

TRIBUNE

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PREDICTIONS
AND FOOD

LAKE HOUSE
BOYCOTT
DAILY MIRROR
JAP PANACEA

SHAMBA

SAFARI

BATTICOTTA
SEMINARY

CHINESE
PRESENCE

SMUGGLING



*"When I predict famine, we get famine. When I predict war,
we get war. When I predict victory, we get victory. But when
I predict rain, we get rain!"*

Tribunania

On Predictions and Food

ON THE COVER this week we have a cartoon which we have taken over from the American magazine *New Yorker*. It depicts, with a sly sense of humour, the travails of men who mystically seek to make predictions about the immediate future of happenings on this earth. The world is in such a flux that the best of soothsayers find themselves in deep trouble. It has not been difficult to predict war, famine and pestilence, but many go wrong on the weather. The drought in central Africa continues whilst some little rain has fallen in central India, but the whole of the north of the subcontinent of Hindustan has been deluged with rain causing the worst floods in 25 years (or more) in Pakistan, northern India and Bangla Desh. Many had predicted that food shortage would increase during the whole of 1973, and may be 1974 and 1975, and it presumed that it would be drought which would be responsible for this, but floods and drought seem to alternate to cause destruction.

The seeds of destruction, and change, seem to be germinating in every part of the world. In Asia, the coup in Afghanistan, the fluctuating power nuances in the Persian Gulf with Iran seeking to assume a major military role, the defeat of the American-

propped Lon Nol government in Cambodia, the continuing confrontations on the Indian subcontinent, the difficult problems facing governments in Burma, Thailand, Philippines, and Indonesia, the corroding affluence of countries like Hongkong, Malaysia and Singapore in the backdrop of what is happening in Taiwan, Japan and China, will make many sit back and think as to what has come over the world in the present era. In the same way, one can contemplate on developments in Western and Eastern Europe in west Asia, north, central, west, east and south Africa, and more especially in the two Americas. The best of men cannot say what any country in the world, or the world itself, will be like in the next twelve to eighteen months, leave alone what conditions will be in a few years. One can go further and say that it is impossible to say what would happen in the next eighteen hours, or days or weeks. There is nothing safe or stable. There is no security or stability. The best of things and the most powerful of men seem to disappear overnight.

IN THIS COLUMN we have often adverted to the fact that the world is going through on of those vast and sweeping changes which overtake human affairs once in a thousand or two thousand years. More than anything else, physical changes compel changes in the ways of thinking of men and women in high places, and low. The stately homes of yesterday

have given way to the shanty dwellings of today: the lords and ladies of the manor who refused to change with the times have been replaced by the hippies and yuppies of no fixed abode who scorn everything which savours of the Establishment. To increasing numbers, a permanent address is a thing of the past when a family was fixed to the ancestral village or even to a town. Today, it is difficult to have a permanent address even for part of a lifetime. The biblical prodigal will have no address to which he can return today.

In Sri Lanka, for instance, the Land Reform Act has wiped out the permanent address of thousands upon thousands, starting from lowly labourers to wealthy landowners. Those who have wrought these changes hope that affluence, prosperity and happiness would come to the "masses" of human beings, but they are likely to be as disappointed as those who think that "co-operative profit" will bring greater social justice than private profit. In strict theory, co-operative profit should even out the inequalities and imbalances which stem from private profit, but human nature being what it is corruption and inefficiency seem to be causing more inequalities and imbalances than anything else known in the past: only the actors who dominate the stage have changed.

THE ACCENT today is on food. The pundits of the United Front government assure the people of Sri Lanka

over the Radio and through the Press that they are doing better in this Island than most others in the rest of the world. A short while ago the evils in this country, it was said, were caused by the wrong doing of reactionaries, UNPers and insurgents, but the emphasis has shifted to world conditions, to the problems of international monetary instability, to uncontrollable inflation, the misdeeds of the IMF and the IBRD and to the greed of the affluent countries of the world. We are told to change our food habits and to grow our food. We are told that manioc and sweet yams are better than rice and flour. We are told that we grow toordhal if we have to have any dhal at all. Soya beans, it is stressed, is a miracle food—and that this country will have no difficulty in growing it in plenty.

And it is rubbed into our souls (if we have any of it left) that the land taken over from flabby landowners would be put to greater productive use by the new breed of small landowners which the United Front hopes to create by the legislative and administrative measures it has promulgated. Whether the hopes of these wise men in the United Front in Sri Lanka will bear fruit is yet to be seen—in spite of what we are told over the radio and through the press (Lake House particularly). That the proof of the pudding is in the eating is an old adage, but there is very little to eat from the new order of things. We can only wait and see.

We can also hope that it will not be like the wail on our front cover by the neocrummer: "...but when I predict sunshine, we get rain.."

To justify the official propaganda we are told that it would be better to forgo rice and flour. We are told that many items of food which people had tended to ignore all these years are really panaceas for all our health problems. People cannot do without food and people tend to lap up propaganda talk about food fads with alacrity. In a recent issue of *Harper's*, a writer had pointed out that: "Eating is a biological tyranny we can't escape. The choice is how we regard it. We can ceremonialize eating as the most frequent self-conscious act of maintaining life. Or we can reduce it to a necessary evil, a bondage to immediate circumstance and animal nature that should be compressed to the smallest possible dimension. In the end, how we eat says a great deal about what we think of ourselves."

Then he went on to analyse some of the salient features of what obtains in the United States. "The American way favors speed. Food is to be dispatched conveniently and efficiently so we can get on with the more important business of life. McDonalds' hamburgers, closet-like kitchens, TV dinners, impatient waiters, and "instant" breakfasts all signify that eating is essentially an unpleasant chore that should be accomplished in as flat, predictable, and characterless a manner as possible. Food equals fuel,

making a meal nothing more than a service-station function.

"Abundance allows this indulgence. If we waste more by paying less attention to food, well, the cost seems small next to the advantage. We are buying time away from the work of food—the selecting, preparing, serving, cleaning up. Other, more intense pleasures are available, we imagine, to compensate



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COMPARISONS

At a time when many Americans feel they are spending more on food than ever before, a few comparisons may be in order. The chart below represents the percentage of "consumption expenditures" for food and drink in a number of different countries. The figures are from a study called *Household Income and Expenditure Statistics, 1950-1964*, prepared by the International Labour Office in Geneva. Because the baseperiod year varies among countries, the figures aren't strictly comparative, but they give a general indication of how large a percentage of disposal income goes for food in various countries.

Country	Percentage of household expenditures for food
Austria	49.0
Burma	65.5
Canada	31.0
Ceylon	63.0
Denmark	33.4
Fiji	51.4
France	46.2
Germany	38.2
India (urban)	62.2
(rural)	69.8
Iran	48.7
Ireland	40.3
Israel	35.8
Japan	42.3
Morocco	70.6
Netherlands	40.7
Philippines	57.7
Poland	49.6
South Africa	26.5
South Korea	58.9
Spain	57.7
United Kingdom	33.0
United States	24.1

for the consequent loss of zest and gusto about eating. We can accept the dismal truth that the usual fare at festive and expensive banquets is unredeemably institutional and uninteresting. Or that our kitchens have taken on the aura of bathrooms, corners of compactness where biological function is discharged cleanly and unobtrusively."

THE DIFFICULTIES of eating nutritive food is not one which is peculiar to the underdeveloped poor country where most people are said to suffer from "malnutrition". The problems about food in affluent countries seem to be equally distressing. The Harper's article poses an important question: "It is the mark of technological civilization to create such distance between man and his food. Beyond the fact that it goes into our bodies, we aren't on very intimate terms with what we eat. How long has it been since you ate anything you raised by your own labor? In the extreme, technology ruptures entirely the link between man and nature and gives rise to the illusion that we stand independent of the earth's fruitfulness. Can your children tell you the original state of the foods they see on supermarket shelves or advertised on television?"

The writer, Tony Jones, then goes on to examine the situation in the affluent United States and comes to a dismal conclusion. "While technology has mastered innumerable practical aspects of

food, science has barely begun to engage the crucial questions of nourishment. We are presented with unstinting amounts of data but little conclusive evidence. Men who can describe the body's metabolic processes in grand detail hesitate and grope when asked to prescribe an ideal diet. The body, like most total systems, has frustrated narrow-gauge investigation by the enormous intricacy of its subsystems. The areas of agreement among experts are obscure and have not begun to filter into the public consciousness. Even though the best-selling diet book in history is right now being disparaged by a united front of nutritionists, its sales continue undiminished.

