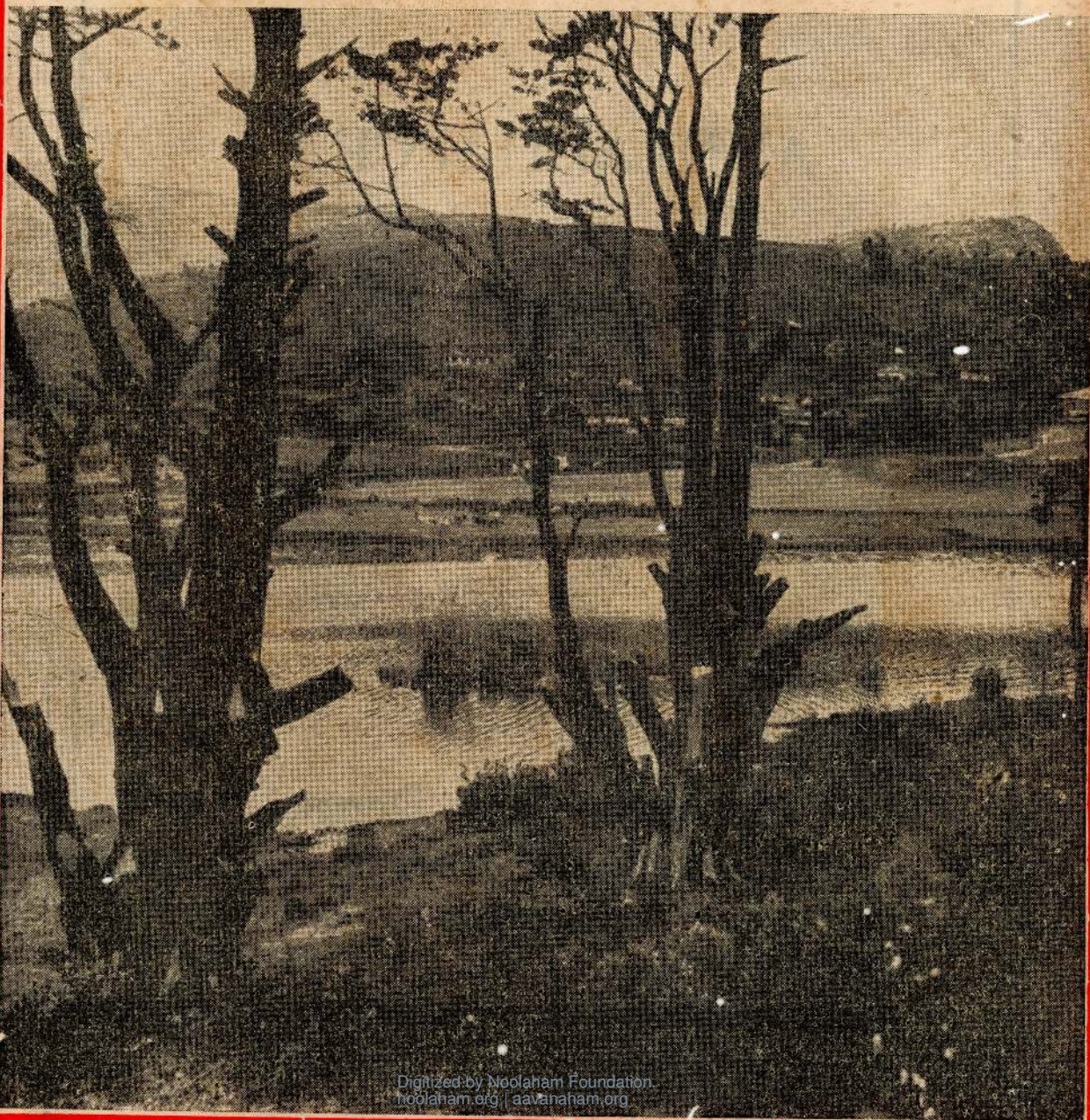


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Letter From The Editor

MOMENTUOUS CHANGES are taking place all over the world, in every country, on every continent, everywhere. One of the most significant is the outcome of the Conference of the Communist and Workers' Parties of Europe held in East Berlin in the German Democratic Republic on June 29 and 30. In his opening address, the GDR leader, Erich Honecker, had stressed that Conference consisting of representatives of 29 Communist and Workers' Parties representing more than 29 million communists, symbolised "the basic goals of the working class, of the working people and the peoples of our continent." He said that major changes had taken place in the international arena, and that "the subject we are discussing here in Berlin is marked by special urgency." The press reports now available to us does not indicate whether Honecker had outlined what had made the subject under discussion so "urgent". It is well known that questions had arisen about the right of different Communist Parties to follow independent and separate paths to reach socialism and communism. This had come up sharply in the recent Italian general elections and the Italian CP had taken up positions which made it clear that it was not willing to follow the outdated diehard orthodox marxist rigidities that savoured of Comintern imperatives—although the Comintern had long ceased to exist. The French CP too had taken a similar position. These two are the largest and most powerful communist movements in Europe outside of the Soviet Union and they had claimed the right to separate sovereign existence as independent political parties while being of international communist movement. This question had first arisen, in dramatic form, after the Hungarian episode in 1956 but it had assumed more serious proportions after the upheaval in Czechoslovakia in 1968. At that time, several Communist Parties, particularly those in France, Italy and Britain had been critical of the Soviet intervention in Czechoslovakia. Six years have gone by and in the meantime great changes have taken place in communist thinking which made it necessary for the present conference in Berlin. The results of the Conference show a remarkable development in communist and marxist logic. At the time of writing, the full official bulletins and documents have not yet reached us, but the matter-of-fact reporting by Reuter in ordinary idiom made it clear that something considered impossible only a few years ago has taken place. The Reuter report stated that "European communist leaders adopted a new charter today acknowledging the right of every communist party to run its own affairs without interference. The final document of a two-day European communist conference said all 29 participating parties, including the Soviet Union, recognised there were 'different roads' towards the achievement of communism. The party leaders representing eight communist regimes in Eastern Europe, as well as independent parties in Western Europe, said they would adhere strictly to principles of equality and the sovereign independence of each party. Adoption of the carefully-phrased document represented a major concession by the Soviet Communist Party, which was forced to drop demands for a Joint Action Program. The declaration said the Communist Parties of Europe would develop future relations strictly adhering to the principles of equality and Sovereign independence of each party, non-interference in internal affairs, and respect for their free choice of different roads in the struggle for social change of a progressive nature and for socialism". Marshal Tito attended his first international communist conference since he was expelled from the Communist movement in 1948. This was also the first time that Yugoslavs had taken part in any big Communist Conference in 19 years. At the Conference President Tito had appealed for an end to "name-calling" in the Communist Movement and said outside meddling in any country's affairs could be damaging to peace and security. He had stressed that independence, equality and non-interference were now clearly recognised as planks for co-operation among communist parties, and that historical experience had unequivocally demonstrated the untenability of laying down generally valid prescriptions for tackling today's complex problems. CPSU leader, Marshal Leonid Brezhnev expressed the fullest confidence in the results of the Conference and said that they "will help to pool our efforts to activate our joint struggle for the vital interests of working people, for democracy and socialism." He also said, according to Tass, that the attempt by communists "to cement unity and the consolidation of internationalist ties does not at all signify a wish to resurrect an organisational centre, as some people maintained." This is a major revolutionary and qualitative (dialectical) development in the communist movement in Europe and this is likely to have repercussions on a world wide scale.

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CONTENTS

EDITOR'S NOTE BOOK	
—Municipal Administration	p. 2
SRI LANKA CHRONICLE	
—June 18 - June 25	p. 4
INTERNATIONAL DIARY	
—June 19 - June 24	p. 8
LIMA DECLARATION	
—Third Instalment	p. 10
NEWS AGENCIES "POOL"	
—Ministerial Conference	p. 11
COLOMBO SUMMIT	
—Mrs. Srimavo Bandaranaike	p. 12
NONALIGNED MEMBERSHIP	
—A Review	p. 13
ON THE TEA ESTATE—2	
—Getting There	p. 15
SINHALA-TAMIL PROBLEM	
—A Way Out	p. 17
FROM INDIA	
—DMK	p. 19
BICENTENNIAL	
—U.S. and Sri Lanka	p. 22
LETTERS	
—From Our Readers	p. 23
CONFIDENTIALLY	
—Train Travel	p. 24

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Prices, Production Colombo's Water And Garbage

THE ECONOMIC SITUATION in Sri Lanka continues to be gloomy and difficult. It is no doubt true that the conditions in this island reflect the picture of depression, recession and inflation in the world where a few rich countries are getting richer whilst the vast majority of poor countries are getting poor. To make matters worse, in Sri Lanka, as we have so often complained, the incentives for production in the private as well as the public sector, have been disrupted—and production has not increased (in some sectors, it has actually drastically fallen) proportionate to population growth or the "radical measures" adopted by Government to develop the economy.

Only very recently we had stressed that the new Licensing of Traders Act and the unrealistic Price Control Orders, brought into existence under Emergency Laws, would tend to dampen agricultural production—in the same way that earlier Emergency laws to prohibit the transport and sale of locally grown paddy and rice had boomeranged on the economy. (The country has still not regained the momentum in paddy cultivation which was lost as a result of these laws). The new Price Control orders were at first confined to manufactured goods and nobody had raised any objections because they were "controlled" at the prevailing high (inflated) prices. But, when it was announced that a whole range of agricultural produce would come under new price control regulations, there was consternation in knowledgeable circles that there would be a further blow to agricultural production.

But saner counsel seems to have prevailed and the newly constituted National Prices Commission, according to the *Ceylon Daily News*, of July 1, had advised against such price controls. In a well-deserved frontpage splash, the paper had reported that: "The National Pri-

ces Commission (NPC) has advised the Parliamentary Committee appointed by the Government Parliamentary Group that price control of essential commodities is not an answer to the reduction of prices of such commodities. The need is for more production and if a rigid price control is clamped down it would act as a disincentive to production, according to the NPC. The NPC recommends that the Government through its various state organisations (eg. CWE, State Trading Corporation, Marketing Department and Co-operatives) hold sufficient stocks of dried chillies red onions, potatoes in reserve and release them when the supply is slack in order to contain price increases and meet needs of consumers. In the past the CWE did operate such a scheme in a small way for chillies.

"In its report the NPC says, that supplies of red onions dried chillies, Bombay onions and potatoes—some of the items on which the Parliamentary Committee sought a report were inadequate to meet demands. The Parliamentary Committee appointed by the Government recently asked the NPC to report on the feasibility of imposing price control on 15 items. Here is the reaction of the NPC to the other items:— Salt—it is possible to price control salt in consultation with the National Salt Commission; Beedi—there is no point in controlling this item which is being sold at 3 to 5 cents per beedi; Dried fish—the bulk of this commodity is imported. It takes 4 lbs of fresh fish to produce 1 lb of dried fish. Imported dried fish could be price-controlled but what would be its total effect on the local industry? There is also the problem of distinguishing between imported and locally manufactured dried fish. Eggs and milk—these are also agricultural commodities which are inadequate to meet consumer demands. The high prices now prevailing are partly due to the high cost of cattle and poultry food and partly because of the high demand for these items. Prevailing high prices act as an incentive to production specially because the investment on these industries is high. Price control will affect production. Buns—theoretically possible but would bakers produce buns after buns are price controlled? Butter—It is possi-

ble to price control butter. Prices are now fixed by the Controller of Imports. Agro-chemicals—caustic soda washing blue and writing ink—it is possible to price control these items which are minor industrial products.

"The NSA was requested by the Parliamentary Committee to report on the feasibility of bringing these 15 items under price control. Meanwhile at a Conference of departmental heads and Corporations this week presided over by the Minister of Trade, Public Administration and Home Affairs, Mr. T. B. Illangaratne, it was decided to take immediate steps, to ensure a regular supply of essential commodities at fair price to the consumer while at the same time also ensuring reasonable prices to the producer. The conference was confined to departments and corporations under the ministry.

"Where subsidiary food items are concerned it was decided to launch a joint venture where the Marketing Department Co-operative Wholesale Establishment and the Co-operative Marketing Federation will go out to producing areas, purchase items such as onions, chillies, potatoes and other subsidiaries direct from farmers at reasonable prices and make them readily available to the consumer at standard prices. Both the purchase prices and selling prices will be collectively decided on by the Marketing Department, CWE and Markfed.

"The Minister will, meanwhile direct the National Price Commission to examine the economics of the prices of subsidiary food items with a view to fixing a floor price, a guaranteed price and a controlled price for each subsidiary food commodity. Decisions were also taken with regard to the distribution of motor spare parts and tyres. It was noted that most motor spare parts dealers used their quotas to purchase only fast-moving items as a result of which motorists requiring other items were greatly inconvenienced. To overcome this situation State organisation will be issued larger quotas and will expand their business in the motor spare parts trade and in the marketing of tyres. These organisations include Colombo Commercial now a government business undertaking Building Materials Corporation, Markfed.

CWE and co-operatives. Another venture that has been decided on for greater economy is the expansion of the petrol and servicing station of the CWE which will henceforth supply and service all vehicles of departments and corporations under the Ministry of Trade, in the first instance and later extend these services to all government departments and corporations....."

THE RECOMMENDATIONS of the National Price Commission in regard to agricultural produce and even in regard to imported articles like motor spares indicate that the Government has at last an agency which is willing to take a realistic view about goods in short supply. Not long ago, Government thinking on this matter was totally different. Without paying any attention to the question whether the available supply was adequate to meet the demand, it was always held that shortages and blackmarket prices were solely due to the sinister operations of traders and hoarders.

Experience has shown that the mere raising of a hue and cry against alleged hoarders and traders (there is no doubt that a few black sheep always thrive on shortages), coupled with unrealistic "controlled" prices and draconian emergency laws to operate what bureaucrats considered a fair scheme of rationed distribution, were not enough to solve problems connected with the black-market. On the other hand, many of these measures militated against production; they proved to be dis-incentives, especially in regard to agricultural production—from paddy to subsidiary food crops.

A GUARANTEED PRICE which is realistic enough to act as an incentive will help, but Government has too often been tempted to fall into the pitfall of wanting to appease urban consumers without taking into consideration the increased costs of inputs and production the farmer has to contend with. Diesel, kerosene, fertilisers, insecticides and a whole host of other essentials now cost between three and five times what they cost, say in 1969/1970, but Government has not been realistic enough to fix guaranteed prices which are appropriate to such increases in the cost of production.

The trouble is that guaranteed prices have been fixed by bureaucrats who are totally ignorant about costs of production and whose objective is to keep the price-line down totally unmindful of the impact of such "guaranteed" or "floor" prices on production. Nearly all bureaucrats and their political masters have so far displayed a completely romantic approach to this question and have fixed prices which do have failed to induce production. On the other hand, they were in reality deterrents to production.

Government (UF) spokesmen often tend to brag that they have pushed up the guaranteed price of paddy from Rs. 14 to Rs. 33 a bushel, without realising that the cost of production has gone up three to four times (or more) in the relevant period. Government is willing to pay foreign farmers the equivalent of about Rs. 50 a bushel but are unwilling to pay a similar price to local producers. The result is that paddy production will continue to stagnate, and even the bulk of what is produced will tend to go into the free open market (without going into the stores of the PMB). In this connection, it must be remembered that the price of paddy and rice on the open market is at the moment keeping to a moderate price range because of abundant availability of PL 480 and other flour (some gifts, some bought). The continuing drought provides a smokescreen for inept governmental plans for paddy production, but when (and if) the rains do come, the bankruptcy of government's policies on this matter will become apparent.

