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## PRICE CONTROL OF RICE

Minister Illangaratne, the Minister in charge of distributing Food, threatened last week-end that Government would soon introduce price control on off-ration rice at Rs. 2 a measure whilst maintaining what he (unimaginatively) believes to be the attractive price of Rs. 25 a bushel of paddy to the cultivator. He seems to be under the mistaken belief that it is the trader who makes the unconscionable profit now being on off-ration rice. Cultivators and farmers are no longer the dunderheads they once were. A survey made by *Tribune* recently revealed that farmers and cultivators were only slowly releasing stocks of rice in dribbles to traders at about Rs. 4 a measure when the selling price was around Rs. 4.15 to Rs. 4.25. The cultivators have begun to make the most of price movements. The trader is lucky if he makes 15 cents on a measure today. Now, the supplies from the cultivators, who kept small stocks without selling the same to the PMB, have begun to dry up and the price of off-ration rice has begun to shoot up. It will go on shooting up—until supplies come in from the next Maha harvest. Where stocks are non-existent, price control is nothing but a farcical joke which becomes injustice and tragedy by the indiscriminate use of state armed power to enforce this price control. Even the currently alert Bribery Commissioner's Department would be hard put to keep up with bureaucratic corruption which will stem from an attempt to price control off-ration rice. But even worse will be the impact on the production of paddy. A high off-ration price for paddy and rice is a bait that induces many cultivators to endeavour to produce more—but short-sighted price control measures will push cultivators to move away from cultivating paddy into growing other food crops which are not caught up in price controls but which respond to the laws of supply and demand. The crazy obsession which politicians have had for consumer distributism has already done untold damage to the productive potential of Sri Lanka, and the price control of rice to appease consumers will be another nail in the coffin of paddy production in this country. There will no rice stocks to be controlled and production will drop.

- GREEN REVOLUTION
- SHAMBA
- INANIA
- OIL CRISIS
- MIDDLE EAST
- SAFARI
- CHRONICLE
- POLLUTION
- TWO C.Ps

# Tribunania

## On The Green Revolution

TOWARDS THE END of last week, the *Observer* made a frontpage story of the fact that the Northeast Monsoon had burst, rather belatedly in the North and East, including the NCP and parts of the NWP. After the inter-monsoonal (or cyclonic) rains which had fallen at the end of October — when thousands of cultivators had rushed to plough and sow with these rains—there had been no rain, except for an occasional drizzle in some parts. What had been sowed was therefore in danger of withering away and prospects for further sowing—the major part especially those which were tank irrigated were yet to be sowed—were slender and grim.

It is good news that the northeast, though delayed, has started, but it is yet too early to say whether the rains would be adequate. The fact is that this monsoon have to cover a lot of lost ground. With the failure of the monsoons during the last three or four years, the lands were parched and the big tanks dry. The rains in October, after an eight month dry spell in 1973—following the droughts and poor rains from 1970—were not enough to provide any significant change in the levels of the major tanks in the largest paddy growing areas in the island.

Meanwhile, the dew began to appear and old Wannihands began to fear that this was not auspicious for the northeast. Certainly, the early dew has been a fore-runner of a delayed monsoon. Reports indicate that with the rains the dew has receded, and all now hope that the early dew will be no more than an indicator that the monsoon would be late. But pessimists assert that the early dew means much more than that—that apart from the delayed monsoon it would be only a partial monsoon. Whether this will be true only if the early dew kept re-appearing in between the inadequate showers is not clear—but it will be worthwhile watching developments.

However, it will be well for all to know that unless there is a deluge — a little less than something which will call for an Ark—the tanks cannot fill up. Even a regular full northeast monsoon cannot in one season make up the inadequate rains of the last three years, but a good monsoon will help the current Maha in a substantial way. If the monsoon fails or is partial, all estimates must be revised.

One major consideration in any estimate for the next two years must be the fact that the monsoons had been partial for the last three to four years. Unless the big tanks are full again and the northeast is good enough to keep them very nearly full after the Maha, there cannot be a good Yala. And the tanks cannot regain their proper levels without full monsoons

for two years running, and our planners will do well to pay due attention to this simple fact in evaluating estimates—and not be carried away by wishful thinking or by the exaggerated inflations made by departmental officials who produce fairy tale statistics. These officials are also ready to trot out a series of excuses to explain why their estimates fell short of realities.

Under the best of conditions, the paddy production in 1974 and 1975 can never reach optimum, and whether 1976 will be any better will depend on the monsoons of this and the next year—the rains must be enough to enable all the tanks to recuperate and refill so as to attain their normal levels. Some big-talk officials argue that high-yielding seed varieties will make up for restricted rain, but they forget that these high-yielding varieties require much more water than the older conventional varieties—which are hardy and tried out compared to many of the new fangled high yielding varieties which may not stand the test of time.

POLITICIANS, planners and all interested, even in the midst of the present hysteric euphoria about the food drive, will do well to sit back and think why the green revolution has been slow in coming to Sri Lanka: and why all that has been done by various governments since Independence has not produced the desired results.

What has gone wrong with our green revolution? Is it

faulty planning? Is it faulty implementation? Is it faulty Government policy? Are the farmers and traders holding the country to ransom? Is it unprecedented drought? Is it inflation? Is it lack of resources and inputs? Is it our outmoded extension organization? Is it lack of infrastructure? Is it lack of investment in agriculture? Or is it a combination of all these factors that has given such a severe jolt to the green revolution we have been hoping for and crying about? In any case, what should we do? These are some of the questions that stare us in the face.

However, it must be realised that even a green revolution has its limitations. It is essential to see what a green revolution can do, and cannot do. There can be no greater mistake than to treat the green revolution we are after as an Alladin's Lamp that could produce everything out of nothing.

We can do no better than quote what Dr. D. P. Singh, Vice-Chancellor of G. B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Patnagar, in India, has to say on the limitations of a green revolution—which he lists as follows:

**“(1) The green revolution versus population explosion:**

“The green revolution is no remedy for unbridled growth of population. ‘Those who breed like rats must live like rats’ will continue to be true at all times howsoever far-reaching the consequences of the green revolution may be.

In a country, with a hole in the food bowl, where 12 million new mouths are added every year, an additional gap of two million tonnes would be created every year. Over a decade, this will mean an additional gap of 20 million tonnes, if it remains uncovered. No wonder that the country that could pass through the two droughts of 1966 and 1967 could not do the same without unprecedented misery and suffering in 1973 because, among other factors, an important factor was that an additional gap of 14 million tonnes had been created in the meantime as a result of the unbridled growth of the population.

**“(2) The green revolution and the printing machine:**

“Likewise, the green revolution is not an antidote to inflation. If additional 8,500 million rupees (Rs. 850 crores) are pushed into economy in a single year, the green revolution cannot neutralise the same. After all, people cannot eat currency notes. Money supply has to be matched with additional production otherwise soaring prices, vanishing commodities and flourishing blackmarkets will become the order of the day.

**“(3) Dependence on nature:**

“The main difference between the production process in industry and agriculture is that the former deals with dead matter and nature does not play an important role, while the latter deals with living organism and nature plays a key role. In fact, nature, so far continues to be the major partner in our agriculture and man has to

co-operate with nature at all stages of the production process and, at times, has to helplessly witness the spectacle of all his efforts being wasted by the wrath of nature in the form of drought, floods, frost, hail, pests or diseases. In India, agriculture by and large continues to be a gamble in monsoon.



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**"(4) Feasible versus real revolution:**

"Above all, a distinction must be drawn between a 'feasible' and a 'real' green revolution. One of our basic problems in this country, where wishful thinking is a common pastime, is that the gap between the 'potential' and the 'actual' is conveniently forgotten. We have unlimited poetic gift of exaggeration. A medicine will be named as 'Ram Ban' or 'Amritdhara'. Likewise, before the green revolution could touch a small fraction of agriculture in our country, we presumed that it had become a reality. We conveniently forgot that like anything big, the green revolution has to be brought into being. The price of progress has to be paid.

**"(5) Feed the cow to have milk:**

"Nothing comes out of nothing. In the long run, the output has to be balanced with the inputs in one form or the other. Nobody has been able to invent a cow which will give milk without being fed. How can we have bumper crops if rains fail, irrigation does not come, electricity is not available and fertilizer is scarce and available at abnormally high prices? All that the green revolution does is to provide a more efficient tool of production, thereby making it possible to grow two (or three) ears of corn where only one grew before. Yields per hectare can be multiplied and productivity increased only if requisite inputs and other factors of production become available."

