

TRIBUNE

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THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE issued simultaneously in New Delhi and Colombo on January 29, to mark the visit of Sri Lanka's Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, to the Indian capital characterised the summit meeting of the two Prime Ministers as "a landmark in the relations between the two countries and (one that) had contributed to a further strengthening of their warm and friendly relations." The communique had also stressed that there was far-reaching identity of views on matters of economic and political relationships between the two countries and between them and the world outside. There will be immediate joint diplomatic activity to contain Great Power rivalry in the Indian Ocean in order to strengthen Mrs. Bandaranaike's concept of the Zone of Peace in this region.

THE MOST DIFFICULT PROBLEM outstanding between the two countries has been solved by both countries agreeing to split the 150,000 residuary stateless on a fifty-fifty basis. Under the 1964 Agreement 525,000 were to be repatriated to India whilst 300,000 would be conferred Sri Lanka citizenship, and there was a residuary 150,000 (out of an estimated total of 975,000) whose fate was to be subsequently determined. This has now been done and the problem of the stateless, which has soured relations between the two countries for over 40 years, has now been brought under control. With goodwill on the both sides, the entire problem can be solved within the next ten years. As Mrs. Bandaranaike had stressed, more than once, both in New Delhi after the talks, and in Sri Lanka after her return, the final solution of the stateless problem had removed the lurking fear in the minds of the majority of the people in this island that India would seek to dominate Sri Lanka and that the near-million strong stateless would be an excellent fifth column for political leverage. This fear, it is asserted, has now been removed, and joint action was contemplated in many fields. For a start, the ball has already been set rolling in the marketing of tea to secure stable and better prices — between the two countries they produce over 65% of the world's tea.

SOME OF THE OTHER SIGNIFICANT matters on which agreement has been reached are: (a) Sri Lanka will specialise in the production of rubber piece goods, tyres and certain motor spares for the Indian market while India will undertake to supply bus chassis and other heavy goods; (b) India will help to set up a Rural Industrial Centre in Sri Lanka to promote industries in our villages; (c) that a micro-wave tele-link would be set up immediately between the two countries and that India will bear the foreign exchange component of Rs. 9 million; (d) that India will provide technical assistance for the manufacture of laboratory equipment for schools in Sri Lanka; (e) that India will spend Rs. 5 1/2 million to set up cattle, goats and sheep farms in the Coconut Triangle zone; (f) that India will purchase 5000 tyres with immediate effect from Sri Lanka; (g) that India will help to set up a Fertiliser Factory in Sri Lanka and extend credit of Rs. 15 million for that purpose; (h) that there will be liberalisation of trade between both countries within the GATT rules.

Tribunania

- * Price Increase
- * Crisis in Capitalism
- * Sri Lanka

WITH THIS ISSUE of *Tribune* the price of each copy of *Tribune* will be 75 cents. As we had indicated in our last issue, the inflationary spiral is so great that even a non-profit making paper like the *Tribune* cannot resist the pressure of circumstances and keep its selling price at the old level. Although the copies produced after this will cost us more, we have decided against enhancing the rates of existing subscriptions—they will be at the old rates until they expire. But all new subscriptions will be at the revised rates. The number of pages in each issue will depend on the availability of newsprint, but we will give our reader as much reading matter as possible.

THERE IS NOT THE SLIGHTEST DOUBT that the world, the capitalist world, has already slid into near-slump conditions. The year 1973 had begun with a flattering upsurge in the capitalist world. In nearly all the leading countries of the capitalist world, there was a continuing upward trend which had resulted in a fairly high rate of growth in gross national product and industrial production.

But this high tempo of business activity in no way minimised the chronic defects of the capitalist system. The inflationary spiral went higher and higher, the monetary crisis deepened, unemployment was at a high level and rivalries between capitalist countries became more acute. The oil and energy crisis moreover struck a heavy blow at the entire capitalist world—in fact, this was the first of such a crisis that had hit the entire capitalist world simultaneously. This was symbolised by a tremendous decline in business activity in the latter half of the year—and this was the first indicator of an oncoming crisis.

The crisis had begun after a period of a significant uprising. According to preliminary figures available, the GNP in the advanced capitalist countries showed a gain of roughly 6.5 percent (in fixed prices) in 1973 compared with a 5.8 percent in 1972. Industrial production as the most dynamic sector of the economy, rose approximately 8 percent, an increase of one percent over the previous year. This fairly high growth of the GNP and industrial production in the capitalist world, as a whole, was an indication that after the recession of 1969-71, an upward swing had begun in 1972 which had continued right up to October 1973.

One of the main reasons for the upward swing was the extensive investment by private companies. According to the OECD, capital investments during the first half of 1973 increased by 23% in Japan, 14% in the USA, 11% in West Germany and Britain and 7% in France. This increase in investments gave a boost to industrial production. But in spite of this, consumer demand had begun to decline in 1973 (compared to 1972) and this had a depressing impact on the economy. In fact, the consumer demand in 1972 (really in the years after 1970) was mainly artificial because people had bought more goods than usual for fear that prices might rise. This trend could not last and by the end of 1973 this trend had almost ceased.

On the contrary, soaring prices of goods and services, the high level of unemployment, and diverse government controls on wages checked the growth of effective demand. Consumer spending declined almost everywhere. Even the slow pick-up in individual consumption was largely unsound since it was accompanied by the mounting credit indebtedness of the population. According to the latest data available, in the United States alone this indebtedness amounted to £ 173,000 million in September 1973, or 16 per cent more than in the corresponding period of 1972. As a result, the output of durable and non-durable goods in the capitalist countries in 1973 considerably lagged behind the output of capital goods and materials, while housing construction even dropped below the 1972 level in a number of countries (the U.S. for example).

It must be also noted that business activity in 1973, especially in its first half, was stimulated by the accumulation of raw materials and finished products in industry and trade. However, this accumulation was caused less by the needs of expanding production than by the increased conversion of money into goods. In conditions of sky-rocketing prices and monetary instability, businessmen sought to build up reserve stocks of raw and other materials. Towards the end of 1973 these stocks in the United States, Canada and some other countries reached an all-time high, much to the concern of economists.

Further, it has also been pointed out that 1973 saw a slower rise in governmental expenditure, another important factor determining the level of business activity. In West Germany, the United States and a number of other countries budget allocations for social and cultural needs were slashed on the pretext of checking inflation and the "overheating" of the economy. But, allocations for military purposes remained high and even rose in many cases.

A MARXIST COMMENTATOR on economic affairs had summed up the situation in the following terms:

"The economic recovery in 1973 increased inflation in all capitalist countries. According to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), prices in the advanced capitalist countries went up more than 8.5 per cent in 1973, as against 6.2 per cent in 1972 and an average of 4 per cent between 1960 and 1971. In 1973 galloping inflation—one of the main chronic ills of capitalism over recent years—assumed dimensions unprecedented in the two last decades. A record jump in retail and whole sale prices was registered in 1973 in the United States, Japan and Italy. The rate of inflation was above average in Britain, West Germany, Holland and Switzerland.

"It is indicative that the upward trend of prices could not be checked in 1973 by anti-inflationary policy which, along with traditional credit and budget restrictions, included a wide range of 'extraordinary measures' such as government controls over prices and wages

(in the United States, Britain, Italy and the Scandinavian countries)

"An important feature of the inflationary process, and one which hits the broad sections of the working people hardest, has been the faster growth of consumer goods prices, primarily prices of prime necessities and above all foodstuffs. In the capitalist countries food prices in 1973 rose on the average roughly three times faster than prices of manufactures. As a result, even in the United States, the richest country in the West, per capita food consumption dropped in 1973 for the first time since 1965 (of meat and eggs by 4 per cent, poultry 2 per cent, cocoa 7 per cent, and coffee 2 per cent).

"Unemployment, which now runs into the millions, seriously depresses the living standards of the people. According to official statistics, by mid-1973 the United States had 4.8 million fully unemployed. In Italy the figure was 735,000, in Japan 670,000 and in Britain 580,000. Towards the end of 1973 unemployment in many countries had reached a level characteristic of crises or recession periods."

BUT THE MOST serious aspect of the situation was the breakdown in the monetary system. The US dollar was devalued in February 1973, for the second time in 13 months. Simultaneously, many of the leading capitalist countries floated their currencies. This led to the virtual devaluation of the pound sterling and the Italian lira and to the revaluation of the West German mark and the Japanese yen.

But this brought no relief. All the attempts by the leading capitalist states to resolve these monetary difficulties through interim agreements to lead to a permanent arrangement, but this only resulted in another crisis in the summer of 1973, which produced a further decline in the value of the dollar and the pound sterling. This led to an unprecedented speculative buying of gold. In June 1973 the price of gold reached the all-time high of \$ 130 for a troy ounce, or more than three times the official price of \$ 42.22. In the financial world, the summer waves of speculative gold buying were assessed as the worst since August 1971 when the convertibility of dollars into gold was abolished.

The yawning gap between the official price of gold and its cost on the free market, and the 'floaring' rates of the main Western currencies added to the instability of the monetary system of capitalism and complicated the normal development of international economic relations. In view of this the United States and six West European countries (West Germany, Britain, Italy, Belgium, Holland and Switzerland) decided in November 1973 to rescind the 1968 agreement on the two-tier market. This aggravated the controversy between the main capitalist states on the role of gold in the system of the International Monetary Fund and diminished the chances of monetary reform in the immediate future.

One of the problems which had arisen in the late 1960's and in the first part of the 1970s was the adverse trade balances which had begun to eat into the economic fabric of the USA.

The rapid expansion of world capitalist trade in 1973 was accompanied by substantial changes in the trade balances of the leading countries of the West. The two devaluations of the dollar, which considerably raised the competitive power of American goods enabled the United States to overcome the almost \$ 7,000 million adverse balance of trade in 1972 and bring about a favourable balance amounting to some \$ 800 million in the first ten months of 1973.

To a large extent, the United States improved its foreign trade positions at the expense of Japan. As a result of the yen's revaluation, the competitive strength of many Japanese products declined steeply in 1973. This sharply brought down the export balance in the trade of Japan with the United States and other countries, worsened her balance of payments, and reduced her gold and currency reserves. Britain's balance of trade and payments also worsened sharply in 1973. At the same time the Federal Republic of Germany achieved a record export balance of trade.

Attempts by major capitalist countries to improve their trade and payments balances at the expense of their competitors aggravated "inter-imperialist contradictions" still more. For instance

the unilateral measures taken by the United States in the summer of 1973 to restrict the export of American farm products led its economic relations with Western Europe and Japan to the brink of a "trade war". The September conference of the GATT member countries in Tokyo was held in an atmosphere of acute differences and could adopt only a general declaration.

But the most significant event of 1973 was the energy crisis which undermined the entire structure of capitalist economy. The main cause of the energy crisis was a faster growth in the consumption of energy compared with the prospecting and extraction of oil and natural gas as the principal types of fuel. The widening gap between



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demand and supply led to interruptions in electric power supply in the summer of 1973. The energy crisis became particularly sharp towards the end of the year as a result of Arab oil cutbacks in reply to the imperialist support of Israel's expansionist policy.