THE INABILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT to get things done quickly and effectively has been dramatically demonstrated in the manner the water shortage in the city of Colombo was tackled. In the first place, such a shortage should have been anticipated as one of the options that were possible. With the world climate displaying such erratic and unpredictable zig-zagging, the failure of the Monsoon (and even if the Monsoon did not fail the possibility that rain may not fall in the catchment area of Labugama and

Kalatuwewa) should have been one of the contingencies provided for, especially, with the important international Non-aligned Conference and Summit scheduled for August.

Steps should have been taken last year itself to augment the city's water supply from the Kelani River. It is not easy to get the kind of pumps required for the pumping station at Ambatale. They cannot be got over the counter. When the current crisis had reached D-Day proportions in April/May, with a 20-hour cut (everyday some areas and all upstairs flats do not get any water at all), the Prime Minister had intervened and had wanted the necessary pumps and equipment to be "airlifted." Bureaucrats and officials had immediately cried aloud that the problem had been solved and that everything needed would arrive by air and that thereafter water would flow in all the taps of Colombo before "the end of the month" (the public were led to believe, in the first instance, that the "end of the month" was June, but later Minister Kalugalle had indicated that it would be before the end of July).

We had at that time, pointed out that it would not be easy to get suitable pumps even for airlifting, and had suggested that all local possibilities of increasing the water pumped in from the Kelani should be utilised. We had commended the suggestion by Mr. Siri Dissanayake for doubling the present intake at Ambatale. There is no news whether this has been done, but whilst the Minister has been promising to increase the supply by four hours each day, certain officials of the Municipal Council have been hinting to the newspapers (the Observer, for instance) that it was impossible to pump in more water from the Kelani for a long long time to come. In the meantime, in spite of enthusiastic newspaper reports that water pumps and other equipment would be airlifted from Britain and Japan, it is learnt that the bureaucrats have now learnt that such equipment was not available in such advanced countries because they were not ordinarily used there and that they were only specially manufactured on orders according to specifications. It was at this stage, it is learnt, that the bureaucrats charged with

the duty of solving the water crisis in Colombo, turned to India. It should have been realised that India's problems were akin to ours and that if any country, close to us, had the equipment Sri Lanka needed it would be India. The latest news reports indicate that India has been willing to help and that New Delhi was endeavouring to collect suitable equipment from different places to be airlifted to Colombo. This will naturally take time because the equipment has to be collected from distant places and brought to an airfield to be airlifted to Colombo.

There is reason to believe that some makeshift arrangements have been made with equipment available with different departments to enable the authorities to increase the city's water supply by four hours each day. But all this is hidden behind big talk about airlifting pumps—such sensationally expensive ways of getting things done will no doubt impress voters and the masses that the Government was leaving no stone unturned to solve Colombo water crisis.

THE MUNICIPAL BUREAUCRATS, who have been so callously careless about Colombo's water supply, now seem to be even more callous about the removal of garbage. At the time of writing, garbage has not been removed for days together from a large number of places in the city, including places like the temporary market in Koliupitiya which serves the highest and the best in Colombo. The stink of rotting and decomposed garbage now reaches out to the high heavens. *Tribune* reliably understands that a slow-down, tantamount to a strike, had paralysed the Municipality's garbage cleaning service, and that this was due to the obdurate obstinacy and the unrealistically antediluvian bureaucratism of some officers in the Health Services section of the Municipality.

Something must be done soon not merely to "put up a show" (we are already overdoing this) for the Non-aligned Summit, but simply to see that epidemics like cholera do not break out in the city. From all reports reaching us, Municipal Administration has reached a state of total paralysis. Officials tell us that they are helpless. Each time any disciplinary

action is taken against an errant labourer (worker) or minor supervisor by suspending him or interdicting him pending an inquiry, directives are sent down from top "re-instate without inquiry..." Officials say that such "political interference" has made administration impossible.

Something very drastic and immediate has to be done to make the Colombo Municipal Council function. A nattily-dressed Mayor, who has knows how to swing with the tide, cannot save the situation. Politicking cannot save the Municipality. Mosquitoes continue to inflict themselves in their millions on the residents in many parts of the city in spite of Mayoral boasts that there "are no mosquitoes in Colombo". The comforting words of solace from some Municipal Health authorities that the malaria-carrying anopheles was non-existent in Colombo is no answer to the mosquito menace.

The acts of commission and omission of the Colombo Municipal Council will fill several large volumes, but there is little point in indulging in post-mortems. Something must be done to save the situation.

SRI LANKA CHRONICLE

June 18 — June 25

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; TOCSI—Times of Ceylon Sunday Illustrated; DM—Dinamina; LD—Lankadipa; JD—Janadina; VK—Virakesari; ATH—Achtha; SM—Situmina; SLD—Sri Lankadipa; JS—Janasathiya.

FRIDAY, JUNE 18: The Public Health Department of the Colombo Municipality advised visitors to the city of Colombo to bring their own requirements of food and water: there are nearly four and half lakhs of people who visit the city daily for work and other purposes: Municipality's Chief Medical Officer said this request was made not only to ease the water shortage in the city but also for health reasons—CDN. Mr. K. B. Ratnayake, Minister of Transport, told the National State Assembly yesterday that in future the CTB will not hire out buses for political meetings: the Minister said he had decided that in future buses will be hired out for people to attend only May Day and Bandaranaike Day celebrations which are of national importance: the Minister, replying to questions by the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, said that the reason for refusing to hire buses for a UNP meeting

in Attanagalla was because of this decision and this decision had been taken to minimise damages to buses and to provide a regular and better service to the travelling public—CDN. The case filed by Mr. R. Premadasa, First MP (UNP) for Colombo Central, against Mr. Anura Bandaranaike, Chief Organiser of the SLFP Youth Leagues, claiming damages in a sum of Rs. 150,000 was postponed to July 8 by a District Court in Colombo yesterday: the case against Mr. Bandaranaike was based on certain speeches alleged to have been made against Mr. Premadasa and the publication of a certain news item against him—LD. Government decided to appoint a committee to inquire and report on all aspects of the Beedi industry: over one lakh of people are employed in beedi industries throughout the island—DM. According to the electoral list revised last month there are 1.2 million new voters than that of 1970 general elections—DM. Fortyfive lawyers including Messrs G. G. Ponnambalam, S. J. V. Chelvanayakam, M. Thiruchelvam, P. Navaratnarajah, R. Crosette Thambiah and Sam Kadirgamar will appear on behalf of the four Tamil Liberation United Front leaders who are scheduled to appear before the Trial-at-bar today. Discussions between Education Ministry officials and representatives of the University students on strike at the Colombo Campus, ended in a deadlock yesterday: meanwhile Dr. Badiuddin Mahmud, Minister of Education, announced that he would recruit more teachers to the profession inspite of the strike at the Campus: students of the Peradeniya, Katubedde, Vidyalankara and Vidyodaya campuses too staged a one-day token strike yesterday in sympathy with the striking

students of the Colombo Campus—VK & CDM. The *Aththa* editorially warned the authorities not to allow the University strike to continue unnecessarily: the paper said the trouble originated on a demand by about 250 students who are following job-oriented courses and if this trouble is allowed to be continued it will have a bad reflection mainly because of the Non-aligned conference and the general election the present Government has to face soon after the summit conference. According to the *Daily News* the prevailing drought has hit the tea crop and has caused a fair drop in production over the past two weeks.

SATURDAY, JUNE 19: Mr. P. B. G. Kalugalle, Acting Minister of Local Government, answering a question by Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, leader of the Opposition, assured the National State Assembly yesterday that arrangements have been made to airlift a special plant to pump water from the Kelaniya river for the use of Colombo residents: Mr. Kalugalle said once this plant arrived residents of Colombo will receive water for 16 hours—CDM. The City Fire Brigade with the assistance of the public put out a major fire in the Mattakkuliya area yesterday by bringing water from the Kelani river in bowsers as the water mains did not have water—CDM. Mr. George Rajapakse, Minister of Health and Fisheries, died in a hospital in Scotland yesterday: Mr. Rajapakse was ailing for sometime from a heart complaint: arrangements are being made to fly the remains to Colombo—CDN. The Trial-at-bar judges fixed the case against four leaders of the Tamil United Liberation Front for July 12: they are being charged for distributing seditious literature under the Emergency (Prevention of Subversion) Regulations—CDN. According to the *Daily Mirror* several senior dons are in sympathy with undergraduates on strike at the Colombo Campus of the University: the reason for their support is that the dons are of the view students following job-oriented courses must be assured of a job on the completion of the course. A masked robber threatened the staff of a Bank of Ceylon Agricultural branch at Illukumbura in the Laggala electorate and got away with cash Rs. 22,500—LD. The Ayurvedic Drugs Corporation will import drugs to the value of Rs. 3 million this year: the quantity of the imports will be double that of last year and the Corporation will sell the drugs at a 30 per cent reduction: the government has waived the FEECs on these imports—DM. According to the *Janadina* Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike, found fault with Mr. Felix Dias Bandaranaike, Minister of Justice and Finance, for releasing to the Lake House papers a proposal that was rejected by the Cabinet: according to the paper the proposal by the Minister to make it lawful for persons other than lawyers to appear in courts on behalf of litigants was rejected by the Cabinet on the 9th of this month but the Minister released this proposal to the Lake House papers much after that—JD. Answering a question raised by Mr. Chandra Gunasekera, MP for Kottawa, on behalf of Dr. N. M. Perera, MP for Yaciyantota, Mr. Neale de Alwis, Acting Minister of Finance, said in the National State Assembly that Mr. Gamini Wickremarajapakse, Chairman of the Bank of Ceylon, and his family went abroad to see his friends: Mr. Alwis further said that Mr. Wickremarajapakse, used free air tickets that is normally made available to the Director of Civil Aviation, for his trip abroad—ATH.

SUNDAY, JUNE 20: According to the *Observer* supplies of water to the city of Colombo from Labugama and the Kalatuwawa reservoirs could last only 24 days. Prime Minister, Mr. Sirima Bandaranaike, has sent a reply to the leader of the Opposition, Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, on the statement he sought from the Prime Minister regarding the holding of next general elections in 1977: Mr. Jayewardene told the *Observer* that he cannot divulge the contents of the letter until he discusses it with Dr. N. M. Perera, leader of the LSSP who has gone abroad. Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike, addressed Government Agents, Political Authorities, DROs and other officials at a meeting held at the Moneragala Kachcheri: she said that the Udawalawe Project, Kosgama Plywood Complex and the Ambewela Milk Factory were three colossal mistakes made by the previous Government: she said these projects were not aimed at developing the country but to facilitate the earning of commissions by a few individuals—CO. Mr. Felix Dias Bandaranaike, Minister of Finance, addressing a meeting of managers of commercial banks operating in the country is reported to have said that unless these banks participate in the development of the country their existence cannot be guaranteed: he is said to have requested these banks to get down foreign exchange and expertise to the country to justify their survival: the Minister is said to have requested the bank managers that they should get down a minimum of 100 million US dollars without delay—TOCSI. According to the *Times* the Concorde, world's first supersonic commercial plane, is expected to touch down at the Bandaranaike International Airport twice a week from next June. Mr. Felix Dias Bandaranaike, Minister of Finance and Justice, recommended to the President to appoint Mr. L. B. de Silva, former judge of the Supreme Court to probe the Gem Corporation—TOCSI. The remains of Mr. George Rajapakse, Minister of Health and Fisheries, who died in Scotland will arrive this morning: the Prime Minister and several Cabinet Ministers will be at the airport to receive the body: the funeral is arranged for the 24th of this month at Weeraketiya—ATH. Hundreds of men, women and children including the First MP for Akurana, Mr. A. C. S. Hameed, were subject to assaults when they went to participate at a Dudley Senanayake birth anniversary meeting at Attanagalle yesterday: Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, leader of the Opposition, who presided said that "Attanagalle is not a place which privately belonged to the Prime Minister or her ancestors and as such the public have a right to hold a meeting at Attanagalla": he condemned the Police who took a light view of the breach of peace: men and women who travelled in vehicles were stopped by a gang of thugs and dragged out—VK. The profits of the National Lotteries Board increased by 57.68 per cent during the first five months of this year and the Board has given away 18 one-lakh first prizes during this period—SM.

MONDAY, JUNE 21: According to the *Aththa* nearly 10 people were injured in the incidents at Veyangoda on Saturday: the paper said the trouble erupted after a bomb explosion in the Veyangoda town in the morning and later a fighting broke out between a party of men arriving for the Dudley rally and some local residents: Police are guarding the place after these incidents. According to the *Daily Mirror* the Communist Party of Sri Lanka will soon launch a house-to-house

campaign to enlist the support of the masses to compel progressive forces to unite: this campaign will be launched to urge all progressive forces to unite together to oppose the United National Party to usher in socialism in Sri Lanka. Production of the Milk Board dropped by half as the Board was badly hit by the water-cut: the Board is unable to find the water for washing the bottles, steaming etc.—CDM. The entire Cabinet including the Prime Minister was at the Katunayake airport yesterday to receive the body of late Mr. George Rajapakse: the coffin was draped in a lion flag and was brought in a motorcade to the late Minister's Colombo residence: it will be taken to Weeraketiya in a motorcade today for funeral on Thursday—CDM. The Nurse's Union unanimously decided to launch a one-day token strike in the second week of July in support of their demands—CDM. The work-to-rule campaign launched by Telecommunication Engineers' and Inspectors' Union entered its sixth day today and this campaign has badly affected the country's telecommunication services—CDM. Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike, addressing a public meeting at Monaragala on Saturday said soon after the Non-aligned Conference in August the Government will launch another crash program to provide more employment opportunities and to bring down the cost of living: she said the UNP leaders are going round the country telling the masses about unemployment, and high cost of living: she further said even developed countries like USA, West Germany and UK are faced with these problems—CDN. Sir Arthur Ranasinghe, a former civil servant who once held the post of Governor Central Bank died on Saturday—CDN. The Competent Authority for Price Controls announced that all traders should obtain their licences before the end of this month and under no circumstances another date would be given—DM. The first Tax Court set up solely for the purpose of dealing all matters connected with tax affairs will be declared open by Mr. Felix Dias Bandaranaike, Minister of Finance and Justice at Bambalapatiya today—DM. According to the *Janadina* officials manning the Labugama and Kalatuwewa reservoirs, the reservoirs supplying water to the city of Colombo, have not taken precautions to prevent the level of dropping down in the reservoirs: jungles around the reservoirs have been cleared and this made rains in the area scarce: the paper further said the advice and warning of employees in the reservoirs were not considered by these officials and this has resulted in the present water-crisis. The Government with the permission of the Indian Government has decided to extend the fishing limits of the island to 200 miles: the decision of the government will be announced soon—LD. Government is seriously considering a proposal by an official committee on reduction of the cost of living to slash the price of sugar and flour by 20 per cent—VK.

