

TRIBUNE

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COPERNICUS
WATERGATE

SHAMBA

BATTICOTTA

SOVIET NAVY

CHRONICLE

AMERICAN VIEW

NEW CATHOLIC
MORALITY



Tribunania

* Copernicus

* Watergate

ON THE COVER this week we have a statue of Copernicus in Warsaw. Above, right behind him, is his drawing of the heliocentric system, illustrating his concept that "the Sun sits as upon a royal throne ruling his children, the planets, which circle round him." We have put Copernicus on the cover this week because this year marks the 500th anniversary of the birth of Nicolaus Copernicus, the great Polish astronomer, whose work revolutionised science. For his services to mankind he was selected by the UNESCO for special commemoration throughout the world.

Frederick Engels, in his book *Dialectics of Nature*, said of Copernicus: "The revolutionary act by which natural science declared its independence and, as it were, represented Luther's burning of the Papal Bull was the publication of the immortal work by which Copernicus, though timidly and, so to speak, only from his deathbed, threw down the gauntlet to ecclesiastical authority in the affairs of nature. The emancipation of natural science from theology dates from this act, although the fighting out of the particular antagonistic claims has dragged out up to our day and in many minds is still far from completion."

We have in this issue also published as an article a passage from the book *Science In History* (Vol. 2 406-408) by the late British scientist, J. D. Bernal, explaining the impact of Copernican contribution to science. Both Engels and Haldane subscribed to the philosophy of dialectical materialism, better known as Marxism. (Engels was one of the founders of this philosophy), and what they say will be of interest to our readers.

THOUGH it was only in the 15th century that this concept of heliocentric universe was presented to the western world, there is not the slightest doubt that in *astronomical cum astrological* works in the ancient countries of the East, the movement of the sun, earth, the planets and some of the more significant galaxies were correctly portrayed thousands of years before the birth of Christ.

The astrological almanacs dating back, it is said, three and four thousand years before the birth of Christ, were discounted by the so-called scientists and educationists of the western nations which had conquered the eastern countries in the period after the 15th century as obscurantist mumbo-jumbo. But today, there is grudging acceptance that the facts about the movement about the earth and the planets were known in India long before Copernicus, but western scientists, even dialectical materialists, are not inclined to pay due attention to science in ancient India and in other eastern countries.

One reason why this information did not spread to the West for such a long time was because the Christian Church and other religious orders in that part of the world had imposed a total ban on thinking outside of a literal and superficial understanding of the Book of *Genesis* as it had evolved in and around Jerusalem. When the Roman Church was established with all the might and power of the Roman Empire, the thought control was even more complete. Men were burnt at the stake if they preached that the earth was not the fixed centre of the universe.

There are also many in our midst who like to believe everything postulated by western scientists and ignore what had been going on for countless centuries in ancient India and Ceylon. These persons cannot be blamed for taking this attitude because there is so much jingoism about "our glorious past" that reasonable men prefer to accept what is accepted by acknowledged scientists of the West. The time has come, however, for a new approach to all these problems and to examine science known in the East in ancient times and disentangle it from astrological and religious terminology which seems to offend the susceptibilities of our western-oriented intellectuals.

TO JUMP from Copernicus to Nixon may seem a transition from the sublime to the not-so-sublime, but there is not the slightest doubt that the world is today under

going a change not very different from what Europe had experienced in the Middle Ages when the darkness imposed upon intellectual life by the Church was broken. The fact that the Pentagon Papers and Watergate were possible in the United States is a healthy and welcome sign that the American system is capable of generating catalysts (for change) to eliminate what is bad.

Many people, who had become highly critical of the USA after its performance in Vietnam and its long adherence to the cold war and McCarthyian thought-control, have today begun to think differently. A society, which is capable of accepting the publication of the Pentagon Papers and which insists on a Watergate Inquiry into the activities of its elected Chief Executive, has much to commend itself. It was also the pressure of public opinion which no doubt, compelled Nixon to slide out of the dynamics of the cold war and seek a detente with China as well as the USSR, but even the universal support he received for his brave new foreign policy did not prevent a Watergate inquiry.

But even more striking than the fact these events occurred at all is the fact that the whole transformation was taking place under the glare of complete and total publicity not only inside the USA but also throughout the world. This is perhaps the first society in history where there is blood-letting of this kind to remove cancers in the body politic

voluntarily and in public. The American press has spared no bones. The radio and the TV have given the fullest coverage. There must be something strong and virile in a society which can sustain a Watergate inquiry. Even those who have no use for the capitalist system of private property and profit must admire the inherent strength of a society which can stand the strain of a Watergate exposure concerning the highest in the land.

How many societies or countries can stand such an ordeal? How many other countries will permit an inquiry like Watergate? How many other countries will permit their press, radio and TV to expose corruption, malpractices and crime in high places as in the USA today?

One of the best comments about the "transformation" sweeping the USA came in the editorial notes of the weekly *New Yorker*. As early as May 11, 1973 the weekly stated: "...As the days pass it becomes clear that the Watergate affair is bringing about a sweeping transformation of American politics. Never before has an upheaval of this magnitude come upon us so swiftly. One week, a political commentator was wondering whether Watergate might not turn out to be a "political plus" for the President. Two weeks later, he was wondering whether it might not force the President's resignation or impeachment..."

Much water has flowed under the bridges since these notes appeared in the *New Yorker*, but what was stated so well has a quality of permanence. We think that it will be of interest to our readers to reproduce lengthy but relevant extracts from these notes of the *New Yorker* of May 11, 1973 because we have not so far seen an analysis with such deep insight as this one in respect of the Watergate Affair.



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The *New Yorker* first briefly set out the apprehensions which had arisen in the USA as a result of Nixon's extension of presidential rule to the point where American democracy itself was threatened. "...Only a month ago, the executive branch of the government seemed poised to take full control of our nations' affairs. The opposition had been surrounded and penned in, and was being disarmed: Congress had been shouldered aside; a few more appointments to the Supreme Court promised to bring the Court into line; the President and his public-relations advisers had preempted the major channels of public discourse, so that while other voices were still free to speak they could not make themselves heard. The executive had lowered a curtain of secrecy around itself. And, although the public still did not quite believe it, the men in the White House had deeply compromised the electoral system. Their well-made plans of self-aggrandizement and usurpation were unfolding smoothly in every area..."

Then came the bombshell.

Little did anyone think that the case of Watergate "burglars" would blow up into a gigantic explosion with a political fallout that will cast a dark shadow over the American President.

This is how the *New Yorker* described these events "...Then, in an instant, the advancing executive machine went entirely to pieces, as though someone had touched a secret spring at its back. There had been no bold campaign

by an opposition camp; there had been almost no speeches, and not one demonstration. Rather, a few intrepid investigators had uncovered a few facts, and the incredible collapse began.

"Where a moment earlier the men of the executive had been spreading out unchecked across a clear field of action, now a whole jungle of prohibitions and laws had sprung up around them. In a flash, all their strengths had turned to weaknesses; the dynamics of self-aggrandizement had been converted into a dynamics of self-destruction. The telephone calls to powerful friends that had once protected them now increased their jeopardy. The coverups that had kept the investigators at bay now led the investigators in deeper. All the moves designed to strengthen the White House position were now expediting its undoing. Each well-laid plan emerged as a damning conspiracy, and the better coordinated it had been, the easier the investigators now found it to follow the links from one conspirator to another. The group's cohesion had been perhaps its greatest strength, and as soon as one man deserted, suspicion seeped into every relationship and they all began to desert. A frightful metamorphosis had taken place, as though a curse had been laid on the whole group overnight. Where once silence had been so efficiently preserved, there were dozens of voices broadcasting not only the damaging truth but also any rumours or lies that might help each person save his own skin by putting his former col-

leagues in peril. Where once fanatical loyalty had been the rule, there was betrayal in equal measure"

The *New Yorker* went on "...The ruthlessness that these men had directed outward was redirected toward one another. Each man became both the blackmailer of his old friends and the victim of blackmail by them. The same momentum that had carried these men to the pinnacle of their power was now carrying them back down to their ruin. Even the weapons they had used in the open were blowing up in their hands: in a striking parallel to the "black propaganda" they had been so fond of (propaganda with which they attempted to discredit their foes by making them appear to have uttered damaging statements), their own techniques of vituperation against the Congress and the press rebounded to their disadvantage in the changed atmosphere. And even the arguments by which their supporters had attempted to shore up the President's position turned against him: the supporters had hinted broadly that we should not press too hard for the truth, because we could not afford to have a crippled President in the White House, but when a good part of the truth had come out, and the President had been crippled, the argument that we could not afford to have a crippled President in the White House weighed in on the side of his stepping down. Once the fact finders had brought out their facts, the opposition had only to stand on the sidelines and watch what the executive branch of the government

would do. A few people moved quietly in the direction of the truth, and the great bully overthrew himself."