The extraordinary measures to save fuel could not appreciably offset the adverse effect of the energy crisis on the capitalist economy. The last weeks of 1973 showed that fuel-saving measures could not be reduced to cuts in freightage and the output of energy-intensive products. The production of plastics, synthetic fibres fertilizers and many other chemicals based on oil and natural gas was under threat. Demand for cars, especially large ones, dropped, and mass layoffs began in the U.S. automobile industry.

This is a rough picture of the situation in the capitalist sector of the world. Sri Lanka is part of this capitalist sector although loud proclamations have been made that the country was directing its activities towards becoming a socialist country. Domestically, no doubt public sector economic undertakings in Sri Lanka have increased in scope and extent and radical reforms have been introduced in land tenure, but the basic structure of the economy is still capitalist. Though there has been some attempt to bring all economic activity into a planned system the Government has still not been able to effect a breakthrough into establishing an economic system where the free market has been completely eliminated.

Sri Lanka is now a mixed economy where the free market prevails over large sectors of the economy while the closed and controlled market of a socialist system flourishes in piecemeal bits over a substantial section of the economy. The result is that Sri Lanka gets neither the full benefits of the free market nor enjoys the advantages of a closed socialist economy. As it is at present, Sri Lanka has the worst of two worlds—because these two worlds cannot coexist within the borders of one country. Any attempt to make them coexist undermines the economy.

In the international arena, co-existence between socialism and capitalism has been made possible

under the deterrent threat of nuclear power. And, Sri Lanka, is very much in the capitalist sector in spite of its bi-lateral agreements with countries like China because the exchange of commodities are still based on world price levels, that is, levels in the free market of the capitalist world.

Much of the economic distress in the country is caused by the fact that Sri Lanka is suspended in a world of uncertainty—neither here nor there. Until the major countries in the region become full socialist and minimise the impact of the world capitalist market on economic life in this zone, it will be very difficult for little Sri Lanka to survive as a fully socialist unit. Many people do not seem to realise that the economic future of Sri Lanka is intimately connected with developments in India, Pakistan, Burma, and also the other countries in the South and Southeast Asia.



COMMENT

✻ The Rising Tide of Popular Resentment

NEW BUS AND RAIL FARES. The Government seems to have taken the opportunity provided by the oil crisis to increase the bus and rail fares to cover the other increases which should have been made a long time ago. There cannot be the slightest doubt that the bus and rail fares charged in Sri Lanka were far too low and that there had been ample justification to raise them over two or three years ago. But the Government had dilly-dallied over this matter and had only imposed insignificant increases which did not even touch the fringe of the matter.

It must be remembered that both in CGR and CTB one reason for the increased cost was due to the over-staffing at all levels. Persons had been taken on the payroll not because they were needed for the efficient running of the undertaking, but only to satisfy the demands of the unemployed

who were close to political parties, MPs and Ministers. It has been estimated that over 30% of the people on the payroll of the CTB and CGR are "excess". They contribute no more than add to the lethargy and inefficiency of the two undertakings. This increase of staff which was effected by the UNP, SLFP and the UF at different times had never been adequately covered by increased fares at the appropriate time or on the relevant dates.

Now, under the impact of the oil crisis, and with the supreme need to cut down consumption expenditure on unnecessary travel, prohibitive increases have been slapped down on travel and transport and the people who have to and must travel (for productive purposes) have no alternative but to pay these unnecessarily high fares. If the Government had wanted to keep the transport services in good time, without running down the rolling stock, the first thing it should have done years ago was to have withdrawn the privilege of free travel accorded to government and corporation staff and pensioners. This would have cut down unnecessary travel by more than half. It would have been economic in the long run to have commuted such free travel privileges into a cash payment because this could have saved the foreign exchange required to keep CTB and CGR in good running order. The failure of the government to take this step in time has added to the problems of the Government.

But these new rail and bus fares will really hit those who must travel for productive purposes. Unproductive and luxury travel in the CGR, CTB and internal tourism should have been reduced, if not cut down completely, a long time ago. And if this had been done, the present increases need not have been so steep. Now, travel and transport for productive purposes, particularly in the field of agriculture, will suffer, and this is something which the country cannot afford at this time when production has to be maximised.

UNP MEETINGS. The Government must take notice of the fact that massive crowds now flock to protest meetings—protesting against

high prices, shortages and other hardships—and that these crowds are not the diehard dyed-in-green supporters of the UNP. The youth has begun to turn towards the UNP as an alternative even though the UNP has not yet formulated any worthwhile programme.

The non committed of the older age groups, who voted in 1970 for the UF, have also begun to turn to the UNP as the only political party which can be considered to be an alternative. These are trends the Government cannot ignore, and the Government must also realise that whilst people are willing to make allowances for natural disasters like droughts and international calamities in the economic and monetary arenas, they are no longer willing to tolerate bureaucratic ineptitude, corruption at every level and a total apathy to the sufferings of the people.

Mr. J. R. Jayewardene is naturally seeking to make the most of the situation. If he forgets gimmicks like religious satyagraha and scare coup stories, and if he will concentrate on economic issues, the UNP will be able to make terrific headway in mobilising popular support. People are worried about bread, rice, flour, and other basic commodities and will be willing to participate in straight forward political demonstrations without being diverted by religious gundus and anti-left witch hunts.

With the steep increase in the price of everything needed by ordinary people, with the virtual failure of the Government to produce more food—and with no more rich to tax to subsidise the poor—the Government is now very much on the defensive, and the offensive and aggressive bravado frequently being displayed by the Government will not carry it very far.

UNP's WARNING. The *Sun* of February 5 reported with some prominence the UNP-sponsored meeting held at Hyde Park on February 4—the day which has been celebrated as Ceylon's Independence Day, from the year 1948. The attempt on the part of the UF government to re-write history by seeking to ignore February 4 will, in the normal course of events, boomerang. The mere fact that

a new Constitution was adopted on May 22 does not mean that the historical events connected with February 4 can be wiped out by a mere stroke of the pen.

More people, than what the Government can at present envisage, have deep regrets about the attempts to erase February 4 from the political history of Sri Lanka. This disappointment is not confined to supporters of the UNP alone, but is shared by many impartial observers of the political scene. And what J. R. Jayewardene said at Hyde Park on February 4 will lay seeds that will germinate sooner or later. For the record, we publish below what he said on that occasion as reported in the *Sun* particularly because other newspapers have chosen to play down the meeting which by all standards was big enough to merit serious attention.

This is what the *Sun* of February 5 had reported:

"Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, leader of the Opposition and of the United National Party, yesterday warned police and army officials not to be a party to any illegal acts against the people. If they do so he said, he would not hesitate to have them court-martialled on Galle Face green when the UNP came back to power.

"Mr. Jayewardene was speaking at the 26th Independence Day celebrations held at Hyde Park Corner last evening. Mr. Jayewardene said he had made a statement in the house about a group of persons within the Government who were attempting to gain their political aims with the help of certain sections of the army and police. Some persons in the army and police were trying to help this conspiracy. He said that they had moved a motion in the House against the IGP as the police was now at the mercy of politicians. This would amount to a dictatorship, and the total eradication of democratic freedom won on February 4, 1948, through the efforts of freedom fighters such as D. S. Senanayake, F. R. Senanayake, Anagarika Dharmapala, Sir Baron Jayatillake and others.

"Mr. Jayewardene said that despite all thuggery Mr. Rukman Senanayake of the UNP won by a majority of 4,000 votes, at Dedi-gama. At Attanagalla Mr. Gamini

Jayasuria, Jt. Secretary of the UNP, was confronted by an army officer with a sub-machine gun while hooligans stoned his car. Events at Anuradhapura clearly showed the pattern of a revolution that was brewing.

"Mr. Jayewardene said that he was surprised that Mrs. Bandaranaike had gone to India on the invitation of the Indian Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi, for the Indian Independence Day celebrations, but failed to commemorate a similar event at home. Like Sri Lanka, India too had a separate Republic Day. This failure amounted to a rejection by this Government of the part played by the late S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike to regain independence. "Many of our leaders went to jail for the cause of political independence" Mr. Jayewardene stressed, "we will not allow the future generations to forget this, and I promise you a better Independence Day celebration next year."

TRIBUNE PRICE INCREASE

From this issue, each copy of **Tribune** will cost **75 cents**. We have no alternative but to make this price increase owing to the enhanced prices and charges for everything connected with the production of a newspaper.

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Due to Saturday being declared a holiday, copies of **Tribune** sent by post on Friday evening are being delivered on the following Monday. Arrangements are now being made to hand-deliver copies of **Tribune** on a zone basis to Colombo residents only, on a payment of an additional charge of ten cents per copy. Subscribers who are interested in this proposal please apply to The Circulation Manager.

TRIBUNE, February 9, 1974

IN JAFFNA

The International Conference of Tamil Studies

The International Conference of Tamil Studies (IATR)—took place in Jaffna from January 3 to 9. *Tribune* did not cover the Conference for the simple reason that it did not receive an invitation to attend it. With the pressure for space in the Hall, the organisers probably restricted press invitations only to the daily papers. In our issue last week we made some comments about the Conference, and it has been pointed out that our remarks were one-sided and negatively conceived because we tended to ignore the positive achievements of the Conference.

Realising the importance of a Conference of this nature in the life of a country and especially the Tamil people, we have decided to reproduce three editorial comments from the *Morning Star*, a weekly paper published in Jaffna. From all accounts, the three comments, dated January 4, January 11 and January 18, constitute reportage at its best about the conference, its successes and the tragedy which marked the climax.

A columnist in the *Morning Star* has complained about the scant attention paid to the Conference by the Colombo press. If there was one thing the organisers of the IATR lacked it was public relations with the Fourth Estate in Sri Lanka. Special invitations to a few favoured journalists cannot make up for inadequate and incompetent press relations which require careful preparation and tedious backroom drudgery.

—Editor

4th JANUARY 1974

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF TAMIL STUDIES

The Fourth International Conference Seminar of Tamil Studies commenced yesterday with an impressive inaugural meeting held at the Veerasingham Hall, Jaffna. "All is well that ends well." We are glad that, in spite of what appeared first to be almost insurmountable difficulties, the Conference is being held in Jaffna. It does not need much imagination nor knowledge of the Island's history to regard Jaffna as the most natural and fitting place for such a Conference. We may go further and say that it has a rightful claim for this. Hence we were baffled when some in the Government raised objections to this site. While one can understand their request that such an International Conference should be held in the Bandaranaike Memorial Hall in Colombo, one cannot follow the argument, which is reported to have been urged by a Government spokesman, that International Conferences should be held only in Colombo. In fact, such Conferences have been held in places like Kandy and Nuwara Eliya. More

than that, the present Conference deals with Research on Tamil Studies. That the Tamils of the country, especially from the North, have made very valuable and sound contributions to the development of Tamil Language and Culture cannot be denied by any person. Next to some cities in India like Madras, Madurai, and Annamalai, Jaffna is the most logical place.

Further, one cannot understand the Government's contention that this Conference has a political connotation. Assurances were given unambiguously by the organisers that it was not true. But for sometime the Government held to its objection to the Jaffna site and reports have it that the authorities concerned refused entry to some foreign delegates who had come to this country for this Conference. We also regret the difficulties of opinion in the Sri Lanka Branch of the IATR contributed to the delay of fixing the date. We are happy, therefore, that the Government has withdrawn its objection and permitted its being held in Jaffna.