FACT OR FANCY**CONNING OUR WAY THROUGH LIFE**

by Canax

I WAS surprised to read the other day that the Marga Institute had gone to all the trouble of conducting a survey only to find that fiction was the most popular reading material among all the groups in Sri Lanka. Goodness knows how much the Institute spent of its easy-come aid to find that out; what surprised me was that a survey was indeed deemed necessary to discover the obvious. If one has the money, I suppose, nothing is beyond discovery.

We in this blessed isle simply love, have loved, and will always love fiction and, because I took it so much for granted, I hadn't given it a thought, let alone a second thought. When one doesn't have the dough, I suppose, one takes a lot for granted.

But when I read about the Marga discovery, I got to thinking. And the first thought that came to mind was that the survey, wide though it might have been as surveys go, wasn't wide enough. Its scope was restricted to 'reading' fiction, but there's a lot more to fiction than the mere printed word alone. We take to fiction pretty early in life, long before the printed word means anything, as any child will tell you, though I'm thinking right now of only mine.

FOR NEARLY two years now I have been laying it on thick to my little daughter without either of us realising that what I was giving, and what she was getting, was pure fiction. But of course we don't count in Marga's myopic views since my output, and my daughter's input, was 'hearing' fiction.

"Tell me a story, Dadda," she implores most evenings as she is tucked into bed and is allegedly ready to call it a day. So I pick up the nearest book of fairy stories, but she isn't having any of that.

"Tell me *another* story," she now insists rather than implore. Heaven knows, even if she doesn't, that stories also are difficult to come by these days. I don't mind paying the price if only I can buy one good story, or a dozen of them at one go, over the counter—or under it, for that matter. But hoarding stories may also be a crime around here. So I make the best of a bad situation.

"Did I tell you about that little pussy cat?" I ask eagerly in the sudden, crazy hope that before I can finish asking she will have moved gently into slumber and in the process put me out of my misery, for my problem is that I'm

From The Easy Chair

not really friendly with any pussy cat, little or otherwise.

"What pussy cat?" she wants to know, now more alert than ever.

I'm in a spot, all right, but I press on. "Why, that black pussy cat," I say, trying hard to think what one can say about a black pussy cat except that it is black.

"I don't like black pussy cat," she announces, "but tell me the story."

"Well," I say for a start, keeping a steady eye on her so I can stop taxing my imagination at the first nod, "this little pussy came home the other day and said 'meeow, meeow..' so Dadda opened the door....."

"And Dadda also said 'meeow, meeow?'"

THAT WAS an embellishment I was not child enough to think up myself, but I promptly appropriate it from her. "Yes, Dadda said that," I lie, and meeow like the pussy did because it sounds nice even to my ears. One good meeow deserves another, as any cat will tell you.

"Then what the pussy say?"

"Pussy say she very hungry....."

"Her Mamma didn't give any milk?"

"No, darling, because Mamma Pussy was also very hungry."

"Why?"

"Because that's the story," I snap, momentarily losing my cool, and because I couldn't think of anything else to say.

"Anyway, Dadda put some milk in a saucer and gave the pussy."

"How pussy eat the milk?"

"Pussy didn't eat the milk," I correct her. "She drank it."

But it's all the same to my daughter. She is more interested in my getting on with the story. "Show how pussy took the milk?"

SO DADDA puts his head down close to the pillow and pretends to lap up imaginary milk from a non-existent saucer, stopping occasionally to straighten up and smack his lips while making the appropriate, if highly amplified, noises to convey feline contentment. If my daughter knows that no cat makes such a racket, she doesn't let on, for it's all part of the make-believe we are both indulging in. It's also the part she enjoys most in any story, and invariably giggles herself silly.

"Then what pussy do?" she wants to know in-between giggles and a tentative attempt to imitate the lip-smacking.

"Oh, the pussy was very happy and said 'Thank you', and went home to sleep," I say.

But she seems visibly disappointed. "Pussy didn't say 'meeow, meeow' to you?" she asks, a pained look on her face.

"Of course she said 'meeow, meeow' and then only went home," I quickly assure her. Even in the realms of make-believe, it seems, you

can't begin a story with a 'meeow' and end with a 'Thank you'. Only another 'meeow' will do.

Her eyes begin to droop. Lazily she whispers, a half smile playing on her lips, "Nice pussy, no?," but before I can answer in the affirmative she is asleep.

ANOTHER TIME she asks to be told "that elephant story", a request which leaves me all at sea for I've churned out so many different stories, with different elephants, I can't remember any of them. Not that I want to, of course. So I invent another elephant, and another story to go with the brute, knowing full well that one more pachyderm won't hurt anybody, certainly not our massive, hysterical Food Drive.

"Dadda was driving late one night in the jungle...." I begin.

"Where was Mommy?"

"She was fast asleep at home," I say, solving that mystery for her in a jiffy and getting back to my story. "Suddenly there was a big noise, bang! and the car stopped. Dadda was frightened.. he locked the car and went to sleep inside, but a little later there was a knock on the door and Dadda, got up and flashed the torch to see a huge elephant standing outside. He put down the shutter a little and the elephant asked, 'Want a lift?', and Dadda said, 'No, thank you, all I want is a little air'. The elephant at once put its long trunk to the wheel and blew a lot of air into the

tyre, so Dadda gave the elephant a flying kiss and drove home fast."

"Was it a boy elephant or a girl elephant?"

"Dadda felt shy, so he did'nt ask," I tell her.

SHE THINKS that over and decides it was a girl elephant, after all, for she asks, "She a rich elephant?" a point that had never crossed my mind. I had considered tame elephants, wild elephants, even rogue elephants, but certainly no further than that, and not as far as rich elephants. (I don't want to bring politics into this)

"Dadda looked, I con, "but she wasn't carrying any money in her trunk."

"Then where she keep all the money?" she wants to know.

"Must be like Mommy, darling," I say. "She must be locking it all up in the almirah at home."

That apparently satisfies her for she says, "I'm sleepy, Dadda, goodnight," and turns on her side.

Well, that gives you some idea of the part fiction plays in our formative years. And now that you have read me thus far, hands up all those who still think truth is stranger—or better—than fiction?

SHAMBA

# Finding Another Companion

by ANATORY BUKOBA

September 1,

It has been a day of surprises. About fifteen years ago, and it went on for some years, there was a weekly feature, on the home B.B.C. that was about farming. Farming featured in it, adventures with the bull and so forth, but in the main it was a story about people. I feel that this is what the *Shamba* is becoming, only that I have to be very careful because I am dealing with real people, and I must be careful not to let their association with what has been intended to be a serious venture, as it still is, bring them the sort of publicity they would not like. *Shamba* is not intended to be that, but to bring to the reading public the sort of difficulties that can occur in opening up a farm on a shoe-string, as my resources almost are, and, how and when we are successful, the successful formula. I do not think much is to be gained by going into the details of today's adventures. Let it suffice that it was to do with people coming and people going.

This morning, the tomato, the red onion, and the surviving cowpea, the spinach, too, pineapple and much else, had some watering. The middle of the day is really hot, and even members of the longest standing families

here are feeling it. There is no wind tonight but it is cool. The *kaddays* form the centre of village life, the *ter kaddays*, or restaurants as I suppose you would call them in English, although *kadday* and *tea kaddays* recall to mind a certain sort of atmosphere which the word restaurant does not quite, and restaurant, after all, is a French word. I think it would be necessary for *kadday* to passover into the English language in order to describe what it is, so, compilers of the Oxford Dictionary, please take a note of it! A *kadday* is a place where you can relax, talk, crack jokes, smile, and sip tea and eat buns. They used to have bugs but somewhere within the last seven years, we have left the bugs far behind. Ceylon, is growing up, I like to feel it was all the grouching I did in *kaddays* that did it!

September 8,

The first complete fruit that this farm produced, I gave to the priest. It was a little red tomato, ripe, and small as you can find one. It will probably be the last for some time. The lack of rain and the fact that nothing has been watered has taken its toll. Only the spinach has really survived, so far, of the vegetables. There are one or two chilli plants that

might pull through. One tomato plant still looks green. The red onion plant and the sorghum have just dried up. Two flowering shrubs have done well in spite of the lack of watering, which I have just been unable to do, unless I had stayed here just to water everything. Even some of the plantain suckers have dried up. Two very "honest" people, in an unofficial, or even "official" position of trust were breaking wood-apple, quite unripe ones, and had already broken twenty five when I caught them; they offered, and volunteered a very lame excuse. They did not know I had come back. Their "aunt" had asked for wood-apple.