And, the *New Yorker* finally stated that all this could not have happened five years ago: "...It could not have happened five years ago. In those days, the fate of an Administration in such a case would certainly have been decided along the old, "polarized" lines. The liberal Democrats would have been in the vanguard of a full-scale assault on the President. At their backs would have been "the kids," in armies of millions in the streets. Republicans and conservative Democrats, fearful of weakening a President in wartime, would have rallied to the Commander-in-Chief, and at their backs would have been the military and the police. The United States would have been lucky to emerge from the ensuing strife as a Constitutional republic. But the kids have stayed out of these recent events altogether. Having checked the progress of an unjust war, they have retired to their campuses and left the new job to elder

RECORD

Ichiro Sekiguchi, who owns a cafe in downtown Tokyo, recently set a new record in pipe-smoking, beating 58 rivals. Each contestant was given three grammes of tobacco which he was told to smoke as long as possible. Sekiguchi's pipe went out after 68 minutes and 20 seconds.

SHAMBA

THE FIRST VEGETABLE APPEARS

JUNE 4-12

by ANATORY BUKOBA

June 4.

You cannot stand up in our kitchen. It is about four feet high but it does our cook very well. The head of my bed is about four feet, too, from the fireplace, and my head, when I am on the bed, about a foot and a half from the roof. If I lie on my stomach or turn on my side, I can see everything on that side of the house through the "window". There is a real window on the side of my bed, and I can see everything to the front of the house through that. The foot of my bed is by the door, and so I can keep an eye on any one coming in. By looking across the room, I can look out of the other window on to that side of the house.

dragon - slayers — men like Senator Sam Ervin, Senator Barry Goldwater, and Judge John J. Sirica."

All this makes interesting reading.

We are hoping that other copies of the *New Yorker* will reach us. A *Tribune* reader in the USA sends us an occasional copy of the *New Yorker* if he thinks that there is some material which will interest us. Even late, much of what is said in the *New Yorker* has topicality in Sri Lanka where foreign exchange difficulties have denied us a great deal of essential reading.

There is a window on each side of the front door.

We planted today, or rather transplanted from our nursery, as a consequence of yesterday's rain, one hundred and fifty chilli plants, I am told, seventy five tomato plants, forty-five beetroot, forty two young papaw plants, four water melon creepers, eight lady's fingers, and we planted two pineapple tops, from pineapples which we had bought for seventy-five cents each.

Here is news too. Our largest bean plant has produced our first vegetable. Truly a red-letter day.

If the sun had come up, or rather shone through, most of what we transplanted would surely have died. It not only failed to shine, but it rained; several showers during the day, none of them too heavy, and there is a heavy drizzle while I write. In my opinion, God has been very good to us, as He always is.

We have done no real clearing for some time, but I think, for the time being, our wood apples, from the trees that grow like a weed in this place, is safe.

We have embarked on some business. We packed some beans, papaw and water melon, all seeds, for sale. Let us hope we sell them.

TRIBUNE, August 11, 1973

It took three of us to do the job. I had the easiest task, sticking down the envelopes, and using water from a bowl to do so. Another wrote the necessary names on the envelope in both Sinhalese and English. Another counted the seeds and put them in the envelope.

Our rice meal at night is always followed, after an interval of time, the time which it takes to make it, and a period of rest, by a fruit course or pudding, which can be drunk and it is made with milk. The fruit is always squeezed with the milk. Sugar is added. Tonight we are using one papaw, a slice of pineapple two passion fruit, and one plantain, a greater variety than usual. More often it is made entirely of plantain or papaw, or mango, with the coconut milk and sugar, and it always tasty and nice.

June 6,

Whenever I come back after a short absence, say, a night and a day away, I find that something that was doing quite well when I left has died. This time it was two of the four beans that a friend brought here some time ago. Last time it was the *ratta cadju*, strangely enough brought by the same man at the same time as the beans. As usual there was no reasonable explanation as to why it happened. Another casualty is the eighteen month jak which those who have read *Shamba* from the beginning will have heard so much of. If it is not dead yet it still looks that way, all its leaves gone once more. It has been well plied with the left of fruit we have eaten, and that might have done the damage.

There has been rain while I have been away, but there was also some hot sun, and it does not look as if the beetroot has survived its transplanting but the tomato has. Grass is beginning to appear in the earlier vegetable beds, those in front of the house.

We packeted two hundreds lots of seeds today, papaw, chilli, water-melon and bean. It is a fascinating job and keeps us from being too talkative while we are doing it. We have been blessed with a lot of old magazines, and this also reduced us to silence, an undoubted blessing sometimes, so absorbed was everyone in the magazines. We are pulling together much better now, and that is a great

thing when it is remembered that no one here is working either for a wage or a fixed income, but, like any small business man or land owner, for what he can make, an uncertain quantity. There is no monthly milk cheque here, but with our selling of seeds we hope and ought to have a much quicker turn-over than the local farmer who gets his income only once or twice a year.

At last I was able to take a little time bathing today. There was not the usual rush to get back. I was able to swim about and splash a little. The current was strong, too strong for me to swim against it. The rain of the last few days seems to have stopped at last. It was a heaven sent blessing while it lasted.

Our of great joy is to have people dropping in on us. It can, however, be a mixed blessing. There are some who have a knock of always coming at the wrong time. Others seem to fit in with our work more easily and never appear a hindrance. It is this companion-ship that makes life more tolerable.

June 11,

Enforced absence during the working day has kept me from writing these notes the last few days. This morning we transplanted cucumber, and saved passion fruit and cowpea seeds. I saw the last of the eighteen month jak; its stem above the root was rotten if there ever was a case of overmanuring, this was probably it. The manioc does not seem to be thriving at all. In this case is the

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trouble one of overwatering, preventing by too much, or constant watering the roots from striking really deep? The transplanted chilli, tomato and bean seem to be doing well. The water melon is growing at a snail's pace. The bittergourd is not growing fast either. the *cadju* seeds have germinated well; this *cadju* is not to be confused with *raita-cadju* which is something different. The only plant which has grown well here is a flower which I brought here from up the road. The flower has not appeared yet, but the buds have; and the plant is in full flower at the place I got it from.

We were back clearing today after a long while, two *kathas* being used which has not happened before. It will be a great day when this acre is cleared at last. I find clearing a satisfying task, if you can avoid thorn pricks. The *divul* is nearly ready, and so we must get on with this job of clearing.

Yesterday we were invaded by the *kaddi* ant at night. It was caused, I think, by the floor not being swept. I swept the house at several times, and the *kaddi* disappeared. The bite of a *kaddi* hurts more and longer than that of a red ant. That of a red ant is mild in comparison. The red ant crawls up one's legs. The *kaddi* bites at the first place he can get hold of. The red ant prefers vegetation, the *kaddi* is always on the ground. In Africa there is a large ant called the *Safari* ant.

As regards our being here, I think we have settled down

and been accepted by the village. One usually learns about this acceptance in a round-about way.

We are using our own home made oil lamp. The ones we buy for fifty cents and seventy five cents do not last.

Tomorrow is *pola*, our local fair day. Although *polas* are supposed to be cheap, I cannot say that they really are. In some respects they seem to be more expensive—chillies, for example. It is usually all over by eleven o'clock, and it is held on the same day every week. The sellers usually start moving it the previous night. If I do not think the *pola* is cheap, it is certainly a place where you can get things you do not ordinarily see. In this respect, it saves a trip to town, and it can be as exciting as walking through Woolworth's or Selfridges.

June 12,

There was a beautiful mauve flower right outside our house today, but it has already faded away, half-a-day later. Anyway, there will be many more to come. We learnt today that it will be two months before the wood-apple is ready. This is a blessing, for we are not ready for it yet.

Clearing went on, and we did a large chunk, which was like a wedge, in the direction to the front of the house. It was difficult because there was so much thorn. I like this job of clearing, and when it is all over, we shall have to start again keeping what we have cleared clean. We shall then be able to give some thought to land-

scape gardening, and blend it with our farming.

The little red onion that I had sowed does not seem to have come out right. Because of the scarcity of the onion just now, I think some of the stalks found their way into the cooking pot. I bought some more today, and I have extracted a promise from the others that we shall sow half of it.

We are busy packing seed. Not all our papaw seed has been sold, nor all our water melon. All the chilli and the bean has been disposed of, and we are just going to packet some more chilli seed.

There is a well to dig, a "matti" house to put up, a lavatory to be constructed, so much to do, and so few hands. The three of us live on Rs. 5/- a day. I think we sometimes exceed it. We bathe in the afternoon, there is no time in the evening to do so.

Our village has expanded since I came here. There are more shops and new ones are still going up.