His final conclusions indicate that wealth and affluence have little to do with good food habits. "Given such unsettled territory, food faddism is hardly a surprising phenomenon. There are any number of proselytizers who would tell us what we ought to eat. Their systems compete in luxurious variety, common sense sitting more easily in some than in others.

But they all offer the opportunity to ceremonialize eating. They compel their devotee to take food seriously and attentively. They make eating a more fully conscious act, and that in itself is bound in some degree to be healthful, for it lessens the distance between man and himself.

"The more unconscious a person's act of eating, the greater the likelihood it will be ruled by habit or compul-

sion instead of need. This means relinquishing an easily grasped control over how one feels. As an integral aspect of health, diet affects the body and should in turn be affected by it. Ignored, diet becomes the playground for vague compulsions that quickly mature into respectable neuroses."

In Sri Lanka, as in many countries of the world, there is very little anyone can do about a "revolution" in food habits which can be said to be as inevitable as the sun rising in the east. We will have less and less of rice for the population for a long time to come.

It will be a long time before local production levels come up to scratch—in spite of the almighty Hector Kobbekaduwa and his army of slaves brought into existence by the Alladdin's lamp of land reform. We will not be able to import rice—apart from world shortages we will not have the foreign exchange to buy rice abroad.

Rice is undoubtedly the best staple for a country like Ceylon—though ever since world war two we have eaten increasing quantities of wheat flour (pl 480 and otherwise).

The Chinese may thrive on soya bean milk, but for count less centuries we have lived on cows' milk and buffalo curd. Our inability to raise enough rice and milk is no reason to rush to african yams and chinese soya bean. We will have to find the men and women who

can produce more rice (without importing it even on barter) and more milk (with out airlifting cows from far-away places).

This is the problem before the country today.

MOZAMBIQUE

Early in July the Portuguese authorities in Mozambique announced that 200,000 Africans of Manica e Sofala would be moved to "strategic villages," otherwise known as aldeamentos.

A recent report in the *Daily Telegraph* of London read:

"Principally, however, the importance of aldeamentos lies in the regrouping of dispersed populations into small units that are easily policed. Tribesmen are thus kept from contact with subversives."

By the end of the year the colonialists plan to drive 3,000,000 people into these concentration camps. The settlements—each with no more than 300 people—are enclosed in barbed-wire fences. No one can leave them without special permission of the military authorities. They are small to make observation easier. If tribesmen refuse to leave their native place, the Portuguese burn the villages down with flame throwers.

The French magazine *Jeune Afrique* writes that the aldeamentos are a fertile field for growing seeds of hatred for the Portuguese.

RAMBLING NOTES

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

* Lake House — Boycott

* Daily Mirror — Jap Panacea

THE BOYCOTT which the UNP, led by J. R. Jayewardene, launched against the publications of the Lake House after it came under the new management of the United Front, has not had the impact which the UNP had hoped for. The campaign was officially launched from August 1 to 3, and the Government wisely did not officially seek to suppress it with tough arm tactics—though military escorts were provided for Lake House vehicles transporting newspapers for a few days. Papers like the *Jana Wegava* and the *Nation* have rightly called the UNP campaign a flop and a debacle.

It was an anti-climax after Dedigama when an unknown Senanayake defeated a redoubtable United Front Senanayake in the person of the suave, affable and embryonically charismatic Tourist Board chief, J. R. and the UNP did not understand the mood of the people. Though many did not like the manner in which the Lake House was taken over under cover of diffusing ownership, it cannot be forgotten that there was no love lost for the old owners and the old policies of Lake House. For over twenty years, the house of Wijewardena and Lake House have been anathema to the

growing sentiments of leftist nationalism. If one examines the journalistic and political crimes of Lake House in this period—starting with the Premier Stakes of 1952 to the inglorious somersaults of 1970-72 period (even though for survival)—one can only wonder why the sword of Damocles had not fallen upon it for so long.

What the UNP boycott of August 1973 failed to achieve in reducing the circulation and advertisement income of Lake House publications, the new journalism of Lake House will succeed in doing in the course of the next few months. The Wijewardenas had held out one kind of promise to the readers—and some of it had been fulfilled because part was objective reporting and only the other part was the wishful thinking of the management in collaboration with the conservative political parties of the day. Because a good part of what the Lake House had said earlier had not been downright false propaganda, the publications had been able to sustain a growing circulation. But the new management has not yet inspired the confidence which it could easily have done—but for the blinkers it seems to have put upon itself in

the interests of what it seems to think is "progressive journalism."

Wishful thinking in journalism, however well sugar-coated, is corrosive. Unpalatable news about the government and its activities must be reported straight, not sugar-coated in wishful and apologetic idiom and style. It will not be long before the common reader detects a growing credibility gap between government fiction and down-to-earth reality. Many people, who had no use for the UNP boycott, have begun to smell of too much United Front wishful-thinking journalism in the columns of Lake House publications and this will ultimately have a greater impact upon the future of the new Lake House than anything else. A government gazette—however well presented, will remain a government gazette, and it will not be long before the truth is out.

ALTHOUGH the *Sun* group of newspapers have set out to voice the sentiments of the conservative opposition, there is much more vital political news of significance in the *Sun* group papers than in Lake House papers. But this is a phenomenon which had overtaken Lake House after the UF had come to power to 1970 and when the Wijewardenas had tried to survive the storm by lying low. The new Lake House will be safe until the *Sun* group begins to extend its scope beyond the narrow limits of conservatism and buddhist sinhala chauvinism

(however well disguised) to the wider horizons of robust nationalism uninhibited by race, language, religion or caste. In the meantime, the *Times* group seem to be falling over itself to win governmental sympathy and support. It is out-heroding herod. Take its recent double-somersaults over the question of the IMF and the IBRD.

The *Sun* had consistently reported that Sri Lanka's economic plight was getting worse with the government's failure to obtain succour from the IMF. On August 9, the day after the Minister of Finance, Dr. N. M. Perera, had returned from Washington, it had stated on the first page under the headline **GOVT. DRAWS UP CONTINGENCY PLANS—ECONOMIC CRISIS LOOMING.** "Contingency plans are being drawn up to meet an economic crisis which is expected to hit Sri Lanka towards the end of the year. As several Ministers have already publicly warned, the new crisis is likely to centre on the food situation. With prices of major imports, like rice and flour, rising sharply in the world market and the country confronted with a serious foreign exchange shortage, it is believed that the Government would have no alternative but to reduce some of the major imports, drastically.

"In this situation, Finance Minister Dr. N. M. Perera's report on his talks in Washington with World Bank and IMF authorities, is being keenly awaited. The Finance Minister returned to Sri Lanka yesterday, but gave no

indication whether the IMF would grant a stand-by loan of 25 million dollars. Sri Lanka's application for this loan is being held up because of the IMF demand for a devaluation of the rupee. During his visit to Washington to attend the ministerial meeting of the "Committee of 20" dealing with monetary reforms, Dr. Perera was expected to discuss the question of the stand-by loan with IMF officials."

Then on August 11, the *Sun* splashed the headlines **WORLD BANK MAKES TOUGH NEW DEMANDS—*CURRENT ACCOUNT DEFICIT MUST BE SETTLED IN 3 YEARS, *FEECs ON ALL IMPORTS, *WORLD PRICE RISES MUST BE PASSED ON TO CONSUMERS, *INCREASE IN LEVEL AND QUALITY OF PUBLIC INVESTMENT.** The report read as follows:

"The World Bank has come up with a series of tough new demands which the Government would have to comply with, if it is to depend on the Bank to mobilise expanded external resources for development.

"The *Sun* understands that some of the new demands include:

"Current accounts deficit, calculated excluding FEECs and aid imports, should be progressively eliminated over a maximum period of three years with a massive effort in the first year, 1974.

"Transfer of all import transactions to FEECs at prevailing 65 per cent rate with substantial benefits to rubber and coconut producers.

"Nature and amount of subsidies to be determined by the Sri Lanka Government on the principle that domestic consumers should not be insulated from external price fluctuations.

"A substantial increase in the level and quality of public investment.

"The new list of demands has been put forward to the Government by the World Bank mission which visited Sri Lanka last month. The mission comprised Messrs Jean Baneth, Chief Economist of the IBRD (Asia Division) and A. Premchand of the IMF. After a week-long discussion with government officials, including the then Acting Finance Minister Mr. Bernard Soysa the mission left for Washington on July 31.

"During the discussions, the World Bank team insisted that no progress would be possible on mobilising expanded external resources or a scale considered necessary for a meaningful capital development programme, unless the above-mentioned conditions were agreed upon by Sri Lanka."