My missing shirt has turned up. I am glad of that. It means that the "rot" of dishonesty has not gone too far. Nothing, in fact, was stolen, this time when I was away. I am thankful for that.

As for the future of this farm, I think I have found a companion. It remains to be seen if his relatives with whom he is staying, will allow him to get on with the job. At the moment I will not have to leave him money or food while I am away. If this is really so, I shall be able to live within my present income, put in some work here, and have some money to spare for capital investment, something I have had no real money for all this while. Seven months have gone by. I have five months left to prove my points, I want to about this *Shamba*. With income, I must be financially independent in all respects, something I am not yet,

still have to I am very heavily on the family.

September 9,

These notes I had not expected to write tonight. There is a good moon. I had watered what is still alive, restricting myself to half a small bucket of water. I should have been elsewhere by now, but my departure was delayed. As I said, some one has offered to join me in this venture, and to begin by keeping an eye on things while I am away. He was supposed to move in for the night but there is no sign of this yet. The two remaining sugar cane cuttings have been gnawed by some animal; I thought pig at first, but it might be a monkey. In fact it could be almost any animal.

For the seven months I have been here, I suppose all I have to show is a wealth of experience. It is not the first time I have had some experience in these matters, but I must have had a lot to learn yet. I am not the one, it seems, who had difficulties. Other wise and fine men have had them, too, as I learnt the other day. There has to be a break through somewhere, and I do not know how it will come. When it comes, it will be a success. It could come here, or it may come elsewhere. I am not even quite sure what we are aiming at. I know what it is I do not like, and this it has that inspired me, to do something about it. From theory we make the practice.

### SHIPPING CORPORATION FOR TAMIL NADU

*Madras, Nov. 13,*

The Tamil Nadu Government has decided to set up a shipping corporation of its own, and a new company is to be registered for the purpose shortly. The corporation's fleet will be utilised initially for transport of coal for thermal power stations in the State and for other cargo later. The Transport Minister, Mr. S. Ramachandran, who returned here yesterday after talks in Delhi, told reporters that the Planning Commission had cleared the State's proposal. Tamil Nadu would be the first State to have its own shipping service, he said. A token provision of Rs. 1 crore had been made in the Fifth Plan for the purpose. The idea was to use the assistance available from the Shipping Development Fund for buying ships. A feasibility study would be undertaken to decide on the type of vessels to be acquired. Mr. M. S. Ram, Transport Secretary, said the State Government took this decision because of the difficulty experienced in bringing coal to thermal stations during last year's power crisis. One of the reasons for slow movement of coal was non-availability of freighters. The proposed thermal plant at Tuticorin would require at least 4,000 tonnes of coal per day. The Government was anxious to create the necessary transport capacity to move coal.

Constant failure it is that obscures the vision, and this was what I meant when I said I was no longer sure what I wanted to do. Perhaps we should not judge anything by success, but by its fruit, which can be a very different thing.

At present power seems to go with money. The difference between capitalism and socialism is this, that in capitalism it is private people who find the money. In socialism, the state finds the money, and the reason why so many important people are socialists today is that private people cannot find the money fast enough. This leaves the rest of us out in the cold, and this is the problem that worries me. This is why I am here.

#### Postscript 10.9.73

My companion turned up, although I had to fetch him. He brought a small group of friends along with him to keep company. One of the last things I heard him say was a remark of his to them that he would have to do some watering in the morning. This is not the first time I heard this. It remains for me to see when I got back what has been done. I told him what I have said to everyone that no wood-apple is to be broken; he is to pick up what falls and dispose of it, and let me know the details. Sugar and tea I left there, but he will get his meals at home. There was a little rice, some sugar, a little *mungatta* and a coconut, should the need arise to use them. He managed this first night without mats. It

reminded me of when I first came, when I did not have a mat. He even slept on a *massa* bed without cadjans on it. It shows the right spirit. A dog accompanied him and his companions and took up its station in front of the house by the door. This relieved me of much anxiety. If any pig come in the night, the dog is bound to notice it. I stayed till about midnight and then left to catch a bus. I had to stand all the way.

At the dentist, I was reading about St. Ambrose, about what J. B. Morton had to say. Ambrose had troubles all his life. One of the hardest things he had to do was to excommunicate an emperor, even though this was a kind of success story, for he was chosen as Bishop of Milan even before he was baptized, and he has consecrated bishop only ten days after that! So non-Catholics and non-Christians take hope. You may be made cardinal if you show the right disposition! Incidentally, it was the people who chose Ambrose not the Pope, but the people included the clergy at that time, but the Pope, no doubt, put his seal on it.

As regards reading, I have at last been able to resume *Das Kapital*; I hope it is a sign of better times that I have this leisure again. Clever book it is, full of facts, brilliant in analysis, like one of our L.S.S.P. doctors whom I heard long ago on a platform, but like him, it falls short when it comes to solutions. So let us see what we can do.

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# Inania Of This, That and The Other

## Asalam Alaikum!

By INNA

Cassim greeted me with a sincere "Asalam alaikum". I promptly replied with the customary: "Va alaiqumu salam ma Rahmat Allahi". In the south-East country in which I met him and became friends with him, I could not possibly begin showing my differences of opinion, opium or no opium, and so I greeted him.

Cassim was an orthodox Muslim, lecturing at the Catholic campus of a University in that country. He came for five minutes at the insistence of his christian fiancée, but stayed for three hours for we matched *surah* or *surah* from the Qur'an.

BUT the climate has changed in Islam today. The early Meccan *surahs* revealed to The Prophet Muhammad referred constantly to helping and saving the poor widow and orphan. Islam went full cycle and came back to help the oppressed, the widow and the orphan. Perhaps they too are religiously trying to open to the Left, or are they? Is Truth on the Left then? Truth is neither left, right nor centre, but truth is right and always has rights.

Let's look at the Symposium issued by seven eminent Muslims and we shall see in no uncertain terms, Islam's new-generation making a bid for true liberation through the Qur'an and its modern interpretation.

Muhammad Arkoun (Professor in Paris), Hassan Askari (Hyderabad), Muhammad Hamdulla (Muslim writer in Paris), Dr. Hasan Hanafi (Cairo University), Muhammad Kamel Hussein (Orthopedic surgeon, Rector of Ain-Chams University, Cairo),

Ibrahim Makdour (Cairo university), Seyyed Nasr (Professor at Teheran, Beirut and Harvard) and the compiler-editor, Father Youakim Moubarac have collaborated to bring out an outstanding *Symposium of Muslim Thought for Today*.

IT IS a work full of hope for the present and for the future. It bristles with sentences like the ones below:

"Socialism is of the essence of Islam; the one and the other being a movement of liberation" (Hassan Hanafi) 113.

"If Islam means liberation, any country in the throes of a struggle for development, or in transition towards socialism, is a Muslim country, whether her people are Muslims or not" (Hanafi, 115)

HANAFI has some pungent words about missionaries:

"The revolt against domination was at the same time a revolt against missionaries. It was their fault. The true missionary is the one who

participates effectively in the development of his country, where he fulfils his mission. The mission of all revelation is liberation. The only prayer to be performed in occupied territory is to chase the enemy (the exploiter). The only liturgy envisaged in a poor country is to work the earth to make the children grow and live—to feed the children, and in this sense, Camillo Torres is the greatest missionary of all time." p. (107)

SRI LANKA christians, especially catholics, could continue to rinse dry (it might not run dry) the glory of the gospel and take from it all its meaning in regard to the "Other", of selfless service.

They may have been arrogant, and who has not (?) but their gospel has the remedy for it.

With what they call "Ecumenism", they could also try a little wider ecumenism with Muslims and all men of goodwill, as Pope Paul VI so strongly suggests.

### U.S.A. & U.S.S.R.

The Soviet Union and we are at one and the same time adversaries and partners in the preservation of peace. As adversaries, we often find ourselves drawn into potential confrontations and each of us has friends that let themselves pursue objectives that may not be sought fully by either of us.

—Henry Kissinger

## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

BY ARIEL

## THE OIL CRISIS

WHILE THE BREZHNEV VISIT to India last week was happy interlude in a world of crisis and confusion, it is the Middle East which now dominates the international scene. The fighting, as such, has ended, but it is not yet certain whether the ceasefire will hold in spite of the two US-USSR sponsored Security Council ceasefire resolutions and the agreement negotiated by Dr. Henry Kissinger to make the earlier resolutions operative. At the time of writing, the talks between the Egyptian and Israel military leaders to disengage their forces on the Suez front has been suspended because of the intractable attitude of the Israelis about withdrawing to the October 22 lines. The first five clauses of the Agreement had been already implemented—even the sticky one about the exchange of prisoners, but the parties stalemated on the withdrawal clause.