The programme of the Academic Sessions—Plenary and Group Sessions—shows that the Conference has nothing whatsoever to do with

politics. They deal with Studies on various aspects of the History, Literature, Archaeology, Culture etc. of the Tamils. Even the Exhibition and the Cultural Shows, which are being held as adjuncts to the Conference, also deal with such subjects.

In spite of the difficulties that foreign delegates to the Conference had to face owing to the short notice they had with regard to the Government's permission being available for their coming to Sri Lanka, they have come from India, Malaysia, England, Sweden, Switzerland, America, Canada, Hungary and Australia. Nearly twenty-five of them were present at the inaugural sessions, and more are continuing to come. Though the Conference would have been glad to have a fuller participation of such delegates, the presence of the present numbers makes the Conference truly international. We offer them a warm welcome on behalf of the Tamil-Speaking people of the North, but also of the East and other parts of the country. Jaffna feels greatly privileged and honoured to welcome the Conference and hopes that the foreign delegates will have a very pleasant stay in our midst. We wish the Conference all success. Fuller accounts of the Conference will appear in our future issues.

11th JANUARY 1974

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF TAMIL STUDIES

II

The Fourth International Conference—Seminar of Tamil Studies held in Jaffna from the 3rd to the 9th inst. must be voted an unqualified success. It made an impact upon, and evoked a spontaneous response from, the Tamils throughout the North unprecedented in the annals of our history. The Tamils of not only the town of Jaffna, the venue of the Conference, but also of many places throughout the Peninsula made it an occasion of uninhibited celebrations. The manner in which the Jaffna town and its suburbs wore a festive air was to be expected, but that various places from Point Pedro to Jaffna, from Kodigamam to Kayts should have also worn the same festive air was an invigorating and uplifting experience. The entire town of

Jaffna and its suburbs were all decorated and illuminated beyond expectation. These were covered with *sikaroms*, pandals, festoons in keeping with the tradition and culture of the Tamils. The streets of Jaffna were dotted almost in continuous succession with coconut, palmyrah, and arecanut palms, with papaw and even mango trees, bamboo branches, etc. Every important junction in the town was very richly decorated with characteristic traditional motifs. Daily tens of thousands flocked to the town to wait patiently outside the Veerasingham Hall and the Trimmer Hall, where the main meetings of the Conference were held; to listen to the proceedings that were broadcast through the loudspeakers. They were also there to see the Exhibition at the Chundikuli Girls' College that proved to be a source of great instruction and inspiration, and to be entertained by the captivating Cultural Shows held in three places simultaneously—the Chundikuli Girls' College, the Open Air Theatre and the Veerasingham Hall. It is estimated that during the last two days the crowds amounted to one lakh of people. Even private houses were lustily decorated. And the people had forgotten or ignored, for the moment, all the sufferings they were undergoing due to the rising costs of living and food shortages. All this shows the passion and loyalty and concern the Tamils have for their language, tradition and culture.

The Conference itself proved to be in keeping with the tradition created by its predecessors at Kuala Lumpur, Madras, and Paris. Its Plenary Sessions and Group Sessions had many erudite papers presented by experts in their special branches of study and research, experts from foreign countries like Sweden, Switzerland, Hungary, Great Britain, Goa, America, Canada, South Africa, West Germany and India, and also from our country. The topics of their research papers and addresses dealt with Studies in Literature, Linguists, Archaeology, Anthropology, Science and Technology, Religion and Philosophy. It is of interest to note that among these experts were Sinhalese and Muslims of our country. Nearly fifty people attended the Conference from foreign countries, about a half as delegates and

others as observers. Hence it can be called a truly international Conference.

A full symposium of these papers and other details of the Conference will, we understand, be published in due course. We shall ourselves publish in our future issues a few of the addresses and papers, which have been forwarded to us. That all these Studies have made worthwhile additions to the excellent record of achievements of the three previous Conferences and have contributed rightly to becoming sources of enlightenment and inspiration to the Tamil speaking peoples not merely in Sri Lanka and India, but also throughout the world is beyond any doubt and will be the verdict of history.

18th JANUARY 1974

THE TRAGEDY OF JANUARY 10

The eight days from January 3 to 10 will, as we hinted in our last issue, go down as an event not merely in our national story but also as a bright chapter in world history. The City of Jaffna became for the duration of that week the international capital of Tamil Culture. The spontaneous awakening of interest in, and enthusiasm for, their noble language and great culture reached their

peak hour at the post-Seminar public meeting held in the lawn of the Veerasingham Hall on the evening of the 10th. Aptly enough at the moment it was a famous Tamil Muslim scholar from South India that held the audience, made up of seething crowds; in wraps attention by his eloquence and exposition of the glorious heritage which was enshrined in their common mother tongue.

Then tragedy struck. The crowds of people were subject to what has been widely described as a 'brutal' attack by the Police. It is alleged that, without any warning they were going to use tear gas on the people, if they did not move out, the Police rained, eye witnesses say, thrusts with the butts of their guns and batons and sprayed tear-gas bombs upon the tens of thousands of people who were there. As a consequence nine precious lives were lost, more than 20 seriously hurt and hundreds more sustained injuries. Reports have it that even in the bus-stands tear gas bombs continued to be rained on them. Thousands more—women and men, children and grown-ups—were subject to unrolled humiliation. And the night turned into a veritable night-marish one.

Our first duty today is to offer our deepest sympathy to the afflicted families. No amount of money offered by the public to

Ayurveda

DIARRHOEA

Passing watery motions a number of times in a day is called diarrhoea. This may be accompanied with pain in the abdomen. Diarrhoea occurs to people in all ages and in all seasons. In children it is common due to indiscretion in diet and at times during teething. In children it is easy to cure. In old age taking excess of food or improperly cooked food is the main cause and it is difficult to cure. During hot weather when a person takes a lot of water, because of thirst, the digestion is upset and he suffers from diarrhoea. Emotional disturbances like fear or sorrow also cause diarrhoea.

As in diarrhoea the digestive system is upset, care should be taken in choosing the diet. Instead of normal food easily digestible food should be given. Buttermilk is also good. In early stages of the disease milk and solid food should be avoided. Kanjee prepared with broken and fried rice or fried paddy, arrowroot kanjee or sago kanjee can be given. To children a stew of a few boiled pieces of apple may be given.

In early stages, powdered dry ginger one or two pinches mixed with butter milk two or three times in a day is advised. In the same way powdered rinds of pomegranate can be given. As medicines, *Jatheephaladi churnam* or *Dadi-mashtakam* can be given. In all varieties of diarrhoea *Lasunadi Vati* is useful.

Dr. V. Narayanaswami

afford temporary relief to them can truly assuage the deepest and altogether unexpected grief into which they have been plunged by the tragic deaths of their beloved. We hope that it will be some comfort for them to know that those who died and the many more who suffered injuries have rightly earned the claim to be called martyrs to the Tamil cause in this country.

Our next duty is to join in the universal appeal already made in the North to the Government to set up an independent and impartial Commission, consisting of men of unimpeachable integrity and sense of justice, to inquire into these dark happenings.

We are quite surprised and even shocked that the crowds, whose exemplary behaviour during the entire week in the City and other parts of the Peninsula was remarkable, should have been subjected to such unwarranted attacks. In spite of the inevitable short comings of the organisers here and there, they remained unruffled and orderly. Their behaviour received high commendation from foreign delegates, especially those from India. This was very noteworthy. The crowds were constituted by all kinds of people and of differing political affiliations. Offensive remarks or actions directed by some belonging to one political party on those of another could have sparked off troubles, which would have become uncontrollable. But nothing like that happened. Forgetting their political differences and jealousies, tens of thousands turned up daily for the Conference, the Exhibition, and the Cultural Shows. They did not want to miss the exhilarating experience generated by this unprecedented happening in Jaffna.

The reason for this unity was the fact they were knit together by the common bond of language, tradition and culture. They had cause to be somewhat irritated at a few happenings like the stopping of one or two foreign delegates in the middle of their speeches and the ordering of the removal of pictures of some political Tamil leaders from the pageant and from the decorations in certain junctions. Yet they remained orderly and remarkably peaceful. If these crowds had suddenly turned violent and aggressive, one could

then, have understood the pouring of a multitude of tear gas bombs on them.

The foreign delegates had been received with great warmth and cordiality wherever they went. They had won the hearts of the people not only by their scholarship in Tamil, but more by their freely mixing with the people and talking with them and by their genuine regard and affection for the language, tradition and culture of the Tamils. So the crowds had come to hear them for the last time and bid them farewell.

We are also surprised that the Police should have behaved in this way. They were very highly commended and lavishly thanked by the organisers publicly for the help they had rendered during the eight days. The doings that evening, therefore, on the part of the custodians of law and order

pass our understanding. The present situation requires—and even demands—an immediate probe at the highest level, if the people have to regain confidence in the very institution of government. Little do these misguided men realise that it is not merely a question of striking terror at a chosen moment into an ethnic cultural minority in this country. Such doings are a betrayal of the concept of the Rule of Law, which is the very foundation of our democracy—yea, of national unity. And we trust that those who planned as well as those who executed these vile plans will be punished according to their deserts. There is, behind the political or social institution of any society, a basic moral law. It is that code that has been put in peril. It is the moral basis of our civilization that has to be vindicated if Sri Lanka is to hold her head among the nations."

STATISTICAL

Developing Countries' Debts Increase

DEVELOPING countries made significant gains in exports of manufactures in the decade 1960 to 1970, the percentage, of manufactures in the total rising from 14 to 23 but their share in global exports declined from 21 to 17 per cent.

External debt in eighty developing countries also rose substantially from 37,000 million dollars in 1965 to 66,000 million dollars in 1970—an increase of nearly 80 per cent. Debt service payments rose by 70 per cent.

Apart from the continuing unfavourable terms of trade, finance assistance to developing countries, though registering an increase, declined as a percentage of GNP of donor countries.

These trends are brought out in the latest edition, "Trends in Developing Countries", published by the World Bank.

Figures and charts in new edition of "Trends" reflect a remarkable increase in total production by the developing world as a whole, says a bank press release. They also show, however, that much

of the benefit has been erased on a per capita basis because of the rapid growth of population.

GNP per capita in developing countries as a group rose by 35 per cent between 1960 and 1970, despite an increase in population of about 500 million or 26 per cent. According to the booklet's data on demographic trends, population in developing countries will rise to more than 5,000 million by the year 2000, nearly twice the level of 1970.

IN THE SAME period, the developed world's population will increase by only a third, to about 1,400 million. The explosive growth of cities in developing countries will continue, urban population is expected to rise by more than 90 per cent between 1970 and 1985.

A section on social indicators in the new edition of "Trends" was enlarged to include data on literacy, nutrition and childhood mortality.

Statistics show that primary and secondary school enrolment grew from 38 per cent to 50 per cent of the relevant age groups between 1960 and 1968. Malnutrition remains widespread in the developing regions due to a serious lack of protein, the source of mental and physical growth. High death rates among young children are attributed in part to this deficiency.

