

TRIBUNE

CEYLON NEWS REVIEW

50 Cts

Vol. 18 No. 10

June 30, 1973

PRESS COUNCIL

SRI LANKA has now entered the era of the Press Council. The Regulations under the Act have been brought into force from June 12. The members of the Press Council have been named and at its inaugural meeting on June 25 elected the Press Commissioner and the Secretary of the Council. That evening Chairman Premadasa invited the editors of all newspapers—dailies as well as weeklies—to a cocktail at the Samudra. This was a happy augury because such informal *get-togethers* help. Representatives of one large group were significantly absent presumably because they, mistakenly, felt that the invitations had been too informally off-hand. At the inaugural meeting, the Chairman made a few remarks which has earned a good press as well as created a cordial atmosphere. He said: "...In transacting the business of the Press Council we will always want the respect and regard of the Press. When public sittings are held you will appreciate that we always observe the principles of natural justice. The Press will always be given a hearing. As long as the Press complies with the law, the Press will have its freedom..." What sections of the Press and the public have complained about is that the Press Council Act, as it stands, makes a mockery of press freedom. It is well to remember that, at all times and in all countries, freedom has been circumscribed by visible laws and invisible taboos, and Sri Lanka is no exception. In the heyday of benevolent British colonialism, invisible taboos were more numerous than visible laws, but during war emergency laws made press freedom non-existent. The UNP controlled the Fourth Estate and managed the news in the interests of particular classes through concentrated monopolies, "managed news", manipulated advertising, and other devices. And now the United Front, with its neo-autarky based on its parliamentary majority, has imposed its own legal and other taboos on the press in the interests of classes it claims to represent. For the moment we have to learn to live with it, and whether Sri Lanka will move to greater or lesser press freedom in the years to come is a matter for history.

- ECLIPSE & ASTROLOGY
- ECONOMIC BONDAGE, DINDIGUL & DEDIGAMA
- SUMMITS, INDIA, CHINA
- SHAMBA
- AIR CEYLON
- BREZHNEV IN THE U. S. A.
- SKYLAB

Tribunania

On the Eclipse and Astrology

THIS ISSUE of *Tribune* will appear on June 30—the day about which astrologers have many forebodings. Many people have postponed doing important things they have to do until after this solar eclipse. It will not be visible in Sri Lanka because it will be a little after six in the evening when the eclipse appears in this part of the world, and before it becomes total, the sunset and darkness would have set in.

This eclipse can be observed only over central Atlantic and parts of central Africa, but it is not the visibility alone which worries the astrologers. The fact that an eclipse occurs at all, in a particular asterism, and in a particular house of Zodiac, has a great deal of meaning for men who claim to know the writing on the Zodiac.

"On this occasion, the eclipse takes place in the zodiacal sign of Gemini (Mithuna) where Saturn has just moved in (or is about to move in according to some calculations) where the nodal Kethu (Dragon's Tail) has already posited itself. In this sign of Gemini, there was a many-planet conjunction in the course of this month, and it is said that for an eclipse to take place immediately after such a conjunction of planets is ominous. Such a

configuration, it would seem, has not taken place for thousands of years, and that this portends the final triggering of vast and sweeping changes throughout the world, changes which have not been seen since the decline and fall of the Roman Empire. And what is even more significant is that the catalyst of change today is the evil which is being brought to the surface by saturnine investigators and probers anxious, wittingly and unwittingly, to usher in an aquarian age of goodness where truth will prevail over untruth.

There is something to be said for this way of looking at events. The Pentagon Papers started a chain reaction: these papers revealed the evil truth about USA's role in the Vietnam war—a truth which successive Presidents and Administrations had hidden from the American people. Not even people in the USA had realised what this war had done to the economy of the country. They did not know that the Dollar had started losing its dominant position in the world as a reserve currency as the US began to run a huge balance-of-payments deficits. A too expensive war in Vietnam was fought for too long. Prices at home could not be held in check and European banks piled up huge stocks of dollars, with the result by the second week of August 1971, the US had only \$ 13 billion of gold and other reserves against potential obligations of \$ 60 million. The convertibility of the dollar into gold could no

longer be maintained, and so it was ended. On August 15, 1971 President threw the international monetary system into a mad whirl from which it has not recovered so far. And it is not likely to recover for a long time to come. Economists expect a slump-flation in 1974 to bring real economic misery to the world. (*Slump-flation* is a new word coined to describe a slump, i.e. a recession, and inflation combined).

THE EVIL of the Vietnam war brought the inherent evils and injustices of American society to the surface, and the Pentagon Papers forced the wrong-doing in the Administration into the open. And now there is Watergate. But what is not fully realised is that vietnam wars, pentagon papers, and watergates have been taking place in every country in the world today during the last twenty years and more.

Astrologers say that the solar eclipse of 1955, when there was a similar but not so drastic configuration of planets in the zodiacal arch of the heavens, was a sign that a new chain of changes would begin to unmake the past and fashion a new world. We have seen the unmaking of the old world even in Ceylon. Bandaranaike set in motion a vast change and the Ceylon of today is not the Ceylon of 1955. The social, economic, political and administrative edifice which the British had laboriously built on the feudalism of ancient Ceylon has all but disappeared. Even the land tenure system of the Sinhalese

kings has gone under the impact of Kobbekaduwa's reforms. But whether what obtains today is the ultimate is not very clear—it is most unlikely not because many new injustices have been piled upon the old.

Throughout the world such changes are going on where evil has become the active catalyst (we repeat *catalyst* once again) to undo evil in a real saturnine way. After Watergate, US magazines, like *Time* and *Newsweek* are referring to mini and maxi water-gates which have taken place in other countries during the last twenty years and more in a bid to show that the US Nixon's watergate was not so bad after all.

There is no question of taking a self-righteous attitude of preaching sermons about these water-gates. The whole world is being churned by water-gates, every country is being churned by water-gates—and there are Pentagon Papers in every country. Some countries are wanting to put a lid on press freedom to prevent pentagon papers and watergates from surfacing to protect the ruling administrations and dynasties, but such efforts to contain exposure of evil doing will not succeed.


This is what people who read the meaning of the "writing on the zodiac" say, and it is interesting to note that, like the ancients, they do not claim that the planets influence the course of events or the lives of human beings. What they say is that the

movement of the planets is only a parallel in space and time to the movement of human affairs, and that if one can read the meaning of the way the planets move and configure, one could understand the movement in worldly affairs, and to a certain extent anticipate such events. Such anticipation has been vulgarised and commercialised into what passes for predictive astrology, but the ancients who first outlined the meaning of the planets in the zodiac never intended astrology to become a commercial guide to day-to-day action as it has become today to most people. But such vulgarisation is part of the evil of today which is being thrown up by inscrutable ways of saturnine action.

Nothing spectacular is likely to happen on June 30. The solar eclipse will take place in the normal way and scientists will observe the event wherever they can. What the true astrologers say is that this eclipse will be another landmark in the vast changes which have already plunged the world into great turmoil. More trouble and turmoil lies ahead for the world whilst the final stages of the changes become unfolded. Sri Lanka too cannot escape this cataclysm. And to make matters doubly certain, a comet bigger and brighter than Haley's comet of 1910-11 is said to be appearing in our skies within the next few months.

Astronomers have already seen it approaching earth with the aid of powerful telescopes and it will not be long

before it becomes visible to the naked eye. This comet, it is said, will dazzle the world for some months. The last big comet to be seen was Haley's Comet which made its appearance in 1910, and the astrologers say that it was only a heavenly indicator of the first world war, the Boshevik Revolution and all the other revolutions which have taken place since then. Such comets have appeared in the past and astrologers point out that each time they appeared, some change



Founded in 1954

**A Journal of Ceylon and
World Affairs**

Published Weekly
Every Saturday

JUNE 30, 1973

Vol. 18. No. 10

**SUBSCRIPTION
RATES**

One Year	Rs. 25
Two Years	Rs. 40
Three Years	Rs. 60

Post Free in Sri Lanka

**For surface and air mail rates
to foreign countries**

write for particulars:-

TRIBUNE,
43, Dawson Street,
Colombo-2.

Telephone : 33172

RAMBLING NOTES

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

* Economic Bondage?

* Dindigul & Dedigama

IT IS UNFORTUNATE that people in this country do not realise that the world monetary, and consequently economic crisis is daily getting worse and worse, so much so that economists have begun to predict that a of significance has taken place in the world.

The literate of today think they are "advanced" and "educated" beings who do not believe in the mumbo-jumbo of even such astrology. They want computerised science, but what is the guarantee that true astrology is not the computerised science of an ancient civilisation which has disappeared? And whose computerised memory bank on the question of the planets has been so lost in obscurantist charlatanism as to be reduced to the commercialised astrology—when savoury bits of nonsense are served out in Sunday papers to keep its readers on their astrological toes for the ensuing week?

Astrology or no astrology, there is no doubt that vast and sudden changes are taking place. And these changes are being described with uncanny exactitude in practically every newspaper of the world. One has only to read magazines like *Time* and *Newsweek* to realise what is taking place. Practically all other papers and magazines reflect these changes in the world.

slump, or a recession, or a depression, was inevitable in 1974. This slump will be super-imposed on the worst inflation the world has known in recent times, and the new phenomenon is already being dubbed *slump-inflation*, or *slumflation* for short.