TUESDAY, JUNE 22: Immediate financial provisions have been made to appoint 20,000 educated youth to the teaching profession: in addition to this 5,000 will be appointed to other grades in the Department of Education: meanwhile, blueprints are being prepared to provide jobs for 300,000 unemployed people under a crash program announced by the Prime Minister at a meeting in Monaragala over the weekend: these jobs will be made available in the public sector—CDN. *Aththa* editorially commenting on the crash program announced by the Government posed the question

as to what happened to the first crash program announced by the Government earlier: the paper said the victory of the Government in the next general election will depend on how the day-to-day problems of the masses are tackled: *Aththa* stressed that the time is ripe for the Government to gather all progressive forces in the country and implement programs affecting the daily needs of the masses without depending on bureaucrats to do the job. Dr. Alhaj Badiuddin Mahmud, Minister of Education, has instructed the closure of all schools in the Tangalle circuit on Thursday as a mark of respect to the late Mr. George Rajapakse, Minister of Fisheries and Health: government institutions have been asked to fly the national flag at half mast on the 24th of this month the day of the funeral: the remains of late Mr. Rajapakse will lie in state at Weeraketiya his place of birth till Thursday.—ATH. An Education Ministry spokesman told the *Daily News* that following an assurance by the Ministry that about 250 students of the Colombo Campus of the University following job-oriented courses would be provided with jobs on the completion of their courses the students of the Colombo Campus are expected to call off their boycott of lectures today—CDN. The Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation yesterday established a permanent two-way radio link with the Non-aligned News Agency Pool: this connexion with the assistance of equipment and technology donated by Yugoslavia will enable the SLBC in the exchange and dissemination of news among Non-aligned countries—CDN. According to the *Virakesari* the SLFP and the CP are actively engaged in the preparation of the election manifesto of the coalition for the next general election: at the end of the month the two parties are expected to hold a summit conference—VK. According to a monthly magazine *Petroleum News-South East Asia* the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation has offered 12 additional blocks for offshore oil exploration for international bidders—DM. Work has commenced in the Colombo General Hospital premises to dig three tube wells to ease the water shortage—DM. Jaffna Police so far arrested 15 suspects in connexion with the Puloly and Puttur bank robberies in the Northern part: eight revolvers, a car and cash Rs. 52,000 were also taken into custody by the Police—CDM. The *Janadina* in an editorial comment said the present Government was able to provide jobs for several thousands of unemployed youth by utilising money earned and saved by the former Minister of Finance Dr. N. M. Perera's methods of taxation and carefully planned expenditure.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23: In certain areas of the island less than half an inch of rain was recorded yesterday—CDN. Loss is estimated at over a million rupees owing to a fire that broke out at a Rubber Stores of the Commodity Purchase Department at Matakuliya last week and the Commissioner of Commodity Purchase blamed the Fire Brigade for failing to take appropriate action to put out the fire: however, the Fire Chief said the water crisis was the main factor or the delay in putting out the fire—CDN. Government appointed a committee to probe the working of the Railway during the past 10 years: the committee headed by Mr. K. C. F. Wijewickrema, Secretary Ministry of Transport, will probe the activities of the Railway with particular reference to its administration, allegations of neglect irregularities etc.—CDN & CDM. The offshore drilling operations of the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation began yesterday at a point North of

Mannar and South of Delft Island, according to a press release by the Chairman of the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation—CDM. Telegrams are being sent by post to several outstation post offices owing to the work-to-rule campaign now being launched by telecommunications engineers, district inspectors and inspectors of the telecommunication department: the campaign enters its eighth day today—CDM. *Aththa* commenting editorially on the decision by the government to call back to service several engineers said the government should take action to stop engineers already in service leaving to get better jobs abroad: the paper further said, if qualified people are looked after well government will not face the problem of brain drain. According to the *Virakesari* a special gazette notification will be issued today to the effect that all traders should exhibit their stocks of goods for the public: according to the Competent Authority for Price Controls this will enable the public to know whether a particular item is available with the trader and if so what quantity: it is believed that this method will prevent hoarding of consumer items. On the recommendation of the National Pricing Commission prices of synthetic textiles have been increased by 4 per cent—but this increase will not affect the prices of plain, printed shirting and suiting materials made of synthetics—VK. Students of the Jaffna Campus of the University will come out on a day's token strike today in sympathy of the students of the Colombo Campus: meanwhile the strike by the students of the Colombo Campus is expected to be called off today—VK & CDM. According to the *Janadina* the CTB has banned the holding of trade union meetings within the premises of the CTB: the paper said this has caused considerable tension among the employees of the Board. According to the *Lankadipa* Mr. Hector Kobbekaduwa, Minister of Agriculture and Lands, is considering a proposal to hand over the distribution of fertiliser back to private traders: hitherto, co-operatives and cultivation committees were handling the distribution on a credit basis and this has resulted in several farmers failing to pay the cost of fertilisers issued to them—LD. A bill will be soon introduced in the National State Assembly to give legal status to District Development Councils—DM. Mr. Richard Von Glatz has assumed duties as the new Director of United States Information Service in succession to Mr. David Briggs—CDM.

THURSDAY JUNE 24: Six hundred more new projects have been approved under the District Development Councils and the Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs announced yesterday over 20,000 people will be provided with employment in these projects: already over 38,000 are employed in 1200 projects under the DDCs; Education Ministry officials will hold interviews from July 1 to 8 at the Sri Lanka Technical College, Maradana, to pick 7,500 graduates for teaching posts: the interviews will be held without calling for applications: unemployed graduates are requested to call over for the interview with all relevant documents—CDN. Mr. T. B. Illangaratne, Minister of Trade, Home Affairs and Public Administration, has asked the National Prices Commission whether it will be possible to bring 15 more items under price control: some of the items are Bombay onions, chillies, milk, butter etc—CDN. Three Indian banks operating in Sri Lanka have asked permission from the Reserve Bank of India to invest in a large number of labour

intensive agricultural and industrial projects—CDN. Students of the Colombo Campus of the University called off their boycott of lectures yesterday—CDN. Mr. P. B. G. Kalugalle, Acting Minister of Local Government, has made necessary arrangements to supply water for three hours in the evening from next week in addition to the supplies in the morning—CDM. At a press conference held yesterday by Mr. Lakshman Jayakody, Deputy Minister of Defence and Foreign Affairs, it was announced that fifty journalists based in New Delhi have been invited as government guests during the Non-aligned conference period—CDM. Railway has refused to handle mail and operate travelling post offices from July 1 if the Department of Post and Telecommunications failed to settle a sum of Rs. 12.7 million which it owes to the Railways for the work done—LD. British Airways has offered a VC-10 jet aircraft to Air Ceylon to strengthen latter's international air service either on a lease or on lease purchase terms—CDM. Prime Minister, President and several Cabinet Ministers and several MPs of all political parties are expected to participate in the funeral of Mr. George Rajapakse, Minister of Fisheries and Health, at Weerakeriya today—DM. According to the *Virakesari* Mrs. Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of India, Marshal Tito, President of Yugoslavia, Anwar Sadat, President of Egypt, Fidel Castro, Prime Minister of Cuba, Idi Amin, President of Uganda and Yassar Arafat of PLO have already conveyed to the Government that they will lead the delegation of their countries at the forthcoming non-aligned conference in August: there will be 2,000 policemen on duty for the conference work and each head of state will travel in a bullet-proof car: meanwhile, Police intend arresting all notorious criminals in the island and keep them under custody during the conference period as a safety measure—VK.

FRIDAY, JUNE 25: An unprecedented crowd of over two lakhs flocked to the Rajapakse Stadium at Weerakeriya yesterday for the funeral of Mr. George Rajapakse, Minister of Health and Fisheries: Prime Minister Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike, in her funeral oration, said that a politician of Mr. Rajapakse's calibre will be hard to replace and his loss will be felt by the nation—CDN. According to the *Daily Mirror* leading members of the LSSP, the MEP and the Janatha Vimukthi Balavegaya are working out a no-contest pact for the next general elections: these parties will contest the next general elections under a Socialist Front instead of a United Socialist Front as suggested by the LSSP earlier. The annual convention of the Federal Party will be held on July 9 and 10 in Trincomalee—CDM. Mr. Chitta Biswas, Secretary of the World Peace Council, told the *Daily Mirror* that the proposed Non-aligned conference in Colombo next August will be the first such conference in Asia and will be of tremendous significance and importance to the entire Asia. Mr. Lakshman Jayakody, Deputy Minister of Defence and External Affairs, told a press conference that though Chile was not acceptable to the Non-aligned community yet it remains as a member of the group and as such Sri Lanka will be obliged to extend equal hospitality to Chile as a member—CDN. On the recommendation made by Mr. Ratnasiri Wickremanayake, Minister of Plantation Industries, a new subsidy scheme for the replanting of 106,000 acres of coconut land over a period of seven years was announced by the Coconut Cultivation Board: the

amount allocated for the current year is Rs. 2.4 million—CDN. According to the *Virakesari* the Attorney General's Department has taken action to bring to trial on July several Tamil youths detained under Emergency Regulations for the last two years: nearly 50 youths are detained and they were arrested in the Northern and Eastern provinces. According to the *Janadina* political observers are of view as to how the Government can afford to provide employment for thousands of people at the present juncture when the Government is faced with a serious financial crisis. The Colombo Municipality passed a resolution to request the Minister of Local Government to take necessary action to pay pensions for those members of the Local Government bodies who have put in more than 25 years of service—LD. The *Janawasama* has taken action to purchase large quantities of tar to be used on estate roads from a private company; this same tar is produced by the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation from whom the private companies buy this—ATH. The *Aththa* in an editorial commenting on the Finance Minister's call to private banks to bring more foreign exchange to the country if they were to exist here said that the Minister should make it clear for the country under what terms and conditions he has invited these banks to bring foreign exchange: the editorial further said if the Minister fail to announce the terms and conditions to the public this would lead to suspicion as inviting foreign capital has been already criticised by certain sectors in the SLFP and the Sri Lanka Communist Party—ATH.

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INTERNATIONAL DIARY

June 19 - June 24

SATURDAY, JUNE 19: Donald Rumsfeld, US Secretary of Defence, arrived in Kinshasa yesterday to discuss with Zaire's President Mobutu Sese Seko, the possible sale of US arms to Zaire: Zaire wanted the US to sell its tanks and artillery to strengthen its ground force in the face of massive Angolan armour. In two days of anti-Government riots in Johannesburg in South Africa over 50 people were killed: according to officials except two all others killed were black nationals: most of them were shot by the Police and others were hacked to death. Indian and Pakistani officials yesterday signed an agreement in New Delhi detailing resumption of over flights and air links between the two countries. King Hussein of Jordan arrived in Moscow to hold talks for the buying of air defence missiles from the USSR. President Al Assad of Syria made his first official visit to France for talks with French President Valery Giscard D'Estaing: the visiting President pledged to continue his country's presence in Lebanon: in Lebanon after the murder of the American Ambassador, British Embassy is making arrangements for the evacuation of all westerners from Beirut. In Luanda the prosecution in the trial against 13 white mercenaries demanded death by firing squad for the accused and said this should be a political lesson for Western powers. Indonesian representatives at an ILO conference in Geneva said that their country would soon release 3,800 prisoners detained in the Buru

island: the delegates said that in 1978 the island will be free of prisoners. Lord Casey, veteran Australian politician and statesman, died in Melbourne aged 85.

SUNDAY, JUNE 20: Tanzania told the United Nations Security Council that South Africa faced an uprising by 18 million black nationals that will mark the beginning of the end of apartheid: the Soviet delegate, Mr. Jacob Malik, accused the South Africans of "bloody monstrous crimes" including murders of children in cold blood. Syrian President Al Assad said that the President of France, Valery Giscard D'Estaing, suggested a roundtable conference of the warring factions in Lebanon: he also said the PLO will not be allowed to participate in the roundtable conference. Defence lawyers pleading for the white mercenaries on trial in Angola said the accused are victims of exploitation of capitalism. President Ford cancelled a political campaign trip to Iowa and conferred with State Secretary Dr. Henry Kissinger and other security staff on the quick evacuation of all Americans living in Lebanon. Mrs. Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of India, in a telegram to the Soviet Communist Party Chief, Leonid Brezhnev and Premier Alexi Kosygin said that the recently concluded Indo-Soviet talks had once again reaffirmed the deep mutual understanding, economic co-operation and friendship between the two countries: she further said India always valued the friendship between the two countries and welcomed the peaceful policy of the USSR. General elections in Italy will be held today. US Congressman, Wayne Hays, involved in a sex scandal, has written to the Speaker that he would resign his post as Chairman of the House of Representatives Administration Committee: the Speaker has received information from Mr. Hays who is recovering in the hospital after a overdose of sleeping tablets. NATO defence Ministers at a meeting in Brussels were warned that USSR's military build-up showed a "disturbing trend" towards an ability to launch an offensive with further advance preparations.

MONDAY, JUNE 21: Indian news agency Samachar reported that India is building two new plants to recover plutonium from nuclear reactor wastes. American representatives at the United Nations Security Council urged South Africa to abandon its apartheid policy: US representative Albert Sherer said that the system of apartheid deprived most of the population of basic human rights: the UN Security Council condemned the South African Government for the massive violence during the last few days: nearly 100 people died in new violence in South Africa within the last three days and black leaders appealed for calm. President Ford of USA yesterday attended a ceremony in Washington marking the arrival of the bodies of two American diplomats killed in Lebanon: Arab League Secretary-General, Mahmoud Riad, said he was making final arrangements to send a Arab peace force to Lebanon: Egyptian President Anwar Sadat agreed for the sending of French forces to Lebanon if Lebanon's President-elect Elias Sarkis requests it. In the race for the Republican nomination President Ford won 10 more delegates and challenger Ronald Reagan took eight from Iowa Republicans in yesterday's elections. Representatives of India and Bangladesh held discussions in Dacca on India's damming of the ganges River, an issue which resulted in strained relations between the two coun-

tries. China accused the USSR for utilising Western loans to boost military expansion and preparations for war. America's unmanned Viking-1 spacecraft went into orbit around Mars on its way to a July 4 touchdown in search of life in the planet, according to a Laboratory project manager in California. It was announced in Belgrade that Yugoslavian President Marshal Tito will personally head his country's delegation to the Non-aligned summit conference in Colombo in August.