CHRONICLE

Jan. 21 - 27

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

MONDAY, JANUARY 21: 'Joint action instead of competition by all producer nations will be the answer to save the tea industry and it will be suicidal to attempt to absorb losses created by energy crisis,' said spokesmen of the Colombo tea circles. The Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, leaves for India tomorrow. Eight state corporations are exempted from the five-day week: they are Petroleum, Steel, Tyre, Graphite, Ceramics, Hardware, Oils and Fats and Leather. Strict checking is being enforced on the sale of school books, stationery and sugar on the orders of the Ministry of Trade. The Queen's personal obstetrician, Dr. John Peel and Prof. Raoul Palmer, a French fertility expert, will be among delegates from 53 nations who will attend the first International Congress on the Medical and Scientific aspects of the Control of Fertility which will be inaugurated at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall today by the Prime Minister. Magisterial inquiry into the deaths of 9 persons who died on January 10 at the IATR seminar concluded in Jaffna will be resumed today. A seven member Australian Parliamentary delegation consisting of three Senators and four MPs will visit Sri Lanka from January 24 to 29. Minister of Industries Mr. T. B. Subasinghe, had discussion with his counterpart in Kuwait, Mr. Khalis Al Adasani. According to the Sun, 2000 Buddhist monks are expected to participate in the 'Satyakriya' on February 5 at Kandy along with Christian, Hindu and Muslim clergy. The Action Committee of the Tamil United Front has decided to observe February 4 as a day of mourning for the 9 people who died in Jaffna on the conclusion of the IATR seminar. A section of the CP hardliners are said to be opposing any move to reunite with the softliners. Israel will begin pulling back its troops from the West Bank of the Suez Canal on Friday. The US Congress meets next week for crucial talks which could bring President Nixon's removal from office.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 22: The Government Medical Officers' Association decided at an emergency meeting, to embark on strike action if the Health Ministry persists in its proposals to prevent the brain-drain by increasing restrictions on doctors. According to CP sources, negotiations for the reunification of the Communist Party are due to begin this week. The new legal reforms operative from Thursday, will ensure independence of justice, avoid unnecessary expenditure and above all speed up cases before courts. Mr. Felix Dias Bandaranaike, Minister of Justice told a press conference yesterday. Six positive cases of cholera were reported to the Ministry of Health from the Jaffna district. Dr. N. M. Perera, Minister of Finance, returned to the island yesterday after attending the meetings of the Committee of 20 and the Group of 24 in Rome in connection with the subject of international monetary reform. A special meeting of the Colombo Municipal

Council is being held today to elect the Mayor. Australia yesterday gifted Sri Lanka 10,082 tons of wheat flour worth Rs. 20 million. Nearly 2000 buses, about a third of the CTB's fleet will be off the roads by the end of this month because of a lack of tyres and spares. Mr. J. R. Jayewardene has summoned a meeting of the Opposition today. Over six million yards of synthetic textiles will be produced by Sri Lanka during the first six months of this year. An unofficial "mini" non-aligned summit to discuss the oil crisis is expected to be held in New Delhi on January 25, with heads of governments of Sri Lanka, India and Yugoslavia. A resolution condemning the alleged police attack in Jaffna recently where nine people died, was adopted at a public meeting in Madurai, South India, by the Madurai Mayor, Mr. S. Muthu. A ceremonial inauguration of the Supreme Court and the 16 High Courts on Thursday will be a state occasion attended by special representatives of the President. Under a new trade pact signed in New Delhi, the Soviet Union will supply India with one million metric tons of kerosene, 100,000 tons of diesel oil, and 325,000 tons of fertilisers.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23: The Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, left for India yesterday for a week-long tour: just prior to her departure, she, in an exclusive interview to the *Daily News* has described her Indian tour and the expected talks with the Indian Premier as "very important". The Indian Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, was not at the airport to receive the Sri Lanka Prime Minister as she was indisposed. Top ministers of the Indian Cabinet and the Vice President of India, Mr. G. S. Pathak were at the airport to receive Mrs. Bandaranaike. On arrival at Madras on the first leg of her visit, Mrs. Bandaranaike was received at the Meenambakkam airport by the Governor of Tamil Nadu, K. K. Shah, Chief Minister, Mr. Karunanidhi and other VIPs. Mr. T. B. Subasinghe, Minister of Industries and Scientific Affairs arrived in the island yesterday: he is expected to report to the Cabinet his talks with the oil producing countries he visited. Mr. A. H. M. Fowzi of the UNP was elected Mayor at a special general meeting of the Colombo Municipal Council yesterday. The Opposition Parliamentary Group which met yesterday decided to give notice of a motion calling for the appointment of a Parliamentary Select Committee to investigate matters raised in the statement tabled in the National State Assembly by Mr. J. R. Jayewardene on January 10. A Superintendent of Police was sentenced yesterday to three years RI and fined Rs. 1,000 for soliciting a bribe of Rs. 5,000. President Sadat of Egypt flew to Algiers for talks on the disengagement Agreement. The United States and Britain are discussing matters arising from their defence interests in the Indian Ocean area.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 24: The ceremonial opening of the Supreme Court under the new legal system takes place at 10 a.m. today: the Acting Prime Minister, Mr. Maithripala Senanayake and the Minister of Justice, Mr. Felix Dias Bandaranaike will participate at the ceremony: members of the public too are invited for the ceremony. Nominations for the Mannar by-elections will be received today at the Mannar Kacheri. Prime Minister, Mrs. Bandaranaike's visit to India has received front page coverage in all Indian newspapers. The two Prime Ministers in their two-hour meeting yesterday discussed the two main

outstanding issues — Kachchativu and persons of Indian origin in Sri Lanka. Yugoslavia President will also have talks with the Sri Lanka Prime Minister when he arrives in India tomorrow. Minister of Industries and Scientific Affairs, Mr. T. B. Subasinghe, briefing the Cabinet on his Middle East visit said that his mission had been extremely useful. CP hardliners are now awaiting 'a positive response' from the softliners to the peace feelers sent last week. All accused in the Udugama DMO assault case were sentenced to jail yesterday by the Galle Magistrate. A further price hike on several varieties of oil were imposed in India from yesterday. British Coal miners moved nearer to all-out strike action as deadlock persisted on two industrial fronts and economic gloom deepened. White House tape recordings and documents that could clear President Nixon of complicity in the Watergate scandal are in the possession of the special Prosecutor's office and the Grand Jury, Vice President Gerald Ford said. France is being accused by Secretary of State Henry Kissinger for not playing a constructive role in solving the international oil crisis.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25: The changes under the new administration of justice will make law less alien and less remote to the common people' said the Acting Premier, Mr. Maithripala Senanayake, yesterday at the ceremony held in connection with the inauguration of the new legal system. The Prime Ministers of India and Sri Lanka yesterday emphasized the need for establishing a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean and keeping the area free from the presence of outside powers. "Sri Lanka can expect a regular supply of oil at fair price in relation to world market prices," said Mr. T. B. Subasinghe at a press conference yesterday. The Government has instructed Sri Lanka's missions in Washington and London to check on the truth of a Washington press report that the US has requested permission from Britain to build a 'serious' naval base on the Indian Ocean island of Diego Garcia situated between Mauritius and Sri Lanka. The JCTUO has ratified the decision to demand a 20 per cent wage hike for private and public sector. Messrs. S. M. J. Mark (FP), S. A. Raheem (UNP), S. P. Emmanuel (Independent) and S. A. C. N. Mohamed (Independent) have handed in their nominations to contest the Mannar by-election which will be held on February 25. A Colombo lawyer was fined Rs. 188,000 yesterday by the customs for smuggling activities. President Tito of Yugoslavia was received in Delhi yesterday by President Giri on his arrival for a five day visit. Syria has agreed for talks with Israel on the disengagement of forces along the Suez Canal. President Sadat of Egypt returned to Cairo from Rabat at the end of a whirl-wind tour of the Arab states.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26: The Minister of Trade, Mr. T. B. Illangaratne, yesterday confirmed that ration book holders will be issued only half a measure of rice on the ration from February 1, for some time till the supply position improved. Industrial products of Sri Lanka have exceeded the export target last year by seven million rupees. The new Mayor of Colombo, Mr. A. H. M. Fowzi, has said that he will give priority to water, scavenging, sewerage and street lighting in the city. Sri Lanka's Prime Minister, Mrs. Bandaranaike said in New Delhi that she looked forward to the time when it would be possible for the countries of Asia

to work increasingly in close understanding with each other. The Minister of Posts and Telecommunications, Mr. C. Kumarasuriyera said that though the postal department is pocketing out approximately two rupees on each telegram filed yet it is not thinking in terms of raising the telegraph charges. The impact of the rise of fuel prices on the tea industry is now being studied by the Tea Control Department. Emergency regulation were promulgated last night making it an offence to use electricity for floodlighting of any building, tennis court, grounds or swimming pool, shop window lighting and neon signs and similar lighting of a decorative nature. The Ceylon Workers' Congress has asked the Government to withdraw the Business Turn Over Tax on kerosene and petrol, so that the consumers may get at least some form of relief from the high prices. Air Ceylon will soon start cargo charters to cope with the increasing demand for air cargo. President Tito of Yugoslavia was awarded the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding. Libyan President Colonel Gaddafi arrived unexpectedly in Geneva yesterday by special aircraft. Israel has started to pull out its troops eastward across the Suez Canal.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 27: The leaders of India, Sri Lanka and Yugoslavia discussed ways of strengthening the policy of non-alignment when they met informally yesterday. The Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, witnessed the Indian Republic Day celebrations yesterday as an "honoured chief guest": the Premier said yesterday that she was confident of an early solution to the problem of the stateless Indians in Sri Lanka. Public wells for all wards is one of the proposals being studied by the Colombo Municipality according to the new Mayor, Mr. A. H. M. Fowzie. British Airways (formerly BOAC) and Air Ceylon in conjunction with the UTA have come to government-to-government arrangement to offer reduced air fares between Colombo and London. One of the world's most eminent forensic pathologists Prof. Cedric Keith Simpson will be visiting Sri Lanka this week. The cold experienced now will continue for another two or three weeks, according to the Meteorological Department. A number of young doctors who have recently qualified are suspected of having forged Consultant's signatures on their 'Appointment Books'; the Colombo Medical Faculty called in the Government Examiner of Questioned Documents in this connection and it is understood that eighteen forgeries have been detected. A "Tass" report says that there are widespread public protests in India against the Anglo-American plans to make Diego Garcia Island in the Indian Ocean a naval base. President Nixon is likely to visit the Middle East including Egypt shortly, according to the authoritative newspaper Al Ahran: he is expected to visit the Middle East countries which Secretary of State Henry Kissinger visited recently.

For News Behind The News
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METAPHYSICAL

The Concept of Serenity

by R. C. THAVARAJAH

Superintendent of Police,
Vavuniya Division.