THOSE COSTLY CARS

The F.R.G. Ministry of Transport has calculated the damage caused the national economy by the overabundance of cars. The losses sustained as a result of accidents come to about 18,000 million marks a year and traffic jams cost another 8,000-10,000 million. After adding a few other items, Transport Minister Lauritz Lauritzen has come to the conclusion that the losses total 30,000 million marks a year.

SHOWING THE WAY

'MAKE MONEY, NOT WAR'

By CANAX

Don't quote me, please, but I hope the Government knows what it's doing letting the Sri Lanka Air Force go chasing after other people's money so openly. True, the way things are every little bit helps, but even a clot like me realises, with a little persuasion, that you can't let SLAF go PUMF and not have problems. Lots and lots of them.

PUMF, by the way, is something SLAF invented, and stands for Peaceful Uses of Military Forces. Seems our Air Force underwent this radical change of heart over a year and a half ago and has since been quietly looking for exchange instead of enemies. But the most recent, and in a sense also the most provocative instance of PUMF was its much-publicised purchase of a Convair 440 for Rs. 570,000, all of it in VFE. That, by the way, is not a SLAF invention, fortunately, and stands (in case you're dense, like me) for Valuable Foreign Exchange.

I happened to have a word the other day with a leading economist and found he was very worried about what the Air Force was up to, besides 30,000 feet. Said he, "Allowing this sort of ad hoc adventurism can only make a shambles of all our careful planning, and I don't mean economic. If I remember right, the Air Force wasn't even mentioned in the Five

Year Plan, and for good reason too. No doubt it has a responsible role to play, but providing the fly-past and aerobatic display once a year on Republic Day doesn't contribute to economic progress as far as I can tell."

"But they're making money!" I protested.

"That's all very well," he agreed, "but you don't see the point I'm making. Let me put it this way—has anybody thought of the consequences?"

"You mean making money can have unpleasant side-effects?"

"Of course," he said emphatically. "All depends on whether the money is locally-made or the imported variety."

The economist went on to explain that unlike the wishy-washy home-made stuff, foreign money was frightfully potent and therefore posed many dangers. The one danger he was thinking of was not economic but political, and was in the field of foreign policy. Too much reliance on other people's money would make a mockery of our strict neutrality, a position we took up after years of self-interested soul searching.

"Don't get me wrong," he went on. "Other people's money has its uses, and I feel its inherent dangers can be overcome up to a point

by resorting to harsh and perhaps unpalatable measures, like using it to finance essential imports."

The wisdom of his words was obvious. "I know exactly what you mean," I agreed. "There are still some Ministers making do with cars almost one year old, and that's a crying shame for any developing nation."

The Air Force's foreign exchange frolic, he felt, could not by itself cause irreparable damage either to our foreign policy or to our economy, both of which were in a class by themselves. The danger was in others trying to emulate the Air Force effort and inadvertently embarrassing the Government in the process.

"Tell me," he said, "what's the difference between the Convair 440 and the DC-8?"

"Only the name," I replied. "That apart, they are both equally out-dated."

"I thought so too, but when Air Ceylon wanted the DC-8 the Government didn't have exchange to pay for that."

"So?"

"The inescapable conclusion is that the Air Force did the trick by going PUMF," he said.

"Oh, you think Air Ceylon will go PUMF too?"

"Not likely. I'd expect it to go WUUF."

"But I thought Air Ceylon had gone to the dogs a long time ago," I cried.

"You're barking up the wrong tree," he cautioned.

Solicitude for the "Tamul" Language: Governor Barnes Raised Many Obstacles

by James T. Rutnam

"WUUF stands for Warlike Uses of Useless Forces. From now on, the only question Air Ceylon will surely ask is 'How much is that in dollars?' It stands to reason."

"Are you suggesting our national carrier will provide air cover for the next insurgency?"

"No, there'll only be rupees and cents in that, which is as good as doing it for free."

"But then, where's the war?" I demanded. "And who's giving us the dollars."

"One silly question at a time," he said gravely. "Your ignorance is understandable, but the war is in Cambodia. You probably haven't even heard of the August 15 deadline by Congress to Nixon?"

"To hand over the tapes along with his signed confession?"

"To stop his Air Force from saving democracy with bombs, because that's too expensive a method, so he's going to need any old aircraft that will help achieve his objective at a fraction of the cost."

"Now it figures," I admitted. "Our national carrier has built up such a dirty reputation, Nixon has only to say Air Ceylon is coming and the Commies will start running, leaving democracy unharmed. The dollars will come from a grateful Dick, huh?"

"Not quite," he said. "The dough will probably be routed via Mexico, and be paid by CREEP, so Nixon won't know a thing."

"It would be so much nicer getting the stuff from Nixon himself," I suggested.

"The President of the United States doesn't dole out

This is the fourth instalment of the series of articles on Batticotta Seminary, (now Jaffna College), at Vaddukkoddai, in Jaffna, which was founded on July 22, 1823 - one hundred and fifty years ago.

IX

THE SECOND object declared in the Prospectus was "the cultivation of Tamul literature". This is how it was described:

money," he said in a huff. "He simply charges everything to his Credit Card and, of late, to John Dean as well."

"But where's the danger you spoke of?"

"I was coming to that," he said. "The danger is to our sacred neutrality and the dilemma is in our wanting the dollars so much."

"I see your point. We can't kiss the Communists at home and kick them abroad, even for dollars. The Government won't approve WUUF, I suppose?"

"A cruel choice, indeed," he said. "But the question is, can the Government not approve? A Government so clearly committed to saving democracy here cannot but approve of Nixon wanting to do the same thing somewhere else. The objective is the same, only the means are different. And the end always justifies the means, doesn't it?"

"To maintain any good degree of respect among the native inhabitants, it is necessary to understand their literature. The Tamul language like the Sanskrit, Hebrew, Greek, etc. is an original and perfect language, and is in itself highly worthy of cultivation. The high or poetic Tamul is, however, very difficult of acquisition, and requires all the aids which the college is designed to furnish. The Puranas, and all the more common sacred books, are to be found translated into high Tamul, in which they are read in the temples: and it is particularly desirable that some at least, if not all of those who are set for the defence, or employed in the propagation of the Gospel, should be able to read and understand them."

It further stated:

"a more important benefit would be the cultivation of Tamul composition, which is now almost entirely neglected. It is common to find among Tamul people men who can read correctly, who understand to some extent the poetic language, and who are able perhaps to form a kind of artificial verse, who cannot write a single page of correct prose."

it continued:

"the attention of many must be turned to writing intelli-

gibly, and forcibly, in their own language. Original native composition, on account of the superior felicity of its

Probing the Ocean Floor

France's biggest bathysphere, the Archimede, is on its way from Toulon to the Azores where it is to be lowered to a depth of 2,900 metres in order literally to probe the bottom of the Atlantic. The device is equipped with a long controlled arm capable of picking up samples of the ocean floor and loading them in baskets. The samples will be chosen by geophysical instruments specially designed for the purpose. The Archimede also carries a television camera, the observations of which will be recorded. The total weight of the complex equipment carried runs to 2,500 kilogrammes. A special system has been devised to determine the precise location of the bathysphere. It is linked with the mother ship Marcel Le Bihan, which in turn will determine its bearings by the U.S. satellite Transit. The expedition is part of a Franco-American programme of underwater studies. The purpose is to collect geophysical data relating to the continental drift. As is known, scientists believe that Europe and Africa, on the one side, and North and South America on the other, have been slowly drifting apart for 200 million years.

style and idiom, will be read when the production of a foreigner, or a translation, will be thrown aside. To raise up, therefore, and qualify a class of native authors whose minds being enriched by science may be capable not only of embodying European ideas, but of putting them into a handsome native dress, must be rendering important aid to the interests of learning and Christianity."

As it will be seen, the missionaries held firm to the view that the "interests of learning and Christianity" were not contradictory; thus their ultimate objective was not overlooked.

X

IT WAS also planned to give a select number of the pupils a course of study in Sanskrit, Hebrew, Latin and Greek. These were generally intended for students proposing to be "native preachers."

The Prospectus stated:

"In addition to these languages, and through the medium principally of the English, it is designed to teach, as far as the circumstances of the country require, the science usually studied in the colleges of Europe and America. The course at present contemplated will embrace, more or less extensively, Geography, Chronology, History (civil and ecclesiastical), Elements of Geometry, Mathematics, Trigonometry, Natural Philosophy of the Mind, and Natural and Revealed Religion. In teaching these it is designed to provide as fast as possible elementary works

in Tamil, for the assistance of the Student. The public lectures will be delivered principally in English with suitable explanations in the Native language. That all the students will be able to make great advances in most of their different branches, is not supposed, but that many will thereby obtain an expansion of mind, and power of receiving and originating thought, which will not only free them from the shackles of superstition but enable them to guide others also is not only hoped but confidently believed."