It is true that such world developments will adversely affect, as it has already affected, economic conditions in this country. But what is unforgivable is that people in high places make deteriorating world conditions the sole excuse for the economic mess in this country. The reality is that if economic realism on a pragmatic basis had prevailed, this country (being a small one with small problems) could have easily side-stepped the adversity which has now befallen us. Some small countries have flourished in this period when bigger countries have been in difficulties. But in Sri Lanka we have chosen adversity as our way out because we wanted to glorify certain unique political imperatives which brought no succour to the people.

SRI LANKA is now caught in a complex web of debts and soaring costs. When this Government came to power it had an awesome heritage from the UNP of runaway short-term commercial debts

and other economic problems. Hoping for massive economic and financial aid from China and other East European socialist bloc countries, on the strength of left-wing foreign policy actions, (recognition of the GDR, DPRK, DRVN and the PRG of South Vietnam and the suspension of diplomatic ties with Israel), the United Front took mighty swipes at the West, the World Bank and the IMF. The UF had condemned the devaluation the UNP had effected and swore it would not devalue the rupee under any circumstances. The UF ridiculed the FECCs scheme as the inept work of foolish capitalist economists. The ordinary people of this country expected the UF to pull out some miraculous remedies from the UF hat of true socialism, and believed that wizard N. M. Perera would find a solution to all economic ills within three months as he had promised during the election campaign.

But the reality which took place was very different. The policies were no magic and they did not produce miracles. The West and the World Bank were thrown to the dust heap, but the aid which came from the socialist countries came in dribbles and not the kind Sri Lanka wanted or needed. Demonetisation proved an abortive exercise. The attempt to squeeze a tiny minority of the rich was another equally frustrating exercise, but it had the consequence of squeezing the middle class out of existence. Then came the insurgency, and China gave a hard currency loan of Rs. 150 million which helped the Govern-

ment to tide over the year 1971.

BY THIS TIME, it was apparent, and it was clear that no aid was forthcoming from the West, and that the East European socialist bloc was most cautious in opening its purse strings. The Chinese it is said had made lavish promises to the UF. The Prime Minister went to China in June-July 1972 in the hope of bagging Rs. 200 million in aid (Rs. 100 million in free foreign exchange and Rs. 100 million in project aid to implement the Five Year Plan). The only free foreign exchange which came after months of negotiations was Rs. 11.5 million and project aid was Rs. 260 million — projects of China's choice — plus Rs. 47 million for a textile complex based on earlier unutilised credits. Not one cent of this project aid has yet come because the selected projects need lengthy preliminary surveys, and it is also significant that these credits though interest-free are subject to the 10-year moratorium from the date of signing the agreement and not from the date of the loan being made available (the result is that a major part of this moratorium period may be over before the credits are utilised).

It was after this failure to get from China what the UF wanted to rebuild the economy according to its political imperatives that the Government turned to the IMF and the World Bank. In the meantime, a mild flirtation had been kept going with the IMF and other western capitalist agencies, and this was stepped when

the Prime Minister was told in China that Sri Lanka should rely on herself and not on foreign aid, and that free rice, free medicine and free education did not constitute socialism. This advice, given free and gratis by the Chinese comrades, was a bitter rebuff which was not visibly shown out, but it spurred the UF government to seek assistance from the West.

But even this new wooing was done in the most stupid fashion. Memoranda were sent to the IMF and the World Bank—which had even made clear what they expected of Ceylon—setting out the political imperatives (for UF socialism) as being of primary importance which the IMF and the WB had to accept. Nothing more foolish could have been done by a beggar country seeking aid. It would have been more tactful to keep quiet and soft-pedal action which stemmed from these ultra-left infused political imperatives which the Government believed were essential to sustain its electoral support.

When West Germany joined the Consortium Aid group, there were some optimists in this country who believed that Sri Lanka's chances of getting economic aid from the west were better. At the last Consortium meeting early this year, which was summoned after long delays only because Sri Lanka had made half-hearted promises that it would mend its ways along lines suggested by the IMF, the UF which had earlier wanted \$ 60 million pressed

its claims for \$ 100 million (the sum they could not get from China in the months preceding). To the utter consternation of the delegates, who went to present the Sri Lanka case, the Consortium Group told them that if aid was expected Sri Lanka should first put its house in order.

In a communique issued after the talks, according to a *Reuter* report, "the Aid Group has recommended that Sri Lanka should take additional measures as soon as possible to accelerate mobilisation of its domestic resources for development..." The Government then demonstrated that it had taken further steps to cut subsidies, check consumption expenditure and indirectly devalued the rupee still more through FEECs; and a World Bank team which came to the island wrote a fresh report which made the Consortium Group have a change of heart and decided to give Sri Lanka \$ 65 million which is hardly sufficient to meet the rise in price of imports this year.

FINANCE MINISTER, N. M. Perera, it would seem, now looks to the established western concepts of economics to solve the crisis in the island. In this he has support from influential sections of the SLFP. At a press conference on March 19 before he left for Washington to attend the Group of 24 and 20 talks, he blamed the present crisis on those who manipulated world prices and said that "our tininess was exploited by others on whom we have to depend for our imports."

Although it has been said many times before in the *Tribune* there is no harm in recounting some salient facts of the past. At the end of the second world war, Ceylon was blessed with plentiful sterling balances accumulated during the war. The Korean war of 1950-52 also gave Ceylon abundant foreign exchange reserves, but all this was frittered away on free education, free health services, subsidised food and cheap transport. Everybody was happy while the coffers were being drained away. After the Korean war, rubber prices dropped to rock-bottom. Tea met with stiff opposition from other countries which were seeking to capture markets on cut-prices.

While export earnings dropped, Ceylon's import costs kept on increasing and with each change of government, it kept on mounting till the present crisis, when it found that the country was in a financial mess. There is no other way out than to come to grips with the present economic crisis and make an earnest (and honest) effort to save the nation from impending disaster by producing more.

A brand new Constitution cannot solve the crisis. A press Council cannot hide the canker in the body economic, as much as the body politic. The economic machine has to be jogged into action or else the country will remain in the perpetual bondage of under-development and poverty. The situation today is really critical. Foreign debts accumulated up to the middle last year were higher

than the full earnings of foreign exchange for that year. The total nett foreign debt up to the middle of 1972 was Rs. 2120 million. Export earnings for 1972 were estimated at Rs. 2055 million. This shows that the accumulated foreign exchange debts were Rs. 65 million more than the entire foreign exchange earnings for a whole year.

WHILE the foreign exchange earnings were estimated at Rs. 2055 million, debt service charges were estimated at Rs. 962 million. This left only Rs. 1033 million to pay for imports against requirements which are estimated at Rs. 2,500 million.

Because of increasing debt service charges, the country has to borrow more to finance imports and get still deeper into debt. The time may well come in the future when Sri Lanka's export earnings will be used up in debt servicing.

Ceylon's economy may well be described in colloquial parlance as "kaimathu" or "rolling," borrowing to pay back loans. At different times as much as 65% of the new borrowings were spent on servicing old loans.

Sri Lanka's foreign debt has been increasing every year. In 1964, the debt was Rs. 344 million, in 1970 it was Rs. 1,542 million and by the middle of 1972 it had risen to Rs. 2120 million. The country's debt servicing charges have also increased every year: in 1970 it was Rs. 656 million, in 1971 it was Rs. 1,049 million and for the first half

of 1972 it stood at Rs. 962 million.

As against this, the foreign exchange earnings of Sri Lanka have been stagnant. The import bill, however, has increased by leaps and bounds, and the country is getting more and more into debt—bearing in mind that it has to service old debts.

Estimates for food imports for 1973 at the beginning of the year stood at Rs. 1,116 million: the breakdown was as follows: rice—Rs. 237 million; flour—Rs. 257 million; wheat—Rs. 56 million; sugar—Rs. 282 million; pulses—Rs. 89 million; dry fish—Rs. 71 million; milk—Rs. 105 million, and other food items Rs. 51 million.

But since these estimates were made, world prices moved up and the Government, unable to meet the increased costs, has cut down on the imports. Subsidies continue in many open and hidden forms. Imported rice costs Rs. 1.50 for two measures while local rice costs Rs. 2.20 for two measures. Before the new changes about ration rice, people were supplied two measures for Rs. 1. Flour cost the government 45 cents a lb, but for a long time it was sold to the people at 38 cents a lb. Sugar was imported at Rs. 1.22 per pound and was supplied at 72 cents on the ration and at Rs. 1.50 off the ration.

The question is simply this: how long can this state of affairs go on? A stage will soon be reached when the Government will have to borrow (openly) to pay sala-

ries to its staff—because free education, free health services and free rice still eat up most of the domestic money.

NOW, more and more people have begun to realise that the Sri Lanka rupee does not buy even a fragment of what it did. The *National and Grindlays Review* for February 1973, published in London, had this to say of Sri Lanka's economy: That the rate of the Foreign Exchange Entitlement Certificate (FEECs) which provide an export bonus and an import levy, was raised in November from Rs. 55 to 60 per Rs. 100 in a move representing further indirect partial devaluation as distinct from the substantial direct devaluation which the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank have been urging for the past three years.