"The Body is ruled by PASSION, DESIRE and meaningless Ambition but the Soul is ruled by SERENITY". When Joseph Gaer, in his book, *What all Religions Believe* expressed this view, he was not re-iterating an oft-repeated truism but was giving a meaning to a dynamic realisation born of true understanding of Religion. Through out the ages, through all the "Changing scenes of Life, Man has, at various times, succumbed to the tumult of his mind. The ravages caused by DESIRE had wrought crushing blows and that sense of Insecurity has immersed him in the mire of lust. He has been constantly at war with himself—a war with no possibility of truce. Destructive forces and emotions of Hate, insatiability and the like have resulted in diseases of the mind as such paranoic depression, schizophrenic disturbances, delusions and insomnia.

Shakespeare refers to mental illness in *MACBETH*—

"Can'st thou not Minister to mind diseased,

Pluck from the memory a rooted sorrow,

Raze out the written trouble of the BRAIN,

And with some sweet oblivious antidote,

Cleanse the Stuffed Bosom of the perilous stuff,

Which weighs upon the heart?"

THE EXPERTISE of clinical psychiatry has always succeeded in making a "patch-up" job with sedatives, Librium, Lagactyl and other potent drugs and potions. These and the Electro-convulsive therapy with their soporific effect create a certain settledness of the mind. It was Shakespeare who refers to the "innocent sleep, sleep that knits up the ravelled sleeve of CARE, the death of each day's life, sore labour's bath, balm of hurt

minds, great NATURE'S second course, Chief nourisher in Life's feast."

To my mind, the real re-assurance comes from the strong and unflinching FAITH in Religion which ushers in peace and serenity through worship and meditation. This is so clearly expressed in the idea of "THE PEACE of GOD which passeth all understanding." Dr. H. T. Munshi in his article entitled "Wondrous Wisdom of Yoga Vasistha", in *Bhavan's Journal* says, "If Bagavadgita is my guide when despondency assails me and intricate problems of life seem insoluble, a perusal of Yoga Vasistha uplifts my mind to flights of plausible scientific fancy, beyond the grasp of modern research and Science."

DISCIPLINE. We have for our edification the thoughts so lucidly and inspiringly expressed in many of the Christian Hymnals which are rare purple passages of poetic excellence. I shall refer to one of them:—

Drop thy still dew of QUIETNESS
Till all our strivings cease,

Take from our souls the strains
and stress

And let our ordered lives confess
The Beauty of Thy Peace.

Breathe through the heat of our
DESIRE

Thy coolness and thy balm

Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire,
Speak through the earthquake,
wind, and fire,

O still small voice of CALM."

MR. H. JINADASA SAMARAKODY, President of the All Ceylon Buddhist Congress at its 54th Annual Sessions at Gampaha said "The daily reports in the newspapers of the number of suicides appear to be mostly restricted to youth and adolescents and these do not appear to be so much due to economic distress as it is to a lack of inner mental peace that can be achieved ONLY by the discipline of Religion." One cannot agree with him more when one reads the real meaning of DISCIPLINE and not be misled by the word loosely used to mean a mere obedience to orders by the connotation of a "vigilant discipline in the path of righteous living."

It was Blair who defined it as "The Discipline which corrects the

baseness of worldly passions, fortifies the heart with virtuous principles, enlightens the mind with useful knowledge and furnishes it with enjoyment from within itself."

THE EGO. "Know then thyself,
presume not God to scan,

The proper study of Mankind is
Man."

Mrs. Ratna Navaratnam, former Director of Education, Northern Division, in her inestimable book entitled "The Testament of TRUTH" refers to the illustrious Yogar Swamy's verse in *NAT CHINTHANAI* "In TRANQUILITY—'Tis thyself you become aware,

In discernment—'Tis thyself you realise.

In Thoughts unceasing—'Tis thyself you reflect,

In conversation—'Tis thyself you discover."

The Buddhist concept of "subjugating the sinister power of the Ego is consonant with the Hindu ideology as is given in the *Bhagavad Gita*:—

"DESIRE flows into the mind of the seer

But he is never disturbed.

The seer knows PEACE:

The Man who stirs up his own lusts
Can never know PEACE.

He knows peace who has forgotten
DESIRE.

He lives without craving.

Free from EGO, Free from PRIDE."

The Buddhist thought also dwells with the MENTAL ELEMENT of ill-will which brings in its wake restless nature of brooding over evil acts done in the past—Self remonstrance for ill-considered activities. This destructive element might be expressed as fears and ANXIETIES, Unhappiness, sorrows and lamentations. They are mental states with Unhappiness in addition to being physical. "...Forbearance (KANTHI) is one of the perfections required for BUDDHAHOOD. It constitutes one of the Four Abidings of Noble Living (BRAHMA VIHARAS). It is one of the three forms of right thinking (Sama Sankappa) that provides the motivation of the practice of the Noble Eightfold Path, the way of Life for the Buddhists, which procures PEACE and Happiness on Earth."

FAITH. To quote again from Joseph GAER, "Man's religious quest began with FEAR of the Unknown which he tried to control through Magic, totem and taboo. But, as his knowledge increased so did his religious maturity.

Fear became FAITH—a fact that life has a meaning and purpose." It is, therefore, apparent that Faith (SADDHA) occupies the primary position in the quest of Enlightenment—Faith should be accompanied by Energy and Wisdom. The place of Saddha in Buddhism is best illustrated in the following verse from the Sutta Nipata:

"By Faith, the flood is crossed
By earnestness the sea.
By Vigour, ill is passed,
By WISDOM cleansed is he."

The Scientist and the ATHEIST would rather take away God and religion and let man dwell only on the empirical facts without proposing any worthy and considerable end of life. It was Montaigne who said—"The pious man and the atheist always talk of Religion. The one of what he loves, and the other of what he fears."

In order to ascertain the Hindu concept in this context, we derive an abundance of thought-provoking and inspiring pronouncements. Each Right Act must be preceded by TRANQUILITY and Tranquility, according to the Bhagavad Gita, "comes to him who deals with the objects of the sense not loving, not hating, making them serve his FREE SOUL which remains SERENELY LORD". The true path to tranquility is through Self-Abnegation and this, according to the Gita, can be achieved by the practice of Two all inclusive virtues "LOVE AND NON-ATTACHMENT. The latter is the same thing as that of "HOLY INDIFFERENCE". Aldous Huxley in his introduction to the Bhagavad Gita writes "HE WHO REVERES EVERY ACTION TO GOD," writes Camus "Summarising his Master's teachings" and has no aims save HIS GLORY, will find REST everywhere, even amidst the most violent commotions."

THERE IS definitely something so beautifully and tunelessly syncretistic in the notion of contemplation and MEDITATION, which according to Simmons, is "the nurse of thought and thought, the food for meditation". It is also the tongue of

the Soul and also the language of the spirit." Whether it is the practice of Yoga according to the Hindus, or Meditation according to the Buddhists, or the CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER according to the Christians, the effort is towards SERENITY". TRANSCENDENTAL Meditation—"the practical aspect of the Science or Creative Intelligence has been accepted as" an inherent, integrated physiological response during the nervous system experience rest more refreshing, than sleep and rids itself of deep rooted stresses." It will be futile for me in this short attempt to deal at length with the views expressed so infallibly by great religious thinkers on the power of Meditation.

Even the Poet Alfred Lord Tennyson in his "Morte D' Arthur" says "More things are wrought by Prayer than this world dreams of." And, by Prayer, he did not mean the mechanical repetition of some stereo-type stanza from a Prayer Book. "He Prayeth Best who loveth Best" and even the Buddha said "The greatest Prayer is PATIENCE."

TODAY'S TUMULT. In the mad rat race of today, in the insane pace of fast and loose living of Free love, debauchery and over indulgence, the youth are wasting their time sinking downward day after day and making their life one continued series of errors. It was CICERO who said "A youth of Sensuality and intemperance delivers a worn-out body to old age." He also added that "in the decadence of DESIRE—the Thirst of Desire is never filled nor fully satisfied. Shakespeare in Hamlet refers to insatiability "As if increase of appetite had grown by what it fed on."

Aldous Huxley in his book "TOMORROW, AND TOMORROW AND TOMORROW," borrowing the title from Shakespeare's Macbeth, speaking of the devaluation and depreciation of the mind states that the problem of tomorrow would be not want of food or overpopulation but LEISURE—What man is going to do with his leisure. The Youth of Today have their problems. There is no one who can help them.

His parents are too busy with their Socio-economic problems, the Tutors are too busy trying to keep

to Schedule and departmental requirements, the religious Leaders are too busy with Sacerdotal duties and some unfortunately are indulging in "extramural activities". When the worldly pleasures begin to pall, the Youth of affluent countries are finding their way to the East—the Mystic East in the hope of obtaining, like "instant coffee"—Instant SERENITY.

They have failed to discover themselves and they are trying to seek a Sadhu, a fakir, "sitting under a tree half-naked or with flowing robes materialising holy ash and performing other MIRACLES. They may come across "WOG" (Westernised Oriental Gentleman) who, over a beer, may say sardonically, quoting Rudyard Kipling "The East is East and the West is West, and N'er the Twain shall meet."

KNOWLEDGE...FOR WHAT? Man today is trying to acquire greater knowledge—Knowledge of the Earth, its surroundings, the space and outer space. He is becoming powerful with his scientific knowledge. Some of them are looking for God in outer space. What are they looking for? Do they expect to see an Old man in a Red Robe with a benign face carrying a big bag of toys and willing to distribute to the anxious boys—the petty tin soldiers who would like to play with aeroplanes, tanks, battle ships for self aggrandisement. It is quite a confusedly contrary

Profits

The world's biggest oil concern, Exxon (known prior to November 1972 as Standard Oil of New Jersey) has announced that it proposes to increase its investments to £ 16,000 million in the next four years. This followed reports that two other U.S. oil companies—Texaco and Gulf Oil—were putting more money into the oil industry.

As a result of the increase in oil prices caused by the fuel crisis, Exxon profits broke all records last year. Company executives claim, however, that to finance their investment programme profits will have to be increased further.

attitude for them to do so. It is like a person who does not believe in Fairies but he is doing his utmost to look for them, and, not finding them, may say "Maybe, I was going too fast." With the spark of divinity within themselves, why are they trying to see GOD in outer space or any other of the firmament?

The great discoverers of today are trying either to debunk or discover everything but themselves. There is so much of NOISE in the process. It was Carlyle who said—"SILENCE is the element in which great things fashion themselves together" and it was Emerson who said "Let us be silent that we may hear the whispers of the Gods." By silence they did not mean the mere physical absence of sound but, as Shri Swami Rama Theertha put it, "The beautiful calm of that superconsciousness which transcends the limits of body and mind, where all sound dies, where the sun and the moon get dissolved, where the whole Cosmos ripples like a dream and is eddied into the INFINITE." Perennial Peace is diffused there and Man is entirely lost in GOD".

"Neither the Sun shines, nor sparkles the Moon,

Pranas and SOUND are hushed into SILENCE.

All life resumes in Soul's sweet slumber,

No God, No Man, no cosmos there no Soul,

Naught but golden CALM and PEACE and SPLENDOR."

In the present context of conflict, duality, pretence, to a world at War with the machinations of Megalomaniacs, intent so avariciously on expansion transferring global peace into a global graveyard, the firm hand of reason points inexorably the way to Peace through religion. The self-righteous in spite of their insanity are asking themselves "What am I" not realising that if we have not PEACE within ourselves it is futile to seek it from outward sources. Therefore, the urgently pertinent question is "Am I at peace with myself."