THERE WERE other benefits too contemplated by the architects of this institution: They stated:

"Agriculture and mechanic arts will be improved, learning will rise in estimation and gradually obtain a dominion over wealth and caste; the native character will be raised, and the native mind, freed from the shackles of custom, will imbibe that spirit of improvement which has so long distinguished and blessed most European countries. A College, such as this is intended to be, would give a new tone to the whole system of education in this District, and exert an influence which would be felt in every school and village."

"In short", Chelliah wrote, "the founders had in view not only the raising up of competent Preachers and Mission Agents, but also well educated citizens, Christian and non-Christian, who would serve government and society in the work of the uplift of the country."

The Plan was thought by some to be "rather large", but according to an early Report of the Mission it was "warmly approved by the friends of the Mission in America and generally also in India. Funds to a considerable amount were conditionally pledged in America, and would have been given, had not unexpected obstacles from the local Government prevented its projectors from carrying the Plan fully into effect."

XI

WHAT were these obstacles?

The Ceylon Government under Barnes would not allow the work to be carried out as proposed. It was expressly stated, says Miss Helen I Root, in her book *A Century in Ceylon* that no more missionaries could join the force and no "College" could be established.

Poor was undeterred. Within four months of the issue of the Prospectus, Poor and his colleagues presented everybody with a *fait accompli*. The University (so it was, despite the fact that it had no Charter) was begun, although at its birth it was wrapt in swaddling clothes. There were no buildings to speak of. Funds had to be collected.

Even the final sanction of the Board had to come. But the professors were there. The students, were there too. Together, these pioneers formed the University, the first of its kind in Ceylon, and the second in Asia, the other being Serampore College in India.

Let others contend, Poor would have told himself, for the name, we shall have to substance. For the name of the institution remained unresolved for a number of years. Even the siting of the institution at Jaffna, the metropolis of the peninsula, so desirable from many points of view, was abandoned from a fear that organisers would be thought of as being too ambitious.

BUT Poor continued to press his claims for due recognition of the institution by the local Government under Barnes. He sought assistance from such friends as the Archdeacon Twisleton. He also sought the aid of the Board in America to make a direct approach to the British Government. This too was done, but to little avail. A College such as the one proposed "had to be under instructors from Great Britain." That was the furthest concession that could be wrung from unwilling hands. This proposal was however politely ignored by Poor.

The Term "Seminary" which was finally used to

describe this institution was an innocuous word that could mean different things to different men. A Mrs. Edema had a school which she called a "Seminary" in the Fort of Colombo. There is a reference to it in the *Ceylon Government Gazette* of 7th February 1818. In the issue of the *Gazette* of 29th May the following year, a Mr. Taylor speaks of his "Seminary" at Main Street, Pettah. These were of course primary or post-primary schools. The Government Seminary at Hultsdorf was no better. It was at the most a secondary school.

The Missionaries appear to have toyed with the word "Academy" too, originally a word to mean the garden near Athens where Plato had taught. At the end, they agreed, modestly, upon the word Seminary for their University College. In this manner the missionaries had cleverly sidetracked Government disapproval of the word "College" and all that word connoted in the context of a University.

(To be Continued)

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THE INDIAN OCEAN-2

SOVIET NAVAL PRESENCE

by J. P. Anand

Institute for Defence Studies & Analyses,
New Delhi

This is the concluding part of the article on *Soviet Naval Presence* by J. P. Anand syndicated by Foreign News & Features, New Delhi, in their Indian Ocean Series. The first part of this article appeared in the *Tribune*, July 14, 1973.

Why should the Russians be interested in the Indian Ocean? In his speech to the Supreme Soviet on 27 June, 1968, Foreign Minister Gromyko said, "Equal rights in all spheres of activity in the international area, including the adoption of measures to protect the vital interests of the Soviet Union, its allies and friends; no discrimination in world trade; extensive scientific, technological and cultural exchanges and freedom of navigation of our ships and fleets, no less than for the ships and fleets of any other power—all this determines our possibilities and responsibilities in the world affairs."

Thus the Russians, according to Nestor R. Cervantes, in *The Djakarta Times* of 29 April 1970, saw "a power vacuum" developing in the region at a time when it is politically and militarily important for them to exert power in the area. According to Creighton Burns (*The Age*, Australia, 9 July 1969), the function of the Soviet Fleet is to support systematically the Soviet drive for Asian markets. Another Western view was that apart from its interest in the region as a world power, Russia had two other reasons for moving into the Indian Ocean:

- (i) her desire to see the Chinese influence contained, and
- (ii) the deployment of her navy away from the old concept of land-based fleet.

Neil Sheehan writing in the *International Herald Tribune* (19 October 1970) pointed out that the reasons behind the Soviet presence in the Indian Ocean were: its desire to reach into warm waters, its substantial investment in economic and military aid, to strengthen its influence in the area, a strong desire to contain and hem in China to the extent possible to prevent it from acquiring political influence in the volatile Arab states and in East Africa; and lastly, there was the simplest of reasons—pride in power. The Russians had a mighty Navy and wanted to sail around the world Oceans. It must sail somewhere.

ACCORDING to a NATO assessment, published in December 1970, the two objec-

tives of the Soviet ships were observation and recovery of their own spacecraft and showing the flag in this important strategic area, possibly to assert their presence and influence in future. Earlier, Sir Alec Douglas-Home, British Foreign Secretary, said on 9 October 1970 that the Soviet Navy was becoming oceanic in its range.

The SEATO report issued in London on 23 April, 1971 said, "The objectives of Russia's push into the Indian Ocean include ensuring the security of the Soviet Union, the expansion of Soviet influence outside the Soviet bloc, the undermining and disruption of western influence and the containment, and where possible, the elimination, of Chinese influence." The Soviet Union's interest as a global power has frequently taken precedence over all other considerations including those of ideology, the report added.

C. L. Sulzberger pointed out in the *International Herald Tribune* (5 May 1971) that the aim of the present day Red Fleet was to reduce the offensive power of the Western allies by forcing them to commit far greater forces to the defence of the sea lanes than the Soviet Union committed to their attack.

The Chief of the Soviet Naval Staff, Admiral Vladimir Alexeiev, in an interview in Moscow on 19 February 1971, said that the Soviet Navy was not planning to threaten anybody but it would continue to ply all the world oceans "which are nobody's property". He charged that

imperialist circles concerned with the growth of Soviet naval power were spreading the myth of a Soviet threat.

The Australian Parliamentary Affairs Committee in its report, on the Indian Ocean published on 9 December 1971, said that the Soviet naval presence, because of its size, vulnerability and lack of base facilities, could not be considered an aggressive military force or threat. It was not large enough or sufficiently supported for far-reaching naval objectives. The presence probably represented a combination of flag-showing force and area familiarisation oriented to anti-Polaris, anti-carrier role with the additional political objective of securing denuclearisation of the Indian Ocean. Indications are that the political objective was the primary one. It could be generally described as a political and psychological tool which increased uncertainty in the region. The main Soviet interest lay not on the sealanes but on shores where the bolstering and the establishment of non-aligned States was the major objective.

ACCORDING to a study published by Brookings Institution in Washington on 23 April 1973, the Soviet Navy appeared to be designed less for operations in distant seas such as the Indian Ocean, than to assure Soviet security closer at home. Expansion of its naval operation had not been matched by capability for sustained combat at sea. It had done little to develop the overseas national support facilities that would be required for sustained

overseas operations, the study pointed out.

The rising level of Soviet naval activity in the Indian Ocean has produced mixed perceptions in the West. It has been a source of concern to South Africa and Australia especially when the Liberal—Country coalition government was in power. Some US and British naval Commanders, Conservative Party leaders, as well as a section of the Western European Press had been evincing undue anxiety over the Soviet fleet operations in the region. They have described it as a situation where important sea lanes, lines of communications and trade supply lines — their vital "arteries"—in the Indian Ocean were likely to come under threat. The sharpness of this assessment seems to have waned somewhat after the Conservative Party came to power in June 1970 and this would tend to support the conclusion that this was a convenient issue on which to criticise the Labour Party's policy towards South Africa.

British Foreign Secretary, Sir Alec Douglas-Home, in his foreign policy statement in the House of Commons on 6 July 1970 said that Britain "cannot risk its life against mounting Communist military presence." During his visit to Australia, British Defence Secretary, Lord Carrington, while answering questions in Canberra on 31 July 1970 defended Britain's interests and intentions in keeping watch on Russian activity in the Indian Ocean. He told correspondents in London on 19 November 1970

that it would be perilous for Britain and Commonwealth nations bordering the Indian Ocean to ignore the danger of Russian "infiltration" there.

