

# TRIBUNE

CEYLON NEWS REVIEW

Cts. 75

## UPHEAVAL EVERYWHERE

THE WORLD is today witnessing change in human affairs such as it has never known before, but the transition from the old to the new—and we still do not even have a clue as to what is the new—is marked by uncertainty and flux in every country and by bizarre events that shock imagination. The Turkish airliner which crashed near Paris with 345 people without a single survivor and, the British VC 10 which was set ablaze in Amsterdam are among the latest of tragedies that have hit world headlines. An economic crisis has shaken the capitalist world to its deepest foundations and what the outcome will be is hard to know, and though the socialist world continues to enjoy economic stability within the orbit of planned motivations problems have arisen which were never envisaged by the founding fathers of socialism.

BRITAIN, which until recently had a stable and profitable empire on which the sun never set, is today not only without an empire but is locked in a political crisis which has come on top of a devastating economic crisis. The General Elections of February 28, whilst making it clear that the British electorate would not be swept away by the gimmicks of the Tories, has produced a deadlock that passeth all understanding. Heath wants to cling to power but the fourteen Liberals—who count today—refuse to play the game the way the Tories want it. What next? In FRANCE, instability has led to major Governmental changes. ITALY is now without a Government and only a new election will help to resolve the difficulties. ISRAEL, too is without a Government because Golda Meir is unable to work out a coalition which will give her a working majority in the Knesset. INDIA is a world in itself, and whilst the elections in Pondicherry provided surprises, Mrs. Gandhi's Congress was able to win slender majorities in Orissa and the Uttar Pradesh—with the aid of the CPI. THE UNITED STATES, rich and mighty, is boiling over with problems, economic, political and social. Its wealth is so vast that its economic problems are still under control, but its social upheavals are today only barely discernible even to the most knowledgeable observers. But in the arena of politics one calamity after another has dogged the Nixon Administration, and the indictment of seven of the topmost aides of Richard Nixon by a Grand Jury has added new impetus to the already snow-balling Watergate scandal. And the US decision to upgrade the Diego Garcia military base in the India Ocean has stirred up a hornet's nest which Washington did not bargain for. With a lame duck government in Britain for the foreseeable future—at least, until a new election resolves the political stalemate—the US position in Diego Garcia will be weak. And, the era of detente which Nixon and Kissinger laboured so much to bring about is threatened with a new disruption—this time by the attention which the West has paid to the Soviet dissident Solzhenitsyn. This writer might well have passed unnoticed but for the fact that cold war enthusiasts in the West have sought to build him into a Goliath. From the English fragments of the *Gulab Archipelago* now available, he does not stand out as a writer of eminence or a master of style. But, he has been able to touch the most sensitive spots of Russian patriotism and Soviet sentiment with the insulting logic and idiom of western cold war weaponry—securing thereby millions in hard currency from publishers in Europe and America whilst at the same time isolating himself from the mainstreams of power and popularity inside his own country. In the era of detente, the cold war goes on, and Solzhenitsyn will no doubt soon fade away like another shooting star, although he is made out to be a mighty meteor or a perpetual comet—but even, the wonderful Kohoutek failed to light up in these revolutionary times upon the earth.

Vol. 18 No. 46

March 9, 1974

FERTILISERS,  
HUNGER &  
FOOD

INTER-  
NATIONAL  
AFFAIRS

CHRONICLE

SECOND ONLY  
TO YOUR  
WIFE, HUH?

IN ANIA

BLACK MONEY

SOVIET  
VIEWPOINT

IN SRI LANKA  
TODAY

# Tribunania

## \* Fertilisers, Hunger & Food

LONG BEFORE THE OIL CRISIS recently burst upon the world, a fertiliser crisis was already upon the world and upon little Sri Lanka as well. The oil crisis has only made matters worse because the petrochemical industry was the basis of much of the inorganic chemical fertilisers that has now been brought into use in the agriculture of the modern world. In Sri Lanka, the world shortage of fertilisers, and the consequent increase in fertiliser prices, has already begun to play havoc with our agricultural production.

The industry, where the impact of the shortage of fertiliser has been most felt, is the coconut industry. The production of coconuts has already showed a marked decline and the situation is likely to be worse in the coming months. Apart from the shortages of and the high prices for fertilisers, the coconut industry has already been badly affected by the Land Reform Act. Owners with surplus lands, and those who are still holding the lands as lessees for the Government, have not used any fertilisers on the land for nearly two years now. They do not know, moreover, what part of the estate would be allotted to them, with the result that even the portion which will ultimately be retained by the old owners have not been fertilised.

It is not the Land Reform alone which is to blame, but more the fact that everything is held up in high suspense. Additionally, the coconut lands so taken over are being fragmented to satisfy the land hunger of the landless, and production must necessarily, at least in the first instance, fall considerably. In the tea industry, too, production has begun to decline not only because of the prevailing drought but also because

of the difficulties of obtaining supplies of fertiliser even at the prevailing high prices.

In these circumstances, there is a great deal of noise being made in many quarters that organic manure and compost could replace the chemical fertilisers that have been mainly used all these years. Apart from the question of how soon we can produce adequate quantities of organic manure and compost, it is also necessary to see whether organic manure can entirely fill the gap created by the acute shortage of chemical fertilisers. It is accepted that "a multi-pronged nutrient system has to be developed in each block if agricultural advance was to be sustained in spite of fertiliser shortage.

**Political leaders in Sri Lanka and other VIPs now regularly call upon farmers to rely completely on organic manures in this critical period. The fertiliser shortage offers a major challenge to all interested in agriculture, and as in everything else the challenge has to be met on a short as well as long range basis.**

The traditional farmers of this country have for countless centuries used only organic manures, but in the more recent times when the soil was being more fully exploited by high yielding varieties of agricultural crops, they had discovered that without an appropriate admixture of chemical fertilisers it was not possible to get the best out of any soil. It is an accepted axiom that nutrients taken out of the soil must be replaced in one form or another. This is the only way of maintaining soil fertility.

As far as is known to the public there has been no proper survey of the fertiliser needs of this country particularly for paddy and subsidiary crops. In India, work has been done in this aspect of agriculture on a more elaborate scale, and though much of the information may be based on approximations and estimates, the information available is of immense help.

It has been estimated, for instance that cultivated crops in India at present consume an average of 4.2 million tons of nitrogen, 2.1 million tons of phosphoric acid

and 7.3 million tons of potash. What is replaced by organic manures including plant residues, so far only make up about 30 to 40 percent of the amount taken out. The chemical fertilisers now used fill no more than another 10 to 15 percent of the gap. This means that in a country like India, with its huge livestock population, there is a big shortage of all manures—organic, green manures and chemical fertilisers. But it must be remembered that owing to the lack of fuel for domestic purposes people are compelled to burn as much as an estimated 200 million tons of cowdung every year. The burning of cowdung constitutes a wastage of organic as well as chemical fertilisers and it has been stressed that India should arrest this wastage of cowdung to resolve its fertiliser shortage.

It will be seen that in India there is already a 50% gap in the soil nutrient supply. What it is in Ceylon in the traditional farming areas—not the big plantations of tea, rubber and coconut—is not known, and if one should hazard a guess it will be clear that except in certain parts of the island like the Jaffna peninsula, soil deficiency will soon be so high that our soil will be greatly impaired.

Whereas in India this problem has begun to engage the attention of all interested in agriculture at every level, in Sri Lanka there is a creeping lethargy in regard to all matters connected with agricultural production. Stirring platform speeches—and we have a surfeit of them—about increasing food production using cowdung and compost make interesting reading, but they do not help to bring about a concrete solution of the problem.

*Tribune* was prompted to examine this question because of a large number of articles which have appeared in Indian newspapers, journals, magazines and periodicals on this question. One illuminating article was by a writer called R. C. Kesavamurthy. Excerpts from one of his articles provide information valuable to people in this country.

THE WRITER stresses the proper manner in which organic manures are best used. He sets out the

known virtues of organic manures and mentions the manner in which Indian farmers can improve the quality and content of such organic manures. Farmers in Ceylon can also derive much benefit from it by adopting such methods. It must be mentioned that all these methods are known in Sri Lanka and the highly qualified officers of our Agricultural Department have produced learned memoranda on organic manures, compost-making and the like, but the point is that very little has so far been done about translating into practice what has been set out in theory. It is good to know what is said, but it is more important to get things done.

The suggestions by the Indian writer are pointed and pertinent: "The bulkiness of the organic manures benefits the physical properties (textiles) of the soil specially in regard to tith, moisture relationships, aeration and soil temperature. Their chemical constituents add to the plant nutrients in the soil including a few micro-nutrients and improve their availability. In the process of decomposition in the soil the organic manures improve the micro-biological regimes. Even though the benefits accruing from the use of organic manures, there are certain insurmountable economic factors that force him from not fully utilising this manurial resource. But definitely, he can improve the storing and handling methods and benefit substantially.

"The traditional procedure in making farm yard manures is to mix both the liquid and solid excretions, using a retaining litter such as straws. From time to time this mixture is removed from the shed and piled in a heap or a pit. The nitrogen in the urine is largely in a very unstable form, which is rapidly oxidised to ammonium carbonate. And this substance is even more unstable for it quickly breaks up into free ammonia and free carbon-di-oxide. This nitrogen loss takes place at appreciable rates in the cattle sheds. The more loosely packed the litter and excrement mixture in the heap or the pit, the more air gets at the urine-nitrogen and the more oxidation takes place. Great care is needed to minimise this loss. Like this, there are several ways and means of retaining the nutrient

value of organic manures in different stages. These methods will have to be popularised."

It is correct that the methods mentioned should be popularised, but how?

Mere assertions in newspaper reports, (however large the headlines), pontifical talks over the SLBC, ministerial pronouncements from public platforms and even lectures by technical officers are all very good in their own way, but unless there are practical demonstrations in each farm and persuasion at every level, very little will be done. Bureaucrats and even Political Authority seem to be satisfied by distributing money in some areas to enable farmers to dig pits to make compost. After that what the bureaucrats only check is whether the money has been handed out and only in some cases do they even check whether the pits for which the money was given had in fact been dug—but there is little or no follow up, to see whether the compost is being made in the pits which were dug at government expense. (quite often the pits are not dug and the money spent on other things, and at other times the money is shared between the officials distributing the money and colluding landowners—without any pits being dug at all).

But, in India, where the green revolution has taken firm and deep root in the minds of people in the rural areas, it would appear things are somewhat different. "Village and town refuse compost, green-manures and night-soil are the other major sources of plant nutrients in which much work is needed to conserve plant nutrients and to distribute them to the fields where plants can make use of them. On the basis of the principle that two-thirds of the nitrogen in the plant as that coming from the atmosphere and the rest from the soil in a legume, it is estimated that it is possible to add to the soil from 30 to 70 lbs. of nitrogen from atmosphere per acre through green manures for the benefit of succeeding crops. Quick and effective improvements in storing, handling and applying these several organic manurial materials are possible and the potential supply of plant nutrients can be increased substantially. But it must be realised that it is a time-consuming method

and its bulkiness requires large scale transportation facilities.