The *Review* went on to state: "However, the effective exchange rate has now been depreciated by more than 45 per cent through the use of FEECs during the past five years. In addition most imports that were previously exempted were brought into the FEEC scheme in November, the remaining exceptions consisting mostly of 'sensitive' imports like basic foodstuffs, fertilisers, tractors, books and newspapers.

"As a further incentive to non-traditional exports (that is other than rubber, coconut products and tea) the government announced that exporters would be allowed to retain a proportion of gross foreign exchange receipts in convertible rupee acc-

ounts for the purchase of specified imports."

Analysing trade and payments, the *Review* states: "The visible trade deficit widened appreciably in the first six months of 1972, the latest period for which figures are available. Imports rose sharply, particularly of transport equipment, textiles and chemicals. Exports of coconut products were 8 per cent higher than a year before, at Rs. 168 million, while tea exports remained approximately unchanged at Rs. 655 million.

"However, Dr. Perera forecast in his budget speech a steady reduction in the total external financing requirement from its 1971 peak, partly on a decline that has already started taking place in foreign debt servicing obligations and partly on an improvement envisaged for the current account of the balance of payments for 1972."

DAY - TO - DAY existence has become extremely difficult for the ordinary householder in this country. Meat, fish, vegetables and milk have soared up in price. If textiles are available, they cost three and four times the price they fetched a year ago: the ration of textiles at controlled prices is so meagre that even mini-frock and bikini wearers are hard put to cover themselves.

In the case of *Tribune* the price of paper has been shooting up. Now that we are using Valachchenai printing, we are at the mercy of the price fluctuations of the EPMC. In the last one month, the price of its products has

been upped between ten and twenty percent for various grades of paper. **As we cannot increase the cost of our paper to the reader we have had perforce to cut down on circulation for some time now. Our print order is just barely enough to sustain our subscribers and the regular newstand sales. If the price of paper goes up further we may have to cut down on our circulation still further. This is the stark reality which confronts us. Already the big newspapers have cut down their publications to such an extent that in most of them they have only room for the advertisements.**

NEWS has been scarce from the Dedigama electorate. Nobody wants to predict the results. The SLFP and the UF proclaim that they are certain of victory. The UNP is however quietly confident that they will notch a record poll and majority, and the SLFP boast that they will trounce the UNP. There are various rumours and gossip that thousands from the electorate had been found jobs in the corporations and semi-autonomous undertakings of the Government. Whether this job-giving, if true, will turn the scales in the by-election is yet to be seen. But there is as yet no confirmation that jobs have been given on such a massive scale as to influence the voters in the electorate. If such jobs, given on the eve of by-election, will determine the by-election, then it is about time to do some

quick rethinking about the value of adult franchise in this country.

BY-ELECTIONS have a curious way of changing the fortunes of governments. The recent by-election at Dindigul in Tamil Nadu has already had the most unexpected results. The main plank of the dissident Anna DMK was that the Karunanithi DMK was buried deep in corruption, and this plea was undoubtedly accepted by the electorate and it gave the ADMK man a majority of over a lakh of votes. One of the fields in which widespread corruption was alleged was in the auctions of toddy shops and the licensing of liquor shops (to sell arrack and locally made "foreign" liquor) It is not in the toddy shop auctions that the big money was made, but in issuing licences to liquor shops. Literally thousands of these toddy shops were licensed throughout the state, and lakhs are said to have to been given by licensees who wanted to sell such liquor, but millions were given by those who were given permits to manufacture such liquor.

So tremendous and so concrete were the accusations made that the Karunanithi government has decided that the State should go back to prohibition "by stages". It has been officially announced that all toddy shops would be closed by September 1 and that action would be taken to close down liquor shops thereafter. Having received bribes to grant these licenses (as it is alleged),

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

BY ARIEL

* SUMMITS

* INDIA

* CHINA

IT IS DIFFICULT to keep pace with the number of summit meetings which have taken place in the different capitals of the world in the last few months. Brezhnev went to the GDR and Poland before he went to West Germany. Earlier in the year he had gone to Paris, and now he is in the United States and it is said that he

the Karunanithi government cannot let down these bribe-givers within such a short time, but the Anna DMK is continuing its campaign that such liquor shops should also be closed. (In Ceylon, only reactionaries, subversive and other anti-social elements alone have made wild and unfounded allegations in private gossip that bribes and donations to party funds were collected on account of the hundreds of new liquor shops which were opened in the last two years). How this tussle will end in Tamil Nadu is yet to be seen but the Dindigul by-election has already made a very serious impact on the politics of Tamil Nadu in South India.

What has Dedigama in store for Sri Lanka?

would stop ever in Paris on the way back. Willy Brandt has been visiting all European capitals and has met President Nixon. French President Pompidou met US President Nixon in Iceland. Australian Premier Whitlam was in Delhi recently before Indira Gandhi set out to Belgrade and Quebec. The British Foreign Minister went to China last autumn and the Chinese counterpart has just concluded a visit to Britain, France, Iran and Pakistan. So viet Prime Minister Kosygin has also been making a round of calls and soon he will be in Vienna. Soviet leaders have been to Afghanistan, and Iranian leaders have gone to Moscow.

It is an altogether complex picture.

Indochina still finds a place in the frontpage headlines of the media in every part of the world. Le Duc Tho and Kissinger hammered out a second agreement for a second ceasefire only a week ago, but there does not seem to be any ceasefire in certain sectors of South Vietnam particularly around the Saigon area. In the meantime, under pressure from the US, a reconstituted government headed by Lon Nol, offered to negotiate with Sihanouk, but the prince refused to have anything to do with the US-backed Cambodian government. Sihanouk wants a military determination, simply because all the odds in the battlefield are with his forces.

IN INDIA, internal difficulties are gathering momentum.

The mutiny of the armed police in Uttar Pradesh between May 22nd and May 25th, the first such event in an Indian security force, may well be the augury of more violence to come. The challenge to authority was put down by the army, but not before 37 men had been killed. Although the rebel policemen have now been disarmed, the danger of a new flare-up persists because of the steps the Government is taking to identify and punish the ringleaders. Some 500, men of a 20,000 strong force are under arrest and another 1,200 may be dismissed. The trouble had begun in March when policemen had begun to organise a union exclusively for other ranks. Apart from grievances about over-declining real incomes, they were also, as a better educated generation of recruits, against such ancient habits as the use of batmen as domestic servants for officers. The Congress government in the state was unable to make up its mind and allowed the protest movement to gather head, especially among armed police and intelligence agents.

Eventually, the government was tempted to recognise the new union if discipline was maintained, but by this time the confrontation between the men and officers had gone too far. Incidents of insubordination had multiplied culminating in open defiance of a battalion posted at Lucknow university. The battalion was hurriedly withdrawn but it retaliated before leaving by helping student malcontents to set several buildings ablaze. The government then ordered

the army to take over the battalion's armouries and pitched battles erupted at three of them.

The mutiny does not seem to have had any political overtones, but the spectacle of soldiers fighting policemen shocked the country. The following note by the Indian Press Agency (IPA) gives the background to this mutiny.

THE MOST significant aspect of the mutiny by a section of the PAC in the State is that it was led by members of the Intelligence Department of the UP Police. Nearly all the office bearers of the unrecognised and now banned organisation—the Police Karmachari Parishad — whose formation started the unrest, belong to the Intelligence Department. Its President Ram Kailash Bhadauria. Secretary Ram Ashish Rai and Treasurer Ram Autar Verma, all come from the Intelligence Department.

Most of the leaders of the Parishad are persons, who have worked as gunmen of SVD Government Ministers, belonging to the Jana Sangh, SSP, Congress (O) and BKD. Even now as many as 200 men from the Intelligence Department, from the rank of inspectors to constables, are working as gunmen of former Ministers and MLAs, now in Opposition parties. The UP police provided a special attraction for RSS boys, who made a bee-line for enrolment in the police after the ban on the RSS was withdrawn and the RSS was given the status of a "cultural organisation" by the Government.

Several UP Home Ministers in successive Congress Ministries were admirers of RSS "patriotism" and encouraged former "shakha boys" to join the police. A number of these men, who were transferred to the Intelligence Department and PAC renewed old contacts when the SVD Ministries were formed and a number of Opposition MLAs and former Ministers of SVD governments were given gunmen for their personal protection. Many of these gunmen, drawn from the Intelligence Department, were amongst the "founders" of the Parishad.

The result of this particular type of thinking had a bearing on the behaviour of PAC on crucial occasions. The manner in which the PAC behaved in Ferozabad and Varanasi last year in June resulted in sharp protests from a number of Congress and Opposition MPs. Two Congress MPs, Mrs. Subhadra Joshi and Maulana Asad Madni, sharply criticised the PAC and the police for the indisciplined manner in which the PAC had behaved. The then UPCC president Mrs. Rajendra Kumari Bajpai, demanded a probe into the indisciplined behaviour of PAC and Police officers at the time of Ferozabad incident. The State Government not only persistently refused to hold an inquiry into the behaviour of PAC and police officers, but even tried to justify their excesses.

Not only the former RSS and policemen with close contacts with RSS and SSP leaders had taken up the leadership of police and PAC, but

some other obscurantist and reactionary elements were found, during the present crisis, hobnobbing with PAC men. According to Government information, at many places members of Anand Marg were found to be in close contact with PAC.