IN THE COURSE of the debate on defence policy in the House of Commons on 2 March 1971, Prime Minister Edward Heath warned that the Soviet Union could any time play cat-and-mouse tactics to menace traffic in the Indian Ocean. Earlier, addressing a Press Conference in New Delhi on 10 January 1971, he described the Soviet Union as "expansionist". He felt that Moscow had been able to achieve in five years what the Czars had not been able to do in 150 years extending their reach to the warm waters of the Indian

Israel's Military Spending

Israel's per capita military spending is the highest in the world, says the U.S. Time magazine. Thirty per cent of the budget goes directly for military purposes and another 20 per cent to pay debts contracted to finance acts of aggression. With inflation spiralling, prices rising and real wages falling, widespread poverty is the price the citizens of Israel have to pay for the actions of the Tel Aviv leaders, the magazine says. In 1972 the cost of living increased by 13 per cent. The prices of prime necessities, including food, as well as rent went up.

Ocean. The UK White Paper on Defence, issued on 16 February 1972, said that the Soviet naval deployment in the Indian Ocean posed a potential threat to vital Western routes.

A *Tass* commentary on 20 November 1970 described the Western talks of Soviet "penetration" as a cover for the dangerous plans of US and Britain in the area. Radio Moscow in a broadcast on 18 January 1971 deprecated the fuss about mythical Soviet threat. Addressing a Press Conference in Singapore on 21 January 1971, External Affairs Minister Sardar Swaran

Singh said that the Soviet naval presence did not pose a threat to any nation. All that happened was that Soviet ships had begun manoeuvring in the areas thus breaking the British monopoly in the region. India had been taking the view that the Soviet presence had been vastly exaggerated. There had not been a single case where Soviet ships had interfered with the free movement of shipping in the region.

According to *Jane's Fighting Ships 1972-73*, the USSR has 95 nuclear-powered submarines, 313 conventionally powered submarines, 2 cruiser helicopters, 12 missile armed cruisers, 15 other destroyers and 1,263 smaller vessels besides a large number of support ships, auxiliaries and service craft. A NATO assessment in December 1970 pointed out that the Soviets since 1968 had maintained a fleet averaging 8 ships in the Indian Ocean with a tremendous effort and high cost.

The UK White Paper on Defence, issued on 17 February 1971, stated that the Soviet Union for a time had 7 surface ships, at least 4 submarines and 9 auxiliary ships in the Indian Ocean. A report of the Australian Parliament Committee, published on 9 December 1971, said that the actual size of the Soviet Fleet in the Indian Ocean had averaged four to six ships with a maximum of 12 in 1969. Five Soviet naval ships that entered the Indian Ocean in the wake of incursion by a Task Force of the US Seventh Fleet in December 1971 pulled out in the first half of 1972. Three or

four Soviet warships entered the Indian Ocean in early January 1973.

THE ABOVE FACTS of Soviet naval deployment raise the question why there should be so much concern about miniscular and intermittent Soviet naval presence in the Indian Ocean. Britain is unable to do anything about the massive deployment of Soviet Navy in the North Atlantic where the battle for Britain's lifeline was fought during the two World Wars, in and around the Caribbean, the Mediterranean and in the vast expanses of the Pacific. If the Soviets were to attempt to disrupt the British and Western lifelines, they would logically attempt it in the Atlantic and not in a far-flung peripheral area of the western Indian Ocean and thus leave the initiative to the West to retaliate against the Soviet Union in waters nearer home.

In one of the amusing aspects of international politics, by a strange coincidence today, the British Prime Minister, the South African Government leaders, the Chinese Communist leaders and sections of the US military establishment seem to share a common assessment in regard to Soviet Naval threat.

With the signing of the Indo-Soviet treaty of peace, friendship and co-operation on 9 August 1971, a new element has been introduced into the situation. Article 9 of the treaty reads:

"In the event of either party being subjected to an attack or threat thereof, the High

PAYING LESS FOR THE WEDDING

Wedding ceremonies and parties are very expensive in Japan, especially if one is a member of high society. Many newlyweds find them beyond their means. And so it is becoming a practice to marry abroad. One enterprising firm has opened a special service-it charters special planes that take students, young engineers, journalists and budding businessmen and their brides to France. There, they are married in the medieval Chateau d'Usse, near Tours, and then taken to Tours, where they spend the wedding night in an old palace. After that there is a short honeymoon trip to Touraine, followed by the return flight home. All this costs less than the traditional society wedding in Japan.

Contracting Parties shall immediately enter into mutual consultations in order to remove such threat and to take appropriate effective measures to ensure peace and the security of their countries." It has been emphasised that the treaty is not a mutual security pact and the Soviet Union will continue to respect India's non-alignment. It would follow from this that the treaty itself will not lead to the development of Soviet bases in and around India. According to some observers, the treaty was meant as a balancing factor against the Sino-American rapprochement and concerted moves by China and Pakistan against India.

A grave threat to India did arise out of the activities of the US Seventh Fleet and an implicit nuclear threat was held out by the presence of nuclear powered carrier USS *Enterprise* with nuclear weapons on board in the Bay of Bengal. It is likely that the presence of some units of Soviet Pacific Fleet in the Indian Ocean had a sobering effect on the United States and deterred it from launching on an adventurous course.

External Affairs Minister Sardar Swaran Singh in an interview, published by *Tass* on 16 February 1972, said that the treaty had already shown that it was an effective instrument for the maintenance of universal peace and international security and lessening tensions.

* * *

500th ANNIVERSARY

Nicolaus Copernicus

— he revolutionised science —

by

J. D. Bernal

IT IS no accident that it was in the field of astronomy, so closely related to that of geography, that was to come the first in some ways the most important break in the whole ancient system of thought. This was the clear and detailed exposition by Copernicus of the rotation of the earth on its axis and its motion around a fixed sun. Descriptive astronomy was the only science at that time which had accumulated enough observations and developed mathematical methods accurate enough to permit hypotheses to be set out clearly and tested numerically.

Also, as we have seen, it was a centre of renewed interest both for its old astrological and its new navigational use. These in themselves might well not have led to any radical advance. Professional astronomers like Peurbach (1423-61) and Regiomontanus (1436-76) found the old methods, with minor improvements, good enough for them.

Nevertheless it is to them and the Renaissance spirit which led them to seek for Greek originals that we owe the new astronomy. Peurbach was in the service of Cardinal Bessarion (c. 1400-1472), the Byzantine humanist, and was engaged by the Pope in the reform of the calendar.

What Copernicus added was the new critical spirit, and appreciation of aesthetic form and the inspiration of newly edited texts which could also be used to balance one ancient authority against another. For, as we have seen, the idea of the rotation of the earth was by no means a new one. It goes back to the very foundation of Greek astronomy and was stated in so many words by Aristarchus in the third century B.C.

It had always remained as an alternative—though paradoxically absurd—view of the motion of the stars; for it was self-evident that the earth did not move, while the sun, moon, and stars could be seen to do so.

Courage as well as science would be needed to upset the common sense view. The man who was to dare to do this, for all his retiring nature, had plenty of courage and, as a Renaissance humanist, had all the incentives to achieve this decisive break with the past.

NICOLAUS COPERNICUS was born at Torun in Poland in 1473, was educated at Bologna for astronomy, at Padua for medicine, and at Ferrara for law, and spent most of his life as canon of Frauenburg. As this cathedral town was situated in

the disputed territory between the Teutonic knights and the kingdom of Poland, he had much to do with war and administration; but his main interest was always astronomical, and he devoted the whole of his private life to the effort to find a more rational picture of the heavens, which he set out in final form in his book *On the Revolution of the Celestial Orbs* which was printed only in the very year of his death in 1543.

In it he postulated a system of spheres centred round the sun rather than the earth, assuming the rotation of the earth and showing in detail how this could account for all astronomical observations. **His reasons for this revolutionary change were essentially philosophic and aesthetic. Speaking of his sun-centred system and its implication of the almost infinite distance of the stars he writes:**

"I think it is easier to believe this than to confuse the issue by assuming a vast number of Spheres, which those who keep Earth at the centre must do. We thus rather follow Nature, who producing nothing vain or superfluous, often prefers to endow one cause with many effects."

And then after describing the planetary orbs one after another he ends:

In the middle of all sits Sun enthroned. In this most beautiful temple could we place this luminary in any better position from which he can illuminate the whole at once? He is rightly called the Lamp, the Mind, the Ruler of the Universe; Hermes Trismegistus names him

the visible God, Sophocles' Electra calls him the All-seeing. So the Sun sits as upon a royal throne ruling his children the planets which circle round him. The Earth has the Moon at her service. As Aristotle says, in his de Animalibus, the Moon has the closest relationship with the Earth. Meanwhile the Earth conceives by the Sun, and becomes pregnant with an annual rebirth.