"The nutrients from organic and green manures are slowly available to plants. Although the organic matter improves the water-holding capacity of the soil, it provided largely nitrogenous nutrients only and the P and K nutrients necessary for plant growth are not present in proportionate quantities. According to experts, chemical fer-

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fertilizers and organic manures are at best complementary to each other and one cannot wholly substitute for the other."

The writer finally goes back to a basic question: can organic manures fill the gap which has now been caused by the shortage of fertilisers? There are no doubts many who believe that organic manure and green plant residue can provide all the nutrients the soil requires. For a long time, a serious controversy seems to have raged among agronomists and scientists as to whether organic manures will be able to eliminate the use of chemical-fertilisers. The writer Kesava-murthy, sums up the position in this way: "The complacency in high quarters that organic manures will fill the gap caused by the current fertiliser shortage, if left long enough to persist will cause serious damage. The hard-core believers of the organic school of thought in U.K. some years back were opposed to chemical fertilizers totally. But they finally accepted the theory that both are complementary to each other, since they discovered that it was impractical to produce intensively for any length of time with organic manures only."

"While it is certain that the already scarce organic manures will not fill this gap caused by fertilizer shortage, it is indeed a great help to our agriculture that these much neglected aspects of organic and green manures will get the due attention they deserve. Farmers must be taught to make use of the several available organic materials as manures. Judging from the current over-all situation an intense campaign on a war-footing is warranted to avoid wastage and to take maximum benefit out of the available organic manures."

IN SRI LANKA, where in our view there has so far been no real awareness of the urgent need for a green revolution coupled with the determination to produce more food, we have a long way to go before the massive drive to effect a breakthrough on the food front can be achieved. Land Reform, which has radically beneficial political motivations, has not yet had any impact on inducing greater production in the food war. On the contrary, it has had a most depressing effect on food produc-

tion. Those who will benefit and who have benefited by Land Reform, through fragmentation, are in no position to increase production.

Theorists and pundits argue that in the first phase of a pre-socialist revolution, it was necessary to distribute the land to the landless and that it was only after the land hunger of the petty bourgeoisie instincts of the peasants, of agricultural labourers and others have been satisfied, it would be possible to organise large co-operative, state and collective farms from these fragmented units. It is said that this was the way both Lenin and Mao had done it in Russia and China.

This is only a simplistic and over-generalised view of what really took place in Russia and China, but what Lenin did was on the basis of a massive in-depth study of the Russian peasantry on the most scientific lines. In Ceylon, no Marxist or even a radical has yet examined the structure, class instincts, the economic position of the peasants and the agricultural community in their socio-political setting — territory-wise, ethnic-wise, language-wise and so on. Without such a study, land reform and all attempts to regenerate our agriculture through the distribution of developed and already productive land will be of little avail. Land is now being distributed not on the basis of scientific studies, but on the political imperatives of the party or coalition in power. This has already led to a breakdown in the productive process — and the situation is made worse by the global and domestic food shortages.

It is time that our political pundits to realise that what was done in Russia or in China cannot be applied mechanically in Sri Lanka. Any lessons we derive from the revolution in Russia, China or in any other country must undergo qualitative transformation in the crucible of the class and economic realities of the situation in Sri Lanka.

WHILE THE LEARNED and powerful argue whether the Sri Lanka revolution is on the way to fulfilment, there is growing breakdown in production—and this no amount of propaganda in govern-

ment-controlled newspapers or on the State Radio can hide for long. It is easy enough to blame the black marketeer, but it will not be long before those who now make a convenience of the so-called black-market trader to hide the acts of commission and omission of the Bureaucracy realise that this bluff cannot fool the people all the time.

In a short while all the paddy hoarded by blackmarketees would have come out for consumption. And, it will also not be long before all the paddy retained by the producers—even without the Government expropriating and seizing these stocks—is also consumed. It will also not take much time for all concerned to know that the Maha and the Yala have failed this country this year—in spite of the tall boasts of the bureaucrats and politicians.

But, it will certainly take much greater time for people to realise that the food production war has not lived up to expectations not because of the UNP (and its reactionary sabotage), not because of bad weather alone, not because of greedy farmers and blackmarketees. All these may have contributed in one way or another to the worsening situation, but the real cause of the failure to produce our minimum food requirements rests fully and squarely on the self-defeating policies, under cover of radicalism, that have boomeranged and the total ineptitude of the Administration to get things done. The day the consciousness of this fact dawns on the people, it will mean trouble for everybody.

**Hunger is daily mounting in the land. Deaths from starvation will become a reality within a matter of weeks or months. The rice given on the ration is most inadequate and there are many thousands who do not possess ration books. There is no off-ration rice to be had even for gold.**

There are not enough substitutes to go round which comes within the purchasing power of the ordinary man. Soya beans cost over Rs. 7 a lb. Mungatta, maize, yams, manioc—if available—cost much more than what an ordinary wage earner, with a wife

and three children, can afford to pay. Exhibitions in Colombo on the virtues of substitutes (*poshanaya a la carte*) will help the rich and the powerful to satisfy their sophisticated palates. What people need is not delicacies that culinary experts produce to win exhibition awards, but ordinary plain carbohydrates and proteins (which they know how to cook) at reasonable cost.

There is a spectre now haunting this land; and people in high places are unwilling to recognise the reality of its existence. The spectre cannot be hidden for much longer behind propaganda smokescreen about UNP reaction, about the machinations of blackmarketeers or even half-truths about adverse weather conditions.

In India, in China and in other countries, even drought-ridden districts have begun to produce food by tapping groundwater resources—and this was done through

crash programmes over two or three years during a severe drought period. And when ordinary people realise all this, it will be a Day of Reckoning for many who have misled the people into thinking that they will at least have food to eat.

So far as they are concerned, all the established political Parties have all failed them. The UNP continues to live in conservatively diehard world of its own far removed from the realities of the world at large and Sri Lanka in particular. The United Front is lost in a world of Great Expectations on the basis of radical reforms to reduce social and economic inequalities, improve distribution by a process of levelling down and effect greater social justice through by bringing more and more of the means of production under public control.

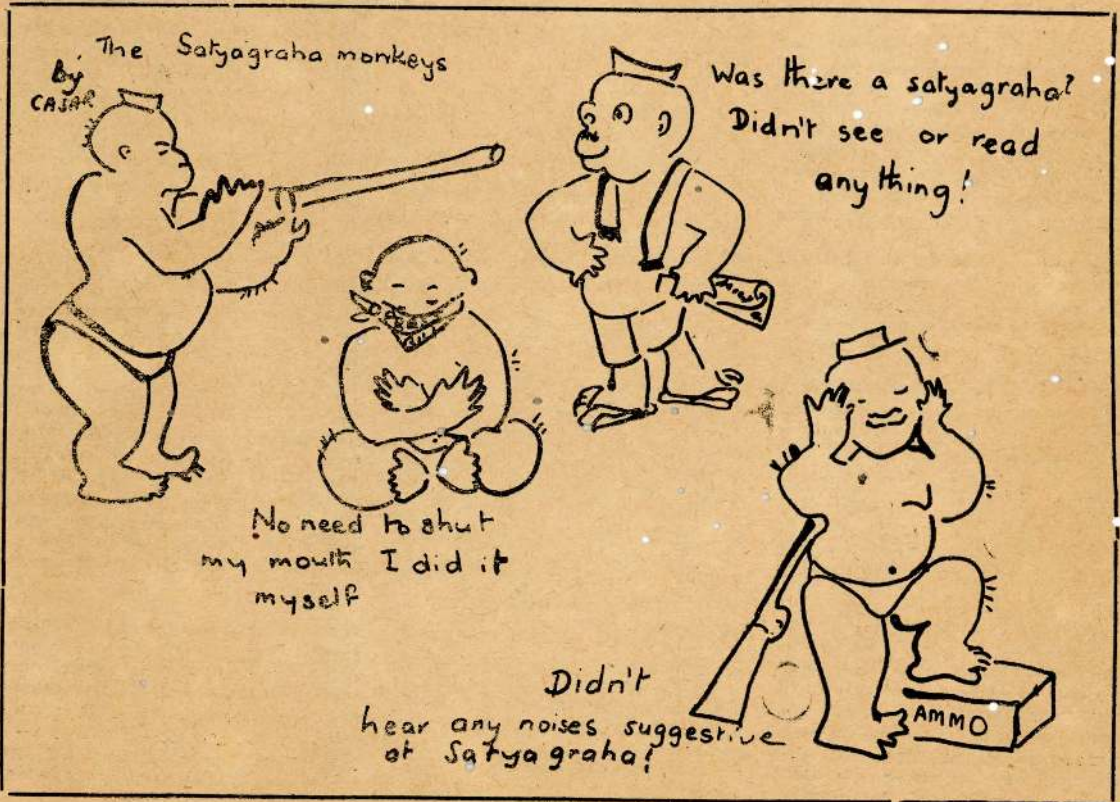
**People must have food. They cannot, this year, wait until it is produced in this country.**

Food has therefore to be imported immediately in quantities much more than had been estimated by our purblind bureaucrats.

And if the food, people need next year is to be grown here, very important measures must be taken to ensure such production. And fertilisers is one of the most urgent commodities which must be arranged for.

**Bright Idea**

The police chief in Hollywood—the one in Florida and not California—has issued orders to distribute 2,500 whistles among the city's elder people. This is the only bright idea that came to him to help protect them from holdups, which are becoming increasingly frequent.



## INTERNATIONAL-AFFAIRS

BY ARIEL

## \* All in Asia

THE ISLAMIC SUMMIT at Lahore held at the end of last month, has been the most significant event in recent times—so far as this region is concerned. In the context of the continuing oil crisis, intertwined with the crisis of the world monetary system, the Lahore Summit had a great deal of importance because all the leading oil-rich oil exporters of the Middle East and the Mediterranean region had attended it. It was also meaningful because the Islamic leaders had prevailed upon Pakistan to recognise Bangladesh "unconditionally", that is without tying it with the question of the war crimes trial of 195 Pakistani army generals and others.

Apart from the recognition of Pakistan, the Summit also kept the perennial question of Kashmir out of its public sessions, and from all accounts this matter had also been kept out of all discussions although Azad Kashmir leaders had for some time before the Summit been demanding that Islamic leaders should take up this matter. It had been reported that on the eve of the Islamic Summit in Lahore, India had sent separate communications to all the participating countries asking them not to take part in discussions on extraneous subjects like the sub-continental affairs if Pakistan raised them.