TUESDAY, JUNE 22: The Christian Democratic Party and the Italian Communist Party were leading neck-to-neck in the Italian general elections with results of several more seats to be announced: the Communists were in the lead with 40.2 per cent while the Democrats were second with 32.14 per cent. US Secretary of State, Dr. Henry Kissinger, after discussions with French President Valery Giscard D'Estaing said the US welcomed the French proposal for a round-table conference to solve the crisis in Lebanon. Last week alone a total of 128 people died and 1,112 were injured in race riots in South Africa according to the Police. An official spokesman announced that Kuwait decided to present one million dollars as a gift to the newly independent Comoro Islands. Australian Prime Minister, Mr. Malcom Fraser, arrived in China on Sunday: the Soviet Ambassador and representatives of seven other communist nations failed to arrive at the airport to greet the visiting Premier and later they boycotted a state banquet at the Chinese Great Hall of the People. Indian Government announced yesterday that at least 48 Non-Aligned countries will attend a ministerial meeting in New Delhi from July 8 to 13 to discuss the pooling of their news agency services as an alternative to existing international news agencies. The *Times of London* reported that Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia was murdered on the 27th of August 1st year by the military rulers of that country: the military government announced that the Emperor died of a illness affecting his prostate gland. Three members of the Opposition Labour Party of Jamaica and one member of the ruling People's National Party have been taken into custody by security forces, the first people to be detained since the declaration of the state of emergency: violence in the country so far has claimed 70 lives this year. Students in Zambia broke the windows of the French Embassy in Lusaka and protested against the proposed sale of French nuclear arms to South Africa.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23: The Italian general elections failed to produce a workable government majority: the ruling Christian Democratic Party polled 38.9 per cent and the Communist Party was trailing between 4 to 5 per cent behind the ruling party: the final results meant the ruling party cannot form a government without the Communists and vice-versa. Britain turned down a renewed call by the USSR for an international conference on Cyprus under the UN auspices: French President Valery Giscard D'Estaing, arrived in London yesterday for a four-day state visit—the first to Britain by a French President since 1960. Australian port workers refused to handle any cargo from South Africa as a protest to the treatment by South African government towards black nationals and the shooting of black nationals in the Soweto riots last week. In Lebanon, Syrian and Palestinian Commandos agreed for a ceasefire: Syria troops around Beirut airport began packing off: Arab League Secretary General,

Mohamoud Riad, announced that Egyptian General Mohammed Hassan Ghoneim has been appointed Commander in Chief of the Arab peace keeping force in Lebanon. It was officially announced in Havana that Cuba and Thailand will soon establish diplomatic ties at ambassadorial level. British Prime Minister assured a nine-member delegation of the Asian immigrants that the Government and Police were determined to protect the minority communities from intermidation and violence: Mr. James Callaghan also requested the delegation to carry the message to the minority communities that he intended to be Prime Minister of all the people. Pakistan government announced that it will probe allegations that the US Boeing Aircraft Company paid commissions to influential Pakistanis for the sale of eleven Boeing planes to the Pakistan International Airlines. India and Pakistan have appointed ambassadors to each other's country in line with their earlier agreement.

THURSDAY, JUNE 24: Visiting French President Valery Giscard D'Estaing addressed both houses of Parliament in London yesterday: in his speech he called for more trusting Anglo-French relations. The Central Committee of the Italian Communist Party met yesterday to decide the action to be taken following the results of the country's general election: Communist Party's Secretary, Enrico Berlinguer, did not say whether he would insist on the communists being given places in the government or whether they would agree to give parliamentary support to a Christian Democrat led coalition: ruling Christian Democratic Party still remained the country's largest single party having won more number of seats in the general election. In Moscow the Tass News Agency hailed the gains of the Communist Party: President Ford, the West German Government and US Secretary of State, Dr. Henry Kissinger, welcomed the fact that majority of voters support neither the communists nor the fascist parties: they all were of the view that the continuation of a democratic government in Italy has been preserved. Malaysian Government yesterday detained two top journalists of Malaysia on charges of direct involvement in communist efforts to take over Malaysia. US Secretary of State, Dr. Henry Kissinger, said that his intended meeting with South African Prime Minister, John Vorster, in no way reflected American endorsement of the South African government's actions against black demonstrators: meanwhile according to a news report from Johannesburg little troubles were noted in two townships near Pretoria. An Indonesian Government delegation left for East Timor to assess the wish of the people of the former Portuguese colony on its merger with Indonesia. Portuguese Premier, De Azevedo, was taken to the hospital with a serious heart ailment: a hospital medical bulletin said his heart once stopped beating and he was unconscious when brought to the hospital.



COLOMBO SUMMIT

Lima Declaration—4

— Continued —

This is the third instalment of the Declaration of the Foreign Ministers' Conference of Non-aligned countries held at Lima in Peru, August 25-30, 1975

II. ELEMENTS OF AN ECONOMIC STRATEGY OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES

138. Understanding that the struggle to establish The New International Economic Order is arduous, complex and long, a struggle for a second liberation, because of the fierce opposition of the imperialists and their obstinate defense of their privileged position which they do not abandon willingly; conscious therefore, that international aid in its present conception contributes in many cases to reinforcing the structure of international domination, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs reaffirmed the urgent need for concerted efforts by the Non-Aligned Countries to mobilise their forces to consolidate their cohesion and their unity, to co-operate with and assist one another in the economic and social fields, to strengthen their common front in the struggle against imperialism in order to assure the total independence of their peoples.

139. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs reaffirm the determination of the Non-Aligned Countries, individually and collectively, to eliminate colonialism, apartheid, racial discrimination, neo-colonialism, foreign occupation, Zionism and all forms of foreign aggression and domination and the economic and social consequences thereof, as a prerequisite for development. States which practice such policies are fully responsible to the countries, territories and people affected for the restitution and full compensation for the exploitation and depletion of, and damage to, the natural and all other resources of these countries, territories and peoples. It is, in addition, the duty of all States to extend assistance to these countries, territories and peoples.

140. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs recognized that the qualitative and quantitative transforma-

tion of the present system of international economic relations envisaged by the Non-Aligned and other developing countries requires the effective application of the principles of The New International Economic Order, especially that of permanent sovereignty over natural resources and the adoption of a joint strategy for reciprocal assistance, the basic foundations of which are, on the one hand, a joint action to strengthen and coordinate the actions of the developing countries with respect to raw materials so as to obtain their revalorisation and to halt the disequilibrium that originates from unfavourable terms of trade as well as decisive action to establish a common approach to the treatment of foreign private investment in interested countries, and on the other, the intensification of economic, financial, monetary commercial, scientific, technological and cultural co-operation among the Non-Aligned themselves and the other developing countries, as was decided at the Georgetown Conference and Fourth Summit Conference of Algiers.

141. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs noted with satisfaction the joint action of the developing countries represented to the Preparatory Committee of the Conference on Raw Materials and Development in Paris. They recognised the impact and the importance of their unified position which reflects the interests and objectives of all developing countries without distinction between exporters and importers of oil. They reaffirmed the need to pursue and reinforce this common action in future meetings of this Conference which should be widened to include other countries with a view to ensuring adequate representation of developing countries. The Ministers invite the Group of 77 in New York to meet without further delay in order to elaborate a common platform and to designate from amongst them the countries which are to represent them at the Paris Conference. Furthermore, the Ministers reaffirmed the need for the Conference to examine in a global context, and with equal attention, the overall problems of energy, raw materials and development.

142. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs noted the importance of

timely financial assistance provided by the oil-exporting developing countries to other developing countries in particular to those most seriously affected by the international economic crisis, as defined in General Assembly Resolution 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI), both on a bilateral basis and through special contributions to multilateral institutions. They also stressed the fact that the steps taken in that direction indicate clearly the course and potentiality of broader and closer economic co-operation among developing countries.

143. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs stated that the system of international economic co-operation formulated within a structure of international imperialist domination must be restructured in the light of the New International Economic Order.

144. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs stress that the new structure of international economic co-operation to be implemented through various channels should be aimed at strengthening the sovereignty, social and cultural identity and national values of developing countries reaffirming the sovereign right of States to recover their natural resources, including the right to nationalisation; fostering the modification of their social and economic structures; supporting joint action by developing countries in defense of the prices of their raw materials; promoting regional and sub-regional integrational processes; modifying the structure of international trade; contributing to the creation of common standards which shall govern the operations and activities of transnational enterprises; facilitating the acquisition of technology under favourable conditions and promoting domestic technology in the developing countries and providing additional assistance to the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries.

145. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs call on the international community to assist the land-locked developing countries in facilitating the exercise of their right of free access to and from the sea, as will be implemented in relevant agreements, and strongly request the Seventh Special Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations to decide on

the creating of a special fund in favour of the land-locked developing countries in order to compensate for the damages done them by increased transportation and transit costs.

146. The Conference agrees that the Non-Aligned Countries together with other developing countries should aim at restructuring the United Nations economic co-operation system in the manner described in the preceding paragraphs, so as to foster economic independence in developing countries and to establish firm, real and effective bases for authentic interdependent co-operation with developed countries.

147. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs reiterate that co-operation between developing and developed countries and among developing countries, for the solution of world economic problems, must be encouraged and that new forms of co-operation be found and strengthened so that the true meaning of interdependence reflect unequivocally the common commitment to build the New International Economic Order.

148. This joint strategy of mutual assistance in the economic and social fields among Non-Aligned Countries today face maneuvers by the imperialist forces designed to divide these countries and to control or distort the demands of developing countries to restructure the world economy. In face of this situation, the Ministers reaffirm the need to make use of solidarity and assistance mechanisms among Non-Aligned Countries, provided for in Resolution No. 3 on Economic Security and Collective Action of the Summit Conference of Algiers, as well as the measures provided for in the strategy set forth in the Lima Programme, which are meant to ensure the full exercise of their sovereignty and the processes of autonomous development, systematically violated by imperialism through pressure or coercion.

149. The economies of most of the developing countries are still closely integrated towards "vertical" exchange of primary products with manufactured and capital goods from the developed countries. Such countries depend to a large extent on the developed countries for resources for their development, not only machinery and equipment but also skills and

technology. Their economies are exposed to changes in the developed countries which limit the ability of governments of developing countries to take viable decisions in the course of their economic and social progress. The effort to overcome this dependence calls for new policies based on principles of collective self-reliance, for restructuring of economies and for devising new strategies and new concepts of development.

150. Co-operation among developing countries should be directed towards strengthening economic, trade, financial and other relations among them, to achieve a more equitable international trade and monetary system; to accelerate their industrialisation; to make them self-sufficient in food supplies and technology and to increase their countervailing power in relation to developed countries for joint action to improve their terms of trade.

(To be Continued)

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COLOMBO SUMMIT

The "Pool" In New Delhi

—On the eve of the meeting of Ministers for Information and Directors of the News Agencies of the Non-aligned countries—

Belgrade.

The first meeting of the Ministers of information and the Directors of the news agencies of the non-aligned countries is to be held from 8th to 13th July in the capital of India, New Delhi. The aim of this meeting is an exchange of opinion on general co-operation among the non-aligned in the sphere of information and the constitution of the "Pool" of the news agencies of the non-aligned countries on the widest possible multilateral basis, which represents the concrete reason for this meeting. In Belgrade it is expected that this gathering in New Delhi will offer a new stimulus to co-operation among the non-aligned in this sphere. The proposals from the meeting in the capital of India will be sent for examination to the Fifth

meeting of the heads of state or government of the non-aligned countries, which will be held from 16th to 19th August in Colombo, the capital of Sri Lanka.

The meeting of the Ministers and Directors, which will probably also be attended by governmental experts on information will commence only ten days before the "Pool" of the news agencies of the non-aligned countries celebrates 18 months of existence. This "Pool" was initiated by the Yugoslav news agency Tanjug, on the basis of previously reached bilateral agreements with another 11 news agencies of the non-aligned countries. This completely new form of co-operation among news agencies was announced to the world on 18th January 1975 and two days later began the flow of news and information among the non-aligned countries of Asia, the Arab world, Europe, Africa and Latin America in three languages—English, French and Spanish.

When the circulation of agency news among the non-aligned countries began through Tanjug, a total of 12 news agencies participated, or had agreed to participate in this "Pool". Now, on the eve of the meeting of the "Pool" in New Delhi, this system of information exchange among the non-aligned countries counts on nearly 40 news agencies which actively participate or which will commence participation as soon as they have reached the necessary level of preparation. Since the commencement of the "Pool", about ten aligned countries in Latin America, Africa, Asia and the Arab world have founded or are founding their national news agencies for the first time.

Tanjug and another 11 news agencies agreed to co-operate and enter the news market on the basis of one of the recommendations of the heads of state or government of the non-aligned countries, which was held in September 1973 in Algiers. The aim of this undertaking is to at least partially fill the gap in the world information market with the mutual exchange of information; a gap, where the non-aligned and other developing countries are concerned, which existed thanks to the editorial policy of the major traditional agency information systems. It was

concluded even then that there had been no news whatsoever from the major agencies on some of these countries.

Since the acceptance of the Tanjug initiative, the justification of which has been confirmed by the speedy inclusion of other agencies and the formation of new agencies which immediately became members of this "Pool", the information service on non-aligned countries and their joint activities and relations functions in the following way: (1) each of the participating agencies sends to Tanjug at its own expense one, two or three items of news daily or from time to time, for these items to be used in the "Pool". This was the principle agreed upon at the commencement; (2) making use of its available personnel and technology, Tanjug, on reception of this news, sends them in several directions. Firstly, to the Yugoslav press, radio and television; secondly to the participating agencies of the "Pool", the countries of Asia, the Arab world, Africa and Latin America, and thirdly to all other partners throughout the world. Tanjug also undertakes the translation.

According to the already established agreement, Tanjug will put a detailed report to the meeting in New Delhi on past experience, results and possible problems of this "Pool". The meeting in New Delhi will also receive the project of the Statutory platform of this "Pool" as the joint activities of all or the majority of the non-aligned countries.

"This child will die before it walks, in six months at the most" claimed a professional journalist in one of the major agencies in the West, two months after the "Pool" appeared. There was also some scepticism among the spheres of the non-aligned, while the majority of the media in the East continue to greet the existence of the "child who has started to walk" with silence. Some of the diplomats accredited in the non-aligned countries were first of all amazed at the "mystery" of complete public co-operation in the sphere of the exchange of information among the non-aligned countries, which is in accordance with their sovereignty.

The "Pool" has, however, got underway. It received support on a wider professional level at the

First Conference of news agencies and ministers of information of 46 African and Arab countries at the end of February last year in Tunis. This also coincided with the statement on the existence of this "Pool" at the meeting of the Co-ordination Bureau of the non-aligned in March of last year in Havana. This was followed by the Ministerial Conference of the non-aligned in August last year, in Lima, the capital of Peru. Detailed information was given to this Conference on the first seven months of work in the "Pool".

Now a meeting will be held in New Delhi. The Ministers of foreign affairs of the non-aligned countries expressed their satisfaction in Lima, in a special resolution, at the results which the "Pool" has attained and accepted the offer of the Government of India to be the host to a special meeting on the "Pool", for its statutory organisation and agreement on all other relevant questions.

The recent Ministerial meeting of the Co-operation Bureau of the Non-aligned countries in Algiers called on all the non-aligned countries in Algiers to participate at the meeting in New Delhi. As this meeting, on the initiative of the Indian government, is being held at a ministerial level, it is logical to expect that on this occasion there will be a discussion of co-operation among the non-aligned countries in the domain of other means of information too.

The prospects for the "Pool" can be seen at the present in New Delhi and then Colombo. Past results and the reception received lead to expect that the "Pool" has long-term prospects just as the very policy of non-alignment is also long-term in nature.

—Jovan Miric

TRIBUNE

In this issue many of our regular features on local matters have been held over. And this is likely to happen for a few more weeks. More has been, and will be, devoted to articles about the Non-aligned Movement. Many interesting articles on the forthcoming Summit, specially prepared by correspondents from the **Tribune** panel of free-lance writers, employed in specialised organisations and agencies, will appear in our pages in the coming weeks.

COLOMBO SUMMIT

Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike

Colombo.

Sri Lanka Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, will this August crown with success a sixteen-year long political career when she presides over the Fifth Non-aligned Summit Conference in Colombo.

In 1960 at the age of forty-four Mrs. Bandaranaike made history when she became the World's first woman Prime Minister.

Born into an aristocratic family from the highlands of Sri Lanka, she married the up and coming politician Solomon Bandaranaike, Minister of State in pre-Independent Sri Lanka. When Bandaranaike became Prime Minister in 1956, Madam Sirimavo did not seek the limelight, she remained a demure hostess who kept aloof of politics and the affairs of state.