Then on August 14, the *Sun* reported under the headline **A HOBSON'S CHOICE FOR SRI LANKA—DEVALUE OR FEECs FOR EVERYTHING: EITHER WAY, CURRENT DEFICIT CANNOT BE WIPED OUT** that:

"Sri Lanka is faced with a Hobson's choice: A sixty-five per cent devaluation of the rupee or extension of the

FEECs scheme to cover all imports. This, in essence, is the dilemma confronting the Government in the wake of the tough new demands made by the World Bank. Last Saturday, the *Sun* exclusively reported the main demands which a World Bank team put forward to the Government as the price for sponsoring external resources for capital development in Sri Lanka.

"Economists are of the view that the magnitude of the current account deficit is such that even if all imports are brought under FEECs, the total elimination of the deficit within the next three years—as demanded by the World Bank—would be impossible. If all imports are brought under FEECs, it is estimated that the current account deficit would amount to 812 million rupees. If the alternative—devaluation of the rupee by 65 per cent—is adopted, the current deficit would amount to 780 million rupees.

"Either way, these economists believe Sri Lanka has no hope of clearing the deficit during the next three years unless the country receives massive external aid. The World Bank has also made it clear to the Government that FEECs revenue arising from bringing all imports under the FEECs scheme should be utilised only to finance the capital budget—and not for consumption expenditure. This means that the Government would have to drastically cut the subsidies and also expose the consumer to external price fluctuations."

On August 14, the *Daily Mirror* outlined a new monetary policy which an influential section of the United Front have been propounding in comparative secrecy. It had been hinted at in some recent publications and booklets under cover of pseudo-economic verbiage. But the *Daily Mirror* put it across in the crudest possible manner under the banner headline in red: LET'S GO IT ALONE WITH OUR RUPEE. Relevant extracts from this editorial called *MirrorScope* makes interesting reading:

The opening gamlit recounted the difficult situation in the country. "...Not the most optimistic citizen of this country will dispute that the finances of the nation are in a decided mess, that its economy is in a hopeless muddle. Our foreign exchange earnings are ebbing, the balance of trade is racing away in the wrong direction, the cost of living is climbing towards the skies, unemployment is rising into astronomical regions, food, clothing and shelter are getting scarcer and costlier, wages are rising but not as fast as prices are shooting—in short the catalogues of this country's economic maladies and financial ailments will confound a veritable Cassandra that legendary foreteller of gloom and doom.

"Export fillips and import cuts, Interim loans and Special Drawing Rights, foreign aid for development and devaluation for export stimulation, import substitution for economy and wage freezes for stability—are all these the eventual panacea to our ills,

are they the ingredients of a permanent and lasting remedy of our malady, or are they just stop gaps and sops? If you ask us, our answer is that they are stop gaps and sops, just short term exercises in monetary management that will temporarily assuage the pain but will not permanently cure the illness. Our authority for this answer is in the frequency and duration with which these expedients have been tried out with no more effect than a slight easing of the immediate situation."

The editorial then made some pontifical statements about "inflation" and other economic phenomenon. And then went on to pay compliments to Dr. N. M. Perera, the Minister of Finance. The editorial stated: "...We are no economists of the calibre and erudition of Dr. N. M. Perera. We make no claim to be able to teach him anything in this involved and specialised field, and what we say here is not from any assumption of superiority in the science but from the convictions of simple common sense, the considered and candid suggestions of the man in the street. Dr. N. M. Perera has only just returned from attending the meetings of the Group of 24 and the Committee of 20 at Washington in connection with discussions on the reform of the International Monetary System. But save for the brief announcement that he also had talks with the IMF on the subject of Sri Lanka's application for a stand-by of 24.5 millions Special Drawing Rights, no

thing else is known of what has transpired. In the circumstances, we make bold to proffer these suggestions for whatever they are worth, for whatever Dr. N. M. Perera can make of them."

After thus paying *pooja* to the Minister of Finance, the editorial went on to set out the Japanese miracle cure which the Land of the Rising Sun had adopted immediately after its defeat in the second world war. "In the first place is not a no mean or considerable part of our monetary difficulties a consequence of hitching our humble rupee to the sterling, the dollar, the yen or other dominant currency in international circulation. Our currency is the rupee and why don't we go it alone with our rupee?"

"Let us illustrate our point with a live example. In the immediate aftermath of the disastrous Second World War, the economy of Japan, just as her towns and cities, factories and industries, her fields and gardens and everything of value were in a complete shambles. Everything lay shattered and sundered. But out of this debris Japan has risen again in a remarkably short time. She has re-emerged into the richest, the most robust, the most industrially and technically advanced nation not only in Asia, but in all the world.

"The average subsistence for a Japanese in 1946 was \$18.50 per year. In 1973 it has risen to \$4,500. All her war debts were paid off 22 years ahead of schedule.

"How did she do it?"

"No. It was not any complicated economic capers or monetary manoeuvres that got her out of the mess as plain and simple common sense.

"Standing in the midst of the rubble and masonry heaps that was once their proud fatherland, the astute Japanese realised that their ravaged Yen ran not the slightest chance of competing with currencies of the victorious powers. So they acted wisely and did not expose the Yen to any unnecessary buffeting.

"They welcomed foreign loans and aid. But they said: 'The Yen is our Yen' and they kept its currency within their national borders. They paid for what they bought in the currency of the selling nation and within their own country they pegged the price of essentials to within the reach of the purses of the average Japanese man and woman.

"This way they caused some immediate hardships to the nation but in the long run, their policy paid up in rich returns and gratifying dividends. Today Japan rides the crest of the crimson wave. Today the once protected and sheltered Yen is out fighting in the open and giving every other currency more than a run for their money."

The *Daily Mirror* thereafter suggested that Sri Lanka should adopt the same method of rejuvenating itself.

"Why don't we do the same with our rupee? Why don't we pay with US dollars

for what we buy from America, the Eurodollar for what we buy from the ECM countries, and the Yen for what we buy from Japan and keep the rupee to ourselves. In short why don't we cut our rupee loose from the rough and tumble of the monetary conflicts and rumpuses of the outside world, and like Japan, give it a chance to breathe, a chance to recover some day. Let our own rupee save the internal economy and increase production.

"Why don't we also peg our prices to suit our purses? Isn't that a wiser course to adopt than revising our wage structures with every rise and fall in the purchasing power of our rupee, in other words with every devaluation and revaluation."

The *Daily Mirror* has conveniently forgotten that it would be wrong to compare the Japan of 1945/46 to the Sri Lanka of 1973/74. Japan had ruled a mighty political and economic empire from 1931 to 1945 and possessed one of the finest productive machines—even when the atom bombing of Nagasaki and Hiroshima made the rulers of Japan beat a strategic surrender before the industrial and agricultural productive machine of Japan was destroyed by more atomic bombing.

Ceylon has no comparable economic machine on which it can rely as Japan had after the last war.

But this does not deter the *Daily Mirror*. Based on this Japanese panacea,

the *Daily Mirror* went on to say how it can be applied to Sri Lanka even if it meant discarding the tractor for the buffalo. The tragedy is that the buffalo is no longer available in Sri Lanka in numbers to plough all the lands which must be immediately cultivated, but there are enough tractors already in the island for the purpose—if they are properly utilised with adequate spares.

“Let us look at it in another way. Are our problems all that bad as to be insurmountable? We do need 500,000 houses in a hurry for the homeless families in the city and suburbs alone. But don't we have all the sand we need for these houses in our river beds, all the timber in our forests and all the labour in our lakhs of unemployed youth. Then, why in heaven's name, are we worrying about Special Drawing Rights to build houses.

Is it really any honest difficulty in the way of constructing these houses that is holding them back or is it the politics of the moment. In our humble thinking, what this nation needs to rejuvenate itself is honest and serious self examination. Cannot we by pegging the prices of indispensables such as essential wholesome food. Utilitarian clothing and just decent adequate housing assure the people of a sufficiently bearable life in their present lifetimes, and then steel ourselves to a spartan living where all the rest is concerned.

“Must we have all that flood lighting, the airconditioning and the rest of the trimmings that many government offices and edifices boast? Must we import tractors when buffaloes roam our ranges? Surely a spell of plain living and hard working the Japanese way will also get us out of the woods in

reasonable time. The Central Bank can look after the foreign receipts and payments. A basically viable rupee, without international parity may well be the panacea for our monetary and economic ills. This needs courage common sense and statesmanship.”

The *Daily Mirror* after preaching this “historic” sermon on August 14, on the next day briefly referred to the demands which were being made by the IMF and the World Bank on August 15—the same story the *Sun* had been plugging earlier.