One reason why the Israelis became unexpectedly adamant was undoubtedly because the Algiers Arab summit had laid down that peace with Israel would be possible only if the Jews withdrew from all Arab territory occupied in the 1967 war and also from Jerusalem. The Israelis had been wanting this pre-condition, which the Arabs had been insisting upon all along,

modified to allow for new boundaries to ensure national security for Israel and also to make special allowances for Jerusalem. But, the Arab summit on the crest of euphoria by the oil squeeze and cutback have chosen to take a hardline attitude—though Sadat been willing to be flexible about it before the fighting had broken out. Jordan had kept out of Arab summit because the Palestine Liberation Organisation had been invited to represent Palestinian interests, and to make matters worse, the summit, in the absence of Jordan, had decided to recognise the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinians and they are nearly all in the state of Jordan. King Hussein, left out in the cold, has indicated that he will act on his own, but whether he will dare to make a separate peace with Israel is not yet certain.

While the diplomatic and political moves to make the ceasefire work continue to enable the Peace Talks at Geneva to be held later this month, the oil squeeze and cutback effected by the Arab oil producing countries has begun to play havoc in the life and economy of all the advanced industrialised countries of the West including Japan which is the worst hit because it has hardly any non-Arab source of oil.

Although the Arab countries have extended some limited exemptions to certain ECM countries (eg. regarding the further 5% cut during the winter months), there is no doubt that the West and the developed world are com-

pletely at the mercy of oil-producing Arab oil countries. There are grave forebodings of an overshadowing economic catastrophe. The oil shortage in Japan, experts have stated, will not only reduce the level of industrial output by more than 10 percent, but that at present rate Japanese reserves and trade surpluses will also be wiped out in the foreseeable future.

It is admitted that "even if the cut in the oil supplies were to end soon, the impact on the balance of payments position of the developed world will still be great. It is also beginning to dawn upon the developed countries that the Arabs could have set a precedent for raw material-producing countries in the underdeveloped world to demand better prices for their raw materials and agricultural products."

Other reports went on to state: "Western diplomats and oil executives met in Kuwait recently to discuss ways in which their Governments and companies might hit back at Arab oil producers but they have admitted that there is no way. Exultant Arab economists have also come to the same conclusion. There was even a suggestion that Britain could freeze £500 millions of Arab money in sterling reserves. This action would hurt Britain's financial credibility more than Arab liquidity. Even if Western countries tried to sabotage Arab development programmes, it was pointed out that such action would clear the way for the Russians and the Chinese to step in.

"Western oil companies today find themselves at the mercy of Arab Governments not only in respect of price rises but also over take-over arrangements. Saudi Arabia is reported to be planning a major take-over of Aramco, the American oil company. Kuwait may take over control of the Kuwait Oil Company, the States' single largest oil exporter. Experts say that Arab oil producers will wage a war indefinitely."

IT IS NO WONDER, then that Japan should so drastically and decisively change its policy towards the Arab-Israeli conflict. Japan today has moved one step forward towards securing relaxation of stringent Arab oil embargo by issuing an unambiguously worded statement supporting the Arab cause in West Asia conflict. The four-point statement, issued by the Tanaka Government, for the first time since 1967 demanded the total withdrawal of Israeli forces from "all" territories occupied by it in the six-day war in 1967. It called for the "prompt and complete implementation of the 1967" Security Council resolution.

The statement also proclaimed the "inadmissibility of acquisition and occupation of any territories by use of force" and called for recognition of and respect for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people in accordance with the U.N. charter in bringing about a just and lasting peace in West Asia. This is for the first time that Japan has spoken out in favour of the "legitimate rights" of

the Palestinian people in accordance with the U.N. charter.

While asking Israel to withdraw from occupied areas and to implement the U.N. resolution, the statement said "if these conditions are not met, we would have to reconsider our relations with Israel."

Asked if Japan might consider severing relations with Israel if it failed to withdraw from occupied areas, a Foreign Office spokesman explaining the Government statement to foreign journalists said Japan would not like to do that.

But though Japan has taken this far-reaching step, countries of Western Europe do not seem willing to beyond the "neutral" positions they had taken during the recent Arab-Israeli fighting. Holland, however, continues to back Israel though it is the worst hit by a special Arab oil embargo. Holland's reply was uncompromising to two Arab Ministers who went as envoys to European capitals to secure a change of policy *vis a vis* Israel from ECM countries. Some ECM countries have wanted counter measures against the Arab countries even before President Nixon and Kissinger had hinted that a toughline policy against the Arabs could well result from Arab obduracy.

But continuing fuel shortage, in spite of the rationing, has plunged the stock markets of Europe to an all-time low and there is growing nervousness about the future of European prosperity and economy. The U.S. Secretary of State, Dr. Henry

Kissinger, on November 24 had in a press conference threatened "counter measures" if the Arab countries persisted in using the oil weapon against the United States. He told pressmen that the U.S. West Asia policy would not be swayed by economic pressure from the Arabs. "If the pres-

### 84-Day Cruise in Space

Cape Canaveral, Nov. 16,

Three American astronauts rocketed safely into orbit to-day for a planned 84-day "holiday cruise" aboard the Skylab space station. It is the last manned space flight planned by the U.S. until a joint American Soviet orbital mission in July, 1975. During the flight they will conduct extensive studies of the sun, earth and man. They will also take an unprecedented look at the great Comet Kohoutek, now streaking in from deep space. A 22-storey Saturn 1B rocket roared away from Cape Canaveral to propel Marine Lt. Col. Gerald Carr, 41, Air Force Lt. Col. William Pogue, 43, and solar physicist Dr. Edward Gibson, 37, in pursuit of the 85-ton Skylab station. Once in space, Commander Carr will steer the Apollo ferry ship through an intricate set of manoeuvres to track down and link up with the Skylab station, orbiting 430 km. high. Docking was scheduled about eight hours after lift-off on his final visit to the house-sized vehicle.

asures continued unreasonably and indefinitely, then the U.S. would have to contemplate what counter-measures we would have to take with enormous reluctance" he said. Dr. Kissinger said the U.S. produced 85 per cent of its energy needs. "We are not a total prey to outside pressures."

He was optimistic on the chance of a U.S. and Soviet Union sponsored peace conference on West Asia in

### 'Instant' Bread

London,

It is not "hard tack" and salted meat for the crew members of British Soldiers, the Army's official entry in the Whitbread Round the World Yacht Race, which started earlier this month. Their menu includes fresh bread daily.

For this they have to thank a Government chemist, Mr. James Simpson, stationed at Portsmouth, on the south coast of England.

By substituting two quick-acting chemicals for yeast, Mr. Simpson had concocted an instant bread mix. Most of the salt has been removed, and the duty cook has only to add sea water and the mixture immediately rises ready for baking.

The ingenious chemist has also given them a mixture for making golden-brown pastry for steak and kidney pie simply by adding sea water and heat—and sugar in the case of sweets.

December and said an agreement to this effect might be announced soon. Dr. Kissinger said the U.S. hoped to be able to make at the beginning of the next week, some proposals to help countries hit by the Arab oil embargo because of their attitude in the West Asia conflict. But he cautioned the big oil consuming countries against individual initiatives that he said might make more difficult a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Asked if the U.S. would share some of its energy resources with Japan, Holland and other countries, Dr. Kissinger said the first problem was to get the U.S. energy crisis under control. He said sharing U.S. energy resources was a very complex matter and the more broadly shared they were the more difficult it became. The specific needs of Japan and Holland required a careful study "and we are trying very hard to look it to it," he added.

The U.S. did not have proof that the Soviet Union had introduced nuclear missiles in Egypt, Dr. Kissinger said. "We have no confirmed evidence and there are public Soviet statements to reject these allegations", he added.

In the meantime, European parliamentarians meeting in Copenhagen, shortly after the Kissinger news conference asked Common Market Governments to impose economic sanctions on Arab Governments to force them to abandon their oil cuts. They suggested suspension of trade arrangements between the EEC and the Arab countries

and stoppage of food aids. The warning of the U.S. Secretary of State Dr. Henry Kissinger, to the Arab States was interpreted as a coincidence and not a collaboration within the frame-work of the Atlantic relationship. However, the issue of sanctions and other moves towards a tougher line against Arabs is expected to be raised by the EEC Ministers when they meet American officials in Brussels this month. A West German member of the Political Committee said after the meeting that the next four weeks would show whether a full scale crisis would develop and do grave damage to the economy of Western Europe.