Then tragedy stepped in to alter her destiny. In September 1959 her husband was assassinated by Buddhist monks from the ranks of his own party. His Cabinet Ministers were implicated in the shocking crime and his Government tottered and fell. The Party in disarray, riven by factions, suspicions and ambition needed a new leader, one who could provide credible leadership while uniting the party.

It was at this juncture in March 1960 that the nation turned to the reluctant widow Sirimavo, offering her the highest office in the land, one which she had neither been groomed for nor sought to covet, but one which the nation felt instinctively she could fulfil.

Her two administrations, the first which ended in sixty-five and the second which began in seventy, have vindicated the nation's faith in her ability to lead. She has displayed political acumen and tact that has baffled her enemies and defeated her opponents.

Her national stature has been built on a programme of radical reform which began with the nationalisation of US petroleum and insurance interests as far back as 1963. She has also nationalised the British owned tea and rubber

plantations. Her credibility as a nationalist has been augmented by her constitutional reforms which created a republic, her educational reforms which created a national school system and her language reform which ousted English.

In the international arena she became prominent as early as 1962 when she mediated in the Sino-India border dispute, using her personal influence on Prime Ministers Chou-En-lai and Jawaharlal Nehru to contain the conflict.

Her prominence in the non-aligned movement has been unmatched. She has cut a leading figure at every Summit Conference from Belgrade to Algiers.

Her proposal that the Indian Ocean be declared a zone of peace from which military activity will be prohibited has won international acclaim partly because it is evident that she has no axe to grind on behalf of any major power.

Her relations with the US, the USSR, China and India have been exemplary, even during periods of tension and conflict.

Her commitment to non-alignment and peace has been rewarded by the Third World which has called upon her to host the Fifth Non-Aligned Conference at this crucial juncture in the history of the World: at a time when the developing countries are making a valiant stand to extract concessions from the developed countries.

Jayantha Somasundaram

THE COLOMBO SUMMIT

On Membership of The Non-aligned Movement

Colombo,

THERE HAS BEEN MUCH TALK recently about the criteria which should be used to evaluate the applications of countries that have sought membership in the Non-aligned Movement or to attend the Colombo Summit as Observers or Guests. The application made by Rumania, for instance, to be granted the status of a permanent Observer had raised many interesting questions and also a great deal of heat in some quarters.

It would, therefore, be useful to review this question of membership in the context of the history of the Non-aligned Movement. What are the basic principles that have been enunciated and implemented by the Non-aligned Movement, which has as its main objective the establishment of an international order in political and economic relations? The Movement has been from the beginning anti-imperialist and has sought to emancipate all countries, big and small, from the clutches of colonialism, neo-colonialism and exploitation.

The basic principles for participation in the non-aligned movement were worked out at the preparatory meeting in Cairo in June, 1961 and they were adopted at the First Summit Conference of the Heads of States and Governments of non-aligned countries in Belgrade in September 1961. The fundamental principles laid down were: that each participating country should pursue an independent policy based on the principles of peaceful co-existence and non-alignment, or that it should at least sympathise with such a policy; that it should support the movement for national liberation; that it should not be associated with any multilateral military alliance or join any bilateral military alliance with any Great Power; and that it should not permit the creation of military bases of any foreign power on its territory.

It will be seen that, by far and large, the non-aligned movement has adhered to these principles especially as regards non-alignment with military blocs and the refusal to grant the right to foreign powers to build military bases on their territories. There have been, continuing attempts, however, by interested powers to undermine these fundamentals and foundations of the non-aligned movement not only to disrupt the unity of the movement but also to provide the thin end of a wedge for enemies of non-alignment to infiltrate into the movement in order to destroy it from within.

At the consultative meeting in Belgrade in July, 1969, which had prepared the agenda for the Third Summit Conference of the Non-aligned countries to be held in Lusaka in 1970, it was decisively decided to reject the attempts

by the (former) government of Ghana, together with the Ivory Coast, Liberia and Senegal to expand the membership of non-aligned by the incorporation in its Rules that the Movement should admit countries which had "multi-lateral and regional alliances with the Great Powers and have foreign military bases on their territories." It was really an attempt to secure the admission of countries which were either members of military blocs or were the military satellites of the Western Powers which were being ousted from their colonial (and neo-colonial) possessions in one continent after another.

THE COORDINATING BUREAU of the non-aligned countries, meeting in New York, in February, 1975, preparing for the Dakar Conference regarding the problems of raw materials and development, had continued to implement the Belgrade Rules when it refused admission to South Korea, the Saigon regime of Thieu and the Lon Nol government (the two latter did not last much longer). In August 1975, the Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Non-aligned countries in Lima in Peru had once again adhered to these rules by rejecting the proposal of Liberia (and certain other countries) to admit as Members or Observers of South Korea and the Philippines. The meeting had affirmed that these two countries could not be considered as non-aligned states because they had a large number of foreign military bases and foreign troops on their territories and that these troops and bases had been used against neighbouring countries fighting the United States for national liberation. It was also pointed out that the two countries had military agreements with the USA. Similarly, admission was denied to Rumania and Portugal because they were members of the Warsaw and NATO pacts respectively. (The manner in which some of these countries were permitted to attend the Lima Conference of Foreign Ministers as observers and guests will be discussed later).

It is interesting to note that the First, Second and the Fourth Summit Conferences in Belgrade, Cairo and Algiers held, respectively, in 1961, 1964, and 1973 admitted into the non-aligned com-

munity Cuba, Cyprus and Panama because the military bases on their territories had been set up by the USA and Britain long years ago and which these Great Powers insisted on forcibly holding completely against the will of the peoples and governments of these countries. This was regarded as a realistic and pragmatic decision by the Non-aligned Movement to help the Cubans, Cypriots and Panamanians to regain their sovereignty over Guantanamo, the Panama Canal Zone and Cyprus.

It is also interesting to note that there have certain departures from the letter (and spirit) of the Belgrade Rules on different occasions and for different reasons. For instance, at the First Summit in Belgrade and at the Second Summit in Cairo, Libya, Ethiopia, Morocco and Senegal had been admitted as fully-fledged members. The American and British bases in Libya were evacuated by the Gaddafi government in 1971. Ethiopia had undertaken to liquidate the US base in Asmara by August 1976.

But foreign bases continue to exist in Morocco even to this day: eg the US base in Keneitra, and US Air Force Communication Centres in Meknes, Marrakesh and Casablanca. In Senegal, the French still have a naval base and French commando troops are still stationed there. At the Fourth Summit in Algiers in 1974, Oman was admitted as a permanent member in spite of the fact that the Americans have still had a base in the island of Masira.

The First Summit had granted the status of Observers to such Latin American countries as Bolivia and El Salvador although these countries continued to maintain multilateral military alliances with the USA. At the Lima Conference the matter of admission of guests and observers had been "over simplified" in a manner which had created a big controversy within the Movement. (Echoes of this continue to torment the Movement today). Countries like Australia, the Philippines, Guatemala and Honduras were invited as guests although they had not only foreign bases on their territories but were officially opposed to nonalignment.

The technique adopted was for the host country, Peru in this instance, to arrogate the right for

the first time that a "host" country was entitled to "invite" countries it thought fit to attend the Conference as guests and observers. In this way several countries including Rumania, Portugal and Switzerland had attended the meeting. Several leading non-aligned countries had raised objections to this devious method of inviting even enemies of the non-aligned movement, and at the Conference it was agreed that what Peru had done would not be regarded as precedent for other host countries to follow at future Conferences.

A large number of countries have been seeking to enter the non-aligned community: eg New Zealand, Australia, Thailand, South Korea, Pakistan, Iran, Turkey, Rumania, Portugal, etc. etc. Great pressures have been generated by interested parties to secure either Observer or Guest status for these countries at the Colombo Summit in spite of the fact that these countries are members of military blocs like ANZUS, AZPAC, SEATO, CENTO, NATO and WARSAW Pacts. If these countries succeed in gaining admission to the Non-aligned Movement, there is no doubt that the original objectives of the Movement would have no meaning whatever.

MANY NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES have asserted that apart from the USA and the Western Powers, which have sought to undermine the anti-imperialist objectives of the Movement, China too has "tilted" to support the attempts of the Western Powers in the belief (stemming from misconceived cold war obsessions against Soviet Union) that the Non-aligned Movement, as presently constituted, tended to subserve the interests of Moscow. What China has not realised is that the USSR has only very cleverly sailed along with the non-aligned countries (sometimes tailing behind some of them) to achieve one of the main objectives of Marxist proletarianism, that is to undermine and destroy capitalism and imperialism. The non-aligned countries have no alternative but to fight the imperialist countries to secure total emancipation (whatever the price) and the Soviet Union has utilised this situation

to enhance its prestige. It has also been able to win a commanding position of influence among the non-aligned because of the help it has rendered the national liberation movements in many countries and regions.

The Western Powers and China have a great deal to learn about the mood and sentiments of peoples in the poor and developing countries — which have found a *modus vivendi* in the non-aligned movement—if they wish to coexist in peace, understanding and harmony with the growing Third World and the Non-aligned Countries.

With the Fifth Summit in Colombo approaching, there has been feverish activity in many quarters to secure a change in the rules of admission so that a number of countries not qualified under the Belgrade Rules would be able to join the Movement. The Foreign Ministers Meeting in Algiers in May has laid to rest the hopes entertained in some circles that the Belgrade Rules would be superseded by something more "flexible".

Reports confirm that at Algiers it was decided that the Belgrade Rules would continue to apply. And all applications for admission as "special cases" as Guests and Observers have been referred to the Summit meeting itself. And, there is also not the slightest likelihood that Sri Lanka would make the mistake made by Peru of seeking to invite certain countries as the "host country."

PRIME MINISTER SIRIMAVO BANDARANAIKE, one of the doyens of the Non-aligned Movement, has made it clear in several recent speeches and also in a statement in New Delhi that "any revision of the principles of non-alignment is out of the question and Sri Lanka will not take any steps in that direction". This view is shared by many of the leading non-aligned countries like India, Algeria and Iraq.

While it is reasonably clear that the Belgrade Rules would not be changed, there will certainly be lobbying of an unprecedented nature in Colombo when the Conference begins to secure the admission as guests or observers (or even members) of certain coun-

tries which for one reason or another seem anxious to get into the Movement.

Whilst this lobbying will go on, there will be pressures from other quarters to examine the position of countries like Morocco, Senegal and Oman which have neither made any attempt to remove the US and French bases nor (even) made declarations undertaking to secure the evacuation of these bases within a foreseeable future. Bolivia and Salvador have been participants from the First Summit, but they too have made no attempt to break their multilateral and bilateral military ties with the USA.

Although the Whitlam government in Australia was moving towards a special kind of non-alignment, the present Frazer government has moved back much more towards the consolidation of all Western bases in Asia and especially in the Indian Ocean. Frazer has made it clear that Australia favoured the enlargement of the Diego Garcia base in the Indian Ocean.

As against this, there will undoubtedly be attempts to equate the Friendship Treaties such as the one India has signed with the Soviet Union in 1971 with military alliances. The repudiation of a similar Treaty by Egypt will be cited as an argument to show what such a Treaty is not what it claims to be. But this argument is not likely to go far because it has been thrashed out over and over again from 1971 inside the non-alignment movement and outside, and the general consensus is that such Treaties of Friendship and Cooperation cannot be equated with the usual Military Alliances or Military blocs.

These are some of the perspectives regarding admission and membership that are likely to come sharply into focus at the Colombo Summit.

Kautiliya

* * *

ON A TEA ESTATE—2

Getting There

By Ina Trimmer

This is the second instalment of life in a tea estate forty years or more ago. The journey to the estate was an adventure in itself. The first instalment appeared in our issue of June 26.

Two weeks later we decided to turn Brae-wards. It was not yet home to me. I had no idea what to expect. Underneath the red roof what would it be like? My thoughts were too nebulous to form any concrete image of what awaited me. We had visited on our wedding tour many places known to each of us and our last port of call was Kandy. There, we spent the night and next morning, did our last minute shopping. It was my first experience of a beef-box, the planter's larder. Amazing indeed the varied stuff, the quantities it carried. I watched my husband order beef, fish, tinned foods, vegetables, coffee, butter, every possible necessity to sustain life.

Leaving Croos Stores to pack them all in, we did some more shopping. Then finally to the Queen's for a hurried lunch, and we were away on the last lap of our travels. Crossing the river at Katugastota, we turned right and almost immediately began the climb that led to the tea district of Madulkelle. It seemed as if we were using a private road to get to our destination. Through acres of tea we travelled by car for close on 40 miles, tea on every side, as far as eye could see; from the edge of the road nothing but tea, covering the highest hills, the depths of the lowest valleys. The names of the estates intrigued me—'Mahaousa' 'Mawsa' my husband called it—"No" I said; "Mahausa. It means great height. And look. There's Kallebokka. It must have been, once, the depths of the forest for that's what the name means."

"Oh yes", said my husband. "All this was elephant jungle, and now it is spinning money. In Brae we have even now a path right up the top of one of the hills which

the coolies still call *Ahne Pathe* or *Elephant Walk*."

"Reminds me of that book."

"Yes, it could easily have been Brae, though the house itself doesn't stand on elephant trail."

Thus chatting we reached our *Kambiaddi*, meaning the terminus of the ropeway, the only transport to and from Brae for goods of all kinds, including the tea. It was here that our car was garaged but it was by no means close to the estate. In my ignorance I imagined I wouldn't have far to go now but my husband disabused me of so foolish a hope.

"We'll be lucky if we reach home by 6.30".

Whatever would we be doing all that long while, I thought. But I held my peace and watched the great wheel of the ropeway turn round and round as the endless steel wire brought boxes and boxes of tea on their way to London.

We set out again along a narrow estate road, barely wide enough to hold the car—two more miles of slow going—which petered out into a grassy track at a little spring of water where a number of men were gathered. They were our coolies waiting for us. Under the charge of a *Kuderaikaran* (horse keeper) in khaki and red uniform with a red *Thalappa* (Indian turban) wound round his head, a white horse stamped and whinnied impatiently. Within minutes our luggage was stowed away into large canvas containers which the men swung on to their heads with the greatest ease, fifty pounds to a man.

Then my conveyance appeared. In all my life I had never ridden in such a strange contraption. A length of canvas reinforced with small boards at two points was cunningly draped over two stout jungle poles. That was all! "Get in" said my husband. Obediently, but with much misgiving, I stepped gingerly between the poles wondering what would happen next.

Obediently, but with much misgiving, I stepped gingerly between the poles wondering what would happen next. Four men, one at each pole end, lifted the "Dhooli" waist high. I clutched desperately at my husband's shoulder, but smiling at my look of apprehension, he lowered me on to one of the

boards which had formed automatically into a seat, the other forming a resting place for my feet. I adjusted a cushion to sit on and another to lean against. The men raised my strange hammock-like vehicle on to their shoulders. My husband mounted his horse. We were ready to move.

"Come on Mary! Come on! Gee up."