But Lake House papers are still blissfully silent about the whole matter. So far as Lake House is concerned, there was no “news” about the new demands made by the World Bank. It would not be news fit to print until it was ready for the *Gazette*.

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THE SECOND VEGETABLE APPEARS

June 14-18

by ANATORY BUKOBA

June 14,

A mere recital of what we plant from day to day cannot but be boring, but it was the turn of the cowpea, orange, bean and red onion today. We had not so much as seen a red onion for some time.

What we cleared today was a real knot of thorny vegetation. There were two of us actually clearing and we only had the *kahta*, so the other used a knife, the sort that the watcher on a coconut estate would carry around. It fell to me to use the knife, and I received in my hands the thorn pricks and thorns my legs would usually have got.

The wood-apple is not ripe but two people were out poaching. They had reached the road by the time I got to them, and I was not disposed to argue the point, but just picked up their bundle and emptied it of the wood-apple after I got to the house, and then returned their cloth to them.

Our numbers have swelled to six on this *Shamba*, and it looks as if they all intend to stay. It means we shall have to double our income to feed us all. We hope to do this by selling fish, and vegetables and fruit seeds.

One matter I am convinced of is that we shall solve the problem by concentrating on the economic aspect of our living here, even though feeding six "growing" men does not look a joke. We have all been warned that we shall just have to go home if we cannot.

The mere physical job of finding food for six is one that I have decided what other shoulders must bear, and so I shall no longer do the shopping, for I must keep a clear head if I do nothing else. It means, too, that I shall be able to spend a little more time where I am really wanted, and one of the places will be right here on the *Shamba* June 15,

It was a day on which people do not work, but two of us set out to cut some sticks for a new *massa* bed and finished up instead doing a "recce" of the not yet cleared part of our land. In some places we had to walk on our haunches. It was by no means all thorns, but there was thorn all right.

More people were after the wood-apple, but they were good-natured about it and was impossible to be cross. To one lot we got rid of some of the spoilt ones we captured yesterday; it is going to be

not good to us, for it will not ripen.

This evening I found that one of the two *jak* plants we got from the seeds I brought from Colombo has all but died. Since it survived much hotter weather than we are having now, I cannot help feel that it has been a case of fraudulent neglect in the matter of watering. We had a new set of people watering this evening, and it was done well. My only surviving vine seems to have died. I have been told that soapy water is to be avoided like the devil, but I do not think anybody would have poured water permeated with soap on any plants.

We have very windy days and nights. It comes and goes, some of the bursts of wind very strong, lifting our *pol attu* roof in places.

June 16,

It was a day, this one, where we had changes, and we are reduced to four. I cannot help feel sad at losing old friends, and even new. A team must pull together; there must be respect shown to the leader, and these are thoughts that cross my mind. The physical problem is one of feeding people a task easily accomplished, I should think, if all are of one mind. If they are not, then the association is going to give somewhere, and I think it becomes a question of who should go first. Everybody has good points, nonetheless, and some very strong ones; one does not like to lose people with these good qualities. The Pandava brothers, as I

think they are called, preferred Krishnan to that of his whole army, as it is related in the Bhagavad Gita. This might be so in the case of God incarnate, but with mortal men I should imagine the team is more important than any man, and the leader more important than the team. It is really of little consequence as to how good the leader is, providing he leads. Louis de Wohl had Attila the Hun, sticking a knife into one of the most faithful followers because he failed to get his men to obey him promptly, and as the knife went in, Attila said a Commander must command.

On the other hand, a commander is a despicable man who would sacrifice man to the mob. This long disquisition may have little to do with Shambas, at first sight, but it is the sort of thing that has me soliloquizing on it here. Anyway, the strain has gone, so far as I am concerned, but I would not know for sure if that is the better thing.

All seems to have been watered this evening, and it seems to have been done mighty quickly. It leaves me wondering if it was done adequately, or each plant was just watered skimpily. I was not here.

Thanks to the circumstances of the day, I was able to get a move on with *Das Kapital*, and I have just finished the chapter called *Labour and Manufacture*, which, as far as I have read, I would regard as the most important of the book's chapters. I want to read it again before

I read on, even though I am no admirer of Marx and certainly no Communist nor Socialist. Great gusts of wind are threatening to blow out the lamp, and you can hear them coming just as you can hear new showers of driving rain.

June 17,

It is raining at last tonight, as I write this. We planted a young passion fruit creeper beside a medium sized thorn tree, it seemed to me like three inches away, too close I thought, as I had been told it should be a foot. A friend gave us some young spinach plants, also like the passion fruit, a creeper, and some cuttings of the same vegetable. We had no time to do anything about it tonight, but I cleared a space ready for them tomorrow. The place had already been cleared with the mamoty; what had been cleared only needed raking together with a stick, and it was not until well after dark that I set on fire the two heaps I had made doing this. Lucky I did so, in view of the rain.

The tomato is coming on fine. The cadju has sprouted. We were given a present today of something called *Thirungu* of which, I hear, bread can be made. We shall plant some of the seed and sell the rest.

It is interesting to see how some of us have learnt always to keep occupied. Others when they are doing nothing, are literally content to do just nothing: they say they can find nothing to do, or

think of anything to occupy themselves with. They do not seem to even day-dream.

June 18,

Another morning, my mind goes back to two days ago of grinding clearing. What we have cleared seems to be in a wide sweep before us, like the Germans on their Eastern Front in the last war, and I stone in, as it were the pockets of resistance, pushing back the front where it has been dented. Today I was using a heavy *katha*. I seemed to be striking an enormous amount of stone, which was not good for the *katha*, or the people who owned it. All we possess now in the matter of tools, is a knife and a V.C. *katha*, this made for Rs. 2/-, and the knife bought for Rs. 7/- or Rs. 7/50. We have been lucky to borrow our *katha* and our mamoty.

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A hotch-potch of sorghum, orange and bean, all seeds were set in one bed. Today we planted more chilli and cucumber. There seems to be cucumber growing everywhere. The *bandakka* was weeded. We are at last beginning to look as if we are really growing vegetables.

I have shorn myself of the business of marketing after four months of it. In this job, it is interesting to compare the prices that I paid with that of my successor. He seems to be paying five to ten cents more for most things. I think it is just that the traders have not made friends with him yet. I used to pay almost special prices at some places, but I never bought anything without asking its price first.

Someone will soon have to get going with the V.C. *katha* again.

Our second vegetable has appeared, a lady's finger, and it is on a plant quite small.

With the rain last night we only watered what we had sowed today and yesterday, with a special thought for the jak. Our solitary coconut has been a failure. It appears that it was not ripe enough or mature enough, when it was plucked, and after all these weeks or months of watering it, we used it today like any other coconut after stripping it of its husk. An ignominious end!

The river is very full, which means that the water is muddy, and our neighbour's well is not fit to drink

FUTURE LEADERS

2000 A.D. AND ALL THAT

By CANAX

I'm sure Dr. Premadasa Udagama said it only because he needed *something* to say, but ever since he told teachers at a two-day seminar in Peradeniya that children now in Grade 6 would be the leaders of this country in 2000 AD, my wife has been acting funny. I'm beginning to suspect she thinks we have a future Prime Minister on our hands.

The other day, when our little daughter returned from school looking glum to say she had been pulled up by teachers for not doing her homework, my wife said comfortingly, if somewhat enigmatically, "Don't worry, darling. You just wait till 2000 AD."

It may be difficult for you to imagine, but I feel terribly uneasy about the whole episode. If I'm right in thinking what I think my wife is thinking, that teacher is in for a rough time when 2000 AD. comes round.

We men know from experience that women, when

water from after the dry spell, so we have to drink the muddy river water. We do this without straining it or boiling it, just as we have always done, except for a brief spell when my former companion both strained it and boiled it, but he gave that up.

it suits them, have longer memories than most, so the teacher who picked on my little girl can expect to find herself suddenly transferred to a cattle shed masquerading as a Maha Vidyalya in the middle of nowhere in 27 year's time, on orders from the Very Top.

I say this now, and I say it openly, because if I still happen to be around at the turn of the century, I'd rather not be asked to intercede on someone's behalf with my own flesh and blood. Heaven knows it's tough enough as it is to get the brat to obey her father, so I doubt having any 'pull' by 2000 AD. Influence aside, I probably won't have any teeth as well by then. They wouldn't be much help, anyway.