The communications addressed to very friendly countries, including some Arab nations, had urged their leaders to reject any discussion on Kashmir, which India had explained, was completely outside the scope of deliberations of the summit.

It had also been reported that Pakistan had also intensified diplomatic activity in Lahore after Foreign Ministers of several countries have begun preliminary discussions to take the consent of at least some countries to support Pakistan when it raised the ques-

tion of India, Bangladesh and Pakistan relations. India's communication has emphasised that if Pakistan raised issues concerning the sub-continental affairs it would jeopardise the process of normalisation. The communication had pointed out that the primary purpose of the Islamic Summit was to mobilise support for the Arab cause—vacation of occupied territories and restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinians. Any other issue, particularly pertaining to the sub-continent, would be extraneous.

India's first official reaction to the summit had come on February 15, when the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Swaran Singh had warned Pakistani leaders "to restrain themselves and not succumb to the temptation of raking up issues concerning the Indian sub-continent." India's communication has recalled the "total" support India gave to the Arabs during the conflict with Israel and reiterated its stand.

Even before the Conference had begun it was said that some participating countries had favourably responded to the Indian communication.

It was also known that Bangladesh fully supported the stand taken by India and that Dacca very strongly felt that discussion on the sub-continent's affairs would totally defeat the purpose of the Summit. The Afghan envoy, Mr. Abdul Rahman Pazhwak, had told the conference delegates in Lahore that no disputed issues should be placed on the Summit agenda, according to Radio Kabul.

India's adroit handling of the situation and the firm support given to it by the Bangladesh government were no doubt largely responsible for making the Islamic Foreign Ministers decide that the agenda of the Summit would be devoted exclusively to the question of West Asia. Accordingly, the Summit which had met from February 22 to 24 confined their attention to the situation in West Asia, the Palestinian cause, the strong attachment of Muslims to Jerusalem and the determination of their governments to liberate it. Thirty seven (37) Muslim countries had attended the meeting at Lahore, and significantly Pakistan herself

did not formally raise the question of Kashmir.

Apart from the strong resolution adopted at the Summit on the Arab-Israeli dispute, the only important matter which had created differences at the Conference concerned the supply of oil to the developing low-income countries of the Third World. Even Pakistan had made a plea that the oil-rich Islamic countries should sell oil to the poor countries on a concessionary basis. But there is no doubt that price differentiation as between rich industrialised nations and non-rich developing countries involved many practical difficulties especially because some of the poorer developing countries were only client states of the richer countries. In the end, the Summit had adopted a resolution that oil prices and increases would be uniform, but that the oil-rich countries would grant monetary aid and credit to the developing countries to purchase supplies of crude and even refined oil.

THE RECOGNITION OF BANGLADESH by Pakistan and a number of other Muslim countries which had not recognised the Dacca regime so far is an important landmark in the history of the sub-continent. Shortly before the Summit had begun, Pakistan had announced that it was ready to normalise relations with India in terms of the Simla Agreement—something which had been delayed by Pakistan because of the obsession about the proposed war crimes trial of 195 Pakistanis, demanded by Bangladesh. This was a clear indication that the Islamic Summit would pave the way for effecting greater degree of normalcy than before on the sub-continent. Pakistan had tried every way of getting Bangladesh to the Summit without prior recognition, but Mujibur Rahman had been firm, and he had refused to go without unconditional recognition. Finally, a special delegation of seven Islamic leaders had gone to Dacca and had arrived at a solution. Bhutto had then announced the "recognition." It is believed that a formula has been evolved, within the terms of the Simla Agreement, regarding the 195 war crimes prisoners, acceptable to all parties.

INDIA WELCOMED the recognition no sooner it was made,

although it was belated because it came 26 months after Bangladesh's emergence as an independent state. There was widespread hope in India that this would lead to the establishment of a durable peace in the subcontinent. In the absence of the Prime Minister who was away on an election tour in UP, the External Affairs Minister Mr. Swaran Singh made had a brief statement in Parliament to this effect soon after Mr. Bhutto announced the recognition "as a benign gesture of Islamic reconciliation." He had also remarked that better late than never the Pakistani recognition was a vindication of India's basic approach to the problems of peace and stability in the subcontinent. It was a culmination of the joint efforts of India and Bangladesh for a lasting settlement with Pakistan. And it had also enhanced the prestige of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman who stuck resolutely to his stand that he would not go to Lahore to attend the Islamic summit unless Bangladesh was recognised by Pakistan.

G. K. Reddy, the New Delhi correspondent of the *Hindu*, reflecting no doubt the thinking in New Delhi official circles had made some revealing remarks about the new situation after the Pakistan recognition of Bangladesh. This is what he said in a despatch shortly after the recognition.

"But the dubious manner in which Pakistan has done it by associating the other Muslim countries with the decision, to give a religious twist to what is essentially a political act, has naturally given rise to a certain amount of suspicion about the possible motivations behind this extraordinary procedure. Nevertheless there is a lot of admiration in Delhi for Mr. Bhutto's fine sense of timing in announcing the recognition to day to induce Bangladesh to participate in the Islamic conference in these dramatic circumstances.

"The Arab intermediaries who have brought about this reconciliation have displayed considerable diplomatic skill in establishing some meeting ground between the seemingly irreconcilable positions of Pakistan and Bangladesh over the war crimes question. While Mr. Bhutto has been insisting that he would not recognise Bangladesh until it had agreed to drop these

trials, Shikh Mujibur Rahman refused to give any such undertaking since under the Delhi agreement the fate of the 195 POWs charged with war crimes was to be decided at a tripartite meeting on the basis of sovereign equality between India, Bangladesh and Pakistan. And the Arab emissaries have evidently succeeded in evolving a compromise formula for adhering to the procedures prescribed by the Delhi Agreement on the basis of some private understanding that the idea of the proposed trials would be given up in due course."

It must be remembered that in India a great deal of attention is paid to what India will do and will not do. Reddy takes it for granted that China will soon follow Pakistan's example and recognise Bangladesh. He went on to say: "The politics of the sub-continent will enter now an altogether new phase which will be full of pitfalls, as well as opportunities for establishing lasting peace in the region. The Pakistan recognition of Bangladesh is bound to be followed by similar Chinese action soon, apart from what the Islamic community will try to do for forging closer ties with it."

But, this recognition by Pakistan and China though welcomed has many serious implications for India. And this is how Reddy sums up the position: "The presence of the Pakistani and Chinese Embassies in Dacca will certainly provide enough encouragement to the unfriendly elements in Bangladesh to stir up anti-Indian sentiment, despite Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's best efforts to discourage it. But if India handles the situation with skill and imagination, it can isolate these hostile elements in Bangladesh and remove the remaining hurdles to a progressive improvement of its relations with both China and Pakistan.

"The mere act of recognition of Bangladesh by Pakistan will not go far enough in burying the hatchet and letting the bygones be bygones without the necessary follow up action in various spheres. There will be greater need now than before for building up a more equitable relationship through fresh political, economic and cultural contacts between them. And Pakistan cannot afford, in this new

situation, to evade the repeated Indian pleas for proceeding with the implementation of the next phase of the Simla Agreement for the restoration of trade, communications and overflights which will be essential for resuming its links

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with Bangladesh across the sub-continent."

Reddy, like other Indian commentators, seems naturally concerned about the powerful impact made by the Muslim countries and hints at the danger the secular Indian Republic either tailing behind or drifting behind the oil-rich Arab countries in the belief that these theocratic states are non-aligned and for that reason it was useful to sail along with them in the difficult and complex world of today.

"But in facilitating these processes of reconciliation between Bangladesh and Pakistan, India will have to keep up some credible distinction between its secular approach and its tendency to go along with the theocratic politics of the Islamic countries in the belief that a good many of them are also non-aligned nations pursuing non-religious policies in the wider field of international relations. Since no country has done more than India in persistently championing the Arab cause, there is absolutely no need for it to unwittingly allow itself to be pressurised or pushed around by the Islamic States over sub-continental developments for sustaining its secular image. And according to competent political observers here, this is the main lesson that India has to learn from the latest turn of events culminating in the Islamic conference's involvement in the politics of the sub-continent."

In spite of these misgivings among many in India, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi welcomed Pakistan's recognition of Bangladesh and said it was "a matter of great satisfaction to India" that it had come about. She said: "We are glad to receive the news that Pakistan has recognised Bangladesh. We have always felt that this was an essential step for the normalisation of relations between Bangladesh and Pakistan and for peace and co-operation on the sub-continent. Ever since the Simla conference, we have urged Pakistan on various occasions to take the step. Therefore, it is a matter of great satisfaction to us that this has finally come about."

News reports about the reactions concerning the recognition of Bangladesh from different capitals indicated that Bhutto had not

only timed the act of recognition with diplomatic precision but with also uncanny shrewdness. This is how an agency despatch summed up the reactions immediately after the act of recognition. "The announcement to-day of Bangladesh's recognition by Pakistan evoked instant and spontaneous acclaim in the Soviet Union which is among the earliest and consistent advocate of the step as a guarantee for peace and stability in the sub-continent. Within minutes of the announcement *Tass* came up with a commentary warmly welcoming it and said the recognition met the interests of all countries of South Asia and opened up prospect for the development of friendship, co-operation and good neighbourly relations and for durable peace and security of peoples of the area.

"The commentary expressed the hope that Bangladesh would now be able to take its legitimate place in the United Nations, thus assuming China would also recognise Bangladesh and lift its blockade of the young republic's admission to the world body. The normalisation of relations between Pakistan and Bangladesh is viewed, in the words of the *Tass*, as a blow at the positions of the forces that are interested in preservation of tensions in the area which will include in Soviet parlance both the Western Powers and China.

"A Foreign office spokesman of the British Government said, 'we naturally welcomed this encouraging development. The United States welcomed Pakistan's recognition of Bangladesh, the State Department said to-day. The State Department spokesman, Mr. John King, said, 'We are very pleased that this issue is resolved. It is also our hope that this event presages further steps intended to assure harmony and stability in South Asia....'"

**THE ONLY MAJOR COUNTRY** from which no reaction was immediately forthcoming was China. Up to the time of writing these notes, no comments have come from Peking about the Pakistan recognition of Bangladesh nor was there any hint as to how soon China was likely to follow Pakistan in this matter.