He cantered off, leading the way and we followed as best as we could, the men breaking into a steady trot, moving so quickly and lightly that it seemed as though they carried no weight at all. Over rocks and stones, over waterfalls and streamlets we hurried. Widely I clung on to the poles on either side but when I had to let go and open my umbrella to shield me from the oblique rays of the afternoon sun, I found that nothing happened. I hadn't fallen out. I sat up and began to take notice. Hills rose on every side, tea-covered in the far distance, hills and valleys, nothing but tea; but close by was forest.

My husband had disappeared long ago. Any slope was a challenge to Mary and she cantered all the way. However, about a mile further on, they were waiting for us. Mary dancing with impatience. "That's the long day round" said my husband with a flick of his whip. "It'll take us at least an hour more than going up the short cut." The "long way" disappeared round the contours of the mountains. It was a continuation of the path we were on. I looked up at the "short cut." It seemed to me as steep as the face of the wall. There wasn't even the semblance of a path. Just sheer hill side;

"Do you often go this way?" I asked.

"Always," he answered.

"Carry on, we'll follow."

But my heart was in my mouth. I hadn't bargained with Venus for this.

From the very beginning I accepted the carrying chair with equanimity. I knew my husband had his fears of my reaction to this unusual way of transport. Most of his visitors refused to ride in the chair for various reasons. I firmly believe that all their excuses were sheer bunkum. Though some said they preferred to walk, others that it was not fair on the

coolies to be forced to carry the weight of a man—the real reason I am sure was funk.

My husband pointed out to me that when the weight was divided amongst four men, a weight equally distributed with a fifth ready to take over when necessary, each one carried fifty pounds or less. We trotted along in fine style. At first I clutched wildly at the poles on either side, but soon I found that there was nothing to be afraid of. I couldn't drop out even if I tried, so I leaned back and decided that I would enjoy this novel conveyance which I could see was the best possible in such circumstances. I looked down at the path and saw how rough it was with out-croppings of rock, loose stones and gravel and tufty grass in the crevices and was thankful it was not a car that laboured over this wild riding track, nor a cart, nor even a rickshaw which would most certainly have overturned, but four men who stepped jauntily along swinging the apparently light burden they carried from shoulder to shoulder and often resting the poles on top of their heads.

My husband had gone on ahead but when we had travelled about a mile I found him waiting for me at the foot of a steep hill. "Would you prefer to go round the long way or take this short cut?", he called. I looked at the short cut and my heart quailed. A mountain rose before us, steep from the word 'go'. There didn't seem to be any kind of a path only the usual boulders and great rocks with which all this side abounded, a scattering of forest trees, and blue and red "gums" planted in close formation reached to the summit somewhere high up near the clouds.

"Which way do you usually go?" I asked. My husband pointed upwards with his riding whip "It will save us several miles."

"We'll take the short cut", I answered.

I held my breath as the horse made a leap forward and clattered up the sudden rise. The coolies followed with a bound that nearly turned me out. To my town-bred nerves this was some experience. I quickly dropped my umbrella and gripped the poles on their side, with both hands. We began

to climb instantly. The gradient increased with every step till at length I assumed a permanent position of forty five degrees, my head down and my feet on a level with the men's heads. Up and up we rose, my men panting as if their hearts would burst through their frail bodies.

"Nilloo, Nilloo" I called.

My knowledge of Tamil was limited to half a dozen words of which *nilloc* and *po* were the chief. But no *nillooting* took place. My cries only goaded them to further efforts. The two men in front threw me a shining grin from their shoulder and stepped out with such tenacity that my oblique posture took on a still more acute angle. All I could do was to lie back and wait for the end, either of the men, or myself, or of us all. But to my amazement nothing happened. We zig-zagged to the top in less than half an hour to find my husband waiting for us with a funny little smile to greet me.

"Well, not so bad is it?"

I gulped down my fears. "No, I said, "But I think I would like a little rest—and the men." I looked round to find the men mopping their faces but impatient to move on. However they laid their chair down and I climbed out.

"Come on I want you to see this view before we go" said my husband.

"How high are we?" I asked.

"Oh, about 5000 feet."

"Did we climb 2000 feet from the path at the bottom?"

"Quite that."

We were now in a forest. Strange looking trees, stunted, twisted, gnarled as if they had been tortured, by some gigantic force, their trunks coated with moss inches deep and lichens trailing in the breeze from the branches, in long untidy whiteish tufts like witches' greying hair.

The whole of Ceylon seemed to lie before us. Nowhere had I seen such a panorama. The sea shone like a sheet of silver in the far distance at the sky line. On the left the solid mass of Bible rock was clear cut as if by a precision knife and beyond rose range upon range of mountains. The Lion Rock of Kurunegala occupied the Eastern horizon, and right in front

was Adam's peak, that perfect cone of exquisite proportions.

I looked and looked and turned away. I had said good-bye for a time to civilization. The men after their rest pranced along like horses and we reached the Gap in a few minutes travelling through a single track dark with forest trees, cold and damp with water that oozed from the path, trickled down the hillsides, tumbled and roared in rocky torrents and gullies. A path that never knew a gleam of sunshine, where night insects shrilled even in that afternoon hour, where ferns and orchids grew in mad ecstasy of life and begonias were little trees—and where leeches swarmed. Leeches! Hundreds! Millions! In all my life I never saw such leeches. I snuggled to my chair thanking God I was out of reach of those terrible and slimy creatures that came hurrying up to greet the human beings who had the temerity to invade their domain.

We rested at the Gap for a few minutes, the men busy scraping off the leeches that had climbed as high as their chests. Heavens! it was indeed a fearsome sight. I fled into the hut which had been built as a shelter for the men who work the ropeway. It was bitterly cold. I was thankful for the Burberry I wore over my cardigan. We began our journey again, on an even keel, the narrow path now completely flat. We had reached our highest point. There was nothing but forest, the twisted, tormented forest of windswept hills. The stillness of this narrow valley, this gateway cupped between the high hills was oppressive. Only the endless chain of ropeway overhead slipped by with hypnotic monotony.

(To be Continued)

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SINHALA—TAMIL PROBLEM

A Way Out?

By R. Kahawita

THE OTHER DAY, while in conversation with a very high ranking Banker, it was mentioned that almost all the Government employees working in the Northern districts of Sri Lanka are Sinhala speaking including the Police and

Security personnel. Whereas, as we all know, the average citizen in these districts is Tamil speaking or has chosen to speak Tamil.

Often there are difficulties in communication between the local inhabitants and the officials of the Government. It may be simple assinine obstinacy on both sides to adopt this attitude to insist that business must be conducted in the official language only on the one hand and to insist it must be in the language "we understand", on the other. It has come to a stalemate, like the Proverbial Horse—one can take a horse to the water but if it does not want to drink it will not.

Some people, in their simplicity, suggest that if during the British rule, English was accepted as the official language so why not Sinhala today under the Majority rule. This is where the core of the present trouble is.

The Britisher came as a superior being and with "a civilising language." At that time, we all accepted it to be so, and that is why I am communicating in English now and nothing else but English, as if English were the official language. To put across English, the colonial rulers used force as well as patronage, and all those who wanted something done fell in line with the English stream. Economic advantage was the biggest inducement to fall in line with the stream. It is even so today. Our Northern brethren will speak and write in Sinhala if it means an extra rupee in the kitty. This is a voluntary impulse of our Northern brethren and not coercion by the ruling class. No mistake should be made in this. If the voluntary approach was exploited by the politicians, we would have seen the disappearance of Tamil and the demand for it to be an official language years ago. This was the strategy adopted by the first Prime Minister, and on his demise, "Sinhala only" became the popular cry of the politician.

During the Colonial days, those who learnt English "got on well" and those who could not, transacted business through an army of professional petition writers, interpreters, translators, catchers and palm-oilers. Only the latter class have survived today and they are prosperous as well. These "language go-betweens" did em-

bellish the English and colloquialism much more than an Oxford Don could have done in a century. It added lustre to the language. THE BRITISH RAJ communicated with the "Ceylonese subject" in English for very good reasons. They were an enlightened people whose officials, apart from studying the indigenous languages have left behind very valuable and unique studies about our culture, religion, social structure and antiquity. If they continued to rule longer, Sinhala and Tamil may have been accepted as official languages. Unfortunately we pushed them out before that and we are still pushing them out to obliterate from our memory "the heinous crimes they committed in the name of their King and Country".

The present policy of Sinhala Only and the dubious crumbs of "Reasonable Use of Tamil" administered by Sinhala officers may also be for very good reasons. A Government must be sure that its business in "the predominantly Tamil-speaking areas", would be conducted in the way it should be—in Sinhala as it was in English during the Colonial times—and there is no better way of doing it than by flooding the administration with a cohort of loyal officers who will conduct business in the interest of the Government.

So did the Britisher, who sent the cream of their university products as civil servants to be in charge of the administration. Nobody complained then except a few educated Tamils and Sinhalese whom the Colonial office thought a nuisance in ill-fitting shoes. So why should anyone complain today if Sinhala is the official language? What pinches the shoe may be that Tamils and Sinhalese banded together to win "freedom from Colonialism" and I suppose the Tamils now feel that after helping in the fight for freedom they have fallen into a Sinhala booby trap after independence.

The Government policy to man the administration and the security services of the predominantly Tamil areas is, however, to admit and accept that the Government is not popular in these areas, and that the Government is suspicious of the Tamil speaking officers and if they were to be sent to

those areas they would not be loyal to the Government. While the non-Sinhala speaking inhabitants of the areas are frustrated and annoyed that they cannot transact business in the language they know and understand, the Government may be even suspicious that, if the Tamil speaking officers were to be sent to these areas they might set up a parallel Government and seek to establish a separate State. With the currently mooted demand for separation, any constitutionally elected Government must take cognizance of such a situation arising, and should take every step necessary to safeguard the individual and the Constitution.

A Government cannot be blamed for doing so. It is its duty and function in governing. So the obvious thing to do, though politically shallow, is to administer the areas through Sinhala officers, much against the wish of the people, hence another form of Colonialism—a form of Government already out-lawed and refused to be recognised by the U.N.O. This type of Colonialism is considered as an internal matter outside the ambit of International action. Nevertheless, many a country is in conflagration at the moment, on similar issues; Cyprus, Lebanon, Israel are a few countries which now feature in the International news broadcasts, where factions are fighting each other to establish their right to live in a country and maintain their culture, language etc. We witness these tragedies, as in a play, because of a few who want to be in power and have control of the country. The politicians all over the world have accepted such tragedies as a means to an end—to get into power and take control of a country.

All this is being done in the name of "the people"—innocent spectators of a scene they never wanted enacted: a potato cultivator of Cyprus nor an onion grower of Jaffna is interested in this kind of war waged by "political vested interests". They are in search of happiness and to find it all they desire are to sell what they grow and get a fair reward for their labour and they will do it in the language they can strike a bargain—may be Greek, Cypriot, Turkish, Tamil or Sinhala as the case may be. There is no politics

in it, it is survival and their desire is to keep politics and politicians out of it.

OUR CURRENT POLITICS are such, one time it was capitalist, another time imperial vested interest that hampered progress, and now that these have been done away with and those who were instrumental in effecting the change have "political vested interest", which they want to retain at any cost—so in Sri Lanka we have a language issue where the majority are told that the minorities would over-run the country if the minorities are given an equal chance. So the majority are indoctrinated to build up a fear complex, and with a fear complex, a people can be incited to act as animals. We see this happening today around the world in these countries where people have been freed and where culture, modern or ancient, civilising forces accident, oriental or primitive do not seem to have any bearing on human action when man descends to the level of animals—it is jungle law that rules.

*Sri Lanka is free comparatively from this kind of carnage; let us pray it will remain so while we seek a solution to our minor problem of language which our reigning politicians have magnified to such an extent that the Tamils have formed themselves into a **United Tamil Liberation Front**.*

One would have expected to see insular aspirations of a people changing with progress and enlightenment in international affairs to a more liberal political philosophy and understanding of what a people desire most—Peace.

It is not so. Still the goal in Sri Lanka policies is to suppress and control the minority by the majority. Reaction to this—according to a newspaper report—the Minority has formed a new political Combination referred to above with three stalwarts of the Tamil speaking community as the "Generals" of the Liberation Front. This front may not be taken seriously. As it has happened in history the three Generals will fight amongst themselves for leadership, a very common feature in local Politics. Nevertheless, there is danger; while the leaders are seeking to eliminate each other for leadership the armies may go on the

rampage. This may become the most serious episode in the movement.

The thirteen million people of Sri Lanka must recognise the latent danger that lies in a movement of this kind. Let not Sri Lanka be another Ireland. It is for the people of this country to act in time and take steps to prevent such a thing happening. Neither legislative measures nor repressive acts can stop it, only goodwill, the hand of friendship, and the recognition of the equal rights of the Tamils as citizens of Sri Lanka, irrespective of numbers, can build accord and understanding.

While the Tamils also must understand that violence in any form has not solved problems of this nature. The Irish example is before us to measure the extent of suffering, such action can bring to the innocent people of both communities. The handful of political leaders, not sufficient to count them on one's fingers will not, understand the damage such a liberation movement can do.

They have become obsessed with their power only, and the ovations they get at Public meetings for shouting "destroy the enemy". Why can't they shout instead "Let us get together and find an everlasting solution to the problem." This they will not accept, because if they do and find a solution, they disappear into oblivion—A festering wound attracts the blue bottles of Politics and so the festering is allowed to go on.

IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS the people of Sri Lanka should send the politician to the dust heap and find sober leaders who can be trusted, not to let "the side down" but find a solution good to the common weal of the country. We have the learned professionals, the religious leaders, the industrialists, the businessmen and the administrators who are respected by many in both the communities. Why don't they come forward, get together and hammer out a solution. Community, harmony and understanding are not politics but cultural integration and inter-community development. Politicians have no place in such activities, their thinking have been always inimical to harmony. They

understand only trouble and how to add fuel to keep it burning. If the respected citizens of the two communities of the farmer group get together and find a solution to the not so difficult Problem, then the hands of the Politician can be forced to accept and see it implemented. Their attitude seems to be—wait and watch. This is a negation of their responsibilities as citizens. Time has come for them to take the initiative.

Under the present political leadership, if conducted in an atmosphere of understanding, trust and goodwill, a solution may be possible and may be, if there is an offer. For, in a prepared speech the Prime Minister has said on the 31st of May at a cultural function in Colombo. "Problems we have among ourselves are much smaller in scope and less complex in character and I for one certainly do not think it impossible to solve these problems to the satisfaction of all communities of the country." Here is a determined offer to find a solution to our community problem. Therefore if the Prime Minister takes a further decisive and meaningful step to give form and substance to her statement, Sri Lanka may end the present regime with a final solution to the Political canker that has haunted the country since Independence.

A solution to the inter community problem is beyond the commoner garden politics and therefore, Politics must be kept out and the Prime Minister, may I suggest, should select a group from the respected leaders in religion, social and cultural affairs from the two communities and assign them the task of finding a solution "to the satisfaction of all communities of the country". Such a solution she can take up at a political level for implementation.

IF BOTH THE COMMUNITIES recognise the fundamental human rights of equality of man, equal opportunities and the right to develop their respective cultures and religions, the problem will disappear as the mist with the first streaks of sunlight. To achieve this, what is needed is courageous leadership and our Prime Minister has offered to give that leadership and from what we have experienced she will. To strengthen her hand the communities

must now show understanding and goodwill to work out a common denominator for negotiation—Humar dignity.