I don't know much about education except that it is a very big problem, and what little I know I have gathered from the words of wisdom dropped inadvertently by Dr. Udagama, on the one hand, and Mr. Tudawe on the other. There is, of course our one and only Dr. Badi, too, but unfortunately I have only two hands, so he'll have to be satisfied with another of my extremities. I'm having my hands full with the other two, so help me God.

What Dr. Udagama told the teachers educated me as well, though I'm willing to

grant that the injury may have been quite unintentional. Until he said it, I never knew we were teaching only 10 per cent of our children. Amazing what illiteracy can do, for that formidable 90 per cent has been very much in evidence in all our General Elections, including the one in 1970—and helped save Democracy from the brink every time, or at least that's what the winning side said every time, and winning sides are notorious for telling the truth.

Nobody will educate* me on this, not even Dr. Udagama or Mr. Tudawe, but I have this strange feeling that we have at last saved Democracy for good, and for the last time. It's probably the same sort of vague feeling Newton had about gravity even before he actually got thumped on his nut (or was he?) by an apple seized with a sudden urge to come down to earth. If he wasn't thumped it doesn't matter, for I like to think he was, and deserved it.

But to an illiterate like me it seems Dr. Udagama is determined not to leave well enough alone, for he is seriously planning to have mass-education schools to accommodate *all* children, provided they are alive, by 1980. That's what he said.

Why, it's the craziest thing I've heard for a long time.

Let nobody say I didn't sound the warning note, but you can't fool around with a nation of illiterates, turn it into an island overflowing with wise guys and still expect it to opt for Democ-

racy. Any child knows that Democracy, even Socialist Democracy, if it is to survive and flourish, needs certain essential pre-requisites, and a 90 per cent illiteracy-rate is one of them. So the Doctor is going out on a limb, I tell you, and I wonder why. He's done pretty well under Democracy I wouldn't think he'd have anything against it.

Dr. Udagama's plan doesn't worry me too much, though, thanks to some good news provided by the Doctor's immediate boss, Mr. Tudawe. It was such a comfort to hear him say soon after that at the current rate of construction, we won't have adequate school buildings for another 75 years at least. And, in case any lover of Democracy was still worried, he reminded us of our capacity to breed, which is phenomenal, so the evil day or year will never dawn. Thank goodness.

I'm no fan of Dr. Udagama, but I know someone who is. You probably know her too, so I'll skip the introductions. She hangs on every word of his though I would have expected her to hang on every word of mine, man of few words that I am. Besides, I had been led to believe that was the only redeeming feature about marriage.

The other day, without warning, she said, "He says it's useless teaching our child to make beds like they do in America, and I agree. We're never going to send her to America, anyway."

"But that's all part of our new job-oriented approach

to education," I cried.

"Don't be silly," she retorted, "where can our daughter get a job making beds like they do in America except in America?"

"Why, haven't you heard of the Inter-Continental?"

She nearly had a fit even though I tried explaining that it wasn't as trivial as it seemed. If Sri Lanka was to become a tourist paradise, I told her, we had to learn to dance to something more than the magul bera, and the tourists' tune was very different to that. Five-star hotels were a dime a dozen the world over. I said, so it was the little things that would make all the difference.

"Americans may look and act foolish," I reminded her, "but no patriotic American will come out here nad lie in a bed made like they make it in Russia or China. Just because they don't mind selling their surplus grain to them doesn't mean they'll stand for Socialism when it comes to their beds."

I was wasting my time, of course. For her the Oracle had spoken, and that was that. Instead of meeting my point, she took up another of the Doctor's.

"The would-be brides of today are all fishing for English-speaking grooms wearing western clothes," she said.

"So did you", I reminded her, "and I got hooked."

"But where do you find such people now?" she cried,

echoing the Doctor's very words. "We stopped teaching English 13 years ago!"

"If the Doctor has drawn a blank, he's looking in the wrong place," I said. "But if he wants one badly I'll tell him where to find one."

She got quite excited. "You mean a genuine one, English-educated and eligible?"

"The real thing," I assured her. "So genuine he probably has a stiff upper lip as well."

"How long will he keep safely?"

Her trend of thought was ridiculous, and also pretty obvious. "You're off your top!" I shouted. "Our daughter is hardly in her teens yet."

With a heavy sigh she gave up the idea. "But is the boy here or abroad?" she wanted to know.

"Right here," I said, "in the heart of Colombo 7."

She's so thrilled she's been trying to contact the Oracle ever since to give him the good news.

✽ Tissera ✽ Medical Treatment
✽ School Curriculum

by James T. Rutnam

This is the fifth article on Batticotta Seminary in the series which began in our issue of July 21, (Vol. 18, No. 13). This institution, now known as Jaffna College was founded on July 22, 1823,

effect to his original plan despite all the objections and obstacles he had encountered. Poor had been the obvious choice for the post of Principal which place of honour and responsibility the Mission unreservedly awarded him.

XII

THE twenty-second day of July 1823 is a day for ever memorable in the annals of the educational history of Ceylon. This is how the event and circumstances are described in an early Report of the Mission, "the institution was commenced in a modified form at Batticotta in 1823 by bringing together the most forward lads from the different Boarding Schools and placing them under the care of one of the Missionaries who with assistant teachers, was to devote himself principally to their instruction in literature, science and religion. The number at first received was forty eight, who, after qualifying themselves by further attention to some elementary subjects, entered upon a course of study both in English and Tamil, similar to that laid down in the original plan of the College." (italics added)

Poor had as his chief assistant a "Tutor in English and Tamil", Gabriel Tissera, the boy from Colombo, now a young man of twenty three. Tissera evidently had decided to remain in Jaffna. He was admitted to the congregation of the American Mission on 19th October 1819, and was licensed as a Preacher from 5th November 1821. The records in Jaffna show that his widowed mother had joined him in Jaffna.

TISSERA is given a very prominent place by the American Missionaries in their accounts of these times. For instance, Dr. Fred Goodsell for long a Vice-President of the Board gives more than a page to Tissera in his book *They Lived Their Faith*, which was published by the Mission some years ago. It is reported by his Lordship the Bishop in Jaffna, Sabapathy Kulendran, that the manuscripts of an unpublished work by Goodsell on the *History of the Ceylon Mission* running into nearly two hundred

Poor had achieved his purpose, although perhaps in a guarded and disguised way. He had succeeded in giving

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pages contain an account of Tissera. Goodsell's "history" is said to begin with Gabriel Tissera and the first seven pages of the book are reported to be entirely devoted to him.

Tissera had a big hand in laying the foundations of the Seminary. There is a copy of Samuel Johnson's Dictionary with a present member of Tissera's family that is autographed "From Archdeacon Twisleton to Mr. Gabriel Tissera, 1823". Evidently this was a gift from Twisleton to the young "Tutor in English" at the Seminary. The records show that from 1823 to 1881 Tissera was attached to the Seminary. He was renowned Preacher until his early death on 9th February 1838. His letters to American friends are reported to have been published in America.

Tissera married a daughter of Simon Jurgen Ondaatjie. He left two sons, G. S. Ariyanayagam aged 7, and G. P. Savundaranayagam aged 5 at the time of his death. They became wards of the Missionary Peter Percival. Ariyanayagam rose to be a High Court Judge in Travancore. Savundaranayagam had a leading practice in the Madras High Court. He successfully defended Arumuga Navalar in the cases filed in India by some of Navalar's opponents and by the "Deekshitaras" of Chidambaram in the 1870's. In a biography of Sri Arumuga Navalar by V. Mutukumaraswamy, Savundaranayagam is reported to have shown "great mettle" in these legal encounters.

XIII

THE BAND of American Missionaries present at the opening of the Seminary was small. Besides Poor there were Meigs, Winslow, Spaulding, Woodward and Scudder. Warren and Richards were victims of tuberculosis contracted before their arrival in Jaffna. Warren was sent back for a sea voyage and he died at the Cape of Good Hope on 11th August 1818. Richards was one of the six earnest students of Williams College, Massachusetts, who launched the idea of this Mission in 1810 from a haystack in Williamstown, and who joined in establishing the American Board on 29th June that year. He was the only one among this lot of six pioneers to embark personally for the foreign field. Soon he left his mortal remains at Tellipalai where he died in 1822.

Strangely enough it was the the patients, Warren and Richards, who became the first medical missionaries in Ceylon, although Scudder was not too far behind. Warren and Richards had a short course of medical study at the University of Pennsylvania and some practice at the hospitals at home. Within a year of their arrival in Jaffna they had opened up, with the help "of government officials and private individuals", a temporary hospital at Tellipalai for the cure of both soul and body, which function, they had felt, was their mission in life.