There are a great many things about China which have once again

begun to puzzle people all over the world. The *Economist*, 2/2/74, in a leading article entitled **SOMETHING'S UP IN CHINA** asked the question *Is the young radical Wang Hung-wen preparing to pull the rug from under Chou En-lai's moderate policies?* and said: "Like a compass gone berserk, China's political indicators are pointing all ways at once. There are clear signs that the moderates are in control, how else can an arch 'capitalist-roader' and tried old party bureaucrat like Teng Hsiao-ping be restored to the politburo? And there are equally clear signs that the radicals are on the rampage: who else could be inciting rebellion against parents, teachers, party officials, Confucius and Beethoven? Why indeed would all these contradictory things be happening if China were not working itself up for another round of cultural revolution....?"

It is not only in internal matters in which the new upheaval seems to have erupted. The capture of the Paracels Archipelago in the South China Seas, after a military battle with South Vietnamese forces was a major pointer that China was now in a new mood of militancy in external matters. The Chinese had also with dramatic finesse thrown out a number of Soviet diplomats as "spies" who had been caught red-handed in an alleged maladroit episode of a puerile and amateurish spy act. These actions were on one place, but if reports from India are to be believed China's new militancy has begun to surface in the most unexpected fashion in underground "liberation" movements also.

G. K. Reddy, the Hindu correspondent, in a New Delhi despatch recently drew special attention to a new intrusion of China's ultra-revolutionary politics into the Naga areas on the India frontier. This is what Reddy said: "A new group of Naga hostiles, which has recently returned from China eluding the vigilance of the security forces on the Indo-Burma border is responsible for the latest incidents in which nearly 20 persons have so far lost their lives. An IAS officer Mr. K. K. Gupta, Additional Deputy Commissioner, and Mr. L. R. Sailo, Extra Assistant Commissioner and their civilian driver were killed and four jawans of their



escort party were killed in an ambush last week in the Zunheboto district. One more army jawan was killed and four others injured in another such ambush on Monday in the Manipur east district. There have been several such incidents in the last few weeks in this sensitive region where the newly reinforced Naga underground elements have been taking advantage of the election tempo in the two States to step up their terrorism.

"These Naga hostiles had planned to stage some major incidents at the time of the Prime Minister's visit at the end of December but the security forces which came to know of their plans took the necessary preventive action to forestall these attempts in good time. But since then the underground elements have been resorting to indiscriminate violence to strike terror by ambushing official teams on election duty and creating a feeling of insecurity in the districts."

THE SITUATION in the North Eastern border states of India is indeed very tricky, and in the recent elections in two of the States the ruling Government parties had come out badly. This means that the Government has not been successful in wooing the people of these states through leaders and others who were allied to the ruling Congress. Nevertheless, the Indian Government will probably continue the policy of "pacification" (shades of Vietnam) which it has pursued for some time now. China and other countries hostile to India have a fruitful arena for intrigue in this situation. From Reddy's reports and comments, it would seem that what has surprised New Delhi is that China, after a period of lull, should once again enter the lists through the Naga underground.

"The policy of pacification followed by the Government of India all these years has, no doubt, helped to convince the bulk of the Naga people that by giving up the path of violence they would be able to revert to their traditional ways of life as equal citizens of the Indian Union. The Government has been able to win over many of the hard core terrorists and rehabilitate them without penalising them for their past actions. And as a fitting climax to this process

of assimilation, a number of them have been recruited into paramilitary organisations like the Border Security Force.

"Though the Indian security forces on the Burma border and in Nagaland itself are well equipped to cope with the attempt of the remnants of the underground to revive their terrorism, the renewed Chinese involvement on however small a scale raises certain wider issues which India cannot afford to ignore. After its earlier attempts in the sixties to train and arm the Naga hostiles, Peking offered no fresh encouragement to them to continue to rely heavily on Chinese and Pakistani help for sustaining their terrorism.

"A good many of the Chinese trained underground Nagas were either killed or captured while attempting to get back to Nagaland through Burma. Some of them preferred to surrender than face certain death in the inhospitable jungles on the Indo-Burma border region. And the generous attitude of the Government even in the face of this grave provocation encouraged many others to give themselves up and settle down as peaceful citizens.

"So it is not clear what objectives China has in mind in training and sending back fresh batches of Naga hostiles to resume their guerrilla warfare. Apart from prolonging the 12-year old freeze in Sino-Indian relations, any fresh Chinese involvement in the Naga affair is bound to impede the processes of normalisation in the sub-continent."

*Is there any new change in China's policies in regard to other countries?*

With the detente with the USA and admission to the UN, it was believed that China had turned over a new leaf and that it dropped its revolutionary postures to encourage and support underground movements of protest against established governments. But now, within two years of its being admitted to the world body, there are strange stirrings inside China which nobody quite seems to understand.

In recent months, the Dacca government has had to take note of new activities by the pro-Mao groups in Bangladesh not only to

lead protest movements against Mujibur Rahman but also to link up with their comrades in West Bengal and elsewhere in India to initiate co-ordinated action. These groups have also started "hate campaigns" against India and the Soviet Union. The *Hindustan Times* reported from New Delhi that after a long period of quiet, Naxalites in Calcutta and other places were receiving fresh supplies of arms and money via Nepal. Indian Naxalites, it would seem, have been taken to task by their foreign comrades and collaborators for limiting their activities to individual acts of terrorism, and it seems that they have now been told that their primary objective should be to "surround the cities by villages," as formulated by Mao Tse-tung. Indian Naxalite journals, in a concrete mood of self-criticism, have admitted that the campaign of individual terror against "class enemies" and attacks on police stations had not produced the desired results. It is likely that the Naxalites in India will follow different tactics in future to achieve their objective.

Urban Naxalites in India have also dropped individual terrorism and are now busy infiltrating other political parties, trade unions, youth organisations as well as administration and public sector enterprises. What has surprised official Indian circles is that the new Naxalites do not indulge in any anti-government activities or participate in any kind of sabotage. These tactics seemed to be followed even in the smaller states where the Nagas and the Mizos live—and if the current elections are any indications these Naxalite Maoist elements seemed to have gone a long way in swinging the people away from the ruling established political parties.

New Delhi is rightly very concerned about all this and the increase in anti-government acts of espionage, subversion and sabotage but this is a battle which any government in the modern world has to face. The question which seems to trouble New Delhi is why there should be an upsurge of Naxalite activity on a new dimensional plane just at this time when strange new happenings have begun to shake up China.

The *Economist*, 2/2/74, posed the question thus: "The mood of China today is distinctly reminiscent of '66. Now, as then, young people are in the vanguard of an assault against authority in universities and schools. A young man in a rural commune in Liaoning set the pace in July with a denunciation of university entrance exams. His theme—that making revolution is more important than book-learning—has since been given nationwide publicity and the stamp of approval from the *People's Daily*. A group of secondary school students in Shanghai applied similar arguments in their successful poster campaign in October to allow copying, or 'exchanging opinions', during exams. In the past month, two model rebels have emerged, a 12-year old girl in Peking who appealed to the local newspaper against a teacher "who suppressed democracy", and a student at Nanking University who resigned his university place because it had been obtained through the influence of his father, a party official. All these acts of protest have been widely praised as examples of the 'revolutionary spirit of going against the tide'. This phrase first appeared last August in a *People's Daily* commentary on the hero of Liaoning, but it popped up again two weeks later at China's 10th Party Congress, when it was attributed to Mao Tse-tung and writtelf into the party constitution. Since then it has been the subject of a running controversy in the Chinese press as radicals and moderates have defined it and redefined it. The radicals, who really own 'going against the tide', interpret it as defiance of the majority by a minority which has somehow become the sole vehicle of maoist truth..."

AFTER 'SETTING OUT other details about recent developments in China, The *Economist* went on to say "all this makes a convincing case for the imminence of another cultural revolution. Yet the evidence is ambiguous. This revival of the anti-Beethoven drive, which last flared up in 1966, could be just another instance of knee-jerk radicalism, just a nationalistic shot in the battle of the tide. But because music has in fact been the only form of western culture to penetrate China since Mr. Nixon's visit in 1972 (both the London Philharmonic and the Philadelphia

Symphony played Beethoven in China last year and Peking's own orchestra played it for Mr. Kissinger) the campaign acquires a particular importance. Could it be meant as an attack on contacts with the west and detente in general? One straw in the wind is the cancellation this week of the long-standing proposal of a China tour by the Ochestre de Paris. Whatever the radical's aims, they have not yet managed to change China's foreign policy. That much is clear from the events of the past two weeks. The Russian spy incident, which was the occasion for a new outburst of anti-soviet propaganda including the labelling of the Russian leaders as Confucianists; and the quiet return of the American caught in the island war with South Vietnam without so much as a word about imperialist spies and aggressors. This could be a good augury. But it could also mean nothing more than that the radicals are still rolling up their sleeves."

Since these words were written over a month ago a great many new developments have taken place suggestive of the fact that a new kind of cultural-revolution-like upheaval was on the way—unless a miracle intervenes. Any upheaval, even a Maoist upheaval, entails instability, struggle and tension in all groups and factions contending for power on the basis of ideological beliefs.

Even after the Tenth Congress, many of the central organs of legislative and executive power have not yet been established—and it is probably to resolve this conflict and contradiction that Mao Tse-tung feels that the kind of "upheaval" which he advocates for the purification of the spirit of man and the organisations devised by man was essential once every seven or eight years.

There is evidently now some crisis within China about which the rest of the world is not fully aware. It has become necessary to re-exorcise the ghost of Lin Piao coupling his name with that of Confucius and Mencius. All bad people, including the Russians, are now labelled Confucianists. And it also seems clear that it is left and radical elements in the power hierarchy who are taking the off-

ensive against Confucius, Mencius, Lin Piao, Beethoven and other elements branded as degenerate reactionaries. These left-radical elements, it would appear, seem to favour a hard tough line against the west (Beethoven is the symbol) and all varieties of revisionist like Lin Piao and the Russians (Confucius the excuse.)

All this guess work may be only the speculations of the decadent bourgeois press of the west but there is nothing else to go on. Take for instance, the furore about the film made by the Italian film Director Antonioni. On January 30 the *People's Daily* carried an article by A Commentator entitled *A Vicious Motive, Despicable Tricks* condemning the anti-China film "China" by the Italian Director, M. Antonioni. The article in question ran into several thousands of words in over a dozen closely-typed pages. We cite below the first two paragraphs of the long article:

"Since the day the five-star red flag was hoisted over Tienanmen Square and the birth of New China was proclaimed, different political forces of the world have assumed different attitudes towards the earth-shaking social changes in China and the tremendous achievements of her socialist construction. Hundreds of millions of revolutionary people and friends all over the world have voiced admiration and sympathy whereas a handful of reactionary forces have expressed indescribable horror and deep hatred. This is what has happened to all great revolutions whether in China or other lands in ancient times and now. The anti-China film 'China' by the Italian Director M. Antonioni, which started being shown in some western countries last year, reflects the attitudes of the tiny handful of imperialists and social imperialists in the present-day world who have an interperate hatred for New China. The appearance of this film is a serious anti-China event and a wild provocation against the Chinese people.