WHILE THIS WAVE of pessimistic foreboding pervades Western Europe, there is growing resentment in European capitals against their Atlantic partner, the USA, for having co-operated more with the Soviet Union than themselves in the attempts to bring about a ceasefire in the Middle East. In the Peace Talks to be held in Geneva shortly, European countries have been excluded. It was China which had first objected to, and criticised this "two super-power monopoly" in Middle Eastern affairs. Now France has begun to echo the same sentiments, and the French Foreign Minister Jobert after bemoaning the dangers of the monopoly exercised by the two super-powers, had demanded that in all future parleys about the Middle East the Five Permanent Members of the Security Council (which included China, should be present with equality to make decisions.

China has certainly been making a great deal of headway with western European countries who are now sandwiched between the two super-powers. China has openly warned all European countries about the dangers of being complacent about the *detente* between the USSR and the USA which, it said, had given the Soviet Union the freedom to manoeuvre against the rest of Europe. The Warsaw Powers would soon dominate western Europe is the warning which China has given to all ECM countries. China has already extended the warmest support to NATO and has called it a defensive alliance.

This seems to have paid big dividends. British papers the *Guardian* on 25/9/73, the *Economic Times* of 13/10/73 and the *Financial Times* of 13/11/73—have reported that

Rolls Royce will soon conclude negotiations to supply China with the "Spey" type of jet engines. The British are also likely to build in China a plant to produce jet engines for *Trident* type planes which can easily be converted for military purposes. Such a factory for jet engines will also enable China to have all types of jet engines for the Chinese Air Force.

In this connection, observers have noted that Britain could not have initiated negotiations for such equipment without the approval of NATO headquarters—because this kind of equipment was on the list of strategic goods which are on the banned list for export to socialist and communist countries. Does this mean that western European countries and NATO have decided to help China

to streamline her armed forces with modern equipment. Premier Heath is soon to visit China, in January 1974, and will the world see another super-power grouping on an axis between China and the big countries of western Europe?

The USA, in spite of the fact that it gets 85% of its energy from domestic and non-Arab sources, has also been severely hit by the oil crisis. President Nixon on November 25 announced several emergency measures to meet the energy crisis, and this has led many to think that a recession was round the corner in the USA. White House "experts" have denied this. The problem about the oil crisis and its impact on US economy merits consideration in a special article, perhaps in the next issue of *Tribune*.



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## THE MIDDLE EAST

## THE WAR AND AFTER

By SPARTACUS

The Middle East is settling down to an uneasy peace after the latest (fourth) armed conflict between Israel and the neighbouring Arab states since the creation of the state of Israel in 1948.

There have been already many analyses and interpretation<sup>s</sup> of the causes and consequences of the latest war both by foreign and local commentators. The losses and gains, military and political, to Israel, Egypt, Syria and other Arab states have been the subject of learned articles in magazines and newspapers. Another matter that has come in for a lot of comment is the part played by the Big Powers—notably the USA and the Soviet Union—in the recent armed conflict and how the results of this conflict will affect their relations *inter se* in the coming years.

THERE MAY be differences in assessments about the political and military gains and losses, about the causes and consequences of the Middle East war. But few can doubt that the coming period will see Big Power diplomacy coming to play in a big way in the Middle East area.

The last few years have witnessed hectic diplomatic offensives and counter-offensives in Europe and Asia. But ever since the 6-day war in 1967, the situation in the Middle East had been stalemated. The recent war had put an end to this situation and made it wide open for diplomatic offensives by both the USA and the Soviet Union. In fact, it can be said that this diplomatic war is already on, with the Soviet Union particularly making a valiant effort to crown the diplomatic victories it had gained

in Europe and Asia recently with at least a partial victory in the Middle East.

It will be remembered that the 1960's saw intense Soviet diplomatic offensives in Europe to change the 'cold war' position that had existed there ever since the end of World War II. The Soviet leaders probably felt that the time was ripe to seek international recognition to the post-war borders and other political changes that had taken place on the continent after the end of the war. Hence their proposal for a conference on European security—a proposal that did not meet with sufficient responses from the West at that time.

A CERTAIN RELAXATION took place in the relations between Western European and East European states and greater trade and other con-

tacts too were established. But the Soviet Union probably feared at that time that this policy of 'building bridges' was a new form of counter-revolution devised by the West to achieve through diplomatic and economic means what John Foster Dulles had failed to achieve through military means, namely the 'liberation' of Eastern Europe from their communist regimes.

Their fears were confirmed by what took place in Czech-

## Oil Found in Andamans

New Delhi, Nov. 18,

Some possible oil of gas bearing structures have been found in Andaman group of islands by the Geological Survey of India (GSI) during its recent survey for geological mapping of the islands. The Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) would start its first stage of structure drilling soon at these basins in the islands, according to the GSI Director General, Dr. Roy Choudhary. The GSI has, so far, covered only the northern islands in its survey for geological mapping. Earlier, the geophysical investigations and exploratory drilling undertaken by the GSI helped the discovery of oil fields by the ONGC later in Gujarat. The "Bombay High Area", in the Arabian Sea where ONGC is now conducting offshore drilling was also located by the GSI surveys.

slavakia in 1968. The Warsaw Powers led by the Soviet Union moved in their troops to crush what they called Western-inspired counter-revolution. Their efforts to achieve detente in Europe took a back seat for the time-being.

The peace offensive then went East after the Tet offensive in South Vietnam and the growing opposition to the 'dirty war' inside America itself had led to President Johnson's announcement of his decision not to recontest the Presidency and his declaration of a partial halt to the bombing raids over the DRV.

Coinciding with this lull in the war tension in Asia, the USA and the Soviet Union too moved to closer relations with the Johnson-Kosygin 'summit' meeting at Glassboro. But with the peace talks at Paris stalled, prospects for peace in Asia did not look too bright.

And so both the West and the Soviet Union turned their attention towards Europe and registered a spectacular success with the conclusion of the treaties between the FRG on the one hand, and the Soviet Union and Poland on the other.

THESE CHANGES in Europe were crowned by the treaty between the FRG and the GDR, the quadripartite pact on west Berlin and other agreements culminating in the successful conclusion of the first stage of the European Conference on Security and Cooperation and the admission of both German states

to the UNO. These important developments can be said to have brought an end to the cold war situation that had bedevilled relations between states in Europe ever since the end of the war.

The tensions in Asia too subsided somewhat with the conclusion of the peace agreements relating to Vietnam and the end of the long war there.

But while these significant developments in the direction of peace were taking place in Europe and Asia, the peoples and leaders of Egypt, Syria and other Arab states watched helplessly while Israel stayed put on territories seized during the 1967 war. All initiatives towards a negotiated peace and restoration of the *status quo ante* proved futile. Both Israel and the Arab states had been straining at the leash and had been held in check only by their patrons among the Big Powers.

THE SOVIET UNION, in particular, which had borne the main burden of supplying arms to Egypt etc. had been blamed for holding the latter countries back when they wanted to settle accounts with Israel. This had led to diplomatic crisis too, as for example, when Soviet military advisors were ordered out of Egypt last year.

Meanwhile, relations among the Big Powers themselves had undergone significant changes with Nixon's visits to China and the Soviet Union last year and Brezhnev's visit to the USA this year. This last visit, in particular, saw the conclusion of

a very important agreement—the agreement on the Prevention of Nuclear War whereby the USA and the USSR undertook to consult each other in case a conflict between other countries appeared to involve the risk of a nuclear war between the two giants.

The importance of the agreement during the recent Middle East conflict was highlighted by Leonid Brezhnev when he told the Indian Lok Sabha last week that if this conflict had flared up in a situation of international tension and aggravation of relations between the USA and the USSR, "the clash in the Middle East might have become much more dangerous, it might have assumed a scope threatening world peace."

Thanks to Big Power detente, such a situation was avoided. Far from adding fuel to the flames of the Middle East conflict, both the USA and the USSR did their best to act as a moderating influence on their respective allies. And though there were points during the conflict when things looked crucial, thanks to the normalisation of relations that had taken place between them, the USA and the Soviet Union were able to make joint initiatives to bring the conflict to an end.