Here also we see both a return to a most ancient, indeed a magical, view of the universe and an exaltation of the central monarchy, *le Roi Soleil*.

The presentation of the solar system took some time to have any effect. A few astronomers appreciated it as a means of improving calcula-

tions. The Prussian tables were prepared in 1551 on the basis of the Copernican system, but few believed it was really true. Besides being repugnant to common sense, there were many objections that affected the learned, particularly as to how the earth could go round without producing a mighty wind or deflecting the fall of shot. These were only finally removed by Galileo.

Nevertheless the mere idea of an open universe, with the earth but a small part of it, was shattering to the old image of closed concentric crystalline spheres, divinely created and maintained in motion. If there were new worlds on the earth, might there not also be in the sky?

GOOD BUSINESS

Robert L. Vesco is the target of the largest fraud case in the history of the Securities and Exchange Commission, which charges that he drained off some \$ 224 million in assets of his IOS overseas mutual fund empire. A year ago, Vesco contributed \$ 200,000 to the Nixon campaign—all of it in cash and much of it in hundred-dollar bills which were stashed away in the safe of the President's finance chairman, Maurice H. Stans. The money originated with the Bahamas Commonwealth Bank in Nassau, though foreign political donations are illegal under U.S. law. The contribution reached the GOP after the new campaign financing statute went into effect, but it was never reported.

Arrangements for the contribution were made by Mr. Nixon's brother Edward, a former business associate of Vesco, so it must have been perfectly proper. What's more, the money was returned to Vesco in perfectly proper fashion as soon as newspapers began inquiring about it a few weeks ago.

We could go on and on, mentioning curious aspects of the Watergate case, domestic activities of the Central Intelligence Agency, the funny clicking noises heard on Washington correspondents' telephones. You get the picture, though: lots of things happening, and all of them perfectly proper.

CHRONICLE**June 26 to July 4**

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

TUESDAY, JUNE 26: The water levels at the Mousakelle and Castlereagh reservoirs had gone up one foot: but the water was still far below spill level. The *Sun* reported that the Government yesterday approved the release of Rs. 50 million in "free foreign exchange" to the private sector to enable industrialists to import urgently required raw materials and keep their factories going. The Batticaloa Municipal Council was dissolved by order of the Minister. The Government yesterday adopted measures to collect a big slice of the high prices now being fetched by natural rubber which reached the highest point in 22 years: higher rates were charged on the sliding scales. Newspapers in the USA and USSR stated that the agreements reached in the Nixon-Brezhnev summit will tend to reduce tensions: Brezhnev was even more optimistic—he said that the cold war was over. Brezhnev arrived in Paris for talks with the French President. Former White House Counsel John Dean began his public testimony before the Senate Committee and said that the President was involved in the Watergate cover-up.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27: The *Daily News* hinted that if the Government obtained a new standby credit from the IMF "much of this credit is expected to be diverted to the industrial sector for the import of raw materials and machinery..." A fresh plaint was filed against the M.P. for Mahiyangana, Edwin Wickremaratne, charging him with causing "hurt" in assaulting the Director of Education, E. A. D. L. Siriwardena. The *Sun* reported that the politically-oriented National Planning Council to co-ordinate and push the development plans of the Government is to be set up without delay: the Council was expected to provide the political leadership needed for various development programmes and co-ordinate the work of Development Divisional Councils. The Ministry of Power, Irrigation and Highways issued a communique

repudiating the *Sun* statement that the CEB had bungled on the question of electric power supply. The *Times* reported that the Government had imposed further curbs on the foreign exchange which had so far been allowed to those who were emigrating from the country. John Dean continued his evidence before the Senate Watergate Committee and made some startling disclosures.

THURSDAY, JUNE 28: At a Press Conference yesterday, Junior Minister of Defence and External Affairs, Lakshman Jayakody, stated that there was strong evidence to suggest that there was subversive activity in the North: that the 37 youths so far detained were involved in collecting arms, of having shooting practice and of preparing for a plan to blow up bridges and other installations. He said that it was his "private view" that the TUF was involved in these subversive activities. There were reports in the newspapers that the split inside the CP was likely to be settled before the 30th anniversary due shortly. The three hour power cut every day was reduced to two hours as from today. The Government was likely to take over a further 29 estates in the course of the next few days. Army units have replaced the Navy detachments which had been stationed in Polonnaruwa—this was a sequel to the Army Navy clash there recently. A report from India stated that Ceylon High Commissioner in India, Mr. N. Q. Dias, had stated at a press conference in Goa that this country was ready to help improve relations between India and China: that the Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, would be happy to use her good offices to bring about better Sino-India relations. Brezhnev is reported to have assured France that US-Soviet agreements would not adversely affect third countries: he left Paris for Moscow today. The US opened its Liaison Office in Peking formally yesterday. Rumanian Prime Minister Ceausescu began his first state visit to Western Germany yesterday.

FRIDAY, JUNE 29: The *Daily News* suggested that the split in the Communist Party was likely to be resolved and that Pieter Keuneman was expected at the Central Committee meeting scheduled for tomorrow. The *Sun* reported that "begging" had become taboo in the streets of Colombo and that the

Police were rounding up beggars and were sending the old and decrepit to Old Age Homes. The *Sun* also reported that big "guns" will begin to boom at Dedigama for the forthcoming by-election. The *Observer* reported that the Government has launched an "intellectual shramadana to increase the knowledge of English of the average public servant and the bulk of the school leaving population entering the employment market: the scheme was being jointly sponsored by the Ministry of Public Administration and the Ministry of Education. Owing to the grave foreign exchange situation, further restrictions were imposed on the issue of foreign exchange permits to emigrants from Sri Lanka. The *Sun* reported that in future all talks about Kachchativu would be at the summit level: it was suggested that Kachchativu area fell within the petroleum belt which in the opinion of a Soviet expert extended from Gujerat in Western India to Indonesia: "It was also thought that the island would have other mineral resources." China yesterday confirmed that it had carried out a nuclear test in the atmosphere on June 27: it asserted that it had been carried out strictly for defensive purposes.

SATURDAY, JUNE 30: The USA's agreement with Sri Lanka to supply wheat flour under PL 480 ended today: and the agreement has not been renewed: moves were now being made by the authorities to obtain wheat flour from other sources. Today's total eclipse of the sun would be only partially visible in Ceylon as the sun would set before the eclipse was complete. The Colombo Observatory predicted that July would be a wet month because heavy monsoonal rains, which though late, would fall this month. CNAPT Chairman, Dr. J. F. H. Jayasuriya, had stated yesterday that over one million children in Sri Lanka were suffering from malnutrition. The *Observer* reported that the CTB had decided to cut overtime pay in a significant and substantial manner. Tokyo reports stated that China had rejected Japan's protests over the recent nuclear test conducted by the Chinese. The Soviet Union yesterday regretted that China should have conducted a nuclear test without any heed to the nuclear ban treaty. US planes continued to bomb Cam-

bodia with added vigour. An abortive army coup in Chile was crushed by the forces loyal to Dr. Allende's government. The US Congress has cut off all funds from President Nixon to bomb Cambodia after August. 12.

SUNDAY, JULY 1: Ceylonese abroad had remitted nearly Rs. 250,000 in foreign exchange under the remittances law which came in to force last year: This amount has been remitted by a little over 1000 persons mainly professionals such as doctors, lawyers, engineers, accountants and teachers employed in the US, UK, Australia, New Zealand and East African countries. The softliners, including Pieter Keuneman, had failed to turn up at the crucial Central Committee meeting yesterday for peace talks: the meeting has now been postponed to July 4. The power cuts were lifted completely as from today. The Prime Minister today proclaimed two special areas under the anti-land-grab laws in the Batticaloa area, viz. the two DRO divisions of Koralai Pattu and Koralai Pattu North. Israel's Deputy Military Attache in Washington was shot dead yesterday by unknown gunmen. The coup in Chile having failed, a state of seige had been declared. Chase Manhattan Bank chief, David Rockefeller, met Chou En lai in Peking yesterday and had a long discussion.