"Antonioni came to China as our guest in the spring of 1972. With his camera, he visited Peking, Shanghai, Nanking, Soochow and Linhsien county. However, his purpose in making the visit was not to increase his understanding of China, still less promote the

friendship between the people of China and Italy. Hostile toward the Chinese people, he used the opportunity of his visit for ulterior purposes; by underhand and utterly despicable means he hunted specifically for material that could be used to slander and attack China. His three and-a-half-hour-long film does not at all reflect the new things, new spirit and new face of our great motherland, but puts together many viciously distorted scenes and shots to attack Chinese leaders, smear socialist New China, slander China's Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution and insult the Chinese People. Any Chinese with a modicum of national pride cannot but be greatly angered on seeing this film. Tolerating such a film and permitting it to deceive people in various places would be to legitimize reactionary propaganda that wilfully insults the Chinese people and would be surrendering to anti-China provocations by the international reactionaries. We will thoroughly expose and criticize this film's counter-revolutionary nature in reply to the challenge to the Chinese people of the international reactionaries. This is serious struggle on the ideological and political front that merits serious attention...."

This film, it will be recalled, had its premiere in Rome over a year ago and the Chinese Ambassador to Italy and other Chinese notables had hailed it as a supreme achievement of the film art. The film had also been shown in other places and everywhere the film had attracted attention and praise.

Then suddenly came this blast. It has also been reported that the Chinese VIPS who had given the stamp of approval in Rome "have been recalled and have, no doubt been suitably dealt with. It has been reported that there has been a major shakeup in the Hsinhua headquarters in Peking where highly placed officials in the news agency had been also "dealt with" and removed because, it is said they had been responsible "for inviting Antonioni and had helped him produce the film.

The *Economist*, 16/2/74, asserted that "China is once again sounding like a nation possessed. The campaign against Confucius which combines abstruse historical disputation with highly topical political

polemics, has become a full time activity, not only in universities and schools but in factories, army camps and city streets. This recent outburst of activism is undoubtedly a response to the revelation published in the *People's Daily* on February 2nd, that the present political struggle was personally initiated and led by the great leader Chairman Mao. The effect of Mao's formal endorsement is to transform what at first seemed to be sniping attacks by the radicals on the moderates, and then was channelled into the continuing low-key drive against the late Lin Biao, into an all-out mass campaign that could well explode into another cultural revolution. Another echo of 1966 is the anti-foreign tone which has been getting more and more strident in recent weeks. Last month's attacks on Beethoven and Schubert were followed up two weeks ago by a critique of a prize-winning documentary on China by the Italian film-maker, Antonioni. The point of the *People's Daily* article, which bore the authoritative by-line 'Commentator', was that the film, 'a serious anti-China event and wild provocation against the Chinese people', presented a distorted and negative view of China. 'Commentator' charges, for example, that the Yangtze river bridge was deliberately shot from an angle 'in order to make it appear crooked and tottering'. In another scene, Antonioni used an aria from a revolutionary opera as the sound-track for a shot of a pig shaking its head, whereas Chinese witnesses have testified that no music was actually being played in the pigsty at the time. A second *People's Daily* article on Antonioni last week accused him of collusion with the Russians because they had used the same metaphor in films on 'China in the very same year... The naively chauvinistic levels of the attacks on Antonioni, made under a by-line that is usually reserved for top-level pronouncements, has ominous implications. It suggests that the backwoodsmen are riding high again and that China's open door policy of the past two years may well have begun to be threatened...."

The *Economist* further pointed out that "An even more alarming sign last week was the denunciation of Owen Lattimore, America's

leading expert on Mongolia, as an 'international spy'. Professor Lattimore, who recently retired as professor at Leeds University, was one of four old China hands named by Chou En-lai in the early days of detente as welcome visitors to China. He went to China in 1972 and was given the unusual privilege of touring the normally forbidden provinces of Sinkiang and inner Mongolia. What Lattimore was charged with last week was writing some favourable words about Confucius nearly 40 years ago, a crime for which just about every contemporary sinologist—and every literate Chinese—could be indicted. Why then was he picked out of all the rest? Was it those friendly words from Chou En-lai?

"Yet another and very different sort of American was also denounced by the Chinese last week—the author of that popular parable, 'Jonathan Livingston Seagull', which has flown no closer to China than a translation in Taiwan. The critic in Shanghai's pace-setting radical journal, *Study and Criticism*, used Seagull to make some cutting observations about the "extreme decay and reaction" of American society. Is it a similar revulsion which has kept China's man in Washington, Mr. Huang Chen, away from his job for three months? Mr. David Bruce, America's counterpart in Peking had an excuse for leaving China last month; he is off to patch up the Atlantic alliance for Mr. Nixon. But the assignment may have been timely...."

What next?

Whither the Mao-Nixon detente?

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## CHRONICLE

# Feb. 21 - 27

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

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21:** The C.T.B. is likely to close down a number of its short distance services, particularly in outstation areas, due to lack of patronage after the fares hike from February 4. According to the *Sun*, several people who were transporting rice within the legal limits allowed earlier, have now resorted to transport cooked rice on which the law is silent. The manner in which the proposed credit Councils will be set up has raised a wave of protests from a large number of public sector trade unions. Rusisa has once again entered the Colombo Tea Auctions. Government is considering new tough measures for saboteurs and flouters of the new Emergency (Paddy Marketing) Regulations. The last batch of Temporary Residence Permit-holders in Sri Lanka, mainly Indian businessmen, have been issued orders to quit before mid 1974. The Sri Lanka Tractor Corporation is making available 600 two-wheeled tractors to farmers this year. President Nixon has announced he will send Secretary of State Henry Kissinger to the Middle East next week on a new peace mission aimed at separation of Israeli and Syrian forces. At least 100 people have died and more than 100,000 are homeless in three northern Argentine provinces in Buenos Aires. Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi declared in Cairo that Egypt is the fortress of the Arab nation; Gaddafi arrived in Egypt unannounced in an apparent attempt to patch up differences with Egypt. India last night announced it had struck good quality oil in the Indian ocean. Indian Foreign Minister, Swaran Singh who is on a visit to Iran said that India is totally against any form of foreign military presence in the Indian Ocean.

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22:** A special Cabinet meeting is expected to be summoned to discuss matters connected with the purchase and distribution of paddy. At yesterday's meeting of the ruling Parliamentary Party, the government parliamentarians put forward a proposal to bring the purchase price of paddy in line with world market prices; the parliamentarians also suggested to distribute all flour on the ration, instead of giving a portion of flour to bakeries. The Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike, told the National State Assembly yesterday that she was happy that the Indo-Ceylon problem which had dragged on for the past 40 years was solved during the tenure of office of her government. Medical specialists have threatened that they will refrain from treating patients in paying wards of Government hospitals unless free medical facilities in class I wards are afforded to them and their families as allowed to officers of the Armed Services and Police. According to the *Sun*, the Prime Minister has sent personal messages to the leaders of

some countries which are members of the Aid Consortium with a view to push Sri Lanka's case for more aid at the forthcoming meeting of the Aid Consortium in Paris. The three-member Citizens Committee, which conducted an independent inquiry into incidents on the final day of the Tamil Conference in Jaffna, has blamed the police for the death of seven people. The two-day Islamic summit conference gets underway in Lahore today. Indian Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, said that acquisition of lethal weapons by some of the neighbouring and other countries posed dangers to India and the country must, therefore, remain alert and prepared. President Suharto warned his Ministers that there were non-communist political forces which posed a danger to the state.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23:** According to the *Daily Mirror*, in the wake of staggering increases—between 80 to 300 per cent—in the World market prices of drugs, consumers here may be called upon to pay more for their requirements. The Communist Party of Sri Lanka has urged the Government to pay Rs. 35 per bushel of paddy purchased by the Government instead of the Rs. 25 now being paid. Several Trade Unions in the plantation sector have requested the Prime Minister to give the extra half measure of rice, now issued to residents of Colombo, to the estates too. The Government has decided to impose severe penalties on owners of ration books who pawn, sell or give them to the custody of an unauthorised person. The Opposition Parliamentary Group has decided that the motion seeking the appointment of a Select Committee of the House to investigate the allegation of an "impending coup by revolutionary elements", raised by the leader of the Opposition should be debated on March 6. Officers of the Criminal Investigation Department have contacted foreign Police agencies to get more information on yet another large scale exchange and smuggling racket. Circuit for state officers are taboo, even during working hours unless the express authority of the Secretary of the Ministry they work in is obtained. Pure gold dust, it is claimed, has been discovered by gemmers at Ratnapura; the discovery has been brought to the notice of the Government. Pakistan officially recognised Bangla Desh today; Mr. Shikh Mujibur Rahman, who arrived in Pakistan today, for the Islamic Summit Conference, was received by Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, President of Pakistan; Mr. Bhutto and Mr. Rahman embraced each other at the airport; reporters were not allowed near than about 100 yards to the point where Mujibur stepped from the plane.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24:** Prime Minister, Mrs. Bandaranaike, will inaugurate the 30th session of ECAFE at the Bandaranaike International Conference Hall on March 27. Leader of the Opposition Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, in a statement issued yesterday has listed six reasons why the United Front Government cannot deliver the goods in keeping with the pledges it held out to the people of this country during the last elections. Sri Lanka's foreign service is to be completely re-oriented; the Foreign Affairs Advisory Committee will play a vital role in the re-orientation. The Government has banned the slaughter of buffaloes completely. According to the *Weekend*, the Prime Minister had given due consideration to the issue of a 20 per cent wage increase to public and private sector employees

demanding by the JCTUO. Nearly Rs. 200 million worth of gold jewellery is lying in the People's Bank Vaults: these are said to be articles pawned with the bank and not redeemed. Pakistan President, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto called on oil producing Moslem nations to be mindful of their responsibility to the other Third World nations: this, the President said at the opening speech he made at the Islamic Summit Conference now being held in Lahore: two people were killed and at least a dozen injured in a stampede at the Badshahi Mosque when Islamic Leaders went for Friday prayers.