THE ONLY SOLUTION

Water, Water, Every Where

by CANAX

WHEN PEOPLE ask me if I don't find the never-ending water cut irritating, agitating and downright unbearable, I say no and mean it. I am not bothered in the least since I have got myself ample stocks of arrack in reserve to tide me over the crisis, and if that isn't water, I don't know what is.

I have told my wife this, too, but she thinks I am only indulging my death-wish. If our water is undrinkable, she says, my arrack is even worse. That is not her only complaint, though. "You are happy with your old stuff," she said the other day, "but what about us?"

I don't think I'm being unreasonable keeping the precious liquid largely to myself. Ask any drinking man and he'll agree with the steps I have taken toward conservation. She can have it, of course, provided she takes it in moderation, but I'm not sure she can, or will. What I mean is, you can't go guzzling it liberally at the rate of six glasses minimum a day the way you would water on tap. That's free, but the one in the bottle isn't.

SHE'S SO FED UP about the prolonged water shortage she has been thinking of seeking urgent outside assistance to get over the problem. I got alarmed when she indicated as much because I knew she had been on her knees every night for months now imploring divine intervention.

"If Heaven won't hear you," I advised, "you'd do well to realise the sky's the limit. There's no place else you can go."

"I was thinking of going only as far as Moscow this time," she explained, which really puzzled me.

"You mean Uncle Leo?" I cried. "You're wasting your time, dear, for he's too busy on the hot line with Uncle Dick finding a solution

in the Middle East to devote time finding water for you in Sri Lanka."

"I'd meant the ones who are already here."

"Who told you the Russian Ambassador is a water diviner?"

"Not him, silly," she snapped. "I mean the team operating off the coast of Mannar."

"But those guys are here looking for oil," I explained.

"So what?" she countered. "They can also look for water while they are about it and kill two birds, so to speak."

"They can't do both at the same time," I insisted.

A STATEMENT like that really puts her back up, in a manner of speaking, of course. She gets stubborn, defiant, argumentative and quite impossible. "They say they are looking for oil, right?" she demanded with deliberation.

"Roger," I snapped crisply.

"What's the guarantee they'll find it?"

"None whatever," I said, "but if God has put oil under our feet trust the Russians to find it."

"That's exactly what I mean", she cried. "If the good Lord has also put water there, what's so difficult about finding that?"

"Impossible!" I shouted, irritated by the surprising simplicity of her logic.

"You keep saying that," she sighed "but for God's sake why?"

"Because oil and water don't mix that's why."

She seemed altogether put out by that. Throwing caution and common sense to the winds, she turned on me to demand, "Since when?" as though nature had with my connivance pulled a fast one on her.

THE QUESTION stumped me, I must in honesty admit. I tried to recollect the exact date but, unfortunately, my memory was most unequal to the task. So I dismissed it with a vague, "Oh, definitely from the time I was in college which makes it 1947, but even then I think teacher said oil and water, simply don't mix, so my impres-

sion is they never have and, unless the impossible happens, never will."

"Which means the Russians are out?"

"I suggest you not distract them with your bright ideas," I said.

"Then, even if we don't have water, at least we can soon drink oil!"

"You're being cruel," she cried.

"You mean crude?"

"I don't know why I keep asking you," she said, "but what are we going to do?"

"It's not as bad as all that," I soothed her. "Why don't you look nearer home for help?"

"Like who—Cardinal Cooray?"

I hadn't thought of him, really, but when she suggested it I did and nodded assent.

SHE SHOOK her head. "He's a very busy man, I think."

"What on earth, or outside, is he so busy about?"

"The Catholic Students Federation." I didn't know what she was talking about but there are times, like this one, when it is better not to know. So I let it pass.

"I was actually thinking of some experts who'll do the job in a jiffy," I said.

"Local or foreign?"

"Experts are all local," I told her. "If you don't believe me, just check the staff list of UN Agencies."

"You're not having the Planning Ministry in mind, are you?"

"No," I replied. "You get only prophets there whose whole job is to predict."

"These experts of yours," she went on. "What are their credentials?"

"Good, very good, as far as I know."

"Been in the field for decades, suppose?"

"That's just the point," I said. "They have not and are short on experience, in the strict sense, but long on success which came to them almost instantly."

"You seem to be sold on them, anyway," she remarked. "Have they done anything big recently?"

"Of course they have," I cried. "There's the Food Drive, for one."

"That's really big," she admitted. "Do they operate individually or as a group?"

"Not just a group," I said.

"They're formed themselves into one of the leading public companies in the private sector?"

"Funny I haven't heard of the name," she mused. "What's it called?"

"J. R. & Co. Ltd."

"Where exactly was its most recent success?"

"In Attanagalla, and also in Anuradhapura."

"Both successfully?"

"Yes, but one was a smashing success."

"If we engage them, what will they do?"

"Nothing, really," I replied. "All they have to do for success is have company personnel converge on the Labugama and Kalutuwewa reservoirs, at once."

"You mean for drilling?"

"No, for just sitting."

RESEARCH

VEGETABLE OILS

London,

Developing nations are likely to benefit from research into the production of vegetable oils at a British university. The work has been financed by a grant of £ 6,700 from the trustees of the Leverhulme Trust Fund and will be carried on, in the department of biochemistry at the University of Sheffield, northern England, by Dr. M. W. Fowler.

"Vegetable oils are an important food commodity both in Western Europe and the Third World" said Dr. Fowler. "Our research will be into the methods of getting mere oil out of plant tissue and we are hoping to learn how the plant controls production and what helps it make oil. Although we have an understanding of the general biochemistry of the synthesis of

fats and oils in plants, we have little information as to the provision by the plant of the materials necessary to provide this synthesis nor of the ways in which it is controlled."

"The knowledge will be important on both economic and social grounds and it is hoped that the investigations will allow better usage of natural resources. "The main vegetable oil producer to be studied is the oil palm. This means that developing nations will probably benefit most," added Dr. Fowler. "They will be able not only to get more food value from the oil palm, but the productivity will also have economic value to them through exports."

Present work at the university has been carried out with certain types of plant cells grown in culture, which, when induced to divide and differentiate, will produce larger amounts of fatty material.

BACKGROUND

BUSHMEN

The Bushmen first appeared in southern Africa somewhere between 12,000 and 15,000 years ago. For a long time these nomads, who hunted and gathered wild fruit and vegetables for their basic subsistence needs, were masters of a vast territory extending from the Cape of Good Hope to the Orange River and Botswana. Driven by the white colonialists from the south and by the Bantu tribes from the north, they were forced to withdraw beyond the Caledon River, where they live to this day. According to the 1967 figures, there are about 50,000 of them and they live in small groups, mainly in the Kalahari Desert and in Botswana, Namibia, Angola and South Africa.

They are of short stature—about 1.5 metres, with a leathery yellow skin and short, tightly coiled hair. They have never grown any crops or bred any stock. They wander from place to place and pitch their camps some distance from water in order not to scare away animals. Besides hunting wild game, the Bushmen look for herbs, roots, lizards and dragon-flies. If there is no water, they drink the juice

of wild melons or the gastric juice of antelopes.

The Bushmen have no written language. They often name their children after some event which has coincided with their birth. A boy, for instance, may be called Raging Fire if he is born during a bush or savannah fire, while a girl may be named Little Locust if she sees the light of day during an invasion of these insects.

There are no rude words in the Bushmen's vocabulary. Kindness and concern for others are one of their distinguishing traits. They do not know what theft or any other crime is. They have no private property. If there is food, everybody eats. If there is none, they all go hungry.

P. Diktov

A Million in Five Minutes

Theodore Dreiser once wrote how enterprising speculators filled their pockets by starting rumours going at the Exchange. But the trick played in Paris on December 6, 1973 beats everything. On that day the French capital was rocked by a rumour of President Nixon's death. It was soon denied of course. But there is what *Le Figaro* wrote in its December 8-9 issue: "It was in fact a stock-exchange operation undertaken by several clever but dishonest financiers. They succeeded in befuddling a journalist of a radio chain and he 'officialized' the news by broadcasting it. The financiers then sold the gold they had bought at a cheaper price in other markets. The price of gold had risen sharply within a few minutes on account of the anxiety caused by the announcement of the American President's death. The profit thus made is estimated at one million francs." The paper added that the police could not call the swindlers to account because French criminal law provides no penalty for taking advantage of peoples' gullibility.

INANIA *Of This, That and The Other*

THE NEW FACE?

By INNA

Sri Lanka was at one time a land of villages, the chief towns being Colombo, Galle, Jaffna and Kandy. The villages were generally near water, and so, in the valleys. There were few roads and the people were self-contained, and self-sufficient. Poor on the whole, the people had their chiefs, their monks, craftsmen and peasants.

No nostalgia needed for the past except for one thing: the king, the tank and the temple seemed to be pivotal points in the life of our people. Home gardens may have grown cinnamon, coffee, sugar, indigo, cotton, opium and cardamoms. We are told that large areas in the coastline had coconuts.

Then came the Colebrooke reforms, which some significant historians have called "negative reforms more than positive" (G. C. Mendis, *Today and Yesterday*, 1957). Ceylon was given a new face but at what a cost! "However radical the reforms, it was not easy to change either the ways or attitudes to life of a conservative and ancient people", says the eminent historian.

Then the coffee rush was upon us: British officials who alone had capital, and capitalists from India and Britain came in, or cashed in. Crown lands were sold. In 10 years (1845) 367 plantations were opened and £30,000,000 invested. In 1847 coffee crashed, was revived in 1850's and was hit by the pest in 1880.

Till this sinful period came along, Ceylon's economy was dominantly agrarian but now, greed of other people made it dominantly commercial and capitalistic. Ceylon's revenue came now, not from paddy but from tea and rubber. Communications and "communities" developed due to the plantations. Trains took lovely loops and inclines in hill-country: the plantations just has to be served.

What about the Kandyan and other peasants and their villages? We just can't be bothered! No extra love for us from this great christian country.

As the historian puts it: the first roads in the hill country were for military reasons and the second reason was administrative. The entire machinery was geared to the trade and commerce, and pockets were slowly being lined

with gold thread, if you know what I mean.

Five years ago, the unwary traveller said: "Oh how lovely: the winding road and rail-track in the hills. Unlike the French in Vietnam, these colonizers of Ceylon really loved us and opened up the roads and the backward areas, etc., etc."

Today we know the terrible draw that vested interests had. "Trinity" and "St. Antony's" may still produce the successors of those men who believed in the equality of man as in the Gospel but who rode on their backs to get just a little bit more.

It may be that their successors—or a good many of them—are now having second thoughts. And the Trinity, christians tell us is the source of relationships, and St. Antony worked the miracle of raising the dead to life and not putting to death the living.

COLOMBO slowly grew in size. It came up, slowly: urban, slum-belt, suburban. Those who benefited most from the Tea venture were "low-country Sinhalese" who advanced much under Dutch rule earlier, in education, rule of law. They took contracts to open the country for plantations, for the Dutch, master-builders, had taught them carpentry home buildings; transports and 1/4 of coffee belonged to them.

What an upheaval.