However, it was not only the influence of obscurantist and reactionary forces that resulted in the present large-scale indiscipline in PAC. They had some genuine grievances also. For instance the use of PAC jawans as domestic servants, their having to do menial jobs for the officers, was galling for most of the PAC men. Their service conditions needed improvement, but little was done about them. There was complete alienation between the officers and the men.

While the demands and the agitation by the Parishad was publicised by the RSS controlled press, the State Government refused to take notice of the developments. Instead of acting swiftly, it followed a policy of drift leaving the whole thing to the police officers to tackle. They proved themselves to be totally incompetent in tackling them.

It was at this point that there was a complete breakdown in the Intelligence services of the UP Government. The Intelligence Department, instead of keeping the Government informed of the developments in PAC and police, worked the other way round, concealing facts from the Government and passing on information to the leaders of the Parishad.

IN GREECE, an abortive and amateurish attempt at a coup by certain naval units gave the Colonels an excellent excuse for abolishing the monarchy and establishing a Republic: and with this comes the end of one of the few remaining ruling dynasties in Europe—the House of Gluckburgs. In Japan, Prime Minister Tanaka's popularity has been sliding down at a fast rate: from 65% last July when he took office to 25% today. This is a faster and more far-reaching slide than President Nixon's after Watergate.

The Chinese Foreign Minister's recent visit to Europe revealed a new angle to China's thinking about the enlarged European community. Prime Minister Chou Enlai had earlier set the pace in an interview with a French journalist, M. Jean Marin. Chou's "subtle and realistic" remarks, as one EEC official described them, went straight to the point. This is what Chou had said: "Concerning the European community there are points we do not understand very well. We lack certain elements of knowledge. For example, if China sent a representative to Brussels would we retain economic and trade relations with each country separately?"

China is still feeling its way about the EEC, but it is seeking to drive hard bargains with Britain. China has long wanted to establish an official representative in Hongkong, designated not as a consul but as a commissioner, not to prejudice China's claim that Hongkong

is Chinese territory. The British have been reluctant to concede this request for fear that Chinese government mission might challenge the authority of the British Governor and might serve in time of trouble as a rallying point of subversive activity. The Hongkong controversy seems to be one of the reasons for the delay in reaching an air agreement. Nine countries had signed such agreements with China in the last two years but two, Japan and Britain, have had a tough time. China has obviously been trying to use the lure of landing rights—for concessions in Hongkong in the case of Britain. When the Chinese Foreign Minister Chi was in Britain recently, Sir Alec, his British counterpart, had pointed to the many concessions granted by Britain: e.g. it was taking the largest contingent of Chinese language students in the world—some 200 were coming this year—in exchange for which the Chinese had offered to take 10-15 British students in China.

But whilst China is wooing practically all countries in the world, except a few, and she in turn being wooed by as many countries, she has stepped up her campaign against the Soviet Union as the world's enemy number one. The USSR in turn has also launched a major propaganda offensive against China. In this tussle, China seems to be in a hurry: she does not want to take time in winning over western countries in order to forge a broad front against the current diplomatic offensive pur-

sued by the Soviet Union on the initiative of Brezhnev.

Chinese propaganda seeks emphasise that the West should learn from the experiences of China in dealing with Russia—that China had been let down by Russia because the Russians “wanted to grab everything.” Chinese propaganda also makes it clear that the western countries cannot contain the ever-spreading influence of the Soviet Union without China’s co-operation: that China’s distrust of Russia was no transient phenomenon, but something permanent on which the west and other countries affected by “Russian expansionism” could rely upon. Observers in western countries have noted that Chinese hatred of the Russians is pathological. To show how pathological the hatred of the Russians has become, Japanese sources say that in a recent talk with a delegation of Japanese socialist parties, the Chinese Prime Minister Chou En-lai had spoken about the construction of bomb shelters to protect them from air attacks by the Russians. He had said that though these shelters did not guarantee the safety of the population of China in case of a nuclear war, they were of extreme importance in the education of the Chinese people and their mobilisation for the struggle against Russian social-imperialism. In the same talk, Chou is said to have disclosed the amount which had been spent in the construction of these shelters. Including the underground in Peking, these shelters in the capital alone had cost over 1.7 billion Chinese

yuan which is equal to about 680 million US dollars. In fact the construction of bomb shelters all over China is estimated at 20 billion yuan (i.e. 8 billion dollars) or about 20% of the Chinese budget. Japanese observers feel that the amount spent on these shelters was just waste of money, and that the expenditure could only be compared to the wild cat expenditure in the days of the “great leap forward” or the “cultural revolution” in the first case, human and material resources were spent in vain for the construction of small mini-“metallurgy” plants with the aim of overtaking the capitalist countries in steel production; and in the second, in expenditure on Red Guards’ tours of the country and measures to ensure a “revolutionary exchange of experience.”

IN THIS CONNECTION, it is interesting to refer to the comments of Derek Davies in his series on China in recent numbers of the *Far Eastern Economic Review*. In his piece in the issue of May 14, he says: “...I had always found it difficult to accept China’s argument that the Soviet Union, however malignant, represents today as great or even greater threat to China than it did in, say 1967? At that time, China was tearing itself apart internally and had forfeited most of its goodwill abroad. Presumably the Kremlin hawks were then arguing the advantages of a pre-emptive strike. But Moscow did not attack. And yet we are asked to believe that the Russian menace is even greater

today when China has restored its internal unity and is riding high on the crest of a wave of unprecedented diplomatic successes and international popularity. I suspected that many of China’s new policies, and particularly the detente with Washington, were in response to the challenge which had grown so much greater on China’s own doorstep during these years of isolation: the economic giant of Japan.

“Peking officials refute this and marshal two typically ingenious answers against it. The first is that, in 1967, the Kremlin had its own powerful agent plotting on its behalf at the summit of China’s power structure—Lin Piao. The Russians hoped that China would fall under their sway peacefully, so there was no need to attack. But now Lin has been unmasked, Moscow must fall back upon force....”

Derek Davies goes on to examine China’s position *vis a vis* the rest of the world and states: “China has now little need to defend itself against the world. It reserves its spite for Moscow, and for countries like Israel against which Peking’s propaganda is still churning out daily virulence (cynically, one supposes, to maintain some leverage in Cairo)..” Davies also stated that there had arisen fundamental changes in the attitudes of the masses and that this would in turn have an impact on policies. The common people in China he says, want a more relaxed life without internal or external tensions.

SHAMBA

MORE WORK DONE

MAY 9-12

by ANATORY BUKOBA

AT LAST I had to bestow a little care on myself. I could hardly walk. Still, I drew what water I felt I had to, and then went off to have a penicillin shot, which, I hope, will dry my sores up, caused mostly by thorns, I think, it will heal up the gangrenous place,

He concluded his article thus: "Mao is ageing, and when he and Chou En-lai disappear from the scene, a new set of question marks must be set out beside the new policies. China may be biding its time, building up its strength while Washington Moscow, Tokyo and Europe find causes for increasing disunity, its eye on the long-term goal of Asian hegemony. Walking down the Bund in Shanghai the foreign visitor is uncomfortably conscious of the reality that, if policies change, anti-foreign phobias could relatively easily be whipped again to fever pitch. Lee Kuan Yew is justified in pleading caution, as long as that caution does not close the door to the possibility of making a positive response when it finally becomes clear that, whatever happens after Mao, the changes being wrought at home and abroad today are irreversible."

Even if all this is journalistic speculation, it throws light on a country about which so little is known.

and reduce the swelling on one ankle. Penicillin, I find is a painful injection. It smarts. The last time I tried it, I was too weak to take it, too much of bread and plantain and nothing else. Thank heavens that is of the past now.

It was a day for the V.C. katha—cleared half the place where our house will probably eventually stand. Clearing is always an exciting business. One never know what one will find next, a new undulation, a rock, a height or a dip.

It is much easier to cut fresh grass. I am not surprised people prefer to set fire to the dry grass. Burning is said to burn up the roots of the thorns and other rubbish.

We watered everything this evening and worked as a pair: real work. Some of the sweet potato cuttings have put on leaves. The plantain tree that was cut short the other day has put out two shoots, besides sprouting a leaf and showing new life itself. The new plantain tree we got down just two days ago seems to say "I am going to make up for the time lost by my transplanting," and it must surely have doubled its rate of growth. The old eighteen month jak is coming on apace, small leaves yet but very much alive. When I had thought for so long it might dead, but never gave

up watering it. It receives all the water that other people would throw away.

This cadjan house has a really beautiful aspect, especially when seen from the front. I would call it bewitching, and not to blush to say so. It looks just as magical at night. And there is a new moon now.

May 10,

WE are now three, and as it happened barely an hour ago, it has had no appreciable effect yet on our organisation and work.

We have lived well for two, and somehow three are going to have to live on as much as we spent on three.

After my second penicillin shot, what was called a "long-term" one that did not smart like the other, I came to find that the part of our house we had put up two weeks ago was down, dismantled as we agreed, and we set about lengthening that part, as well as widening it and raising it. The house now looks like a small room enveloped on two sides by a verandah. The front part is where we sleep, eat and entertain guests as of yore and the side portion is where we cook. The fireplace has been moved into the newly extended back portion of this side. It is protected by a low cadjan wall. The next result of this new arrangement is that now I can see out once again three sides of the house, and I shall be able to look at the crops from my bed, with the aid of a torch instead of having to get up in the

One-acre Farm

middle of the night and the early hours of the morning to go outside to have a look. This applies as much as to the day. I am afraid of wild pigs and hares at night, and monkeys by day.