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25:** The by-election at Mannar takes place today. Messrs. John Mark (FP), S. A. Rahim (UNP), S. A. Cader (Ind.), S. M. Percy Emmanuel (Ind.) are contesting this seat: the SLFP did not put forward a candidate for this election. According to the *Sun*, West Germany has a multi-million rupee market for Ceylon Tea, but Sri Lanka is not exploiting it. A Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman has described as "baseless" an agency report that four Sri Lanka Journalists had been debarred from covering the Islamic Summit Conference in Lahore. Street lighting in Colombo will come to normal from today, following a decision by the Electricity Board to lift the restrictions imposed as an energy conservation measure last month. The Prime Minister will make a statement in the National State Assembly on March 6 regarding the Leader of the Opposition Mr. J. R. Jayewardene's allegation of an impending coup. A number of young men were rounded up by the Police for allegedly carrying on subversive activities. The second inquiry by the Criminal Justice Commission (Exchange Frauds) is scheduled to commence today. If the Government is able to collect locally produced paddy it will increase the rice ration to 1 1/2 measures for the Sinhala and Hindu New Year, said the Prime Minister. The Sri Lanka Railway Board is expected to be set up in March this year. The Islamic Summit Conference called for Israel to withdraw immediately from East Jerusalem and all occupied Arab lands. Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has been recognised as the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people by the Muslim nations at the Islamic Summit Conference. The Conference called for total oil embargo against South Africa, Rhodesia and the Portuguese colonies. Prime Minister Indira Gandhi has said, Pakistan's recognition of Bangladesh was a vindication of India foreign policy.

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26:** The United National Party won the Mannar by-election held yesterday by a majority of 75 votes. Sri Lanka will have to pay 120,000 dollars more for freight on 15,000 tons of rice shipped from China under the rubber-rice agreement: The increased cost of freight works out to eight dollars a ton. The Association of Medical Specialists has asked the Prime Minister to give further thought to the Government's decision of 1972 on the Abolition of Channelled practice: according to the President of the Association, about 96 fully qualified specialists have left the island. A Swedish buying mission is now in Sri Lanka on the invitation of the Export Promotion Secretariat. The Criminal Justice Commission (Exchange Frauds) imposed fines totalling Rs. 309,983 and suspended sentences on the two accused found guilty in the first case: the second case of the Commission began yesterday. Nearly 45,000 bushels of paddy were collected by the Paddy Marketing Board last week. Sri Lanka will pur-

chase 20,000 tons of rice from Pakistan to augment stocks to be issued on the ration. Sri Lanka has been given the option of re-exporting part of the oil it imported from Arab suppliers. With existing stocks of flour and sugar expected to last only till May, the Government will have to pay enhanced prices for future imports of these two items. The Islamic Summit Conference, which ended here on Saturday, turned down proposals offering what was termed "substantial relief" to developing countries hard hit by rising oil price. Libyan leader, Muammar Gaddafi, pledged Libya's total support for Pakistan in the face of its "enemies". Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, President of Pakistan, said that he had been invited to visit Bangladesh. Egyptian President, Anwar Sadat, left New Delhi for Dacca.

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27:** Off ration issues of rice to hotels and restaurants are being stopped from this week: according to the *Sun*, the Paddy Marketing Board has decided to suspend rice supplies to hotels and restaurants in order to conserve as much rice as possible for issue on the ration. Mr. R. Ratnagopal, the third suspect in the second exchange frauds inquiry before the Criminal Justice Commission, yesterday pleaded guilty to all the nine charges against him. Several Government MPs are said to be pressing for more funds for their electorates, under the decentralised budget. According to the Ministry of Trade, Sri Lanka would not have to pay 120,000 dollars more as freight for the shipment of 15,000 tons of rice from China: one of the provisions of the Charter Party Agreement is that the shipper who originally agreed to bring the rice from the Chinese ports has to bear the increased costs. The Government Medical Officers' Association, in a statement issued yesterday, blamed the Government for not taking meaningful steps all these years and thereby causing the present shortage of doctors. The Sub Sectoral Committee on Education accepted the view that university education should be expanded by establishing Affiliated Colleges or Institutions of the University of Sri Lanka in the provinces. The Steel Corporation yesterday announced the production of a new high quality steel *ribbed tor steel* which will save house builders and construction companies as much as thirty five per cent of the cost they now incur on steel. President Nixon put the Arab countries under pressure to lift their four-month-old oil embargo by warning that failure to do so would delay U.S. efforts to obtain a permanent Middle East peace. U.S. Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger, held nearly two hours of talks with British Foreign Secretary Sir Alec Douglas Home before leaving for Damascus.

### OVERSIGHT

Before robbing the Commercial Bank in Townsend (U.S.A.), the thieves carefully studied its sophisticated alarm signal system. Once inside, they switched off the electricity and got down to work. Soon, however, they were forced to throw up their hands. For, together with the alarm they had deprived of current the electric blanket which the doorman used. He woke up shivering and caught the robbers red-handed.

## IDEAL SECRETARIES

Second Only To  
Your Wife, Huh?

by CANAX

THE SRI LANKA JAYCEES are sure going to thank me for what I am about to tell them. As soon as I read they were organising an all-day seminar on Secretaries at the Hotel Tap on March 17, I began sounding people, using President Nixon's view of the ideal secretary as the starting point since that is what the Jaycees also used as the peg to hang their seminar on.

It's still uncertain just who will attend the seminar—only the bosses, or whether the pow-wow will be open to the bosses' secs as well. Up to that point, no problems, but if the Jaycees are generous enough to also let the bosses' wives come along on the great day, it wouldn't be a bad idea to take a tip from the Boy Scouts and Be Prepared. I suggest the big J shoot off an urgent request to the IGP for a strong contingent of the Women's Police Reserve, suitably armed for the occasion, and the usual riot squad to stand by for emergencies. The Fire Brigade had better be there, too, in case the sparks begin to fly.

I have talked to a lot of people about this, so the Jaycees ignore me at their own peril. I have confirmed my long-held suspicion that there is not much love lost—no, not between bosses and their secretaries (there isn't enough of that, to hear a good many from both sides tell it) but between secretaries and their bosses' wives. Sex has something to do with it, if you want to know another of my long-held hunches. Of course I have no proof of this, but if it isn't sex, what else could it be? Opposites attract, I remember learning in physics class, so since secretaries and wives happen to belong to the same sex, they naturally repel, I guess. In one sense, though, they seem poles apart, which is what makes me wonder.

I don't even know what the Jaycees set out to achieve by the seminar, but it looks as if they've

got more trouble on their hands than they bargained for. I'm only hoping that what I have to say will help avert disaster.

THE FIRST SECRETARY I met contemptuously dismissed Nixon's view of the ideal sec when I put it to her. "No wonder he's in trouble!" she cried.

"You mean he was wrong thinking so highly of Rose?"

"Who's talking of right and wrong?" she snapped. "I'm talking of the man's base ingratitude. 'Next to a man's wife...' he says, after all Miss Woods has done for him, and you expect the poor girl to be happy playing second fiddle?"

I think I see her point. To imagine a man can put his wife before all else merely because he married her can be somewhat galling, especially for a woman who is not the wife.

Said another secretary, "Nixon insulted not only his secretary but all secretaries throughout the world." She was clearly mad at the President for what she considered as setting a bad example to other bosses.

"Take mine, for instance", she said. "Since reading that tripe he tried a couple of times to put his wife before me, but I gave him a piece of my mind and he has stopped that nonsense."

Yes, I'm afraid Nixon may have started something which may be quite beyond his powers to stop now, even if he wanted to. Like it is with Watergate, I suppose, and one would have thought that has taught him a lesson to last a lifetime.

Yet another pretty secretary (they all are, so I don't know why I bother to mention it) got straight to the thorny point. "What," she demanded of me, "can wives do that we secretaries can't?"

Heck, I said to myself, there must be something wives can do that secretaries can't. I was almost giving up when it occurred to me. "How about washing his socks?" I asked.

She seemed terribly disappointed. "You're another of those incorrigible wife-lovers," she cried bitterly, and walked off.

So I started sounding the wives from then on and realised with some surprise that I had at last come face to face with that rare breed called living martyrs.

SAID ONE MARTYR with a sigh, "My hubby is a neatness-buff. You know, everything in its place, and can't stop talking about how neat and efficient his secretary is at the office. So I think I'm smart and introduce a bit of M & O into the house—"

"Sounds like a new detergent powder on the market," I interrupted.

"What, M&O? Heavens, no, that's Methods & Organisation, which was what I thought made my man talk of that woman even in his sleep. Now where was I? Ah, yes, so I fell back on M&O and for a start put his shirts and his ties where they should be, and his books where they rightly belong."

"Where were they before?"

"Strewn all over the bed, where else?"

"And he fell in love with you all over again?"

"If he did, he expressed himself in a most unconventional way."

"Don't tell me he was so overjoyed he shouted from the rooftop?"

"Right up to a point," she observed. "He certainly shouted, only he nearly brought the roof down in the process. Said he couldn't find a damn thing in the house where he left it and stormed out to his club in a temper."

"Just like that, huh?" I whistled thoughtfully.

"Yes, like that," she replied with a mournful look. "And I did it only because I thought it would make him happy. What is it his secretary can do that I can't?"

"She can flirt with him," I said, trying to be helpful. "Have you ever tried that?"

She called me a cad, or words to that effect and showed me to the door. Talk about seeing the obvious....

ANOTHER LONG-SUFFERING WIFE nearly choked the life out of me when I reminded her of

Nixon's views. "What's Rose done that makes her so ideal?" she demanded.

"She's unquestioningly loyal."

"Big deal", she sniggered. "So is his wife."

"Rose fixed those tapes," I reminded her.

"Pat could also have been stupid enough to press the wrong buttons, if only he'd let her."

There seemed little point going on with the argument: the message was coming through loud and clear, which was that anything stupid a secretary can do, a wife can do even better. Never realised spouses held such a high opinion of themselves.

Necessity, as someone has said, is the mother of a lot of things, invention being one of them. Well, it must have been sheer necessity that drove one wife to suggest a novel way out. "I think I've got the answer," she said. "It's the kids who are keeping us down, so if we let the secretaries have all the babies, the hubbies will then begin to appreciate their wives much better, don't you think?"

I didn't venture an opinion on the spot. Anything so radical needs to be studied carefully before one pronounces on it one way or another. I was still keeping an open mind when I ran into a secretary, so I held out the suggestion to her. She nearly blew a fuse, poor girl, "Have the babies!" she shrieked. "What'll wives be asking us to have next?" We are doing enough for their brutes as it is."

Somehow I had an uneasy feeling the idea wouldn't find favour with the secretaries. They are known to act with a sense of responsibility and will go on thus far and no farther. Having the babies as well is taking things a bit too far by any standards. \*

But the problem facing wives and secretaries is nothing compared to the dilemma the men find confronting them. Said one young boss, and he seemed to speak for most if not all bosses, "Hell, I don't know which to choose. I'd be utterly lost without my secretary but, then, I can't do without my wife at home, either."

I'm hoping the Jaycees can help work out an acceptable compromise. It shouldn't be too hard to find a way so the men can keep their cake and eat it, too.

## Inania of this, that and the other

John Rich to Phillip Poor

—"control, man, control"—

by Inna

The editor of a Sinhala Catholic review which prides itself on being the oldest such review in the island, met me recently and pushed a line belonging to a writer unnamed. In the course of our discussion he was amazed to hear that there could be still other views of other people on the question of Population and *Preethis*.