Poor, of course, was most concerned with soul and mind. Poor too had been

afflicted by tuberculosis, but some kind of fate seems to have saved him for his historic mission at the Seminary. Poor is reported to have had at the beginning the professorial assistance of Winslow, later to be the great Tamil lexicographer, Woodward, who remained in Jaffna until 1834, and Scudder, who was a practising doctor of Medicine in New York when, according to him, the "call" came to leave the surgery at once, to work as a Missionary in the foreign field.

Scudder had belonged to the Dutch Reformed Church, but soon after he arrived in Jaffna, he was ordained in 1821 as Minister of the Gospel of the American Mission by the laying of hands not only of his ordained colleagues, but also of those of Rev. Chater, a Baptist Missionary, and Rev. Robert, a Wesleyan Missionary. This was a foretaste of the occumenical spirit more strongly established in Jaffna.

Scudder, of course, was the founder of the first Mission-endowed Medical Dispensary at Pandateruppu, and later of the world-renowned medical services in South India at Madura, where even today the name of Scudder is held with reverence and gratitude. Winslow's name is associated with that of his wife Harriet (great-great-grandmother of John Foster Dulles) as the founders of almost a parallel institution to the Seminary for higher education for Tamil girls at Uduvil in Jaffna. Harriet Winslow died in 1838. Her memoir pub-

lished by her husband gives an interesting account of the early years of the Mission.

XIV

With regard to the curriculum and system of education at the Seminary at its commencement Chelliah states, "It is interesting to note the introduction of a system of mutual instruction with the help of monitors, by which it was hoped to stimulate idle and inattentive students in their studies. There were two distinct courses of study: English and Tamil. Forty eight boys of good caste and promise were admitted the first year after passing a satisfactory admission examination in English and Tamil. The examination consisted of Reading, Spelling, Translation from the English Testament into Tamil, the first principles of grammar, and the ground rules of Arithmetic. In Tamil, the examination was on *Negundoo*

"The students were divided according to their proficiency into two classes. To the end of 1824 these perfected their knowledge of English Grammar, Arithmetic, Translation, Reading, and Writing. Tamil poetry, *Nannool* and *Negundoo* were systematically studied. Besides these, regular instruction was given in Scripture. The number of scholars at the close of the year was reduced to 36 in consequence of some having been taken to fill situations, in the Mission, and others having been, for various reasons, dismissed. The next year, advanced work was taken up in the subjects

mentioned above, and the higher class took, in addition, Elements of Geography and Astronomy."

The reference to "good caste" in the above description is unfortunate, for there was no social discrimination at the Seminary. The students who came to the Seminary from the Boarding Schools were recruited, as it was observed earlier, for some reason or other, from a particular section of the Hindu community, a section which called itself as belonging to a "good caste", having entrenched itself in the feudal hierarchy, through long years

of social climbing and social tyranny, as being exclusively entitled to privileges and functions which it denied to others.

The Missionaries had to contend with society as it was. They confronted it and often challenged it with a view to changing the social order on the basis of a sense of universal brotherhood; but their approach towards this end was, as described earlier, not violent nor radical. They had a way of their own

(To be Continued)

N. Y. T. CRITICISES U. S. ARMS SALE

New York,

THE NEW YORK TIMES on July 7 deplored the action of the Nixon administration in boosting sales of sophisticated military equipment to nations in West Asia, Latin America and other areas. The paper disagreed with administration officials who argue that the sale of weapons would help the United States gain influence in the purchasing countries and that Washington would be able to control their use.

"Has nothing been learned from the Soviet experience in Egypt or from this country's own miscalculations in South and South East Asia," the paper asked. In an editorial titled "phantom security", the *New York Times* welcomed a recent Senate legislation reducing the quantum of foreign military aid. It called the Senate action a timely attempt to exercise some restraint over the administration's new drive to push up arms sales.

The paper said: "Phantom jets and napalm cannot be equated with farm machinery and wheat. Competing with others to place lethal weapons into the hands of nations which often can't afford them and which may use them to add to the world's burden of strife and misery is not a wise or honourable way to balance the books of a nation that claims to be leading the world to a generation of peace".

SAFARI

All The Way To Passakudah

May 19 - 20

By ALKARDI MUGANA

SAFARI—Started 19.5.73

It is May, the beginning of the dry, hot season, and the wind has set in. It blows during the early part of the night. It blows oil lamps out at night, and it plays a part in making the hot season bearable. At a place like the bund of the Mahakandawewa Tank near Mihintale, this wind blows almost at gale force.

Things look green just now. It was not so long ago that there was rain. Land that must have been allotted looks uncultivated, a riot of vegetation. The few paddy fields seen from the road were fallow. Nearer Anuradhapura cultivation has started the fields were flooded by water led into them.

There was a place where the trees had no leaves on them at all. This is usually caused by frequent or constant flooding. But as these trees here by the main road and almost on a level with and as the road is rarely, if ever, effected by flooding. One automatically looked for another explanation.

Coming into Anuradhapura we saw isolated red flamboyant trees, islands of red colour in a sea of green. The planning was bad. There should have been many more of these trees. So that there would have been wakes, not specks, of red in a green sea.

The central school, all cannot help feeling, will be famous one day; as famous as Royal and St. Thomas'. Until recently it threw up boys, school-leavers who were perhaps islands in our developing consumer society. Now that we have given the lie to this consumer society, and found that life consists more of creating than consuming. I have no doubt they will find their full stature where they should, as heralds of the new Ceylon.

There was not the usual rush of buses at the bus stand and what buses they were left full. The "park" or parkland at the foot of the Nuwara Wewa was more tidy and less overgrown than when I saw it last. Anuradhapura would really make a unique site for a university with all its magnificent parklands. I do not think any university would be worthy of its name if it did not cater to masses of foreign students. This intermixing of undergraduates and graduates from various countries would be an education in itself.

Coconut trees are certainly sparse around Anuradhapura but that there are some, shows that they will grow. There are not more for want of trying on People's parts. There are houses well shaded with trees in the town. On the other hand the clearing

was a little thorough in other parts. Of course, most if not all of the trees in peoples garden have been grown by the occupants.

On the way out I saw paddy that had been cut and not yet heaped up, other paddy standing in little cocks, and some not cut.

The usual herds of cattle were to be seen at the upper end of the Nuwara Wewa. These cattle are in unattended herds. In India you see more cattle and they are more liberally scattered if my memory serves me.

There are three approaches to Habarana from the west. The Northern of these is from Maradankadawela, the central from Kekirawa, and the Southern from Dambulla all very fine jungle roads with few villages and these at long distances from each other. The road from Kekirawa is a road end, but most buses take it because Kekirawa is an important town, very Muslim. The road from Dambulla skirts the turn-off to Sigiriya. There is fine jungle too beyond Habarana, and teak forests.

It has happened at last. We had a fine view of two elephants at the top end of the Minneriya Tank. The bus stopped and so did the other vehicles. The elephants were big ones and quite nonchalant about our presence. Now in Africa, in the Sudan and in Uganda, you see vast herds of elephants, but our elephants created as much a stir. They roamed about quite happily, turning freely, showing off their vast size and jungle grace. A domestic

elephant would never have as much grace.

It got dark, my bus was only as far as Minneriya. A lorry gave me a lift into Kaduruwela the twin town to Polonnaruwa. It had come from up country, from Nuwara Eliya.

String hoppers and dhal was what I had for dinner, and a half boiled egg. The hoppers were seven cents each, the dhal or parippu twenty five cents, and the egg forty five cents. The tea without milk, plain tea as it is called, even in Sinhalese, was ten cents.

At Kaduruwela, the buses that were expected at 9 p.m. and 10.30 p.m. did not turn up, and I was on my feet almost all night until I caught the express bus from Jaffna at about 4 a.m. Kaduruwela has no real night kadday, but just a place half in the open where tea is served, and where a quantity of ordinary hoppers and jaggery looking hoppers can be had until they have all been eaten up.

Towards two in the morning it became slightly chilly. There were always some people hanging about. I did not feel like washing my face in the irrigation canal that runs under the main road.

In the bus, slept I certainly did, all at awkward angles, and my head had a way of coming down like a dropped brick, both forward and sideways. This alarmed the neighbours no end, and they did not seem to care to realise that I was in more physical danger from these happenings than they were.

The coastal sector north of Batticaloa looks tidier and better cared for than land in the west or in the north-central province. You will find the overgrown weed or bush but nothing as riotous or profuse as in other parts of the Wannu or Dry Zone. It is all kept under control, obviously. I was very lucky. In spite of the delays and the distance I had come, I was dropped at a church where Mass was just about to begin, providential if nothing else ever was.