The more I look around at the place around us, I just cannot see anything wrong with Ceylon. If the prices of nearly everything have gone up there still seems to be plenty of money around, and those who have no money do not seem to do so badly, they must come by it when it is really needed. What is wrong is the foreign exchange position or, I would say, the foreign exchange rate. In fact, in the so-called developed countries and according to the economics of a paper like the *Economist*, the foreign exchange rate is the means for restoring any imbalance in the foreign exchange position. If this works well for developed countries, it does not work at all for the so-called under-developed countries. For the underdeveloped countries, to start trying to improve their foreign exchange rate will call for sacrifice and there are so many strings attached to foreign aid that it will never be done, because it will call for that very rate combination or virtues, courage, honesty and strength, and this combination is not ordinarily to be found among politicians.

May 11,

WHAT socialists like to call the masses are, in Ceylon, among the most intelligent in the world, and it is the mistake of the educated classes to think they are not.

The grass verge on our side of the road has been cut and swept, swept for the first time. I did it with a broom of our making. There seems some dispute about the kind of tree used in the making of the broom, but there is now a consensus of opinion that it was a kind of jungle *jam* as it is called in Sinhalese. Whatever, it was, my companion recognised the utility of the wood at once when we were clearing, and he earmarked those branches for the broom he intended to make. The grass look much better swept and from the quality of grass swept up, I would say that it would have done the grass left no good and caused it to grow in patches. I cut and swept the grass on the bank too, and below the bank, nearly to our house. It is at the foot of the bank that the mango trees are. In fact, one of the smaller cuttings got broken in the sweeping and I replanted it at once.

At five in the morning we get up,

And walk among the trees,
What we have planted
grows apace

And waits for its trans-
planting.

This is my translation of a poem made up here, and I gather there is more to follow.

There are flowers growing
before our house,
And vegetables hard by,

Our own manure we put
round them.

And joy just fills our hearts.

The author of these verses in Sinhalese just makes them up as he sings them and he does not get a line or a thought wrong. In this respect he must match the legendary author of the *Mahabharatha*.

Most of the day was spent in making improvements to the house. The *massa* bed, which was taken down yesterday, went up again in a new place, diagonally across the corner from where the fireplace used to be, and across the foot where the old bed was. This has been enclosed by a very neatly made cadjan wall, which looked so good that the older walls of this front verandah of the house were taken down and remade on the same style.

May 12,

ONE of the water melon plants got embroiled with the mamoty and was dislodged. There was some root on it, but it was also damaged in the stalk. It started to wilt within seconds, but I loosened its bed with the mamoty and replanted it at once. Then I gave it ample water and covered it with the pieces of some cadjans. Hours later in the evening, it looked fresher than when it had wilted and we must wait for the morning to see if the miracle is a true one.

The old "new" buffalo route was cleared with the V.C. katha for it was fast becoming a jungle again, some of the weeds several feet high. It looks quite nice now, but not finished. I cleared round the two jak trees whose seeds I had brought from Colombo, and

also all the water melon and the beans, and the vine. The jak plant which I had got here, looks well on the way to recovery, it has more than one leaf now. The seed beds are doing well, and we made yet another new one today and filled it up with seeds. They were all seeds we had collected from fruits and vegetables which we had eaten here. Papaw was one, but for the other three names will have to wait till tomorrow.

We started the day with one of us catching ten fish. These we had for lunch. I cannot give you their names now as my companions are asleep. All the rest of the day was spent in "lifting" the house, by lifting the middle of the roof up, and propping it up with new forks tied on to the old full-length ones. I cannot describe what happened as I perforce had to be away.

There was also what I think the text-books call domestic economy. The two *massa* tables in the room were taken down, and one large one was put up in their place. Everything that would not normally go on the ground has gone on to these tables including those things that would normally be put in a larder. There is a dividing *massa* screen between the food and the books and the pang-made trays which contain our washing materials and odds and ends.

While I write these notes I keep falling asleep. Everything we have planted and

AIR CEYLON AGAIN

CLEARED FOR TAKE-OFF

By

CANAX

THE TROUBLE with some people is they are never satisfied. You tell them a little, and they want a lottle—well, at least some more, a failing which can perhaps be attributed to a Twist-ed sense of need. Take last week's 'scoop' on Air Ceylon, for instance. I assumed in all innocence that most people would be more than satisfied with the inside story of how our national carrier got its first DC-8 and why it wants to take unto itself yet another. Seems I assumed wrong. They want more, more.

Where am I to go for more? I can't very well go back to the VIP and say people want to know more. If you remember, he was quite reluctant to tell me what he finally did, and the gist of his lament was that 'nobody understands'. After last week and the clamour for more his lament is likely to be that too many people seem to understand only too well. As I said, some people are never satisfied.

A good many people keep writing in asking for more, while some others simply

is still with us, we have been able to water morning and evening for the last three days. This is a great thing for us. The red onion leaves are tending to go white for lack of sufficient water.

stop me on the road for more. It's got so I can't even get a good night's sleep, for my wife keeps nudging me at night for more.

I ask you, whoever discusses Air Ceylon in bed, and at two in the morning? I do.

"What did you mean, Air Ceylon is like no other airline in the world?" she asks, propping herself up on her elbow and shoving me gently by the shoulder.

"Do you want to know right now, or can you wait for a less godforsaken time like morning?"

"You don't have to get sore," she says. "I asked because I must thought of it, and I might forget by morning."

"There's a time for everything, even Air Ceylon," I remind her pointedly.

"I was only trying to be intelligently informed."

"At two in the morning?" I snap back, slipping on my mask of incredulity.

"Just answer this one question, and I promise I'll go to sleep."

"All right. I haven't the foggiest idea how or why Air Ceylon is like no other airline in the world. Satisfied?"

But she remains propped up on her elbow. "Maybe

they fly their planes differently, like upside down or something groovy like that, huh?"

THE IDEA seemed so crazily original I took my time thinking it over.

"Maybe they save fuel flying that way," she went on. "Besides, once you get that high in the sky, how does one know which side is up?"

"Sure you're feeling all right, dear?"

With that she went off to sleep in a huff.

She tried to be intelligently informed the next night, too. Only by then she seemed informed enough not to ask me, but tell me.

"It's a shame," she began around midnight, "letting Leslie browbeat the whole country into spending on 450 new buses when there are so many old aircraft more in need of our generosity."

"My sentiments exactly," I said, not wanting to start an argument, and turned on my side. My intention, which was to sleep, happened to be at variance with her intention. Though you may find this hard to believe, my intentions are always good, but her intentions are always stronger.

She shoved me again, a clear indication of her intention. "You know what I picked up at the Milk Board booth today?"

"A pint of water?"

"And....?"

"Let me guess," I said propping myself up on my elbow

the way she had done on hers. "They upped the price of milk by 50 cents at 10 a.m. and dropped it by 25 at 11, so the Cost of Living has actually been reduced."

"No such luck. One woman was saying those 450 cows from Denmark we sent special invitations to will now have to travel by some alien airline to our beautiful country."

"That's bad for tourism," I agreed.

"But the girl at the counter said her boyfriend told her in confidence that the cows had refused to fly Air Ceylon, second DC-8 or no, because the toilet facilities were so inadequate they were fit only for humans. How on earth did they discover that?"

"That's inside information, so it had to be leaked from Air Ceylon, where else?"

"I didn't know they employed cows, too," she exclaimed.

"There's a lot more you don't know," I assured her. "Did you know that a compromise proposal by the Milk Board that it be allowed to airlift the milk from Denmark was unanimously vetoed by the cows?"

"By secret ballot?" she wanted to know.

"No, by some udder method."

With that my wife went off to sleep. Again in a huff, which makes me suspect that's the only way she knows of going off to sleep.

THE FOLLOWING night was even more interesting.

"You don't have to tell me," she announced matter-of-factly, "because I know. Air Ceylon is like no other airline in the world."

Relieved, I said, "I'm glad. At least that's one thing less to come between us. You know, I never wanted to tell you in the first place.

"But now I want to tell you," she insisted. "Their advertising is different, for one thing...."

"They print their ads upside down, too, do they?"

"Depends on how you look at it," she said, "but they don't go for silly slogans like 'Picking an airline for its food is like choosing a restaurant for its flying ability.' Or, to give you just one more silly example, 'If you want him to do a first class job give him a first class ticket....'"

"What do we grow!—'Fly Air Ceylon, Or Else...'"

"We used to say 'Fly the Sapphire Service' but when business expanded and smuggling was not confined to sapphires alone, we switched to 'Join the Gem Set! How's that for telling it like it is?'"

"It makes sense," I admitted.

"Not only that. We're like no other airline in our approach to publicity in general, too."

"We prefer a low profile."

"We believe any publicity is good publicity, unusual and bad publicity not excepted. What's important is to keep our name in the public eye,

IN SRI LANKA TODAY

JOBS AND EDUCATION

Interviewed by the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation in its "Behind the News" programme, Dr. Osmund Jayaratne, President of the Colombo campus of the University of Ceylon, has said that changes are being introduced in order to enable graduates to follow job-oriented courses. These graduates would, in future, be able to get training in such diverse fields as estate management, insurance and office administration etc. This is an innovation that will be warmly welcomed by all those who have the interests of the nation at heart.