For us in Sri Lanka to accept Tamil as one of the official languages without qualification, and offer equal opportunity and freedom of movement to live anywhere in the country to all inhabitants of Sri Lanka will be an immeasurable step towards integration and understanding of the aspirations of the minority communities. Taking a broader view of the position of Tamil as an official language is nothing new nor without precedent (after all, the Kandyen convention was signed in Tamil by the Sinhala Disawas). To do this Tamil may have been an official language then. However if Sinhalese were generous then, they could be more generous today given the correct leadership.

We are divided by religion, language, regions, political colours and symbols. In such an atmosphere, trust and goodwill cannot be built without understanding and unity between the two communities, and without unity the country cannot progress. A suitable atmosphere for community harmony cannot be created by restrictions, repressive laws, arrest of leaders, prohibition, of movement control of the press and such other punitive measures. They only expose misuse of Political power and barrenness of Political thinking—Segregation in schools language wise, and the Reasonable Use of Tamil in Tamil speaking areas have done tremendous damage to community harmony than any other acts of commission and omission of successive Governments of Sri Lanka since Independence.

It is political immaturity to think that segregation can build up community harmony. Reasonable Use of Tamil will drive all Tamil speaking people into isolated pockets and give strength to strike back; Segregation in schools builds up unsurmountable barriers between communities. Today's children are tomorrow's men. These are two acts of successive Governments that have aggravated the problem and have created a sense of dishonesty of purpose and suspicious of Sinhala Politics.

Time has come to end this type of political solutions to our inter-community, socio-economic problems. This kind of shallow political

thinking has been administered in similar problems elsewhere in the world with disastrous results. We see it happening in Asia, Middle East etc. where over-population and poverty are rampant. Why do we want to follow these troubled areas? Is it because we want the politicians to solve our social and cultural problems instead of the people themselves who have built up the traditions of the communities they live in? They have no place in such matters.

Now that the Prime Minister has understood the problem and has indicated a desire to find a solution to it, let her invite a group of religious, cultural and social leaders, respected and accepted by both communities and appoint a inter-community committee to work out a permanent solution to a problem no other Prime Minister of Sri Lanka has offered to solve. It is for us to give the backing to the Prime Minister to achieve her objective, and she will.

* * *

FROM INDIA

DMK, CIA, & Corruption

From A Special Correspondent

New Delhi, June 20.

Ever since the DMK Government in Tamil Nadu was dismissed early this year and the state placed under Presidential rule, there have been expectations that there would be sensational disclosures about the corruption that had existed among the top hierarchy of the DMK. For some years now, many groups, particularly the ADMK, had petitioned the Centre to initiate investigations into charges of corruption. Though nothing seems to have been openly done by the Centre, it is now believed that quiet investigations had been carried on for a long time. It was on the basis of these reports that Mrs. Gandhi had ventured to dismiss the DMK Government.

She had also accumulated a great deal of political evidence that the DMK was indulging in dangerous separatist subversion. In a speech at a mass rally on February 15, in Madras, Mrs. Gandhi had publicly proclaimed that one reason

for the dismissal of the DMK Government was its interference in the internal affairs of Sri Lanka. Stating her reasons for dissolving the DMK Government, Mrs. Gandhi had said that "another matter I would like to speak about is the concern shown by DMK leaders in the internal affairs of our neighbouring country—Sri Lanka. I had told the late 'Anna' (C. N. Anadurai Chief Minister of 'Tamil Nadu') that it is not proper for us to intervene in the internal affairs of any other country and particularly Sri Lanka. He had agreed and abided with that request during his period of office as Chief Minister and until his death. Since then, 'things had changed' and there was a certain amount of interference with the internal politics of Sri Lanka by the DMK leaders. This and resulted in strained feeling between Sri Lanka and India."

The mass rally estimated to have been one of the biggest ever—over two and a half million people—was held on the Marina beach—front of Madras to mark the merger of the Congress Party in Tamil Nadu with her ruling Congress Party in Pondicherry a former, French territory. Mrs. Gandhi had said the DMK Government would have been allowed to complete its five-year term if it had not made plans for 'all kinds of demonstrations and agitations' on three days early that month. President's rule was imposed on the State of Tamil Nadu on January 31 and an inquiry has been ordered into a series of charges against the Karunanidhi Ministry.

Political circles are aware that the Prime Minister believed that this DMK separatism was inspired by foreign agencies particularly the CIA. She has made no secret of her belief that the CIA was interfering in the internal affairs of the country. Two days before the DMK government was dismissed on January 31, the Madras Tamil daily *Makkal Kural* (on 29.1.76) had editorially warned its readers to be vigilant about the activities of the CIA. It referred to the fact that papers all over the world were full of news about the doings of the CIA and the disclosures that had been made in Congressional investigations in Washington. The editorial referred to a 338-page report on the CIA issued at the end of 1975 and though there had been attempts to suppress its publications, leaks

about its contents in American newspapers had disclosed the contents. One of the most sensational disclosures centred around plots to assassinate important political leaders. It was said that in several countries, the US had spent millions of dollars to de-stabilise independent governments and strengthen rightwing organisations. In many instances the CIA had lost—sending down billions of US dollars down the drain. But in some cases the CIA had succeeded.

The paper alleged that the CIA was responsible for murders in Bangladesh and called upon the Government of India to exercise the greatest vigilance. It alleged that in Tamil Nadu (and Gujarat), the CIA had been active. It traced DMK separatism to the CIA, and suggested that likewise the separatist tendencies among certain organisations in Sri Lanka were inspired by the CIA. The paper went further and stated that many Sri Lanka leaders like Mr. T. B. Illangaratne had publicly stated that the CIA had been responsible for the assassination of Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike. It was hinted that the Congressional (or Senate) report on this matter had been suppressed. The paper had concluded its editorial by pointing out that the American Senate had stressed that the CIA should not involve itself in assassination of leaders. The whole tone and purpose of the editorial was to associate the DMK with the CIA and also hint that the sinister separatism that emanated from it had been stretched out across the Palk Straits to Sri Lanka.

It was after a prolonged political barrage of this kind that Mrs. Gandhi had taken action against the DMK government. The "exercise" of dismissing the DMK and introducing Presidential rule was carried out with the usual finesse and efficiency that have marked some of the more important and dramatic actions taken by Mrs. Gandhi. And now, her Government has released the first statement on the corruption among the top leaders of the DMK. It reads like a fairy tale, but everything is true.

In pursuance of the countrywide drive by the Government for unearthing black money and checking tax evasion the Investigation Wing of the Income-tax Department has been probing allegations of widespread

tax evasion and accumulations of unaccounted wealth on a large scale by several prominent members of the DMK and their relations and close associates according to a Government of India press release. On the basis of specific information gathered during these investigations, the press release says, the Intelligence Wing of the Income-tax Department at Madras has also carried out search operations during the last three months at the residential premises of several of these persons as well as branches of certain banks with whom these persons have had financial dealings. These searches have resulted in the seizure of a large volume of incriminating documents and detection of unaccounted investments or assets of a very substantial magnitude.

During one of these searches, the authorised officials seized certain records at the branch of a bank at Madras and obtained statements of the bank officials concerned and other connected persons which show that in July and October 1974 and June 1975, currency notes of 100-rupee denomination, aggregating to Rs. 32.9 lakhs, were exchanged at the bank into currency of lower denominations on the instructions of the then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Mr. M. Karunanidhi. The evidence obtained by the Department shows that the high denomination currency notes were taken to the bank by Mr. Karunanidhi's Private Secretary and that, by a special arrangement, the bank officials worked overtime to exchange these currency notes into lower denominations. Presumably, the hurry in exchanging these currency notes was due to a scare of demonetisation of high denomination currency notes. The possibility of this large amount of Rs. 32.9 lakhs being a part of the funds of the DMK was examined. It was, however, found that the cash balances reflected in the books of account of the DMK for the relevant period were very much short of the large amounts of currency exchanged through the bank.

It was also gathered that Mr. Karunanidhi had mentioned to one of his legal advisers that he had with him cash amounting to about Rs. 40 lakhs and sought his advice as to the manner in which this cash could be safely deposited or utilised. Thus the source of acquisition of the cash of Rs. 32.9 lakhs

exchanged through the bank under Mr. Karunanidhi's instructions remains wholly unexplained. Mr. Karunanidhi's own income and financial resources, as disclosed by him for the purposes of his tax assessments, are too small to account for this cash. It has been found that since Mr. Karunanidhi became a Minister in 1967, large investments have been made in the acquisition and remodelling of immovable properties in his own name as well as in the names of his family members and other relatives having meagre personal financial resources. The house at Gopalapuram, where Mr. Karunanidhi resides, was renovated during 1972, at variance with the plans submitted to and approved by the Corporation authorities at a cost of about Rs. 1 lakh. Similarly, renovations costing over Rs. 1 lakh were carried out in another house in Gopalapuram, which had been purchased by Mr. Karunanidhi in his own name in 1968 and later on settled on his son Mr. Muthu, who was virtually dependent on Mr. Karunanidhi till 1971. The facts about the expenditure of over Rs. 2 lakhs on the renovation of these two houses and the source thereof have not been disclosed before the tax authorities.

Similarly, an expenditure of about Rs. 1 lakh was incurred on improvements effected in another house property at Gopalapuram which was purchased in 1970 in the name of Mr. Karunanidhi's son-in-law, Mr. Selvam. Mr. Selvam had no source of income of his own till 1971 when he became a partner in the firm, Anjugam Pictures. His drawings from the firm are insufficient to account for the investment in the said house property.

Mr. S. N. Maran, MP, who is the nephew of Mr. Karunanidhi and succeeded him as partner in the firm of Mekala Pictures in 1967 when Mr. Karunanidhi became a Minister, is found to have constructed a palatial four-storey building at Mount Rad, Madras during the year 1971-74. The cost of construction of this house property has been arrived at by Mr. Maran's architect at about Rs. 7 lakhs. The source of the investment in this house property, which yields a monthly rent of Rs. 27,000, has not been declared or explained by Mr. Maran before the tax authorities. There is also evidence to show that a part of the building materials used in the construction of this property had been diverted from

certain public works. Another property, in which a large amount of unaccounted expenditure, evaluated at about Rs. 3 lakhs, was incurred on its reconstruction, is the building at Kodambakkam, in which the Murasoli Press is situated. This building belongs to the firm of Anjugam Pathippakam, in which Mr. Karunanidhi's wife, Mrs. Dayalu, and his nephew, Mr. Maran, are partners since the retirement of Mr. Karunanidhi from the firm in 1967.

There is another house property at Raja Annamalaipuram which stands in the name of Mrs. Dharmambal who is dependent on Mr. Karunanidhi for support. This house was renovated, reconstructed and furnished at a cost of about Rs. 1 lakh. The source of the funds, with which this property has been acquired and renovated, remains unexplained. At this house where Mrs. Dharmambal resides, costly presentation articles worth more than Rs. 1 lakh, some of which were received by Mr. Karunanidhi in his capacity as Chief Minister and retained by him in contravention of Governmental regulations, were also found. Mrs. Dharmambal was also found to be in possession of jewellery worth about Rs. 60,000, the source of acquisition whereof has not been satisfactorily explained by her. One Mr. Kapali, who had been virtually acting as a house-keeper for Mrs. Dharmambal, was also found to be in possession of assets of very substantial value which have not been disclosed before the tax authorities. Mr. Kapali was also found to have played a significant role in the creation of some evidence to disguise a part of the investment made in acquiring the house in Mrs. Dharmambal's name as loans from himself and from some outsiders.

In the books of accounts of the firm Mekala Pictures, whose partners, since the retirement of Mr. Karunanidhi in 1967, are Mr. Maran and Mrs. Dayalu, there are cash credits aggregating to over Rs. 3 lakhs in the names of several alleged lenders. Investigations made by the Department followed by a search at the residence of the person who had arranged for these cash credits as well as the interrogation of the firm's accountant and of some of the alleged lenders, have established that the

said cash credits of over Rs. 3 lakhs were bogus, and that evidence had been fabricated to give these cash credits the colour of genuine loans. These facts clearly indicate the introduction of black money in the books of the firm. Searches were also conducted on the basis of intelligence reports at the residential premises of Mr. S. Kandappan, former MLA, and Chairman of the Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board. He was found to be the owner of assets worth about Rs. 10 lakhs, including a very posh residential house worth about Rs. 5 lakhs at Annanagar, which he has not disclosed before the tax authorities.

Intelligence reports have been received about very substantial tax evasion by Mr. S. B. Adithanar, former Minister for Co-operation and Agriculture in the DMK Ministry. During the investigation of these allegations, a search was conducted at the premises of two banks and two branches of a co-operative bank at Madras which resulted in the detection of Savings Bank deposits as well as Fixed Deposits amounting in all to Rs. 86.35 lakhs, in the name of a Co-operative Society described as Tamil Nadu Farmers Service Co-operative Federation Ltd. The address of this society in the records of banks, as well as in the register of Co-operative Societies, was shown to be Neelankarai, Madras. However, enquiries made at that address revealed that no co-operative society with that name ever had its office or carried on any business there. The Managing Director of the Society admitted, on interrogation, that the Society had not carried on any business since 1971 when it was set up. Although he had authority to operate the Savings Bank account of the Society, he admitted that he did not have with him the pass books or cheque books for these accounts. He also seemed to be unaware of the existence of the Fixed Deposit amounting to Rs. 6 lakhs in the name of the Society. Two other Directors of the Society were found to be petty employees in certain organisations with which Mr. Adithanar is connected. One of these Directors admitted that he had no knowledge about the deposits or the activities of this Society.

An examination of the bank records showed that some of the de-

posits in the Savings Bank accounts of the Society had originated from a Lift Irrigation Society at Tirunelveli. Enquiries made about the Lift Irrigation Society, however, revealed that it did not have any agricultural operations or other activities from which these funds could have been generated. The President of the Lift Irrigation Society admitted, on interrogation, that the Society did not have any books of account, and that its activities were only within the knowledge of Mr. Adithanar. On these facts, the deposits of Rs. 86.35 lakhs, in the name of the Tamil Nadu Farmers Service Co-operative Federation Ltd. have been frozen by prohibitory orders under Section 132(3) of the Income-tax Act.

BICENTENNIAL

America And Sri Lanka

By Rajah Rutnam

President, Sri Lanka-America Association of Southern California

If there is but one reality, it is that we must face and accept that we cannot change the circumstance of birth. We cannot change the pigment of our skin, neither can we "erase" or deny our Sri Lanka heritage as we may desire or choose to. That particular "accident of birth" which makes us Sri Lankans, has made us members of an unique community of man. It has made us a part of a nation rich in cultural heritage. Our history should remind us of the great and courageous endeavours of our countrymen in the past. As a nation our motherland nurtured us with care and bestowed upon us, the luxury of an independent mind. It has educated us and has given us a dignity that enables us, of Sri Lanka, to "stand out" in any society or community. We are of a proud race of people. We should realize it and cherish it.

Today we enjoy the comforts of our adopted home. The United States of America. It is a nation which embraces all communities, colors, races and religions. It does not ask nor demand that the immigrant or the new settler cast aside or relinquish his pride in his birth. While this great nation, welcomes us, it also asks that we bring with us that cultural heri-

tage of our civilization, so that the rest of this nation would learn something of our culture as we learn of theirs.