One single question: why do the richer countries always want to give handouts and alms to poorer countries and then force the latter to tighten their belts and cut down the population? If a certain very rich country eats 20 times as much as Sri Lanka, man for man, one person born there will equal nineteen mouths and more while one person extra here, will mean only one-twentieth.

We gave you world figures for wastage of the earth's resources in our *Inania* of 3rd February. Now listen: this country in question has only 6% of the world population but wasted (the word that Dumont uses) 42% of world aluminium, 33% of world copper and world petrol, 28% of world iron, 26% of world zinc and silver, 25% of world lead, 24% of tin, over 50 % of natural gas.

They pay for it, it is true, but how? Chile has revealed the terrible disproportion between their real investments and the profits they have drawn from the copper mines. "In God we trust"—says their coin. God is *Truth*, says the Gospel.

World exports from less developed countries fell from 46% in 1955 to 34% in 1970 (Dumont:

*Utopie*). In 1954, Ghana made 214,000 tons of cocoa and sold it outside for £ 84,000,000, but Independent Ghana made 490,000 tons of cocoa in 1965 and realised only £ 68,000,000. Output doubled; income lessened.

Why?

And are such people going to be dictated to by *Preethimongers*? Tighten your belts, gird your chastity loins, abort your infants—all for the proofter nations, so that the affluent may become more so. Few see the terrible injustice of it all. All this does not deny that there may be other and valid reasons for control of population or the reaching of zero population in the poorer countries, but look who's talking ?

You speak so loud, affluent western countries, that we can't hear what you say. In countries whose urban areas need twenty-five times more per person than collective transports can ever take should not be propagating news and views about non propagation of children.

200 million citizens of the USA consume from 30-35% of all world resources; Western Europe with her 10% of the world population controls 23.6% of the world GNP. Now talk about *Preethi*, editor of my Sinhala paper, only for poor Sri Lanka? All nations, proportionately have to take a share in world population control, but why the fear that poor nations will march across the world with their teeming millions. Then, shall we build another base? And stem that onward march? "The thief doth fear each bush an officer." The man with ill-gotten gains has a disturbed conscience.

If the several thousand million Christians take up this view of the world population problem, they could have a say in shaping the future. Instead do they not try to tinker with petty nothings.

Of course, with such a vast network of diplomatic people linked and relinked with the Vatican as measures for peace and in the hope of peace, (Benelli-style), isn't it better to keep tight shut and keep the *status quo*?

Keep prophets marginal and wave the purple frock, ring and staff,

for who can bear to bear Tissa B. say: "120 million Indonesians and 75 million Bengalis can live on 1/40 of what 200 million N. Americans live. So even if the population multiplies by 40 in the near future, they will not use as much as N. Americans use today (at the present level of consumption)" (*Outlook*, p. 13, vol. 6, n. 4, 1973).

## TOPICAL

## Black Money

— can it cause inflation? —

by

K. Santhanam

New Delhi.

There is no doubt that black money and black markets are seriously distorting the Indian economy and energetic measures are needed to eliminate them but the ideas regarding their nature, extent and effects are confused and often fantastic. They serve as convenient scapegoats for the authorities who are bungling and mismanaging the national economy. It may therefore be useful to think clearly about them.

The money supply of the country at any time consists of the currency in circulation and the bank credit available. Neither black money nor black market can add to this total. The main sources of inflation are the deficit financing of the Central and State Governments and excessive credit expansion by the banking system. Therefore, an effective step that can be taken against inflation is the balancing of the Central and State Budgets without deficit financing and strict control of bank credit.

BLACK MONEY arises in two ways. Those engaged in normal activities, who want to evade income tax on the whole or part of their income, manipulate their accounts as to show no taxable income. The only difference between the money which has evaded income tax and that which has paid its tax is that attempts have to be

made to hide the evasion from any enquiry which would be conducted by the income tax authorities.

For this purpose, such money is not invested in bank deposits or shares or other usual investments. It may be spent on luxurious living or invested in gold, silver, diamond, jewels and other costly articles. Some amount may also be hoarded in currency notes or held in dummy accounts in banks. There is a wrong notion that the bulk of the black money arising from income tax evasion is hoarded in currency notes. This is foolish and risky but the effort of such hoarded notes is to withdraw the money from circulation and therefore its effect is anti-inflationary and in the present context of inflation, it may also prove to be a good coming out of evil.

The major part of the money is likely to be spent in purchase of diamonds, jewels, costly furniture and in this way, the national economy is deprived of productive capital. Some part of the black money will be used to purchase immovable property, the price of which is shown much less in the sale deed than the actual price, the balance being paid out of black money.

Black money can also arise from illegal transactions such as trade in prohibited goods like drugs, misappropriations, bribes, etc. The effect of such money is similar to the other kind of black money but a greater part of this may be used for black market purpose.

THE WORST EFFECT of black money is that the Government loses considerable revenue by way of income tax and sales tax and this has to be made up by additional taxation or deficit financing.

The black market arises when open trading in any commodity is prohibited or the movement and trade of any commodity is restricted and it becomes highly profitable to hoard such goods, secretly transport them to places where they are scarce and sell them at high prices. Thus black markets become an unavoidable evil, counterpart to every scheme of control of prices and distribution.

Where the sources of production of any commodity are few and the consumers form a recognisable limited group, control of prices and distri-

bution can be reasonably effective though even then some amount of blackmarketing can take place. But in respect of commodities like food stuffs where the producers and consumers are to be counted in millions, it is not possible for any bureaucratic agency to prevent the development of considerable blackmarketing.

In all such cases the only way to avoid black marketing is to procure and distribute a certain amount of the commodity through purchase in the open market or by levy from producers and then leave the rest to be freely bought and sold without any kind of restriction on movement or price.

IT IS certainly possible and even likely that some big merchants may corner particular commodities and increase their prices abnormally but so long as there is an absolute free market, there will be competition among such merchants and their actions can be regulated to some extent if they are duly licensed and obliged to send periodical statements of their purchase, stock and sale.

If the quantities of goods procured by the Government and distributed through co-operative stores and fair price shops is enough to provide the minimum needed by the poor and lower middle classes, the prices in the free market may be left to adjust themselves.

While it will be admitted that the elimination of black money and black markets is of great importance, it is not easy to devise effective measures to do so. The Government has been trying to check the use of black money for purchase of immovable property by insisting on previous valuation before registration of conveyance and in suitable cases by taking power for compulsory acquisition of such property at the price mentioned in the conveyance deed.

By sudden searches of houses, safe deposits and seizure of secret accounts, attempts are made to discover black money and assess the owner and impose penalty, but unless the Government becomes completely totalitarian and oppressive, it is not possible to trace all black money.

I feel that if the Government can take courage in both hands and trust the leaders of the various



professions and businesses, they may be able to prevent evasion of income tax more successfully. For instance, if the assessments of all lawyers in a place can be scrutinized by a committee of such lawyers appointed by the Chief Justice of the High Court, professional prestige may restrain the lawyers from concealing their income. Similarly, if committees of doctors, auditors and other professionals scrutinize the returns of income of their co-professionals, evasion of income-tax can be reduced to a reasonable extent and black money through income tax evasion may be reduced to insignificance.

*As I have already indicated, free movement and open markets are the solution for eliminating the black market.*

It may also be pointed out that when black money is spent in luxuries like purchase of immovable property or like ornaments and furniture, it becomes immobilised and beyond investigation for the purposes of income tax and wealth tax and so they need not cause much worry.

There is no justification for the contention that the existing evils due to inflation and high prices can be attributed, except to a small extent, to black money and black markets.

—Foreign News & Features

## SOVIET VIEWPOINT

### Solzhenitsyn's Expulsion

by

**Boris Antonov**

THE PRESIDIUM of the USSR Supreme Soviet has protected the rights of the Soviet people: their state will no longer be harmed by systematic slanders and insinuations on the part of the man who has broken all his civic ties with society.

This protection of the rights of the 250 million Soviet citizens is being interpreted by some in the West as infringement on the rights of one individual Alexander Solzhenitsyn whose actions are in

effect nothing but refusal to obey the laws of society and slandering of it. This is being done by those who bemoan the loss of a source of misinformation from the "scene of action" and try to squeeze the last drops from the lemon of anti-Sovietism. For the unbiased reader, however, it will be of interest to know the legal aspect of the matter.

Solzhenitsyn has been deprived of Soviet citizenship and expelled from the USSR by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. This organ was elected by 1517 Deputies of both chambers of the Soviet Parliament, which is vested with supreme state power in the country. Under the constitution (article 49), the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR gives interpretations of the laws in operation, ratifies and renounces international treaties, decides issues of war and peace in the intervals between sessions of the Supreme Soviet, in short, exercises major functions of national importance.

Under the same article of the USSR constitution, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet issues decrees. The will of the Soviet people to deprive Solzhenitsyn of Soviet citizenship and to expel him from the Soviet Union—was expressed in the form of a decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

For the reader to have a concrete idea of who is behind decisions of this kind, we will tell that the Supreme Soviet of the USSR of the latest, 8th convocation, was elected on July 14, 1970 by direct and secret ballot. A total of 153,172,213 people took part in the polling, or 99.96 per cent of the electorate. Among the elected deputies one-third are workers, and one-fifth peasants. More than half of those elected have a higher education. In the USSR Supreme Soviet there are people of 62 nationalities. It is not difficult to see that practically all the Soviet people stand behind those who took the decision on Solzhenitsyn.

Examination of the international covenant of civil and political rights, which the Soviet Union was the first among the great powers to ratify, shows that the

measures taken with regard to Solzhenitsyn fully correspond to the spirit and letter of this document. In particular, Article 12 of the covenant regards as legitimate the restriction of an individual's freedoms if their exercise leads to infringement of the rights and liberties of other members of society and is injurious to state interests. The covenant envisages and considers legitimate decisions taken in accordance with the national legislation.

Protection of the rights of the personality is the basis of the policy of the Soviet state which has made the provisions of the covenants on human rights part of the country's legislation. Operating in the Soviet Union are the most humane laws which prohibit any form of war propaganda and cultivation of racial or national strife, hatred among people and ideas insulting national dignity.

The Soviet people are well aware that the concern of those who advocate the "protection of human rights in the USSR" is interference in the internal affairs of the socialist state, attempts to undermine its international prestige, attempts to oppose its efforts aimed at achieving detente. The practice of socialist democracy shows that the Soviet Union, in addition to proclaiming, has provided real guarantees for the rights of all working people without exception.

### Telephones Cost More

New Delhi Feb. 28.