The problem of training the personnel needed for industrial and agricultural development has been an important problem facing developing countries during recent times. This means universal education and training at all levels, understanding of scientific methods for the farmer in the field, the acquisition of new techniques by the worker in the factory, the training of the requisite numbers of persons for scientific and technical supervision, management, development and research right up to the proper scientific methods of overall planning. This is exactly what our country has lacked all these years.

RIGHT UP till the beginning of the Second World War, the educational system in Sri Lanka was designed to suit the needs of British imperialism. The vast majority of our children were educated in what were called 'vernacular' schools which were little better than cattle-sheds with no proper facilities whatsoever, and with Sinhala or Tamil as the medium of ins-

truction depending on the place where the school was situated. A minority of better-equipped schools with English as the medium of instruction trained the children of the more fortunate upper classes to man the colonial bureaucratic administration.

The entire educational system was purely academic in character and bore little re-

which is what publicity is all about."

"Enough of the suspense," I pleaded. "Tell me more!"

"Don't rush me, dear," she said calmly. "Losing a whole aircraft in flight once in awhile is commonplace, so we prefer to be different and lose only a cabin door in mid-air. That way, we avoid tragedy, too,"

"It certainly makes the headlines," I said admiringly.

"Of course it has its disadvantages," she reminded me. "You can only do it once, or else people will fly away with the idea our planes are falling to pieces due to old age, bad maintenance, or both. But the best gimmick so far was when we hit a lamp-post."

"In the sky?"

"Well, if Air Ceylon is operating on Galle Road, I haven't heard of it yet."

lation to the practical aspects of life in or the needs of our country. The only facilities for vocational training were a few industrial units run by the Department of Industries where training in spinning and weaving, carpentry and similar occupations was imparted, and the Technical College which provided various courses in technical skills as surveying and levelling, radio and electrical engineering.

It was only towards the end of the war, with post-war unemployment looming as a major problem, that attempts were made to gear the education system to the needs of the country then on the last lap of its race for national independence.

A Special Committee on Education appointed to investigate into and recommend reforms in the educational system reported in 1944 on the inadequacy of our educational system to cater to the growing needs of the population, heavily oriented as it was towards purely academic studies. It recommended the establishment of three types of schools—technical schools to train the skilled personnel necessary for the various branches of industry such as foremen, mechanics, builders and electricians; agricultural schools to train peasant farmers and colonists; and trade schools to train workers for cottage industries and such occupations as carpentry, weaving, spinning lacemaking, printing, book-binding etc.

BUT MOST of its recommendations were not implemen-

ted. These self-same recommendations were repeated by the National Education Commission appointed 20 years later.

A memorandum submitted by the Labour Department to the Ministry of Education in 1966 stated: "The country requires an annual production of 5000 trained craftsman and the present supply from the technical schools and certain other institutions is only about 370, the unmet demand being 4630. The delay in the production of trained craftsmen stands in the way of industrial extension and expansion. Training for employment is a crying need today, there being about 200,000 unemployed in the age range 19 to 25, with an annual increase of 20,000."

The memorandum went on to say: "A network of 25 technical schools in the districts with a central trade school in Colombo was approved fifteen years ago when the assessed annual demand was for 300 craftsmen. The implementation of this programme has however been lackadaisical and has reached a stage of total stagnation. There are only eight schools functioning and one is under construction and the present production target is also forty craftsmen per year per school."

In 1960 the take-over of assisted denominational schools opened the way for the establishment of a really, national and integrated system of education. This, together with the provision for free education introduced as a result of the 1944 reforms and the subsequent establishment of over 1000 schools

in the rural areas, gave children from the poorer families an opportunity they never had before to get a general and secondary education and even proceed to higher education. The social composition of students entering the universities and other higher educational institutions also began to change.

MUCH MORE remained to be done, as was reflected in the preponderance of Arts students, especially from the rural areas where facilities for scientific education still lagged behind.

However, due to pressure from the World Bank and other financial institutions which give us aid we have been forced in recent times to cut back on our social service expenditure and enact laws which in practice mean placing curbs on secondary education and basing it on class considerations as in the pre-1944 era. Under the new dispensation, the majority of children were left to fend for themselves or at best given rudimentary training in some semi-skilled occupation, while only a few got secondary and later higher education still with an overwhelmingly academic bias.

In other words, in the context of a stagnant colonial economy and our inability to provide jobs for the educated unemployed, we became subject to the pressure of the imperialists who want to ensure not that the educated became employed, but that the unemployed remain uneducated as well.

For over a hundred years the British imperialists ruled Ceylon, but apart from, de-

nuding our forests and setting up plantations, mainly with immigrant labour, they did nothing to foster any industry or train any worker in industrial skills.

After we gained political independence from the British, American imperialism too began to make heavy inroads into various sectors of the country's economy. But neither did they help us to develop any industry or train local personnel in various skills. Their "aid" consisted mainly in dumping huge quantities of unsaleable wheat flour on terms most favourable to themselves. This so-called aid had no beneficial effect on our economy and even those who welcomed it at first were later forced to confess that it really constituted aid to the donor countries themselves.

THE PRESENT government promised to end the present disparity between different types of schools in regard to equipment facilities and trained staff and also to ensure an educational system "that will emphasize scientific and technical teaching and be geared to manpower needs."

The introduction of university courses that will be more job-oriented will be welcomed. If it is necessitated by the changes already made at secondary school level. Then there is nothing to complain about. But, if the change is only at the top-without the inflow of students from the schools to the university to make the best of these courses, then of course this is another case of putting the cart before the horse.

CHRONICLE

June 3 - 12

A Diary of Events in Sri Lanka and the World compiled from English - language dailies published in Colombo.

SUNDAY, JUNE 3: The *Observer* reported that Sri Lanka had asked for fuller information about the sizable quantity of narcotics on board the *Lanka Rani* when it docked in Southampton: VIP circles in Sri Lanka seem to think that the narcotics had been planted in order to sabotage the island's merchant navy which was still in its embryonic stage. The *Observer* also reported that a senior ASP had been trapped by investigators from the Bribery Commissioner's Department whilst accepting a bribe of Rs. 2500 for allegedly allowing bootleggers to continue smuggling and the illicit distilling of *kasippu*. The paper also reported that those who held convertible rupee accounts were likely to be allowed to import food commodities that were in short supply and industrial raw materials in addition to other items they are allowed under this scheme. The *Times Weekender* frontpaged a news item that a toplevel team of police investigators had gone to Jaffna after the detection of 48,000 detonators in a boat off Kayts. The *Weekend* reported that the Police had discovered underground subversive literature in the North smuggled from India. It was reported that Russia's supersonic plane TU 144 had exploded while it was in the air during the Air show at Paris.

MONDAY, JUNE 4: The papers reported that under emergency regulations, just announced by government, owners of agricultural lands will have their lands handed over to others if they permit such lands to lie idle: this measure had been taken by government to ensure that all lands are put to productive use in the effort to produce more food. The Electricity Board has announced power cuts limited to daylight hours commencing from tomorrow: 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. and 12 noon to 1 p.m. The UNP has selected Rukman Senanayake, son of Robert Senanayake and nephew of Dudley Senanayake, as its nominee for the Dedigama seat. It was reported that the

Indian Airlines crash near New Delhi was due to a failure of the Guidance System (Instrument Landing System). There was great deal of speculation how and why the Soviet supersonic TU 144 had exploded in midair.

TUESDAY, JUNE 5: The *Daily News* reported that the Master Bakers' Association had made out a case for increasing the price of bread to 48 cents per pound: that the present "controlled" price of 46 cents a lb was uneconomic because costs of production were high. Mr. Aziz, Member of Parliament and President of the Democratic Workers' Congress has asked the Minister of Justice to drop all action against squatters in the Eastern Province who were cultivating the land with food crops. The *Sun* reported that the 48,000 detonators seized by the Navy off Kayts were of Indian manufacture: that other articles were also seized in the same boat including sarees, cosmetics, costume jewellery and the like. The price of gold has hit an all-time high of Rs 320 a sovereign. The *Observer* reported that only 3000 Identity Cards were being issued every day whereas it had been planned to issue 30,000 a day: this shortfall was due to the lack of money to employ more clerks: that a suggestion has been made that the Army should be called in to help in this clerical work. The problems of the Milk Board were discussed at the SLFP group meeting as well as at the meeting of the Government Parliamentary Party. The US has agreed to supply Saudi Arabia over \$1000 million of military hardware: this has perturbed Israeli circles. Former President of Argentina, Juan Peron, was expected to stage a comeback on June 21: the new President Campora who was elected on a peronist ticket has called him back.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6: The *Daily News* reported that the Government group had passed a resolution demanding that the FEECs be removed from all milk powder imports. It was also reported that the Regulations of the Press Council Law were approved by the National State Assembly yesterday. The *Daily News* also announced that, owing to newsprint shortage, it was cutting down its circulation. It was reported that UNP's MP for Kalkudah, Devanayagam, had explained that the TUF had not decided on a separate state: that he was not present at the Action

Committee meeting when it decided to seek approval from constituent parties regarding the establishment of "self-rule of the Eelam Tamil nation in their traditional homeland": that Mr. Devanayagam had further stated that he was not personally in favour of a separate state as envisaged in the resolution: that he would express his views when the matter came up for discussion: that he would keep the UNP informed about developments. The Ceylon Shipping Corporation had earned a nett profit of Rs. 12 million in 1972: in the previous year it was Rs. 1840,486. The *Observer* stated that the Police had launched a full-scale investigation into the activities of a Colombo mod set following information that bands and pop sets playing in leading hotels in the City were consuming LSD in tablet form smuggled into the island and bottled by foreigners. The *Times* reported that the Prime Minister, who is also Minister for Planning, has turned down a proposal to modify the existing Air Ceylon-UTA agreement to provide for the operation of another bigger aircraft DC-863 with a capacity for 251 passengers. A report from Paris stated that a group called the Action Committee for the Liberation of Rudolf Hess had claimed to have caused the crash of the Soviet supersonic airliner TU-144 at the Paris airshow last week. Chinese Premier Chou En-lai last night demanded that the United States stop bombing Cambodia and end its military intervention.