There is cheap food to be had in Valaichchenai. A pancake looking sweet, with a nice taste, cost only ten cents. An ordinary hopper was five cents. It is funny how many people on the East Coast will not show even a working knowledge of Sinhalese. These people will not confess to even knowing a single word of Sinhalese. It is like this in Jaffna, and, really, it is not surprising when so many Sinhalese, and influential Sinhalese of a political turn of mind are so ultra-Sinhalese. There was one thing Dudley Senanayake did in the first two years of his last term as Prime Minister, the years of the National Government, and that was to eliminate any signs of a Sinhalese-Tamil problem, and then his work was undone partly by the Dawasa group of newspapers over the District Councils Bill. Even then there was still no real problem until the so-called People's Government took over.

Being in the Eastern Province is almost like being in another world, and it is like this, in the Northern Province.

One wonders how, at the political level, confidence between the Sinhalese and the Tamils can ever be restored. But, of course, it will be.

There is a new spirit abroad in Ceylon, and even the old have taken on a new face, so that the initiative is by no means confined to the young. One wonders if the May Day elements were really representative of Ceylon, and it was not merely a good piece of creative organizing, much as a man would drive a bus.

Coconut is fairly extensive in the Eastern province, and all the little household properties with their gardens seem well shaded. The bus service is very poor.

Passakudah must make the finest bathing places in the world. It is long slowly-shelving beach, so that even a non-swimmer or a child should be safe in the water. There is a slight trench

FAKE WATCHES

Swiss watch companies are worried by brisk trade in timepieces now going on in the city streets. They have in fact started a campaign warning tourists against buying them. There is a whole industry in the country faking the "best makes" of watches and selling them to trustful tourists in the streets. It has been calculated that foreigners annually buy about 900 million Swiss francs' worth of such watches, which cost fifty times as little to make.

running along the length of the beach, just beyond and below the water-line and if you do not see it you might think you have stumbled into a ditch, but almost with the next foot you step out of it again on to pure sand below the water's level, and you can enjoy a jolly, good swim in shallow water. The trench is full of coral and the beach, too, where the waves play. I picked up three pieces just for the asking as a memento and a curiosity to take home.

The beach was not crowded like an English beach at a popular resort would be, but there was a fair sprinkling of people, it being Sunday. I am sitting now on the beach at Kalkudah writing these notes, and if these manuscripts seem sandy, it is sand which the wind is blowing along, and I am receiving a fair sprinkling of it myself.

The road-end at Valachchenai, which ends up at the water's edge, beyond which is a flush of islands, if I may use that word, all close to each other, flush with vegetation and coconut trees, all young ones, is fairly a romancer's image of the tropics. There is a landing place, and hard by a building which might have served as a custom's house and at a pinch as a warehouse but which is now a DRO's office. The ground is littered with paper as somehow seems to be part of government buildings since the British left, but it is a quite spot.

The sky looks angry; there is a rumble of thunder coming from the south west and someone is having rain.

THE INDIAN OCEAN-3

CHINESE PRESENCE-I

by S. K. Ghosh

*Institute For Defense Studies & Analyses,
New Delhi*

In the Indian Ocean Series, syndicated by Foreign News and Features, New Delhi, this article on the Chinese Presence was written by S. K. Ghosh of the Institute of Defense Studies and Analyses. Two articles on the Soviet Naval Presence appeared in the *Tribune* of July 14 and August 11.

Over the past few years, a lot has been said and written about the big power rivalry in the Indian Ocean and the Chinese naval presence and activity to counteract Soviet presence there and vice-versa. China's displeasure at the growing Soviet influence in the Indian Ocean region was first expressed in June 1969 when, in the wake of the CPSU General Secretary, Leonid Brezhnev's proposal for a "collective security system" in Asia, Peking attacked the Soviet "gunboat policy". China alleged that the "Soviet revisionists" were preparing to fill the "vacuum" left by the impending withdrawal of the British Navy east of the Suez, and to build up a Soviet "life-line of the empire" similar to Britain's former line of sea communications, forming "an arc-shaped (Soviet) maritime route" linking Europe, Africa and Asia.

This evening I saw some small outrigger canoes, tidy jobs, each manned by one person. I was told they carry a lamp but not a sail. They are propelled by oars.

Well, it did rain, and quite hard, for about an hour the first rain for a long time. Pools of water were still on the road the next morning. The Valaichchenai junction was quite a hotch-potch of bird-song about an hour ago, and it is probably not yet 3 a.m. Now the cocks have taken over and birds have gone to sleep again. The birds may have mistaken the moonlight for dawn.

The charge which had been occasionally repeated in 1970 and 1971, was revived in the context of the Malacca straits controversy. Criticising the Jap-Soviet stand for the internationalisation of the straits as an "absurdity" and an encroachment upon the sovereignty of Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore, the NCNA (New China News Agency) said on 11 March 1972 that the move was part of the wider strategy of "Soviet revisionist social imperialism" to "build up naval hegemony in the vast area from the Black Sea, the Mediterranean, the Red Sea, the Indian Ocean, the West

Pacific, to the Sea of Japan," in collusion with the "Japanese reactionaries". Earlier in June 1970, a *People's Daily* article made a strong plea for building a strong navy and embarking upon a naval build-up and ship-building programme to counter "threats of aggression by US imperialism and Soviet revisionism—the two sea overlords."

It is evident that China has been competing hard with the Soviet Union in increasing its influence in and hold over the countries on the shores of the Indian Ocean, particularly those situated in East Africa, the Middle East and South Asia, by utilising the three-pronged weapons of aid, trade and diplomacy.

EAST AFRICA. IN Tanzania, the Chinese have established their influence by offering to build the prestigious \$400mn, 1,110-mile Tanzam Railway. The Railway, China's biggest ever overseas aid project, when completed by 1976, will link Dar-es-Salaam with the Zambian copper belt and give land-locked Zambia an independent outlet to the Indian Ocean. About 15,000 Chinese personnel are reported to be engaged in the construction of the railway, a 750-km stretch of which—between Dar-es-Salaam and Makambake—had already become operational in January 1973.

The Chinese have also given liberal military and other economic aid to Tanzania and is assisting it in building a naval dock-yard at Kigamboni in Dar-es-Salaam and an air base at Ngerengere, 80 miles west of Dar-es-Salaam.

They have also supplied 8 gunboats and at least one squadron of Mig Jet fighters—presumably Mig-17s. The bulk of the military aid commitments made to African countries during 1966-70, estimated at \$200 mn went to Tanzania and a Chinese military mission, about 300-400 strong is known to be helping the Tanzanians in training their Army. The Chinese are particularly active in the offshore islands of Zanzibar and Pemba. In Pemba they are running a big military base for training African freedom fighters, while in Zanzibar Chinese technicians were

reported in late 1978 to be engaged in setting up tracking stations and installing telemetry equipment to monitor the final phase of a possible ICBM flight test fired over India with a splash-down in the Western Indian Ocean near Zanzibar.

In Zambia, apart from the railway project, China is helping to build a 380-km road linking Lusaka to Kaoma in the Western province. It will also supply and install three powerful radio transmitters in Zambia.

CHINA is also striving hard to increase its influence, at

IDA, CIDA & HUNGARY AID INDIAN P & T

The International Development Association (IDA), an affiliate of the World Bank, announced recently that it is joining the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and Hungary to help finance a telecommunications project in India. IDA said it has approved an \$80 million credit for the project—the fifth lending operation by the World Bank group in its continuing support for this sector of the Indian economy. It brings total bank group lending for telecommunications to India to \$288 million.

IDA said the project will cost approximately the equivalent of \$534 million and covers essentially the first two years (April 1974-March 1976) of Indian Posts and Telegraphs' five year development programme. It includes a \$57 million carryover from the fourth Plan which IDA also helped to finance, the announcement said. CIDA is providing an \$11 million equivalent credit, and Hungary is providing a \$6 million equivalent credit for the project.

Approximately, 258,000 direct exchange lines will be added to the system—long distance facilities will be expanded to provide for an additional 17,190 trunk circuits and trunk exchange capacity will be increased. Service will be extended to rural areas with an additional 2,000 public call offices and 2,800 new telegraph offices. Telex service will be increased by 6,250 lines. The project also includes provision of staff housing and expansion of research facilities.

The IDA credit is for 50 years, including 10 years of grace. It is interest free but will bear a service charge of 0.75 per cent annually to cover administrative expenses.

the expense of the Soviets, in *Somalia, Sudan and Ethiopia*, in the eastern coastal region, as also in the *Congo (B), Guinea, Mali, and Mauritania* in the interior and the West coast of Africa.