MONDAY, JULY 2: Mr. C. Sivaprakasam was appointed the new Commissioner of Inland Revenue. The Prime Minister was due to open the new Hotel Ceylon Intercontinental this evening: it was the newest of Sri Lanka's five star hotels. The GCSU stated in a note publicly released that the Government's acts of commission and omission were partly the cause of the spiralling cost of living. There was speculation whether the postponed meeting of the CP Central Committee would not bring new unity to the CP: it was believed that Dr. Wickremasinghe and Keuneman had evolved a joint formula. The Dedigama by election had entered the last lap with only a week to go before polling. The continuous drought according to the *Observer*, in the Amparai district and the very heavy rate of evaporation from the Senanayake Samudra has crippled

rice production and the cultivation of other crops. Sri Lanka had purchased from the IMF 18.6 million in Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) in the following currencies: SDR 4 million in Australian shillings, SDR 8.6 million in Belgian francs, SDR 4 million in Canadian dollars and SDR 2 million in Italian lira; and that this has been obtained to alleviate the balance of payments problems arising from shortfall in export earnings suffered by Sri Lanka in 1972. The *Observer* reported that a big fraud had been detected in the latest sweep of the National Lotteries Board. Iraq's Defence Minister, General Hammad Shehab, was shot dead yesterday after being lured into a trap by the Director of Public Security: it was in pursuance of an intra-Baath Party coup which seems to have flopped. President Nixon came under renewed pressure to answer questions on the Watergate scandal when Senator Hubert Humphrey urged him to "come clean" for the sake of the Presidency. August 15 was fixed by the Congress as the deadline for US bombing in Cambodia. A Soviet TU-134 plane crashed near Amman yesterday: the number killed is not known.

TUESDAY, JULY 3: The *Daily News* reported that hardline CP members of the party's Politbureau, viz. A. G. Jayasena (assistant national organiser) and Jayatilaka Silva (assistant secretary of the party) resigned following decision that all efforts should be made to settle differences with the softliners. The official CP was scheduled to hold a meeting to commemorate the 30th anniversary this evening and there was speculation whether Keuneman will address it. The *Sun* reported that the hawks in the CP were getting tougher and did not want any "unity" unless the softliners surrendered unconditionally. The *Sun* also reported that a new Ministry of Plan Implementation would be set up shortly. According to the *Daily Mirror*, undergraduates in science, engineering and mathematics may be required to do a compulsory one year period of teaching in government schools, if a proposal before the Ministry of Education was implemented. A Deputy Minister of the Government had hinted that the import of wheat flour may be banned from 1974. Australia had protested to China about its recent nuclear test.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 4: According to the *Daily News*, today's meeting of the Communist Party's Central Committee, described in political circles as "decisive", may create more dissension in their ranks instead of helping to patch up current differences. The Government was getting all set for a crucial Maha paddy season. The CJC, trying the first batch of insurgents, has stated that a prima facie has been made out by the prosecution, and the CJC thereafter called upon the accused to submit their defence. The *Daily Mirror* stated that over 100,000 free rice coupons were turned in for cash weekly. The Government has lifted the ban on the transport and stocking of chillies: it had also reduced the buying price from Rs. 8 to Rs. 6. The *Times* reported that the price of rice in the open market in Colombo had now "hit" an all-time high—Rs. 2.50 a measure. In the GCSU election tussle, Pekingwingers were backing the LSSP as against the hardline CP challengers. Tension was mounting in Dedigama as polling day drew nearer. Europe's biggest post-war gathering of Foreign Ministers opened in Helsinki yesterday with 35 states seeking to reduce tension and reinforce their sovereignty and independence and provide greater contact among their peoples. There was a cabinet reshuffle in Tamil Nadu as the Anna DMK announced that it was willing to co-operate with the ruling Congress.

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Bolivia's Grouse

Official Bolivian spokesmen have described the rumored intention of the U.S. to release part of its strategic stockpiles of tin on the world market as "economic aggression." These stocks, made up mostly of Bolivian tin, are said to run to about 250,000 tons and are valued at \$600 million. When the rumour first appeared in March, the price of tin dropped at once from \$ 1.99 to \$ 1.78 per pound.

For the crisis-racked economy of Bolivia, 70 per cent of whose foreign currency earnings come from the export of tin, this was a heavy blow, since a price drop of one cent a pound means a loss of more than \$1,000,000 for the Bolivian treasury.

"Bolivia may rest assured," Bolivian Foreign Minister Mario Gutierrez said following talks with high-placed Washington officials at the time the rumour was first circulated, "that given the cordial relations existing between the United States and Bolivia, no negative act such as the sale of that country's strategic tin reserves will occur."

However, the U.S. has not denied the rumour; on the contrary, it is being kept alive. With increased dumping on the world market, tin prices are continuing to fall

LETTER

Is The Soviet Union Technologically Backward ?

Sir,

In the issue of the *Tribune* of July 7, the Editor in his *Rambling Notes* had quoted from the *London Economist* to suggest that Brezhnev had been compelled to go to the USA because the Soviet Union was in urgent need of technological assistance—backwardness in which presently handicapped the Soviet Union. This is indirect capitalist propaganda to make it out that the Soviet Union was not entering into agreements with the USA on a basis of equality.

I am sending an extract from the Indian weekly *New Age* which sets out the position in more objective terms and answers the allegation that the Soviet Union was technologically backward. I hope that you will publish this extract in the columns of the *Tribune* to make the record straight for its readers.

One of the utterly baseless slanders that is currently being peddled by the bourgeois newspapers against Soviet Union's "Peace Programme" is that the Soviet Union needs western technology, machineries, expertise etc., to bolster its "sagging" economy. This is why, they argue, CPSU general secretary Leonid Brezhnev is going places and the Soviet Union is signing agreement after agreement with West Germany, USA, Italy, France etc. It is the final raising of the "iron curtain" and the beginning of the adoption of western technology by the Soviet Union, these hired penpushers clamour.

What is the reality?

Does the Soviet Union trail behind the western world either in technology or in resources?

Is Soviet economy on the verge of a crisis?

The answers to these questions are in the negative.

The scribes of the bourgeois newspapers are spreading these rumours in a calculated manner because they have to find (for their masters!) "intentions" of the Soviet Union trying to free the world of tensions.

The ingrained bias of anti-communism and fear for detente in the hearts of cold war "heroes" militate against positively looking towards the prospects of peace, so powerfully projected by the Soviet Union. To them, the Soviet Union's desire for peace has to be dictated by the need of western technology! And what is even more strange is that the Indian big business papers are dutifully reprodu-

cing these tripes or writing in the same vein.

Let us remember that even in the worst days of economic difficulties, the Soviet Union did not compromise its ideological positions. This is precisely the reason why American industrialist Vanderbilt's offer to work the oil deposits in Siberia was rejected in 1922! Does it sound sensible today that the Soviet Union, after another 50 years of tempestuous progress, will yield ideological political ground to capitalism?

The cold war years saw another round of hurdles—the embargo on trade between the capitalist countries and the Soviet Union. Even this failed and the 60s saw the resumption of trade between the Soviet Union and western countries.

It has been a canard of the bourgeois propagandists that the trade with the Soviet Union is almost an exchange of raw materials from the Soviet Union with machines and equipment from western countries. This is ridiculous; how can a country lag in technology when its triumphs over nature are emblazoned on the pages of history?

A COUNTRY that can run unmanned taxis on the moon at will from earth or send machines to Venus should have some technological accomplishment! Which country except the Soviet Union has successfully tried ion motors or plasma engines? (These items still remain on the drawing boards of scientists in western countries).

Which country except the Soviet Union has been able to achieve spaceship landings on the land at zero speed?

In scientific, industrial and defence fields, in outer space and nuclear power engineering, in medicine and surgery—in almost every scientific development the Soviet Union has achieved tremendous successes.

Yes, the Soviet Union does supply raw materials to the western countries. And that is because the Soviet Union has plenty and more of them. Take petrol, it is almost as cheap as mineral water in the Soviet Union because the supply is abundant (It has outstripped USA in production of steel and oil). So is gold, of which the USA alone bought some 245,000 ounces (valued roughly about 11 million dollars) in the first nine months of 1972. The Soviet Union also has huge reserves of industrial raw materials which the western countries badly need. Why should not the Soviet Union sell these stuffs which it has in plenty?

But is it only raw materials that the Soviet Union offers to western countries. Many technological inventions of Soviet science are being used in western countries under licence and among them are included products and processes regarding surgery, pharmaceutical materials, heavy engineering, metallurgy, electronics, physics etc.

SOVIET EXPORTS to developed countries today include complete industrial plants,

machines and equipment. Many developed countries are regularly buying these products.

Japan, for example, is using evaporative cooling system of blast furnaces developed by the Soviet Union for its biggest blast furnaces. This system is currently being built also into the blast furnaces of West Germany, Britain, Italy, Belgium, Australia, France, Canada and USA.

Italian Innocenti machine-building company acknowledges that its technical progress is partly due to Soviet cooperation. GKN Dowlais of Britain is using with great economic efficiency the Soviet moulding technique.