THURSDAY, JUNE 7: The *Daily News* reported that the Government was expected to announce new regulations under the emergency to tackle the growing problem of land grabbers in the Eastern Province who had taken over state-owned land: the regulations being drafted by the Ministry of Defence and expected to be announced by the President soon will enable the Government to evict these land-grabbers without recourse to the courts. The *Sun* reported that paddy collection during the recent maha was 8 million bushels below the target: the Board had hoped to collect 24 million bushels of paddy during the maha season, but only 16 million bushels had been collected: that if the balance was not got, there will be a rice scarcity: at present country required 60,000 tons of rice a month, and of this the Board supplied 45,000 tons. Mr. S. J. V. Chelvanayakam is reported to have

entered a nursing home: he was down with an attack of pneumonia. West German's Opposition parties have demanded that a parliamentary committee should investigate the allegation that the ruling Social Democrats had last year bought off opposition votes in a crucial ballot that came to very nearly toppling Chancellor Willy Brandt. Mr. Hugh Sloan, treasurer of President Nixon's re-election campaign, had stated that he gave Watergate conspirator G. Gordon Liddy 99,000 dollars under a blanket authority provided by his chief Jeb Stuart Magruder: Liddy is now serving a 20 years sentence for his part in buglarizing and bugging the Democratic Party office in the Watergate building.

FRIDAY, JUNE 8: The *Daily News* reported that Sri Lanka was hopeful that the world's single biggest trading bloc, the European Economic Community, will reduce duties on a number of exports from this country: eg packeted tea, instant tea and coconut oil. The *Sun* reported that the Government has banned Sinhala film producers from copying Indian or any other foreign films: they will have to make films in future with original themes. The Chinese Foreign Minister met the British Foreign Minister yesterday and the British Premier today: it is expected that the long-delayed air agreement will be a reality soon. There were major changes in the staff in the White House in Washington.

SATURDAY, JUNE 9: In the National State Assembly (NSA), the Minister of Agriculture and Lands, Mr. Hector Kobbekaduwa, agreed to the appointment of a Select Committee of the NSA to probe the Milk Board scandal. The FP leader, Mr. S. J. V. Chelvanayakam, was ill and had entered a private nursing home for treatment: a meeting of the TUF scheduled for this weekend was therefore postponed. The Sri Lanka Development Confederation has submitted a memorandum to Government that the airlifting of cows from Denmark was a waste of funds especially foreign exchange: the sheds to accommodate them were not ready and the pasture too was not ready. The *Daily Mirror*, reported that about 2511 Maha Vidyalayas throughout the island will soon be abolished: that fewer senior secondary schools will be established at selected sites to replace them.

The *Times* reported that the Police had seized a Tamil book entitled "May 22" as being subversive and had also taken the author into custody—he was a contributor to the FP weekly *Suthanthiran*. There was a growing *furor* in Japan over the Emperor's role in politics: and the proceedings of Parliament had been deadlocked because of a boycott by the entire Opposition. The damage to the Skylab has been successfully repaired by the first crew of Astronauts.

SUNDAY, JUNE 10: The *Observer* raised the question: "if the dissident I. J. Wickremasinghe group supports the CP, will the Communist Party manage to oust the present pro-LSSP leadership of the GCSU, the country's largest trade union in the public service?": according to the *Observer*, the pro-LSSP leadership still had the edge over the CP in this "historic struggle". The *Times* reported that the polythene packs in which the Milk Board wanted to sell *Lakspray* at a lower price was unhygienic because it was not appropriately sealed (with deoxy-pack) to arrest the breeding of bacteria. The Chinese Foreign Minister now in the UK has indicated that China was likely to buy three supersonic Concorde planes. The Australian government has announced that Asian immigrants would be able to get Australian citizenship as much as Europeans. The Australian Premier on his visit to India had pledged that his country would support Asian nations and never side European powers against its neighbours.

MONDAY, JUNE 11: It was reported that the equipment at the Colombo Observatory was outdated and that was the reason why the weather reports issued by it were so uncertain: this fact had been brought into sharp focus after the cut imposed by the Electricity Board owing to the drought in the reservoir areas. The Government has decided to enforce the rule that no government or private school should permit any student to continue studies after he has completed two years in the final class of the GCE (O) or GCE (A): it was said that some private schools were flouting this rule. The Government Clerical Service Union (GCSU), according to the *Daily Mirror*, has called upon the Government to rid public corporations of corrupt officials

who "play ducks and drakes with public funds" and who are quite oblivious to the fact that it is the common man who is compelled to pay through his nose for the losses incurred by these corporations. The National and Grindlays Bank Review ((London) for February 1973, has stated that the successive increases in FEEC rates in Sri Lanka has meant a 45% indirect devaluation of the Sri Lanka rupee. The Criminal Justice Commission trying the first Exchange Control fraud case began hearing evidence today. The *furor* in West Germany over the alleged bribery of Opposition MPs was mounting: and there was a move to demand that Chancellor Brandt should be questioned. There was a last-minute hitch in the second ceasefire talks between Dr. Kissinger and Le Duc Tho, and Kissinger has rushed off to Washington.

TUESDAY, JUNE 12: The Government has banned British passport holders from landing in Ceylon without valid visas from the Sri Lanka government. On June 15, Mihintale will be lit to commemorate the day on which Buddhism was introduced to the island. Mr. Nalin Abeynaike, a member of the Tourist Board, has been appointed its Chairman, with the resignation of Mr. Dharmasiri Senanayake who has resigned to contest the Dedigama by-election. Four candidates were nominated for the Dedigama by election at the Kegalle kachcheri: two Independents, and the SLFP—Dharmasiri Senanayake, and the UNP—Rukman Senanayake: polling has been fixed for July 9. There has been a sharp drop in the consumption of sugar after the price was increased last year. At the CJC on exchange control it was revealed that two Yugoslav nationals had cashed £ 57,000 for over Rs. 1.6 million rupees on the local blackmarket and that a major part of this money was found stuffed in a pillow case in an INGRA hut in the Pelligolla worksite of the Mahaveli Diversion Scheme. Skylab astronauts were doing excellent work carrying out their mission on the space station. Chancellor Brandt, who is on a visit to Israel, was nearly blown off with his helicopter by a sudden gust of wind on the top of the rock fortress of Massada. Dr. Kissinger flew back to Paris, after consultations with President Nixon, to continue negotiations with Le Duc Tho.

Brezhnev In The U.S.A.

by BASIL PERERA

AT THE TIME of writing this article, Leonid Brezhnev is on the fourth day of his visit to the USA.

The official ceremony of welcoming the distinguished Soviet guest took place at the White House on June 18th. Since then, Brezhnev and Nixon have held talks and exchanged views on how Soviet-American relations have developed since the last "summit" meeting in Moscow in May 1972. They have discussed on how these relations are to develop in the future to include new fields of co-operation. Four agreements covering different subjects have already been signed between the leaders of the two most powerful countries in the world.

Both leaders, after reviewing the development of Soviet-American relations during the last year, have agreed that these relations have been developing favourably. It is due to their mutual desire to further deepen this co-operation and extend it to new spheres, based on the joint document signed last year defining the principles of relations between the two states, that four new agreements between them have already been signed.

These agreements are (1) a general agreement on contacts, exchange and cooperation (2) an agreement on cooperation in the field of oceanic exploration (3) an

agreement in the field of agriculture, and (4) an agreement in the field of transportation.

Under the first agreement the Soviet Union and the USA will develop contacts and exchanges in the fields of science and technology, education and culture. The agreement on agriculture envisages regular exchange of information, including long-estimates of production, consumption, demand and trade of basic agricultural commodities. The transport agreement hopes to study and jointly solve concrete problems of rail, air and sea transport. All these agreements provide for the setting up of joint Soviet-US commissions to discuss their concrete cooperation programmes.

SPECIAL IMPORTANCE attaches especially to the agreement on agricultural co-operation as with their vast territories, home market capacities, the need to introduce measures of further mechanisation and specialisation, the field of agriculture opens up wide vistas for Soviet-US cooperation.