Somalia appears to be gradually moving away from the US and the Soviet Union and getting closer to Peking. In 1971, *Somalia* received a \$ 110 mn loan from Peking. Of the five road-building projects undertaken in Africa and the Middle East in the post-cultural Revolution period, the biggest a 2,000-km lateral road - is in the *Somalian Republic*.

China's relations with *Sudan* have been particularly cordial since President Numeiry's visit to Peking in August 1970. Apart from obtaining economic aid totalling \$ 82 mn since August 1970, *Sudan* is a recipient of Chinese military aid in terms of an agreement signed in April 1972. China is reported to have already supplied *Sudan* with eight Mig-17s and enough tanks to equip one armoured division.

China established diplomatic relations with *Ethiopia* in February 1971. And following the visit of Emperor Haile Selassie to Peking in October 1971, Peking offered a \$ 84 million interest-free, long-term loan for agricultural development in *Ethiopia*. The two countries have also been linked by air service since 22 February 1973.

China is trying to improve its relations with *Kenya*. In December 1970, Prime Minister Chou-En-Lai sent a congratulatory message to President

omo Kenyatta on the occasion of the seventh anniversary of *Kenya's* independence the first since 1967, when Sino-Kenyan ties were suspended. In his message, Chou hoped to see friendly relations "continuously grow and to develop" between China and *Kenya* "in the common struggle against imperialism and colonialism". In April 1971, the Chinese Red Cross Society donated £ 150,000 towards *Kenya's* famine relief fund. A Chinese freighter arrived in the *Mombasa* port in late April with relief supplies.

MALAGASY AND MAURITIUS. Following the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries in November 1972, China began to exert its influence on the island republic of *Malagasy*. Chinese economic offensive till the end of 1972 was, however limited to an agreement for exporting low-priced Chinese rice, and the first shipment of 10,000 tons had already arrived at the *Tamatave* port in late November 1972.

China has been particularly anxious to develop close relations with the strategically located Indian Ocean island of *Mauritius* since it gained independence from the British in March 1968. Peking was one of the first governments to recognise the new independent nation. An economic and trade mission visited the island in early 1968 and offered commercial and economic cooperation, but no concrete results appeared to have come out of this visit. However, during 1969-71 Peking appeared to have scored some success in spreading its influ-

ence in the island through the 20,000 strong organisation, known as 'Movement *Mauritien Militant*' which "draws its inspiration from Chairman Mao". During this period the

PAY FOR PHANTOM TROOPS

At the end of June U.S. Congressmen voted to cut appropriations for military operations in Indo-China after August 15, that is, to stop financing the bombings of Cambodia in support of the Lon Nol regime. On July 4, the United Press International reports, Representative Michael Harrington made public the information he had obtained on how American taxpayer's money was being spent to maintain the Pnom Penh regime's army. Prior to January of this year, the Pnom Penh regime was given about one million dollars to issue pay to "phantom troops." Pnom Penh officers simply "padded" the troops strength by 10 to 15 per cent and pocketed the difference.

This fact, Harrington said was corroborated by the report the U.S. General Accounting Office had submitted to one of the Senate subcommittees. The report makes clear, he stressed, that "American officials in Washington and Pnom Penh have known about the payments to phantom troops since 1971."

Chinese were reported to have smuggled some rifles and other arms to this organisation in the island. (There are about 25,000 persons of Chinese origin, constituting 3 per cent of the island's population of 850,000). In April 1972 when Prime Minister Ramgoolam paid a visit to Peking and the two countries decided to establish diplomatic relations, Sino-Mauritius relations took a turn for the better. China agreed to give \$ 35mn in credit for building an international airport in the north of the island and a link road.

MIDDLE EAST (WEST ASIA)
In some of the countries of the Middle East, China, by its persistent efforts, appears to have been able to secure a slight edge over the Soviet Union. China's efforts to win friends and influence nations in the Arab world started with an aid of \$12.7 mn to Yemen in 1958. The amount was utilised to build Yemen's first asphalt road linking Saana with the Red Sea port of Hodeida. China's total aid commitments to Yemen upto 1968 were \$70

mn. China has also extended economic assistance to *Southern Yemen, Syria and Iraq*. Aid commitments to these countries in the post-cultural revolution period having been \$43 mn, \$55 mn (two loans) and \$40 mn respectively. China's influence in Southern Yemen has, of late, been rapidly increasing and there are speculations that the number of Chinese advisers and technicians in Aden would soon surpass that of the Russians. Southern Yemen as well as Syria also receive some arms aid from Peking.

China has long been lending its support to the *Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO)* with propaganda as well as some arms and training to PLO volunteers. The former Chairman of the PLO, Ahmed Shukhairi, visited China in mid-sixties and obtained a Chinese pledge of military assistance, including training of PLO insurgents in guerilla warfare in China. His successor, Yassir Arafat, who visited China in March-April 1970, also claimed to have received a Chinese pledge for continued support to

their cause as well as military assistance.

The *Popular Front for the Liberation of Occupied Arabian Gulf (PFLOAG)*, which operates in the Dhofar region in the southern-most part of the Arabian peninsula, appears to have derived some inspiration from the Chinese doctrine of "people's War". In March 1970 a delegation from the Front visited China to get support and aid from Peking. In August 1970 there were reports that Chinese instructors were training the Dhofar insurgents both in Peking and Aden, and that there were at least 10 Chinese military advisers with the PFLOAG.

The Chinese have also improved their relations with Iran and other countries of the Persian Gulf littoral including Kuwait and Bahrain. China's planned inter-continental air service is to fly via Teheran to Rumania and Albania, while the Iran Air would inaugurate a direct Teheran-Peking Service in June this year.

(To be Continued)



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IS IT TRUE?

Sherlock Holmes

SMUGGLING—PRIESTS

AND CARS

IS IT NOT A FACT that smuggling for commercial purposes has now gripped some of the black sheep who masquerade as priests? That this column had recently spotlighted the attempt made by a priest of the Roman Catholic Church to smuggle (or even more) "four bags full" of luxury and semi-luxury items which fetch three to four times their prices paid for them in Singapore or other duty-free places? That as a matter of consolation to the Catholics, who had to deal severely with the errant priest, two Buddhist monks too have joined the ranks of the immortals? That the *Times of Ceylon* of July 20, 1973, focussed attention on its frontpage on the list of articles which a Buddhist monk has tried to smuggle into Sri Lanka? That this detection was made at Katunayake? That the Buddhist monk, like the Catholic counterpart, had gone to Singapore for a fortnight's jaunt? That he had brought back three bags full with two kit bags thrown in for good measure? That the articles found in them were: 93 packets of Wilkinson blades,

52 packets of Gillette blades, 20 packets of Nacet blades, 48 cigarette lighters, 72 'Hero' fountain pens, 6 Parker fountain pens, 15 Parker ballpoint pens, 12 multi-coloured ballpoint pens, one dozen nail clippers, one electric rice cooker, two cameras, three wrist watches, six nylon sarees, one portable English typewriter, three ladies umbrellas, a ladies handbag, four sets of cuff links, 25 cassette tapes, six sarongs, 12 Seiko wrist-watch straps, two pocket transistor radios, one cassette tape-recorder, two transistor radios, three cassette-cum-transistor radios, six sarongs, two magnetic chess sets, seven electric shavers (battery-operated or cordless), eight hair clippers (electric or non-electric) and an electric wall clock? That according to the *Times* this was the second Buddhist monk to be caught by the Customs within six weeks attempting to smuggle undeclared luxury

items in commercial quantities from Singapore?

IS IT NOT A FACT that many eye-brows were raised when at a recent auction at the Government Stores of 5 Sri and 6 Sri cars (sold to the Government by diplomats, etc.) Peugeot's had fetched higher prices than Mercedes Benz cars? That whilst some Peugeot's went for over rupees one and half lakhs each, the Mercedes fetched prices under one and half lakhs? That Sherlock Holmes was able to discover the secret behind this? That the ultimate buyers of most of these vehicles are smugglers? That whilst Mercedes Benz are good status symbol vehicles, the Peugeot's are excellent operational cars? That the latter are better for operations not because they are mechanically superior to the Mercedes, but because the vast majority of the new cars used by top Police, Army and other Governmental brass are Peugeot's—and smugglers using similar cars can easily pass for officials rushing around on important work? That an official crest and the name of a Corporation or Department can be put on these vehicles when they are on important missions? That smugglers can afford to throw away a car after each major operation?