AS IS well known, it is also based on a resolution jointly sponsored by the USSR and the USA in the Security Council and supported by other states that the Middle East war was finally brought to an end. And now in this area too, till recently a hot-bed of tension from which

might have been sparked a global conflagration, the war has shifted from the battlefield to the conference table and it is in the Middle East that the Big Powers will now concentrate their diplomatic warfare.

President Nixon and other US statesmen have not given any indication of the line they propose to follow. But the Soviet Union through the person of Mr. Brezhnev has adumbrated the main lines they hope to pursue.

The latter told the recent World Congress of Peace Forces in Moscow: "In accordance with the letter and spirit of the resolution adopted by the Security Council on October 22, the parties concerned are to start immediately, under the appropriate auspices, negotiations aimed at establishing a just and lasting peace in the Middle East...Let me say that the Soviet Union is prepared to make and will make a constructive contribution to this matter. Our firm stand is that all the states and people, in the Middle East—I repeat all of them—must be assured of peace, security and the inviolability of borders. The Soviet Union is prepared to take part in the relevant guarantees."



## SAFARI

# IN THE WANNI

by ALKARDI MUGANA

July 9-10,

A person I met even before I boarded the bus was the Manager of a Tourist Hotel cut in the wilds, but still close to the main road. He charges tourists Rs. 150/- a day, and he said he had been in the business fifteen years. Thanks to the expense of putting up a tourist hotel, the owner does not make all that much, he said. I think it will be lucky tourists who stay at his place, for I know the spot. There should be some good fishing and boating, too, if these facilities, boats and roads, are provided, for the water is there all right.

The Nuwara Wewa is a tank worth seeing empty or full. By empty, I do not, of course, mean that it ever is that. You can get a good view of it from Mihintale road leading out of Anuradhapura. There are many coconut trees in places along this road, leading up as far as what is called the Matale junction, so many miles though it is from Matale, and in spite of the fairly big that intervene. There are many stretches where there are no coconuts, so showing that the road to this place has by no means been developed fully yet.

From Galkulama on it is jungle country. Coming into Maradankadawala from the north, there is a fine house

on the left standing in spacious grounds, one worthy to have housed a Government Agent, in the old days, although I feel that no Government Agent could ever have lived at that town, and well kept, which is a change from the usual state of Government houses since independence.

Coming into Kekirawa, after you pass the railway station, and looking across a tank or lake, there is a fine isolated Buddhist Temple all white. I have only begun noticing it lately, which does not mean that it was not there before. All buses coming from Anuradhapura and the north make a diversion to Kekirawa. Going all the way round the two sides of an isosceles triangle, instead of turning off at Maradankadawala before proceeding east. This is all elephant country.

Somewhere here I met a young friend of mine. He was at the age of twenty two still trying for the S.S.C. I said, forget it. Having left his father's house, he was going round friends' of his, just borrowing his fare at each place to get him to the next. At least that was what he gave me to understand. This is not, I think, unusual in Ceylon, where people will often turn up for the night in just the clothes they are standing in.



At Anuradhapura, I was advised to catch a Minneriya bus; they thought I might get on quicker that way. At Minneriya, the first bus to come along was one from Trincomalee, and it took me to Polonnaruwa, or rather Kaduruwela. I noticed in the ruins at Polonnaruwa that the bricks they made centuries ago to construct what are now these ruins, at a period which was contemporary with the Middle Ages in Europe, were just slivers of bricks, their sizes corresponding to their height or thickness. It meant using more cement or mortar than would be used to construct a building of comparable size, because more of these smaller bricks had to be used. My memories of Roman ruins, such as I saw at Munster of Rovenglas in Cumberland, is that their bricks were also small.

The Giritale Tank, mentioned so often in Safari, looked very empty. This is not the reason for rice crops in this part of the world, so I was surprised to see, at a Government farm, what looked like a magnificent crop of paddy. A Tamil in front of me told me it was not. He mentioned the name of the crop but I cannot remember it. When I saw it had a small flower, I realised it could not be paddy. Another Tamil sitting next to me said that linen was made out of it. Then it must be flax or linseed.

The C.T.B. Staff on the local buses running north out of Batticaloa manage always to put me in a black mood. I find them singularly uncooperative.

Talking about prices Kalmunai must be the cheapest place to live in Ceylon. You can get curry and rice for Rs. 1/-, and tea without milk for -/10 cts. Elsewhere the prices are Rs. 1/75 and -/15 cents.

A night *kadday* seems to be a good business. One that has opened only two days is doing a roaring trade. The secret is, I think, not to change too much: "plain tea" or tea without milk, 10 cts instead of the 12 cts and 15 cts elsewhere; -the lozenge-shaped sugar topped buns, 20 cts and not the 30 cts, and -/35 cts I have known in other places.

In the middle of the day, when the sun is right up it paints everything much the same colour because of the shimmering heat. In the early morning, upto about nine o'clock, it is different. I was suddenly surprised to see the bright green of paddy fields, paddy actually in growth. This contrasted with the grass, the colour of straw, on the other side of the road, on the slope of a tank bund. In the distance there were trees, a fallow green compared with the other two. This was on the road between Inginiyagala and Amparai. This is a nice road for the motorist, for there is much water to be seen in places.

There was more green paddy between Amparai and the "coast" road that goes through Kalmunai. There would be green paddy on one side, and many paddy fields lying fallow on the other, and beyond the fallow more green. Later on as the T

junction got nearer the horizons were pushed back, and vaster expanses of green paddy appeared. Still, there were fields, fewer now, lying fallow.

That green that I spoke about on the Inginiyagala road at the hours I saw it, had given me the same kind of shock that I got on coming into Ismalia from the road running along the Suez Canal. There was the same kind of green, a contrast from the desert, and bush, but there there were trees, here just paddy.

The gusts of wind that assaulted one at Inginiyagala were terrific, no warning, like squalls, threatening to blow anything down, whipping up sand, then dying away. Then coming again, another tornado. All this miles inland and the lake well out of sight.

There was not much excitement about the result of the Dedigama by-election, but much anticipation. One person was confident of an SLFP win. I was so surprised, I looked at him sharply many times to see if he was pulling my leg, but there was no sign of this on his young face. I concluded he must be a member of the party. Most refused to commit themselves but all expressed satisfaction at the result.

*Marathavalu* or *Marthawalu* is a plaintain I bought at Habarana, big, pointed, tasty. I was from about midnight to 5 a.m. about the 75th mile post on the Polonnaruwa road without a bus. A lorry dropped me at Habarana.

## CHRONICLE

## Sept. 11 – Oct. 8

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

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11:** The Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike, returned to the island yesterday. According to the *Sun*, Dr. N. M. Perera is to make yet another try for World Bank assistance, particularly the stand-by loan of 24.5 million dollars from the IMF. According to the *Daily Mirror*, the Finance Minister will not leave for the meeting of the World Bank and the IMF to be held in Nairobi shortly; however he will leave for Dar-es-Salaam on September 16 to participate in the Commonwealth Finance Ministers' talks. The Non-aligned Nation's conference held at Algiers ended on Sunday night.

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12:** Water supplies within the Colombo Municipal limits will be cut from 1 pm. to midnight, beginning today. Sri Lanka has purchased another 20,000 tons of flour from France. A summit meeting of United Front leaders took place to decide on the future of the CP within the Government and UF. Chilean President Salvador Allende said that sectors of the Chilean navy had revolted against him.

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13:** The United Front summit held yesterday proved inconclusive: the Prime Minister Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike, adjourned discussions for a future date to enable the leadership of the SLFP and the LSSP to consult their respective organisations on the views expressed by the C.P. chief, Dr. S. A. Wickremasinghe. President Salvador Allende is reported to have committed suicide after Chile's armed forces toppled his left wing Government and bombarded his palace from the air and the ground in a six hour battle: according to eye witnesses, the 65-year old Marxist President died of a bullet through his mouth inside the palace: the Chilean military junta announced that Chile was breaking off diplomatic relations with Cuba.