And we seem to be still groaning (under the heel of?) in the face of this face-lift in Ceylon's economy of the last century.

O Ceylon Tea, will your sales go down if you become SRI LANKA TEA?

SHAMBA

Life Goes On

by ANATORY BUKOBA

December 20,

The hour is late, and as I also put in only a short appearance at the *Shamba*, I am going to find it difficult to find something to say. We have had much rain, and the talk is that if all this rain is good for the paddy-fields, it is not good for the high-land cultivations. High land, or *goddā iddung* as it is known in Sinhalese, covers everything that is not paddy-field. Too much water here is said to make plants rot. The paddy-field can do with this water, unless the whole of the paddy goes under water, in which case much the same thing happens; the paddy rots.

Our place looks more planted up now. There are plantain trees in all sorts of surprising places, and they are doing well. I saw no evidence of monkeys the last two days. The river is so full and muddy, I was shy of bathing in it, and I preferred a well. Had I been constantly on the place though, I do not think I would have had any such inhibitions, for then one gets used to the conditions, and sheer necessity makes one accept them. For the most part we have never boiled the water from the river and no one has come to quit drinking this water yet. I prefer to let muddy water lie longer in the *kalla-geddi* before drinking it. To do this you have to have two *Kalla-geddies* in use, one with the newly drawn water, and the other for immediate use.

The house has stood up well to the rain, it is still standing. The health of the family is better now.

December 27,

On my way to the *Shamba*, I bought nine pounds of *Wattakka* or pumpkin. Nine pounds is more than a green grocer would have weights for, and so five pounds of manioc was weighed out, and then the weights were added to the manioc. In this way, we learnt the weight of the nine-pound pieces of pumpkin. It was nearly

half of the whole fruit. Three of us adults and three small children disposed of the pumpkin in one meal. It was cooked with salt, there was no coconut. We ate the pumpkin plain, and very tasty it was. It cost twenty-five cents a pound.

As soon as I got to the *Shamba*, I put my two bags on the nearest bed, and I started trimming the grass on the road-side at once. There was the lightest of drizzles, and it was lucky that I started when I did, as it came on to rain just as I was finishing the verge. That was the only work I was able to do today, the rain has not really let up since it started.

The tidy grass verge makes a great difference to the whole setting of the place. It means that one "tiny" bit of the acre looks civilized, and it must make a difference, too, to the people who live in the house.

The man who has the house now has been quite active. All except the smallest in the family were ill while I was away. They had eaten nothing since breakfast yesterday until I turned up with the *Wattakka* this morning. In spite of all this, the members of the family look well.

January 4,

This is my first day on the *Shamba* for the New Year.

Monkeys, great big wanderoo, were sitting on the road to the *Shamba* this morning, and they were reluctant to move until I was nearly on them, and then they went off as if they owned the place. The family looked well, but the youngest was having her fever, which comes on every morning and leaves by the evening.

More plantain suckers had been put down, and manioc. The area about where the plantains have been most thickly sown has been cleared with the mamoty, and this is in front of the house. The weeds were not as long or as bad as I thought they might be.

The pineapple is still there, and so is the original passion fruit and two more have been planted. Some of the chilli, which had been sown months ago, have some quite big pods on them. Oh wonder of wanders!, the little sorghum

we have is very high or tall. Wanderoo have been attacking what has been planted recently, the manioc especially.

The paths are much overgrown and the morning dew wets one's sandals. Last night was bitterly cold and tonight the cold promises to be no better.

The family gets by on very little food. Dinner is their big meal, and tonight they had nothing to eat. The cooking plantain I brought them was next to useless without the coconut which they did not have. Some one told me that the coconut she had bought had cost her seventy-five cents! The price of rice is going down. Someone asked me Rs. 4/50 for a measure. I retaliated by buying only half a measure. The rice which I had been offered at Rs. 4/-, I found was underweight. I hear that rice can be had at Rs. 3/50, but I have yet to find the place.

The plantain trees that I planted so many months ago are alive and healthy-looking, but they do not seem to be growing at all. I hope the newer lot do better, they have been put down in a rather different place.

As for our *Shamba*, I have not contracted to feed the family living on it, but when they have no food, and there are children about, I cannot just do nothing. Something has to be done about it.

January 5,

Half a day went by with the head of the family not at work either on the farm, or away. So he was neither earning something to feed his family, nor working on the *Shamba* against a rainy day. In England, in the mines, there was what with the passage of time become iniquitous I should think, that if you worked a full working week of five days, you had a bonus of a day's pay thrown in for that week with your pay packet. You become accustomed to earning a certain amount of money a week, bonus if you call part of it or not, and if that is granted one's pay even with a bonus, can be said to be adequate? So, if you lost a day's work, you did in fact lose two day's pay, and earned pay for only the four actual days that you worked. The sudden drop from six to four days in the money you

earned was a strong deterrent not to miss a day's work at all, for a doctor's certificate was of no help, except in the matter of keeping your job, should you be ill a long time. Yet, people, I noticed, did regularly miss a day's work a week, married men, too, and these men were in many ways the most balanced of the lot. In just that way, my friend might have had a strong case for not working but not, I thought, when the onus of replacing some of what he had lost fell on me.

This evening I did a little mowing of grass, the *vici katha* again, and I set an ancient heap of rubbish on fire. I regret to say that a whole family, or families, of mice were burnt to death. Only one escaped. I wish they had perished instantly but it was not to be. I am no friend of mice, but I was sorry just the same, for few people like causing unnecessary pain.

Tonight I was able to get some rice cheaply, and I gladly spent the money to acquire it. Some of the trees have branches lopped off to give a little light to the newly-planted plantain trees. The solitary teak sapling has survived. The family thought it was dead, hidden as it was under a covering of weed.

January 9.

Alarming I find it when I turn up at the *Shamba*, and find that my partner has not hired himself out for work that day; nor he has any other way of feeding his family. Add to this that he has not gone to work for some days, and our situation appears even more alarming.

Last night I sent some cowpea to the family by my partner's hand. It was only a *chundoo* at Rs. 1/-. Two *chundoos* I took to where I was staying the night. Cowpea has this to say for itself, that it tastes good, that it can be eaten plain, and that it does not need any coconuts in its preparation, for coconuts are -75 cents each now, whereas they used to be -35 cents eleven months ago. Cowpea has to be soaked in water for some hours before it is cooked. So my friend went to sleep, and then he got up at 11 p.m. and cooked the cowpea.

This morning I took the family a handful of ready-made cowpea,

and another *chundoo* of the uncooked cowpea, and a few plantains at -06 cents each. I found that they were drying some meat. I used the *Vici Katha* on the grass and weed around the entrance to the public's descent to the river. Every little bit I do, I find, makes a great difference to the appearance of the place.

My partner has collected a large quantity of some herbal medicinal plant, whose name I cannot repeat just now. Cloudy it has been, but rain has kept off.

January 18.

There has not been much growth as it has not rained. The house looked almost deserted as I approached; no sound, no voices. The mother and her two daughters in. The small son is away; in Colombo I was told. The father had gone out to look for work. He had been ill three days with a thorn prick, off work, and he spent them in the house. The planted-up area looked tidy, the plantain suckers in rows, the manioc not looking out of place. There was *wattakka* down, too looking green and nice. My little teak sapling looked a little dry or brittle, but not dead. The older *murunga* and plantain trees looked all right. Beyond the house, the grass looked much overgrown but then I have not cut for some time.

As usual there was no food in the house, and there was no certainty the father would bring any back either. The woman asked me for twenty-five cents to buy some juggery, I gave her fifty. It was all I could spare. That left me with not much more than Rs. 5/-. With the son away, the elder daughter, age four, was sent to the shop for the juggery. I bought her a patty for another twenty-five cents, and asked her to eat it. When I caught up with her, she had not eaten it and said she was taking it home. The cost of that patty was all I felt I could spare. With Saturday as well as Sunday, a holiday, I had no idea when I would get some more money, and I had just enough to get me to Colombo.

January 27.

There is what one might call a minor drought on, which has made my task of clearing easier. The grass on the verge of the road

above the house continues to grow, but not much else.

The man in the house has been sick for a few days and unable to go to work, and as his family has no money, I wonder how they manage without food. So I had to give them something to tide them over this lean period.

The original plantain trees I put in do not seem to be growing at all. Their leaves are a fine green, but that is all that can be said for them. The plantain trees put in by the present occupier of the house seem to have died, or on their way out; the *murunga* trees planted by me appear to have lost their leaves, but in such a way that I find it hard not to think that they were done by an enemy or by monkeys, or surely they would all have lost their leaves at the same time. The newly-planted *murunga* have lost all their new growth, too. One *jak* sapling planted right beside the house does not seem to be doing all right. With the house closed in like a fortress, or a hovel, it is not possible to look out of it as we could before, and I really suspect monkeys. When all are in the house, all contact between them and the acre is lost. This last month or more, I have had to be away much, but once the coming fortnight is over, I hope to resume work on the *Shamba* and to move in myself into a new house. The place is still clean and that is a blessing. I asked about the price of rice, and I was told progressively that it was Rs. 4/50, Rs. 4/25, and Rs. 3/75.

Added Attraction

Raquel Welch's shattered nose, Mae West minus one arm, Barbra Streisand devoid of an eye—these and other disfigured figures of film stars met the visitor's eye recently at the Hollywood Wax Museum. During the night, someone wielding an ax or a hammer had indulged in an orgy of vandalism. The proprietor, after recovering from the shock, turned the misfortune into a box-office attraction with a brand new exhibition of the grisly casualties.

INDO-CEYLON

The New Sirimavo - Indira Accord

by LANKAPUTRA

As a result of Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike's visit to India recently the outstanding problem of the 150,000 persons of Indian origin resident in Sri Lanka not covered by the original Indo-Ceylon Agreement of 1964 (popularly known as the Sirima-Shastri pact) has been settled.

Under the terms of the original pact, it will be remembered, India agreed to accept the repatriation of 525,000 persons back to her shores, while we agreed to grant citizenship to 300,000 persons. The whole process was to be spread out over a 15-year period. The problem of 150,000 persons was left unsolved to be settled at a later date.

IT IS the fate of these 150,000 persons of Indian origin resident here that has now been solved, with India agreeing to accept half the number while we will confer citizenship rights on the rest. Thus, of the total number of 975,000 persons involved, when the whole scheme has been implemented through the two pacts arrived at in 1964 and 1974, India would have absorbed 600,000 persons, while we would have given citizenship rights to 375,000 persons.

Way back in 1964, there were some who poohed-poohed the entire Sirima-Shastri Pact as an unprincipled one, based on jiggery with figures more suited to a deal relating to animals rather than human beings. There may be some truth in this accusation when judging the Sirima-Shastri pact on its various provisions alone. But the whole agreement will be viewed differently if seen in the light of the history of the problem and the various attempts made to solve it.

THE PROBLEM between India and Sri Lanka is an old one, created by the influx into this island of vast numbers of Indian labourers to work the plantations as a source of cheap labour. And even before the attainment of independence by the two countries, this was a matter that was taken up for discussion between the leaders of the two states.