Sometimes we are apt to forget our beginnings amidst the glories of our adopted land. We equate ourselves with the conveniences and luxuries that we are able to enjoy in this new land; the homes, the automobiles, the fancy clothes and many other fine things that we enjoy, that might have not been available in our motherland. In all this luxury, in all this comfort, have we lost track of our beginnings? Have we lost our feeling, our sentiment and our pride?

Do we equate the changes occurring in Sri Lanka with projections of doom? Are we not concerned? Are we appalled with the fact that the poor of our countrymen are now enjoying the changes in the balance of power—The big city man is no longer the "prince of his nation"—He is no longer a wastrel—For there is no room for waste.

The peasant and the farmer has rightfully inherited the land. There is no room in Sri Lanka for the non-doer or the absentee landlord. It is a land of the doer and not of the middle-man or financier.

Some of us remember the British with affection. The last few years before independence were luxurious, but we do forget the strain of the "Colonial Yoke" that made our ancestors battle for independence in the earlier years. Certainly the British have been good to us and some of our countrymen continue to feel that our lot would have been better under the British Rule. At what price then do you set our mother country's freedom? Is it that extra loaf of Bread, that free measure of Rice, A new Mercedes Benz? We think not.

"Independence—Freedom" are not simple words, they are a feeling, an excitement and our pride. Let us not indulge in this mire of self-pity and self-indulgence. Let us take pride in our heritage. Let us remember Dutugemunu, Parakrama Bahu, Elara, Ehelepola, Arunachalam, Ramanathan, Baron Jayatileke, E. W. Perera, Senanayake, Bandaranaike and other heroes of our past. Let us re-examine our own purposes and if we find ourselves lacking in pride of our heri-

tage, let us remember and re-dedicate ourselves to easing the problems that face our mother country.

Love for your motherland must be nurtured in adversity and tribulation. You must sense it with your being and feeling, with your heart, Complacency, comfort and conditioning do not stimulate this feeling.

This is not to be construed as an effort to discard our loyalty to our adopted land. To be true to our new home we must first be true to ourselves. If we cannot have pride in our heritage then it is not possible to be truly proud of the heritage of this our adopted land.

Therefore while we remain true to the United States of America, let us not relinquish our love for our homeland—Sri Lanka.

Let us speak proudly of our mother country, of our culture and our history. Let us show pride in our people from peasant to the elite. Let us show concern for the hardships that are being experienced by the people of Sri Lanka even as we show concern for people in distress in the United States.

Return a little bit of our hearts to the land of our birth—retain a great deal of our pride for the nation of our birth as we do have pride in the nation we have adopted.

ON THE COVER

THIS WEEK, WE HAVE A PICTURE of the fast disappearing Lake in Nuwara Eliya. Forests, lakes, tanks and other waterways, according to meteorologists, attract rain. But, in Sri Lanka, we have not paid any attention to this, and the so-called global drought, (with floods in some nearby countries) which is claimed to afflict this island, has been made worse by the wanton destruction or our forests and inland waters. The lake in Nuwara Eliya has all but disappeared—only small patches of water remain—and the rest has been "reclaimed" for potato and vegetable cultivation. Mudalalis and other favourites of the powers-that-be in Nuwara Eliya now seem to own large tracts of what was once Lake Gregory. This is probably one way of destroying vestiges of colonialism!

Prophetic Journalism

Sir,

I am herewith enclosing a letter to the Editor which you may find fit to publish in your valuable journal. With reference to WATER in your latest issue, perhaps in your subsequent issue you could refer to the poor water supply position not only in Colombo but in the rest of the country where after twenty eight years of independence there is no hygienic water supply in most parts of the country and water borne diseases continue to take a heavy toll of life and contribute to the increasing numbers of men, women and children crowding our hospitals and clinics with preventable water borne infections. This avoidable strain on the drug bill alone is colossal.

Dr. R. Pararajasegaram

54, Dharmapala Mawatha,
Colombo 7.
27.6.76

Sir,

Your references to CRA and the Neo-capitalists, the half-hearted incentives to the Farmer and your present campaign for the preservation of our fast vanishing fauna and flora may be classified as prophetic journalism and I congratulate you on this. Long before the powers that be sat up and took note of the abuses of the CRA you had pinpointed all its defects. The Cinderella treatment given to the food grower in comparison to the bonanza offered to the gem miner and exporter was highlighted in your journal long before the government thought it necessary to pay a higher guaranteed price for rice and also lift the ban on rice transport. Both these have had salutary effects on the price of rice if not the total cost of living.

Your present spotlight on our natural resources and by this I mean our flora (and fauna) is not premature. You have like many right thinking people in this lovely country witnessed with horror the wanton denudation of our forests sometimes in the name of the 'Food war' but often solely as a means of amassing 'timber wealth'. It is a striking example of 'self before country'. This rape of our forests could not take place without the connivance of those in powerful positions both now and in the past. It is heartening to note that the Prime Minister who is an acknowledged lover of nature

has stepped in to save our forests and with public opinion (so sadly lacking in our country) stirred by your columns let us hope that our forests will survive.

Dr. R. Pararajasegaram

National Eye Institute,
54, Dharmapala Mawatha,
Colombo 7.

RURAL

Sir,

Regarding Mr. Keuneman's reference to me in his the two impostsers (*Tribune* of 29.5.76) when

I wrote that these chits descend on us like jack leaves all the year round, I was not referring to the comparatively few chits one man can write but to a wide spread scourge in Sri Lanka today. Almost nothing in public life here can be done with somebody putting in a word—spoken or written. I never doubted Mr. Keuneman's disinterestedness in his attempts at mediation, but for everyone disinterested there are a hundred pushing personal, private interests. A remark by Mr. Keuneman calls for comment. About work at grass root level, he thinks I went to the wrong place. Work at grass root level has nothing to do with grass—rural or urban. It refers to work with people living close to the earth (like the lonely grass), who live mostly in villages. Also, I was not hoping to bring off a village revolution in my time. In a book, *Stranger in His Land*, the author has stated revolutions of this nature will take a generation perhaps more than one. I attempted to sow a tiny seed and failed. On reflection, I think Mr. Keuneman is right when he says it is not important to probe personal success and failure. What happens to individuals is not really important, in the long run. Individuals will die. It is ideas that must not be allowed to die.

Kumar

Colombo. 10.6.76

ON TRIBUNE

Sir,

I would like to draw your attention to what seems to me a strange inconsistency in your journal of June 12th 1976.

The cover bears a picture of a Kolam mask, the letter from the Editor laments the sale of antiques to overseas buyers—to quote the final words "we have always been totally opposed to the taking away of antiques which must remain in Sri Lanka". And yet on the back cover page what do we see, "Antiques suitable for export.....".

I would clearly like to know how such gross inconsistency has come about?

Rev. G. Harris Evans

The Parsonage,
Sri Sangaraja Mawatha,
Kandy.
26. 6.76

We must plead guilty for not having explained ourselves fully. There are "antiques" (really replicas of antiques) which may be exported. Making "antiques" for export is a new industry in many tourist-infested countries today.—Ed.

Confidentially

* On Train Travel

IS IT NOT A FACT that train travel has become a permanent hazard for not only the suburban commuter but the long distance traveller? That in recent days there have been instances where members of the public have assaulted railway employees which promptly resulted in lightning strikes of short duration? That whilst indiscipline on the part of the travelling public, whether they be members of the Prison Staff or whether they be Madhu pilgrims, or anybody else, cannot be condoned, there is reason to think that the outbursts of frustrated violence from train travellers is more often than not the culmination of pent-up anger that stemmed from the callous, indifferent, bureaucratic and arrogantly insulting behaviour on the part of railway employees towards the travelling public? That the indiscipline among railway employees has reached impossible limits? That the maintenance of railway compartments, waggons, bowsers and engines has reached such low levels of negligence, carelessness and disregard for public property that it is tantamount to sabotage? That there have been increasing number of instances where bowsers have been "derailed" because their axles had given way? That there have been instances where railway waggons have caught fire because some running parts had not been oiled or greased for a long time? That many in-the-know in the Railways are aware that the maintenance and servicing of the new M 4 (Canadian) engines is so poor that not only are the life of engines being shortened but that breakdowns on-the-run (however temporary) will start becoming frequent? That railway administrators (privately) say that it was impossible "to get anything done" by the maintenance staff or anybody else in the Railways? That any disciplinary action brought trouble to the supervisors and administrators? That such supervisors and administrators who have tried to enforce discipline among railway

employees had paid a heavy penalty during the LSSP regime? That many of them (on complaints from employees through their unions) were either transferred out or interdicted for "sabotage" or other similar high-sounding crimes and kept without inquiry for months and years together? That the real charge against such administrators (most of them technically qualified) was that they were, intent on running the Railway on "bourgeois" or "colonial" lines? That today the Railway is manned from the top to the bottom only by persons who have acquired the supreme art of surviving in an "era of transition" mainly by letting things go on as they are? That is not merely a question of letting sleeping dogs lie? That it is a case of the errant, lazy, (but vociferous), railway employee having his way whilst the train services literally has gone to the dogs? That, today, it is a wonder that the trains are moving at all? That it is not known how long the trains will keep running? THAT IT IS A FACT that, for a short while, after the new Minister (Mr. K. B. Ratnayake) took charge, the railway services showed an improvement? That stations were cleaned up? That grass on railway tracks were cut? That trains began to run on time (with the new M 4 Canadian engines)? That the catering services improved (after the ban on liquor sales on trains)? That railway travellers had hoped that a new era had begun on the railways? That in recent weeks, however, everything seems to have slipped back? That trains, especially the long distance trains, are now once again always late? That breakdowns are more frequent? That railway employees have become provocative and arrogant? That tickets are issued to "friends" for seats and berths booked earlier by others with the result that passengers who come just before trains started or got in at intermediate stations found their reserved seats and berths occupied and allotted? That thereafter other railway employees tried to adjust matters to prevent complaints being sent to the GMR or the Minister? That those who have been public-spirited enough to complain have now learnt that such complaints produce no results? That the railway employees at different levels prevent any complaint by the public being taken

notice of? That one form of provocation is for railway staff in stations like Maho, Anuradhapura, and the like to make announcements only in Sinhala (and sometimes in English) to passengers in the Yal Devi and Uttara Devi who are nearly all Tamils (many or most of whom do not know Sinhala or English)? That railway employees in these and other stations feel that they can insult and humiliate Tamil travellers without any fear of reprisals? That the Tamils have also (so far) taken all this lying down? That it was when such arrogant and behaviour was directed at Sinhala travellers that trouble has erupted? That the unpublicised episodes which occurred on Friday July 2 at Anuradhapura, Senerathgama, Galgamuwa and Maho stations in regard to special Madhu (return) trains will provide those interested with an insight into the current state of affairs in the CGR? That a bowser breakdown just outside Senerathgama had led to a "derailment"? That whilst this was being attended, the Madhu pilgrims held up at these different stations had turned rowdy? That even Catholic pilgrims are not what they were ten years ago? That the indiscipline and rowdy arrogance of the youth throughout the island has also infected the Catholics too? That stupid bureaucratic behaviour on the part of the Railway at stations where these pilgrims could get neither food nor water had sparked off incidents which made it hell for passengers on the normal trains on the line at that time? That these other trains were each late by 5 hours or more? That passengers on these trains which crossed the Madhu special trains were also at the receiving end of the rowdy anger, often fuelled by kassippu available at stations—for the railway staff? That whilst Uttara Devi passengers were held up for three hours and more at Maho they were bombarded by long harangues on the train's movements in Sinhala which only a small fraction of the passengers understood? That the same treatment was meted out to them at Anuradhapura? (That this is the usual routine at these stations although some passengers say that they have sometimes heard announcements in Tamil at A'pura)?





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Say you're flying to New York. You could get a ticket and recommendations on all of the above for the same price you pay for the ticket alone. That's the difference a travel agent can make.

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cables, or last minute changes such as deciding to go to Paris instead of Pocatello.

But there are no hidden charges. You'll know about any charges before you're charged. If you are ever charged.

Who pays?

Travel agents are paid a commission by the air, land or sea carriers they book you with, by most hotels, car rental companies and sightseeing tour operators.

Why? Economics. Convenience. There are more than 9,000 travel agencies in the U.S. Most airlines, for example, couldn't afford to have 9,000 convenient sales offices around the country. This way, the airlines pay the travel agent when he delivers passengers, and don't pay him when he doesn't. Fair enough.

So it naturally figures that the travel agent is going to try to sell you the most expensive travel package he can, right?

Wrong. The travel agent is out to make you happy, not the airline or cruise ship.

Because he wants you back. So be honest with your travel agent. He can't arrange champagne vacation on a beer budget. But he can get you a lot more for your buck than you yourself can arrange. Because that's his business.

And the travel agent is not a mind reader. If you say you want a secluded two weeks away from it all in Tahiti, and you're bored after a day and would rather have the two weeks in Vegas, don't blame him.

Who should use a travel agent?

Business travelers. Vacation travelers. Kids being sent to grandmothers. Grandmothers. Anyone who travels.

A travel agent is the simplest, most efficient way to get

where you want to go, stay at the right places, pay the right prices and get the most for your money. And not be furious with the relative who gave you a bum steer.

Why it's better to plan with a travel agent than your Uncle Harold.

Unless your Uncle Harold is a travel agent.

Chances are, your travel agent has been where you want to go. Maybe your uncle has too.

But the travel agent has the latest facts. He can tell you that the new Paris Plaza is now under new management and is nothing like the Paris Plaza Uncle Harold stayed in a month ago. Because it's his business to know.

If he doesn't know from firsthand experience, he knows the right people to ask. So he's been around.

And how do Uncle Harold's qualifications stack up?

Before a travel agency manager can hang his shingle on the door, or write tickets, he must have received an appointment from the Air Traffic Conference (ATC) or International Air Transport Association (IATA), the International Passenger Ship Association, and others. This appointment requires at least two years of full-time experience in creating, generating and promoting passenger transportation sales and services and at least one year's experience in airline ticketing and reservations.

About financial responsibility? Glad you asked. A travel agent is bonded for at least \$10,000. That's a lot of travel insurance. He must pay his bill to the airline in full every ten days—or his appointment may be cancelled by the ATC or IATA. That means he would

not be allowed to issue tickets on any airline. That's not a threat. That's a promise.

In addition, travel agents take many of those glamorous familiarization trips every year. The difference between your glamorous trip and his is that on his trip, he may check out five or six hotels in one day. He looks at singles, doubles, twins, suites, restaurants, bars, convention facilities, kitchens, chefs, management—all in a single day in a single city. That may not be fun for him, but that's not the purpose. It's to make a better trip for you. Would your Uncle Harold do that for you?

One more thing. If you do have a travel agent and you do have problems on your trip, you also have a built-in problem solver. Because, believe us, we listen to travel agents. When they have a problem, we have a problem and those problems get solved. In a hurry.

How do you choose a travel agent?

You would ask that question. Choosing the right travel agent is like choosing the right doctor, lawyer, architect or CPA—except your travel agent doesn't cost you anything.

Your best bet is to shop around. Ask friends. Look in the Yellow Pages. Look for agents who specialize in the destinations you choose. There are mom and pop agents. Giant corporation agents. Specialists in business and particular areas. Package tour specialist.

Choose one that you're comfortable with. But whichever you choose, you'll be further ahead if you do go with a travel agent.

And what have you got to lose? Nothing.

One of a series of free travel guides sponsored by Alaska Airlines.



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