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14:** The Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike, has issued a statement condemning the military action in Chile. CP chief, Dr. S. A. Wickremasinghe, is expected to receive a letter informing the decision of the SLFP and the LSSP about the Communist Party's continuance in the United Front. The military junta in Chile has appointed its own Cabinet to rule the country: the new Cabinet swore to uphold the Principles of the Junta.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15:** "It is no longer possible to continue to regard you as members of the United Front" states a letter sent to the CP Chief S. A. Wickremasinghe, by the Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike, in her capacity as the leader of the United Front: the letter was addressed to Dr. S. A. Wickremasinghe as MP. Sri Lanka won't ask the IMF for a stand-by credit, said the Minister of Finance, Dr. N. M. Perera. Fresh fights broke out in the capital of Chile: several democratic and social countries continued to condemn the military action in Chile.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16:** The Communist Party Politbureau after a 5-hour meeting decided to call upon Mr. Pieter Keuneman and Mr. B. Y. Tudawe, to resign their offices as Minister and Deputy Minister respectively. Students of the University of Ceylon, Peradeniya Campus, are perturbed about proposals to increase the hall fees of all resident students and to reduce the number of rice meals to one. Cuba has called for an urgent meeting of the Security Council alleging grave acts committed by the Chilean military Junta to the Cuban Embassy in Santiago and a Cuban Merchant ship.

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17:** According to the *Daily News*, the Minister of Housing and Construction, Mr. Pieter Keuneman, has denied any move to form a new Communist Party. The Minister of Finance, Dr. N. M. Perera, yesterday left for the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference in Dar-es-Salaam. The Central Committee of the Ceylon Communist Party, issued a statement expressing solidarity with the Communist Party and the People of Chile. The widow of late President Allende left for Mexico today from Santiago.

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18:** The CP hardliners are expected to move over to the opposition when the National State Assembly meets on next Thursday. Over 6000 appeal cases are pending before the Supreme Court. The two Yugoslav suspects before the Criminal Justice Commission (Foreign Exchange Offences), Mr. Stephen Galetovic and Dr. Gligo Mladen, are not to be remanded: the Chairman of the Commission, Mr. Justice G. P. A. Silva, made this order yesterday. Heavily armed supporters of the late Chilean President, Salvador Allende, were being flushed from rural hideouts.

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19:** Several private sector industries are facing the prospect of disruption in production owing to the non-availability of foreign exchange for import of necessary raw material. A Yugoslav suspect in the present case before the CJC (Exchange frauds) admitted that he exceeded his powers in financial matters. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee approved the appointment of Dr. Henry Kissinger to be Secretary of State.

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20:** The Central Committee of the Communist Party met yesterday to discuss further action owing to failure by Mr. Pieter Keuneman and Mr. B. Y. Tudawe to comply with the Party decision and resign the posts they are holding. A total of 5,200 civilian, detained during the military take over in Chile will be tried by Court Martial.

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21:** The Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike, has given a warning that a depression was round the corner and the country was faced with a critical economic situation: the Prime Minister is meeting the Ministers, MPs and 22 Government Agents at the Bandaranaike International Memorial Hall to brief them on the measures the Government is taking to tide over the critical food situation. From today, the Colombo Municipal Council has restricted the supply of water from 8.30 p.m. to 9 a.m. only, until further notice. The situation in Chile is slowly easing off but curfew still continues.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22:** At the meeting of Ministers, MPs and Government Agents convened by the Prime Minister at the Bandaranaike International Conference Hall, the Prime Minister said that from today the country will be on a war footing and the entire resources of the country to be turned to food production: calling this period a national crisis, the Prime Minister called upon every individual to cooperate irrespective of political, racial and religious complexions: saboteurs inside and out side will be hounded out, she said. In the National State Assembly, Mr. Pieter Keuneman said that it will soon be clear that the Communist Party has not been excluded from the United Front. In Chile only anti-Allende newspapers are allowed to be published.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23:** Mr. Pieter Keuneman, Minister of Housing and Construction, said that a new provisional Central Committee is likely to be elected by the special conference of members of the Communist Party of Sri Lanka called by him. Mr. Stanley Tillekeratne, Speaker of the National State Assembly, has been elected President of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association at the conclusion of the current conference of the Association in London. Since April, it is estimated nearly 50,000 people died of famine in Ethiopia.

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**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24:** Marking examiners, starting from the December GCE (OL) examination, will be made on-the-spot payments. Pro LSSP groups scored a resounding victory at the student union elections of the Colombo Campus of the University of Ceylon. the CP-oriented group captured power at the Department of Education in the campus. In America, the assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, told members of the Congress that the US did not have advance knowledge of the coup that took place in Chile.

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25:** The Ministry of Planning has agreed to release Rs. 50 million in free exchange immediately for the import of urgently needed raw materials in the industrial sector. MPs head the planning bodies in their respective electorates which will be set up soon to give full implementation to the Government's development plans. Report from Chile indicate a reign of terror by the military Junta.

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26:** Mr. Maithripala Senanayake, Minister of Irrigation, Power and Highways, said yesterday at the Bandaranaike Commemoration meeting that the youth of the Country was alerted to the possibility of persons conspiring against the United Front Government. Tighter regulations are imposed over the transfer of rice ration books to prevent fraudulent issues. The report of the Commission appointed to inquire into the death of Dodampe Mudalali and Corporal Tilakawardena was presented to the Governor General. Pakistan President, Ali Bhutto, who left America said that a significant progress has been made toward a basic political understanding with the United States.

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27:** Unless the country achieves self sufficiency in food and improves its export earnings, Sri Lanka's mounting crisis will worsen: this is the consensus in business circles and among leading economists. The Minister of Agriculture and Lands, Mr. Hector Kobbakaduwa, warned the hoarders of essential food items: the Minister said that soon stringent legislation will be introduced against hoarders. China has announced a record harvest of rice. Evidence concerning allegations that Vice President

Spiro Agnew once accepted illegal payments will be sent to a grand jury.

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28:** The Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike, is expected to announce the plans of the Government, in the NSA today, to meet the mounting food crisis. Mr. Hussein El Shafei, Vice President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, arrived in the island yesterday. U.S. Vice President, Spiro Agnew, has requested that Congress, and not Courts, Judge whether he accepted illegal payments. According to Chile's military Juanta, it is Fidel Castro who advised President Salvador Allende to commit suicide.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29:** The free measure of rice on the ration will be halved: commencing from October 1, non-income tax payers will receive only half a measure of rice while tax payers will be able to purchase half a measure at one rupee; and those who draw a salary of less than Rs. 400 a month will get ten percent wage increase but the maximum increase will be Rs. 20: the above measures were announced by the Prime Minister yesterday in the NSA: the price of flour is increased by 22 cents and off ration sugar currently sold to consumers at Rs. 1.65 per pound will be sold at Rs. 2.00; white sugar which is now sold at Rs. 1.75 will cost Rs. 2.10: GPS price of paddy is increased to Rs. 25 per bushel. China has send a message to the IMF and the World Bank showing its desire to become a member. 22 grand jurors began their probe on charges against US Vice President, Spiro Agnew.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30:** Prime Minister, Mrs. Bandaranaike, in an address to the nation yesterday said that "from adversity we'll rise again": consequent to the radical measures announced on the 29th of this month in the NSA, the Premier addressed the nation yesterday. The Government has decided to ban the sale of flour by private traders from tomorrow. 20,000 job seekers join the unemployed ranks annually. Bread, rice, flour meals are banned in hotels and eating houses on Tuesdays and Fridays each week beginning tomorrow. Chile's military regime has promised to reopen talks on compensating American companies whose holdings in Chile were expropriated under the Allende Government.

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 1:** A marked drop has been recorded in customers ordering rice meals in the eating houses. The paddy Marketing Board is making arrangements to make rice available at reasonable prices. King Hussein of Jordan warned of the peril of "a fresh disaster of great magnitude" in the Middle East if Israel continued to develop occupied Arab territory.

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2:** The price of fertiliser has been increased by about 30-40 per cent, in line with world market trends. The Tamil United Front begins its civil disobedience campaign today: according to the Sun, behind-the-scenes negotiations are underway to secure Federal Party support for the Government. According to Cuban Premier, Dr. Fidel Castro, Chilean President Allende did not commit suicide but died fighting to the last.

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3:** All campuses of the University of Sri Lanka advanced their vacation by nearly a fortnight and closed yesterday because of difficulties experienced in supplying meals to residents. Affixing defaced stamps to letters, the Tamil United Front inaugurated its civil disobedience campaign yesterday. Mr. Pieter Keuneman, Minister of Housing and Construction and Mr. B. Y. Tudawe, Deputy Minister of Education are suspended from party membership. The Chilean military junta launched a campaign to uproot marxist influence in the country's schools.