One of the first attempts at solution was through the D. S. Senanayake-Bajpai talks held in the late 1930's. These failed. Nor did the talks held with Indian representatives succeed after Ceylon

was granted independence in 1948 and Mr. Senanayake took up the matter again in his new capacity as the first Prime Minister of Ceylon.

When his son, Dudley Senanayake took up the matter again with the Indian Premier, Jawaharlal Nehru, (when they met in London for the coronation of Queen Elizabeth in 1953), the matter had been complicated somewhat by the enactment of the citizenship laws by this country. This had embittered relations between India and Ceylon. It was therefore no cause for surprise when Dudley Senanayake failed to make any headway in his talks with Pandit Nehru.

SOON AFTER he succeeded Dudley Senanayake as Prime Minister, Sir John Kotelawala came to an agreement with Nehru which was hailed in some quarters as a victory for Sri Lanka and viewed with doubt in others as one that will break down due to different interpretations that would be given by the two sides to the various provisions of the agreement. In the end, it was the latter that was proved right.

Not only did the agreement break down over different interpretations, it considerably complicated the Indo-Ceylon problem by creating a new class of so-called "stateless" persons, a term coined by C. C. Desai, the clever Indian Government representative in Ceylon.

It was after the problem had been stalemated for ten long years, that Mrs. Bandaranaike in her negotiations with Indian Premier

Lal Bhadur Shastri in late 1964 arrived at a workable, practical solution to a problem that had defied solution for decades.

The problem was further complicated with her defeat at the polls a few months later. The Dudley Senanayake Government which came to power again was accused by some of deliberately sabotaging the pact to accommodate his new-found friend, Mr. Thondaman, who had worked for him at the 1965 elections. We do not know whether there is any truth in the allegation that he deliberately sabotaged the pact. But that there was little headway made in its implementation during the years that he was Prime Minister few can gainsay.

WITH THE return to power of the UF Government with Mrs. Bandaranaike as Prime Minister again, the way was paved for implementing the pact both in letter and spirit. The numbers of persons to be given Indian citizenship and repatriated to their homes every year were revised to make up for the lag in the 1965-70 period.

It is, no doubt, the way that the pact has been implemented to the mutual satisfaction of both the neighbouring Asian states during these last few years that has hastened the solution of the residual problem of those 150,000 persons not included in the original pact.

There may be some who think that the solution of the problem of these 150,000 is somewhat unfavourable to Sri Lanka. There may be some who may have thought that the original ratio of 7:4 would be kept when it came to the solution of these 150,000 persons too and that the 50-50 solution is unfair by Sri Lanka. But, here again, the problem would look different when one bears in mind that the figure of 375,000 to whom we would eventually grant our citizenship and absorb as our own differs little from the number to whom Dudley Senanayake was prepared to grant citizenship rights when he discussed the problem with Nehru in 1953.

WHATEVER one's views may be on this or that aspect of the solution to the Indo-Ceylon problem that has been arrived at by the two agreements that Mrs. Bandara-

naïke concluded with Shastri and Mrs. Indira Gandhi, few will fail to raise a cheer that a long-standing problem that stood in the way of the friendliest possible relations between India and Sri Lanka has been solved and the path cleared for even better co-operation between the two countries in economic and other fields in the period ahead.

Much, of course, will depend on how the two agreements will be implemented. And till they are implemented, citizenship rights conferred on the two categories of persons and those granted Indian citizenship repatriated, no one can say that this vexing problem has been finally solved.

But that the roadblocks have been cleared and other obstacles removed to the final solution of a problem that has embittered relations between the two countries and the prospects brightened for fuller co-operation between them in all fields in future is a matter that will gladden the hearts of all patriots on both sides of the Palk Straits.

Artificial Sun

Moscow,

An inventor's certificate has been issued for the novelty "Artificial Sun." For the first time in world practice the "artificial sun" has been made in the laboratory of artificial climate of the Moscow Agricultural Academy. A special xenon installation of big capacity makes it possible to create July-like midday at any season, at any time of the day and night and in any place. It has been experimentally used for irradiating wheat, leguminous plants and vegetables. The investigations have shown a high efficiency of the "artificial sun". According to specialists, the new source of heat and light has big prospects. It will enable one to grow vegetables in large bunkers, fully isolated from the environment, which is especially important for regions with a cold climate. Besides, it can be used for lighting up towns situated within the Arctic Circle where people do not see the sun during long winter months.

APN

INDIAN RESEARCHER DISPUTES WESTERN CLAIMS

Study of Embryology in Ancient India

Research by a physician has revealed that sages in ancient India had made a scientific study of embryology (the origin and development of the human life) and drawn conclusions which almost accord with those of modern medical science.

Writing in the recent issue of the *Maharashtra Medical Journal*, Dr. P. V. Vartak, a medical science scholar and researcher, disputes the claim of the western as well as Indian scientists that the earliest scientific approach to embryology was attempted by Aristotle in 384 to 322 B.C.

"I can say, confidently, that the first scientific approach must be credited to the ancient Indian sages, particularly Kapil Muni who studied the growth of an embryo, long before the birth of Aristotle."

He maintains that embryology as presented in "Shrimad Bhagwat" and "Mahabharat" bears out the fact that scientific knowledge of the subject in India was far more advanced than what Aristotle or any other westerner knew of it.

Dr. Vartak says the western people till recent times used to think that babies were gifted by god while ancient Indians had found out which secretions of the body, were necessary for reproduction.

IT WAS clearly stated in the Mahabharat and also in Bhagwat that during copulation or after, shukra mixed with shonit, and only one fine particle of shukra (seminal fluid) conjugated with that of shonit.

"This suggests that they knew of sperms and they have termed the conjugate product of a sperm and an ovum as "kalal" which is nothing but the fertilised ovum", Dr. Vartak says.

Bhagwat mentions that it takes only the night for the kalal formation. Those ancient Indians he says used to have intercourse only during the "rutu-kala" the period of 12 days after cessation of menses.

"We know that the ovum remains fertilizable only for a short time probably measured in hours after its discharge from the ovary. Sperms also do not remain fertile for more than two to three days. Hence the statement from Bhagwat that kalal or zygote is formed in one night appears to be true", he says.

Dr. Vartak says, "The period taken by kalal to get transformed

into "budbud" (bubble) is five nights according to Bhagwat. It is a well-known fact that zygote does get transformed into a bubble-like stage called the blastocyst.

THE PERIOD of conversion of zygote to the blastocyst is not yet definitely known. The youngest ovum found free in the uterine cavity was on the fourth day and the youngest ovum in the uterus in partially embedded stage was seven days after ovulation.

From this modern data, we can conclude that the period required by kalal to turn into budbud as mentioned in Bhagwat is correct.

"Bhagwat further mentions that after ten days 'karkandhu' (a hardened small fruit) is formed. We know that by multiplication of cells and stratification, the zygote gets converted into a solid and round mass of cells."

Dr. Vartak says that descriptions as contained in Bhagwat relating to the various stages of development of embryo and formation of skin, hair and bones are no different from what was perceived by the study of modern embryology.

THESE and other statements from Bhagwat, Dr. Vartak maintains, are astonishingly accurate according to the ultramodern knowledge of embryology.

As all these changes were microscopic in nature and have occurred in the uterine cavity and because the ancient Indian sages have described everything accurately 7000-8000 years ago, "we were forced to accept their superiority in the science of life."

According to the author, Bhagwat was written in the period 4201 to 4260 years BC and Mahabharat in about 5600 years B.C.

IS IT TRUE?

Sherlock Holmes

❖ SATYAKRIYA ❖ HUNGER
❖ FOOD PRODUCTION

IS IT NOT TRUE that observers are surprised with the political ineptitude shown by the Government in announcing steep increases in rail and bus fares to become operative from the day before the Satyakriya to be performed in Kandy on February 5 by a powerful section of the Ma'ia Sangha? That even if the Satyakriya was regarded as a gimmick by many people, the announcement of the new bus and rail fares will ensure really vast crowds at not only the satyakriya but also at all protest meetings organised by the UNP and other Opposition groups? That if the Government were wise it would have postponed the announcement of the new bus and rail fares for a date after the satyakriya? That if the Government believed that it should confront the UNP and the Opposition with more and more economic impositions to provoke them at every turn then the Government will have only itself to blame if there is flare-up? That popular feelings are daily getting more keyed up because of the hardships they have to face? That the new bus and rail fares will hit in the really soft-under-belly of the weekly and monthly budget of wage-earners and others who have to travel to get to the workplaces or to places where they have to transact official business?

IS IT NOT STRANGE that the Government should thus offer the UNP more and more on a silver platter to enable them to mobilise popular resentment against the Government? That very soon the people will forget that the UNP has not yet formulated an alternative programme for a new coalition and in their deep frustration

follow the UNP because of the failure of the UF Government to provide the bare essentials in food, clothing, shelter and transport at reasonable prices commensurate with their earnings? That the situation is made worse because many of the bigwigs of the United Front government do not seem to realise that actual starvation has begun to stalk the land particularly in the rural sector? That many cannot now afford to have rice meals more than once or twice a week? That many other families now find it difficult to get even one square meal for a day? That some of these myopic UF pundits who live in ivory towers will do well to read the reportage in the Shamba series which had appeared in the Tribune last week (February 2)? That the story of the family in that article is typical of a vast number of families in the entire Wannl of Sri Lanka? That the yams and manioc about which so much hullabaloo was made is more readily available in the urban centres and not in the rural areas? That in the Wannl today, in many places, people have to go miles in search of manioc? That pundits in Colombo offices will quote bogus statistics about the acreage under manioc but if they go round they will not be able to produce the manioc yams for eating?

That it may be true that vast acreages were planted on paper; and even if done in reality, most of what was planted has dried up owing to the drought and the devastatingly partial north east monsoon? That only the manioc plots in farms where wells have been sunk will produce sufficient manioc to enable people to eat the same?

IS IT NOT A FACT that the food production drive so far has not lived up to expectations? That whilst the Prime Minister and other UF leaders have made everything they can possibly provide available for agriculture, most of the bureaucrats, politicians and others in charge of the food drive have fallen down on the jobs allotted to them? That to many of them the food production drive was only a gimmick and tamasha to submit enthusiastic reports and also have showpiece plots to show VIPs on circuit? That wedged in between numerous garlands, soul-stirring speeches and even more rousing reports, many VIPs are unable to see the grain from the chaff? That if the UNP satyagraha was only a gimmick and a gundu, the Government's food production war will turn out to be another gimmick unless there is drastic re-thinking on a large number of matters? That when the final tally of the Maha crop is made there will be a rude awakening among many VIPs? That it would be wrong to think that the drought can be made the excuse for the disaster? That what is really wrong is that the priorities are all wrong? That Tribune has all along pointed out that with the present set of priorities in the food production war failure and disaster was inevitable?

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Polluting the Antarctic

Although human settlements appeared in the Antarctic comparatively recently, the enormous and little explored continent is already showing signs of environmental pollution. The Los Angeles Times writes that at the McMurdo research station, one of the biggest the U.S. has in the Antarctic, thousands of tons of refuse is annually dumped on the ice, burnt, dynamited and allowed to drift out to sea where it settles in McMurdo Sound. The pollution destroys the structure of marine micro-organisms. Penguin colonies are moving deeper inland.