These are the only four agreements that have been signed up to date. But Brezhnev in a meeting with American Senators has hinted that further agreements, including one on arms and troops reduction, are being prepared, taking into account the in-

terests and security of all countries concerned.

Such is the progress made up to the time of writing at the second Brezhnev-Nixon "summit" meeting. This meeting serves as a confirmation of the historic change in Soviet-US relations in Moscow last year and marks a further landmark on the road to detente and peaceful cooperation and a right-about-turn from the era of tensions and confrontations that have bedevilled Soviet-American, and therefore, entire international relationships, during the last quarter century.

Though the new situation in Soviet-American relations is taken for granted by many today, its achievement was not an easy job. Nor did it come into being automatically. As Brezhnev said in the course of his speech at the official dinner at the White House, the rebuilding of Soviet-US relations on the present basis was made difficult not so much by the differing social systems prevailing in the two states as by the momentum of the cold war and its left-overs in international politics.

President Nixon in the course of a conversation with Soviet pressmen covering Brezhnev's US visit has also made the point that the ending of the Vietnam war since the last Moscow "summit" has considerably helped to further improve the climate for a Soviet-American detente now.

THE AMERICAN PRESS too has hailed the progress made at the current Brezh-

nev-Nixon meeting. Thus, the *New York Times*, referring to the business-like start that the talks between the two leaders have taken, has pointed to the entire new trend and spirit animating Soviet-American relations. The *New York Daily News* has commented that the present "summit" meeting will help both Russians and Americans to take a step forward with the object of lifting from the world the burden of armament and strengthening peace.

The Soviet Union and the USA are such mighty world powers today that the improvement of relations between them is bound to have a profound effect on the whole course of future international development. That is why the whole world has welcomed the present "summit" conference of the two world leaders as an event of tremendous importance for the peace of the world, greater security and international cooperation. They hope better Soviet-US relations, will be foundation on which will be built an entire edifice of inter-state relations different from the state of cold war that has poisoned international ties ever since the end of World War II.

But doubts have also been expressed in certain quarters that better Soviet-US relationships might prove harmful to the interests of third countries, especially the developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America.

The leaders of the People's Republic of China have gone to the extent of dubbing the

SKYLAB

Medical Tests Dominate Research

— FIRST CREW'S FINAL WEEK

by WALTER FROELICH

Washington, TESTS to find out what more than three weeks in weightlessness has done to their bodies will dominate the scientific research program during the last days of the Skylab flight by astronauts Charles Conrad, Jr., Dr Joseph P. Kerwin and Paul J. Wietz.

These studies will take up much of their time during

their final week in space, except while they prepare to return to earth. The three men will crawl from the Skylab space station into the attached Apollo spacecraft, separate it from the Skylab and splash down five and one-half hours later in the Pacific Ocean 800 miles (1,280 kilometers) southwest of San Diego, California, at 1350 GMT June 22.

USA and Soviet Union "super-powers" who are colluding to bring about a position where they alone will decide the destinies of the world. These allegations bear little resemblance to reality.

Did, for example, the agreements reached between President Nixon and Brezhnev in Moscow last year prove deleterious to any third party? On the other hand, it was since the last Moscow "summit" that the peoples of the world scored their most spectacular victory in recent history when they forced the world's mightiest power to withdraw from Vietnam where they had been acting in the role of aggressor for the last so many years.

If there had been any political or social force that had been adversely affected by the better Soviet-American understanding after the last

Moscow "summit" meeting, then these are obviously forces standing for the very opposite of relaxation of international tension and lasting peace, the forces standing for war and aggression. The more adversely affected these forces are, the better will be the chances for peace and international cooperation.

Refuting similar slanders regarding his present meeting with President Nixon, Leonid Brezhnev asked, soon after the signing of the most recent Soviet-American agreements: "But are other peoples, even to some extent, hurt by what we reached an understanding about today? On the contrary, the opposite changes in Soviet-American relations most favourably affect the general situation, improve the international climate, strengthen peace and international security."

At that time, they will have completed 28 days in earth orbit as originally planned, the longest any men have continuously lived in space. The medical research will be stressed during the last week because at that time the effects of the men's prolonged exposure to weightlessness are likely to be most pronounced. Never before have men been studied under comparable conditions. Skylab is equal in size to a small house, and scientists were able to install elaborate research instruments in it. What the researchers learn from the examination may lead to new understandings of the human system and new ways to prevent and treat disease.

MOST of these examinations will be given by Dr. Kerwin, the first U.S. physician in space. From the flight's beginning, he has examined the astronauts, including himself, thoroughly. These early findings will now serve as baselines to determine what physical and psychological changes have occurred in the men. During the last week, Dr. Kerwin will continue to collect blood samples and the men will continue to preserve some body wastes for examination on earth.

Dr. Kerwin will supervise tests in which the astronauts are deliberately made dizzy in a revolving chair. This test checks the condition of natural balance mechanisms in the inner ear, which can be affected by prolonged weightlessness. The doctor also will direct examinations in the "lower body negative pressure device". In this

machine the lower half of an astronaut's body is placed into a vacuum chamber so that his blood is drawn toward his legs just as if he were back in a gravity environment. The device reveals to what extent the circulatory system has been affected in weightlessness.

Analysis of these and other tests could profoundly affect the future duration of space flights and might alter the flight plans for the three-man crew to be launched at Cape Kennedy, Florida, on July 27, for a stay inside Skylab of up to 56 days. A third crew is to live inside Skylab, also for 56 days, later in 1973.

BEFORE returning to earth, the crew must complete several additional sun observations with Skylab's large telescope system and retrieve the telescope film cassettes. One of the men will retrieve the cassettes during a "Space walk"; the cassettes are contained in cameras on a platform above the space station.

The astronauts also must rehearse with mission controllers on earth the complex undocking, de-orbiting and splashdown procedures and prepare Skylab for five weeks of unmanned operation by remote radio control from earth until the next crew arrives. No more instrumented earth observations are planned by the astronauts. They completed their last earth observations on June 14, when their special cameras photographed parts of the western United States and Brazil. Similar observations will be made in much larger

scale by the next Skylab crews.

Because of the crew's long space exposure and because some of the frozen or dried biological samples might be damaged by warm, moist sea air, the astronauts will not be lifted by helicopter but by crane to the recovery vessel after splashdown. The spacecraft hatch will not be opened until it is on the ship. Thus, the astronauts can be examined before lengthy exposure to the earth's gravity. Inside the spacecraft they will lie on couches.

Almost at once after they are out of the spacecraft, the astronauts will enter a trailer on the recovery ship. They will live inside the trailer for about two days undergoing examinations, which can be compared with identical observations made before the flight.

Should the examinations show serious physical deterioration, space flights by men might have to be limited in duration until countermeasures can be devised. Scientists consider serious after-effects unlikely.

For News Behind
the News

Read

TRIBUNE

Regularly

TRIBUNE, June 30, 1973

IS IT TRUE?

Sherlock Holmes

* Caste Clash? * Murder?

IS IT NOT TRUE that the clash at Alutgama, in which a mob had attacked the police, stemmed from a caste clash? That it is surprising why an original caste clash should have been turned against the Police? That this confrontation is likely to go on for sometime? That politicians who were gloating on the fact that caste troubles were endemic only in the North should now put on their thinking caps? That the troubles at Polonnaruwa were of a different order? That it was a clash between men who belonged to two wings of the security services of the Government? That one side had even mobilised a number of thugs to join them to attack the police station and policemen? That this kind of clash seems to be the order of the day in many parts of the world? That in India, in the state of Uttar Pradesh, the army had to wage a pitched battle with a battalion of the Pradesh Armed Constabulary (PAC) to dislodge them from three armouries they had taken over in a mutiny? That many people in Sri Lanka had thought that this was a happening in a distant land—and that India deserved what

it got? That nobody wanted to believe that, embryonically at least, this kind of clash could arise in this island? That there is no evidence that people in high places have begun to attach the proper kind of importance to these events? That the caste and other clashes in the North were thought peculiar to the breed of men called Tamils and that such things could not happen in the South? That it is time that there is some fresh re-thinking on such matters?

* * * *

IS IT NOT TRUE that the *Sun* reported a tragic story of how a man killed his three children because he could not feed them due to financial difficulties? That this is said to have happened in the Eheliyagoda police area? That this man had hacked his three children 10, 8 and 5 with a sword because he alleged that he could not feed them? That this may not be the whole truth? That he may have had other reasons for doing this ghastly murder? That this is no reason for ignoring the fact that many parents are finding it more and more

difficult to feed their children? That in many homes in the city of Colombo parents are unable to give their children more than one meal a day? That whilst the rulers of this country are busy "taking over" everything, the people are being driven into hunger? That the takeover of estates and business firms has not prevented hunger from spreading its tentacles? That the common man is daily growing more and more impatient about the waste and corruption in government departments and corporations? That the spectacle of corporation smart alecs running round the country in 5 Sri and 6 Sri cars all to no purpose will soon become a major source of irritation to the common people? That the GCSU and other trade unions have already sent up alarm signals about the waste and corruption in government departments and corporations?

NEXT WEEK

- BREZHNEV—NIXON
—end of cold war?
- INDIAN OCEAN
—big power presence
- INDONESIA
—rice crisis made worse
- INTERNATIONAL
—iran arms herself
- SHAMBA
—work goes on