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4:** It is very unlikely that the Paddy Marketing Board will have rice to supply off-ration, according to an official of the PMB: there will be no more rice imports except for a reduced quantity from China under the Rubber-Rice Pact. Australia sought to get the United Nations to take over responsibility for the thousands of Soviet Jewish emigrants who come to Vienna before being air-lifted to Israel.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5:** "There is no acute shortage of rice and flour in the world market and Government has landed itself in trouble because of its partisanship with China", said Mr. J. R. Jayewardene in the Nacional State

Assembly yesterday. According to the Sun, top SLFP negotiators who have been making behind-the-scenes moves with the Federal Party have offered new concessions to the Tamils on the language question. President Nixon applied polite but firm pressure on Austria to alter its decision to stop facilities for Soviet Jews emigrating through Vienna.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6:** The Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike, is expected to meet the leader of the Federal Party, Mr. S. J. V. Chelvanayakam, to discuss the Tamil co-operation in the Food drive. The Government is contemplating an amendment to the Constitution to "accommodate" the Administration of Justice Bill. A European socialist delegation that attempted to lay a wreath at the grave of the ex Chilean President, has been threatened by the members of the military Junta.

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7:** Whipping—in addition to jail sentences—is to be reintroduced in the courts of Sri Lanka for all those found guilty of food theft offences. Of the 900,000 paddy farmers in Sri Lanka, 201,000 persons have been listed as defaulters by the Government for not repaying loans obtained by them. Air and land battles flared along the Suez Canal threatening total war, and Israel and Egyptian troops were reported locked in heavy fighting on both the West and east of the waterway.

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 8:** The four-week old by-election campaign in Colombo North Closed last night. Egyptian forces have repulsed fresh Israeli counter-attacks and compelled Israeli forces to withdraw Eastward from the Suez Canal front. Egyptian and Syrian forces claimed that it had pushed back Israeli forces to the positions it occupied prior to the 1961 war. In America, the Nixon administration feared that other nations will join in if the fighting continues for more than three days: meanwhile America has alerted its Sixth Fleet to stand-by.



## GLOBAL PROBLEM

## INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION

by Jepharis

Emergency Declared  
In U.K.

London, Nov. 13,

The British Government to-day declared a State of Emergency giving itself sweeping powers to ensure adequate coal and electricity supplies. The declaration came after the Prime Minister Mr. Heath, and his Cabinet met for hours as a power crisis threatened the nation. The threat came from three quarters: a ban on overtime work by coal miners, industrial unrest among power supply workers and deterioration oil supplies from Arab-nations

\* \* \*

Saudi Arabia  
Exempts India from  
Oil Cut

Vienna, Nov. 19,

India is among the countries exempted from a planned five per cent cut in Petroleum supplies in December by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), according to the Saudi Arabian Petroleum Minister, Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani. Sheikh Yamani said last night that Britain, France, Spain, Pakistan, Turkey and Malaysia were among the other exempted countries.

Saudi Arabia announced to-day that its oil exports to India were not reduced "because India is a friend of the Arab countries."

ONE of the gravest problems facing our planet today, next to the population explosion, food, housing and employment crises, and threatening the very future of man's existence, is the problem of pollution in all its aspects. Some of these would include:

- (1) Industrial Pollution
- (2) Atmospheric & Nuclear Pollution
- (3) Human & Animal Pollution
- (4) Garbage & Waste Product Pollution
- (5) Water Pollution and last, but not least
- (6) Spiritual Pollution

It is difficult to write a lengthy comprehensive, non-scientific thesis or treatise, or even a simple piece like the present one, dealing with the many various aspects of pollution in all its forms; but I would like to take each of these subjects in turn, under its own specific heading or classification, at the same time attempting to solve the even larger problem of trying to suggest methods of alleviation and control.

First, let us take a look at Industrial Pollution. This problem, which hardly existed anywhere on the globe prior to the Industrial Revolution, started in Britain about the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries with James Watt's discovery of the driving principle of

steam in 1769, and later spread to other parts of the world, beginning with Europe, then to the New World, and now extending over practically the whole, or most of, the earth's surface.

INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION would include the waste-products which escape from factory chimneys, the smoke

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## Pollution

that (emanates) (exhales) from steam-engines, whether of locomotive, steamer or of stationary machinery, and the noxious carbon dioxide and other poisonous fumes which contaminate the air that we breathe, such as what leaves the exhaust pipes of automobiles, particularly the heavier diesel-engined lorries and "belching buses" so common on our roads today.

All this and more constitutes what is known as INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION, and to counteract this the use of the turbine principle of propulsion in lieu of the now almost out-dated, or what should be outdated, steam-engine, is one of the obvious, and comparatively cheap, answers: which ought to be heartily recommended to all scientists.

THE TURBINE principle of propulsion, in use on the

"Comet" or "Jet" airlines, an invention of Sir Frank Whittle based on certain experiments he conducted during the Second World War to promote safer, quicker, more efficient and cheaper flying and which came into almost universal vogue among the more developed countries on after the war ended, in the late nineteen-forties & early fifties (though suspended—or should one say grounded—awhile pending investigation into the tragic "Comet" crashes); has now been introduced to land, sea & air transport in most of its forms, as represented by the Motor Industries of Britain, Europe & the U.S.A, and the "flying trains" of Japan, for example.

The latter also uses the principle of magnetism (like charges repel) allied to (like our erstwhile trams & trolley

buses) overhead suspension on electric wires—and has helped to establish Japan as one of the most industrially-progressive and pollution combative nations in the East, if not in the whole world.

Indeed, as the Reader's Digest of November 1973 has it (vide last para of "They're building the Super-Railroad p. 21): "JNR (Japanese National Railways) ..seems likely to become the first railroad to challenge the passenger's airliner's 40-year mastery of comfort, convenience and speed. Who could then doubt that in the history of transportation a modest 300-foot "float" at Kunitachi may one day rank with that first short hop at Kittyhawk 70 years ago?"

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# IS IT TRUE?

## Sherlock Holmes

### ● TWO C.P.s?

IS IT NOT TRUE that Sri Lanka has scored another first (or second) in having two Communist Parties—owing loyalty to Moscow? That, under totally different circumstances, Israel for many years had two Communist Parties, both of which claimed to be loyal to Moscow? That though not admitted it was known that one CP had a preponderance of Arabs who continued to live in Israel as citizens or merely as stateless? And that the other CP was mainly composed of Jews who were citizens of Israel? That for many years, Moscow *de facto* recognised both CPs in Israel? That ultimately one CP fell out of favour in Moscow because it had slid into extending full support to the Tel Aviv Government in its "aggression" against the Arabs? That the fate of this CP, which had turned out to be more Zionist than Ben Gurion himself and more chauvinist than Moshe Dayan, is not known?

That whilst the same parallel cannot be drawn in Sri Lanka, there is doubt that two CPs, both proclaiming steadfast allegiance to Moscow, is a unique spectacle in this

part of the world? That even in a country like Sri Lanka where splits and breakaways have marked the left movement from its very inception, this particular split has caused many eye-brows to flutter? That it is not yet known whether Moscow *de facto* recognises both CPs or whether it tilts in favour of one without disowning the other? That the main bone of contention between both CPs is not ideological because both are loyal to Moscow and support the United Front Government led by Mrs. Bandaranaike? That the only difference impartial observers can detect as between the two CPs is in the degree of support extended to the UF and the manner in which the support is rendered? That the Cotta Road group (they are hardline in some matters and softline in others), with the *Aththa*, want the freedom to criticise UF Ministers whose faces they do not like and yet remain within the Government Party? That the other group, now entrenched in Maligakande, (also hardline in

some matters and softline in others), believe that for the sake of UF discipline it was essential not to openly utter any criticism of the UF, its Ministers, its officials and its policies—except in inner-party and closed meetings?

That the Maligakande group believe that the UF must be supported and defended right or wrong? That the Cotta Road boys, however, think UF democracy should give them the right to lash out freely—with reason and without reason—at UF evils? That it does not seem to have bothered the Cotta Road communists that the *Aththa* often goes off the rails and that the paper is regularly taken for a ride by people who have an axe (sometimes many axes) to grind? That as a result the *Aththa* is often saddled with stories that boomerang? That it is difficult to decide is whether *Aththa* is suffering from a hangover of CP's days in the agitational wilderness, or whether it is so crazy about sensational headlines and slick stories to sustain circulation that it does not know what is fit to print? That the Maligakande Communists will print the *Satan Maga*, weekly for a start, at their "new" press (which had once printed a bookmakers newsheet)? That it will be interesting to see how different the *Satan Maga* will be from the Government Gazette?