Soviet planes Yak-40 are in operation in West Germany and France, Britain has a number of Soviet hydrofoil boats and Norway several oceangoing ships. Many European countries have bought Soviet machines for nuclear power stations, metal cutting machine tools, turbines, roll-

COSTLY CUSTOM

The Catholic Church in the Philippines has urged the population to renounce the custom of throwing rice on newly-weds as they come out from church. Rice throwing is a traditional practice to wish young couples prosperity and happiness. The renunciation of this custom, the fathers say, will save considerable amounts, of rice, of which there is quite a shortage in the Philippines now.

ing mills, turbo drills and many other industrial equipment.

Soviet medical industry has found its way into many developed countries and won patents there. The Soviet suturing apparatus is well-known the world over; so is its ultra-sonic surgery machine. Eye operation by using laser is a Soviet speciality. Metal hip joints developed by the Soviet Union have put hundreds of people back on their legs in West Germany, Japan and USA.

Even the USA which is quite advanced in science and technology has purchased in 1971 a Soviet licence for the manufacture of elementary particle accelerators and the latest Soviet licence granted to USA is for an underground pneumatic rocket for punching holes in the ground for construction projects.

The list of Soviet products and processes provided to the western countries is almost unending. This is why the 1971 trade between the Soviet Union and western countries amounted to about 6000 million dollars. The 1972 trade between the Soviet Union and USA alone rose by almost threefold—from 240 million dollars in 1971 to 720 million dollars in 1972.

Those who talk about the Soviet Union lagging in technology and that its efforts for detente are for the sake of saving its economy are simply talking rubbish!

—T.R.A.

Colombo.
30/7/73

AMERICAN VIEW

CREATIVE DIPLOMACY in Persian Gulf Area

Washington, July 24,

Two University professors told a Congressional Subcommittee of the need for "Creative Diplomacy" to reduce local enmities in the Persian Gulf area. Both presented prepared statements, then gave their views under questioning before a House of Representatives Subcommittee holding hearings on recent developments in the Persian Gulf.

Dr. Richard W. Cottam of the University of Pittsburgh, Department of Political Science, said: "What is called for is a creative diplomacy which seeks to isolate and if possible, to reduce local enmities, which seeks to replace cold war patterns with Great Power cooperation, and most important, which seeks to keep the Sino-Soviet conflict from spilling over into the politics of the Persian Gulf." He added: "The mark of success for such a policy would be non-interference in the affairs of the Arabs and Iranians when domestic conflict becomes acute."

Dr. Alvin J. Cottrell, Director of Research at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., said although "Iraq represents its Principal antagonist, Tehran sees the sources of future conflict in the Gulf in terms of swift changes in the political leadership on the Arabian side which would transform that entire littoral into a form of rule much more in line with that represented by Baghdad."

Dr. Cottam explained the basis of Iran's "sense of threat" from Iraq, by saying: "Every

opposition group to Iran has found a home in Iraq," he added: "Of course, Iran reciprocates in kind. The Kurdish rebellion in Iraq is certainly encouraged and supplied by Iran."

Dr. Cottam said: "There are at least six conflicts of relevance to the Persian Gulf area. *First* is the Intra-Arab conflict. *Second*, is the Arab Israeli conflict. *Third*, is the Arab-Iranian conflict, most particularly the Iraqi-Iranian conflict. *Fourth*, is the Indo-Pakistani conflict. *Fifth*, is the Sino-Soviet conflict and *Sixth*, the Soviet-American conflict."

He recommended the possibilities of Soviet-American cooperation in defusing the local conflicts in the area.

"We should embark on a diplomatic offensive to bring about a reduction of arms in the area," he said. Nothing that "Iran has more than enough weapons for its own security," Dr. Cottam added: "The United States should refrain from interfering in Arab affairs or in encouraging any Third Power to interfere in Arab affairs."

Dr. Cottrell said Iran believed the United States and

Soviet Union, In reaching their general detente, have still left the Persian Gulf outside this Agreement as an area of competition, if not overt confrontation.

He added: "Thus, Iran would hope that the policies of the United States and the Soviet Union would tend to deter each other, thus leaving the resolution of Gulf problems in the hands of the Gulf States—Iran being the paramount local power."

Asked whether the United States should stop the sale of arms to Iran, Dr. Cottram said: "I think what we're doing in the Persian Gulf is not in our control. In the Persian Gulf, many countries could black mail us with their oil output." He said Saudi Arabia as an oil power and Iran with its military power are the "countries we want to put our hopes on." He noted: "Our policy is quite consistent with this general view."

Dr. Cottrell said he felt the United States had shown some restraint in the Persian Gulf, but did not see any evidence of U.S. Arms curtailment. Asked about Soviet response to the U.S. sale of arms to Iran, he replied: "They (Soviet Union) have a 15-year Treaty with Iraq and have placed a larger naval force in the Indian Ocean.

"We've done nothing provocative directly, allowing the Local Powers to deal with the situation. It is clear, however, that our energy requirements are in relation to the sale of our arms."

He added: "We have five to eight years of energy sufficiency. Our policy is to get past that period. You have no other choice."

Dr. Cottam said since oil producing countries have "extraordinary bargaining positions" there is the danger of allowing them to formulate U.S. foreign policy in the area. He said the United

States cannot allow this to happen.

Dr. Cottrell said the sale of arms to Iran was "not a one-way street," pointing out that "Iran is also taking a chance on U.S. since we are the sole suppliers." Asked whether he saw "much chance of regional cooperation" in the area, based on present U.S. foreign policy, Dr. Cottrell said: "The state Department policy of regional cooperation is no policy at all. The Nixon Doctrine formula calls for Iran to play the stabilizing force."

Asked whether arms sold to Saudi Arabia and Iran disturbed the existing relationship between the two countries, Dr. Cottrell said: "No, unless there is a change of kingships or rule. I see this as consistent with our policy of supporting the principal powers in the Gulf."

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IS IT TRUE?

Sherlock Holmes

ON THE NEW CATHOLIC MORALITY?

IS IT NOT TRUE that even before Watergate the Catholics in Sri Lanka had realised the need to purge the Church of undesirable elements? That not very long ago any criticism of the Church its priests or its adherents was received as blasphemy? That any exposure of misdemeanours and corrupt practices, within the fold was denounced as heresy? That Catholic Action was mobilised in all its fury to pounce on pagans who questioned the infallibility of the Pope and his army of priests?

That the Catholic Church, like so many other institutions, has undergone a major change in recent years? That a revolution has taken place from the highest to the lowest in the Church? That the Church of today cannot be recognised as the Church as it was say twenty years ago? That one manifestation of this revolution was that Catholic papers and institutions have begun to expose the ills within their movement? That even in Sri Lanka, which was slow to react to the revolution which had swept through the Church elsewhere, Catholics have lost their earlier inhibitions about wanting to pretend that

everything about the Church was one hundred percent good and holy?

That an example of such an exposure came in the latest issue of the Catholic periodical *Outlook* (Vol. 6 No. 3)? That the piece was entitled **FOUR BAGS FULL?** That the introductory preamble read: "the priest who recently figured in a Customs incident at the Bandaranaike Airport at Katunayake was returning to the Island after what was officially described as a holiday, for which no foreign exchange was required: he had visited Singapore and his stay abroad had lasted 15 days including Holy Week"? That the *Outlook* had then gone on to say "he had brought with him four bags: that the contents included" the following? Viz. "personal clothing, 200 cassettes, one small cassette taperecorder (Philips), one small alarm clock, electric wire for microphone, one used wrist watch, six microphones (flexible shafts), ten microphone accessories, one car tail light, four microphone stands, six sets cuff links, three wire rolls (stolle 100 metres), 100 feet curtain wire, two packets playing cards, three ladies umbrel-

las, two hand-shower sets, four bulbs flicker flame, four shock absorbers, two car windows, one infra-phil lamp, one car door handle, two lamps, 12 pieces car parts (door fittings etc.), four night latches, one door lock, two bunches key blanks (75), 18 cassettes, one pedestal microphone stand, one radio part, one pair tailors scissors, two dozen L. batteries, nine printed nylex sarees, one printed nylex saree, three plain nylex sarees, one plain nylex saree, 14 shirts, one piece 5½ yards lace material, eight banians, one short, one piece lace material (about three yards), two pieces shirting (1½ yards each), one piece net material, one piece (1½ yards) trouser material—Tetron, one suitlength Terylene worsted Tetoron viscose, one piece pyjama material (about 10 yards), 17 pieces children's underwear, two pieces toys"? That the *Outlook* added as a tail piece that "he also had the following: one Tissot gold-coloured wrist-watch with date indicator and strap, one Vespa automatic 25-jewels gents' watch with date indicator and strap and one Stemma ladies watch with blue dial"?

That this kind of expose in a Catholic journal about a Catholic priest could not have been thought possible a few years back? That it is a good thing that the Catholics have begun to emancipate themselves from the bigotry which had made co-existence with them somewhat difficult? That in a multi-religious society like ours the new outlook of the Catholics is something to be welcomed and commended?