Telephone users will pay more for call charges and on quarterly rental from April 1 this year under the budget proposals announced in the Lok Sabha today. While the number of free calls per quarter has been increased from 250 to 300, the additional calls would cost 25 paise each instead of 20 paise at present. The quarterly rental has been proposed to be increased from Rs. 100 to Rs. 125 in exchanges of 10,000 lines capacity and above and from Rs. 80 to Rs. 100 in exchanges less than 10,000 lines capacity. There is also a proposal to increase the non-preferred ordinary and express telegrams by 30 and 60 paise respectively for first eight words.

IN SRI LANKA TODAY

\* Sugar \* Travel \* Tea

— A random collection of cuttings and excerpts from the local Press reflecting the State of the Nation —

**SPIRITS DISAPPEAR!**

An audit inspection of the books of the Sri Lanka Sugar Corporation has revealed a shortage of 22,308 proof gallons of spirits valued at Rs. 412,694, at the Kantalai sugar factory. In addition 13,670 proof gallons, out of a total of 831,832 proof gallons produced at Kantalai, and 11,117 proof gallons out of 482,509 produced at Gal Oya, have been treated as lost through wastage etc. The Auditor General Mr. P. M. W. Wijayasuriya, has stated this in the first instalment of his report for the financial year 1971-72. In this report, he refers to the accounts of the Sri Lanka Sugar Corporation for the period 1.4.68 — 31.3.69.

During the year under review the Corporation has made a net profit of Rs. 3,436,555 as against Rs. 1,790,865, the previous year. The profits have been made by the distillery units while sugar manufacturing had been carried on at a loss. The sugar and the spirits made by the Corporation during the year have resulted in a foreign exchange saving of Rs. 5,392,161. At Kantalai, the factory cost of a ton of sugar had been reduced from the previous year's Rs. 2,422 to Rs. 1,087, while at Gal Oya it had gone up from Rs. 1,610 to Rs. 1,836. The average price the Food Commissioner had paid for Gal Oya sugar was Rs. 559 a ton and for Kantalai sugar, Rs. 568. According to the Auditor General 10,622 tons of crushed sugar cane from which 637 tons of sugar could have been made had been diverted to the distillery for production of spirits.

— Sun, 2/2/74

**WORKERS PAID FOR IDLING**

Seven municipal labourers allotted the task of sweeping a quarter-mile section of Dharmapala Mawatha (Turret Road) completed the job in 3 hours. They idled for the rest of the day. In Panchika-

watte four men took only 2 1/2 hours to complete their assignment of sweeping the road from the Capitol Theatre to the BCC Mills. They, too, idled for the rest of the day. And in Colombo 7, six men weeded and swept F. R. Senanayake Mawata in less than half a day. They had no work for the rest of the day. All these instances came to light when the Mayor of Colombo, Mr. A. H. M. Fowzie, did an inspection of the field services of the council. The Mayor has now ordered that the quantum of work for road sweepers and other municipal labourers be increased so as to occupy the men gainfully.

— Times of Ceylon, 1/2/74

**CMC WORK IN LIEU OF FINES**

The Colombo Municipal Council has formulated an agreement with the Department of Prisons under which persons who are unable to pay fines will be able to commute such fines by performing work for the municipality to the value of the fine. Under this scheme which is being implemented under the provisions of the Administration of Justice Act an official of the Prison's Department will be attached to the Council to co-ordinate and supervise the scheme.

Times of Ceylon, 1/2/74

**YOU CAN NOW KILL TRESPASSING ANIMALS, EVEN FOWLS**

Cattle and other animals trespassing into cultivated private land can now be shot and destroyed. Emergency regulations empowering the owners or occupants of such land to destroy trespassing animals, were gazetted by the President on Friday. They have been enacted in an attempt to safeguard the crops from stray animals, specially cattle and buffaloes.

Before destroying such animals, the occupants of cultivated land need only put up a notice in a conspicuous place within the property warning the owners not to allow their animals to stray on the land. Carcasses of animals so shot can be removed by their owners. Where they are not claimed, the Government Agent or his representative will sell the carcass by public auction and credit the balance proceeds to the state after paying the occupant of the land the cost of damage to crops.

The regulations also enable the owners or occupants of cultivated land to seize the trespassing animals and claim the cost of damage to crops as well as the cost of maintaining the animal during the period of detention. The Government Agent or his representative will assess such damage and order the owner of the animal to pay. Failure to pay the assessed amount within 48 hours or the inability to trace the owner will result in the animal being auctioned and balance proceeds being credited to the state after paying the land owner.

Cattle, buffaloes, sheep, goats, pigs, and poultry come within the purview of these regulations, but not animals protected under the Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance. All state land alienated to the public under any law also come within the description of "private land."

Sun, 11/2/74

**NO RAIL, BUS SPECIALS FOR FESTIVALS**

It has been decided to suspend road-rail co-ordinated services which have hitherto been operated during festivals in different parts of the country, the Department of Information said yesterday. A press communique said it was being done to reduce the consumption of petroleum products. Public transport services were also facing difficulties at present due to shortages of equipment and spares. Hereafter until the situation returns to normal, only the usual daily services will be provided on festival days and tickets will be sold only to the extent of the

accommodation available on these services, the communique said.

Ceylon Daily News, 6/2/74

### SAWDUST AND REFUSE INSTEAD OF TEA

By Gamini Weerakoon

A reputed tea firm recently found to its horror that sawdust and refuse were being shipped by a firm which was packaging its quality teas for export. The matter is now being investigated by the Colombo Frauds Bureau. Easy money running into several lakhs of rupees had been made by "certain unscrupulous persons who did not give a damn whether Sri Lanka's reputation as the producer of the world's best tea was ruined by their fraud," the police said. Police said one firm which had given another company contract to package its tea found 105 cases of tea in the premises of the packaging company packed with sawdust and granite. The case had been stapled and addressed to a buyer in a Middle East country. Police claimed that fortunately the cases were found in the nick of time before the tea was exported. Informed sources said that a complaint had been received by the same tea exporting firm from a tea buyer in an Asian country that the tea shipped in cases sent through the packaging firm contained sawdust and refuse. Police had also received a complaint from another firm that the tea cases, staples and other packaging equipment given to the packaging firm could not be accounted for by the firm.

Ceylon Daily Mirror, 1/2/74

### 450 TONS OF K'OIL LOST BY LEAKAGE

By Felix Perera

Nearly 450 tons of kerosene oil valued around Rs. 3½ lakhs were found to have leaked out of one of the large pipes from the Petroleum Corporation's Installation at Kolonnawa. This is revealed in the preliminary investigations carried out into the leakage which was detected last Sunday. A report submitted to Police headquarters by the Wellampitiya Police yesterday revealed that the extent of the leakage was in the region of 450 tons.

Investigations are still being carried out to ascertain the exact quantity of kerosene oil lost. Police personnel are guarding all important points at the installation. According to the police report, the oil appears to have leaked while being transferred from tank No. 2 to tank No. 5. The Corporation personnel appear to have failed to check a manhole before transferring the oil from one tank to the other, states the report.

The report goes on to state that no sabotage is suspected and the Corporation had been able to collect two bowser-loads of the kerosene oil which had leaked out. Meanwhile, firemen are standing by at the oil installation as a safety measure. Police sources told the 'Daily Mirror'.

Ceylon Daily Mirror, 6/2/74

### CHAOS OVER BERTHS

Chaos and confusion prevailed in the Colombo Fort Railway Station over the weekend. Several commuters who had booked sleeping berths to travel on the 7.15 night train from Colombo Fort to Jaffna, last Friday were disappointed as the Railway did not provide any sleeping berth coaches on that train. When the irate commuters protested to the authorities they were told that owing to a lapse the berth coaches were not attached to that train. Instead they would be attached to the additional 9.20 p.m. train to Kankesanturai every Friday, to cope with the week-end rush.

As a result, the commuters had to kick their heels and wait for over two hours at the station to entrain. Because of the shortage of diesel locomotive engines, some of the night trains were also compelled to leave late. The first night train bound for Kankesanturai that same day left Colombo Fort station 30 minutes behind schedule, because of the late arrival of the engine. According to regular rail commuters this is a very frequent occurrence especially with the trains bound for Kankesanturai.

Times of Ceylon, 4/2/74

### MAGISTRATE'S HOUSE BURGLED

Thieves broke into a Magistrate's bungalow in Gampola last week and got away with household articles worth about 3,000 rupees, police reported.

Sun 31/1/74

### AMERICANS WANT OUR KIDNEYS

Now that Sri Lanka has become famous throughout the world for donating eyes, the United States is exploring the possibility of obtaining human kidneys from here. The Americans have made inquiries in this regard from the Director of the International Eye Bank in Sri Lanka Dr. Hudson Silva. They say that if Ceylonese are willing to donate their kidneys after death, the American Kidney Bank is prepared to provide the equipment and know-how to collect them. According to Dr. Silva, the American Kidney Bank has a register of 10,000 persons awaiting kidney transplants.

Sun 31/1/74

### AN INTERNATIONAL KIDNEY TRANSPLANT

A Patient in the German Democratic Republic has been given a kidney from a donor in the Soviet Union. It was provided by the Institute of Clinical and Experimental Surgery in Moscow, and the operation was performed at the Urological Clinic of Humboldt University in Berlin. Very soon each country will be able to select suitable kidneys from information on patients stored by computer, and fly them to each other in a matter of hours. Professor Vasily Shumakov, who is in charge of transplant operations at the Moscow institute, said that it now used three methods of keeping human kidneys alive. The first was to "feed" them with special nutrients at low temperature. The second is to slow down their metabolism by injecting a suppressive substance. The third is to use a special device, similar in principle to an artificial heart, which keeps the heart of a potential donor beating after his or her death.

# IS IT TRUE?

## Sherlock Holmes

### \* Exportmania \* Aislaby

IS IT TRUE that Sri Lanka exported iron and steel to Singapore a few weeks or months ago? That in the unholy craze we have developed for a thing called *foreign exchange* we are prepared to sell commodities urgently needed for domestic use in Sri Lanka to buyers abroad? That Singapore buyers, it is alleged, knowing that world prices were likely to shoot up had offered Sri Lanka corporation chiefs prices which had seemed attractive at that time? That even before the shipment had left the shores of Sri Lanka world iron and steel prices had started shooting up? That the *foreign exchange* Sri Lanka had earned had been swallowed up in the inflation of the prices? That it would have been far better if the iron and steel had been kept in Sri Lanka for local building and other purposes? That our current mania for *foreign exchange* does more harm than good for Sri Lanka? That this story about the export of iron and steel to Singapore is going the rounds in knowledgeable circles in Colombo? That while it has not been possible to get official confirmation of this export, there is no reason why the story should be disbelieved? That if the story is today going the rounds so fast that it will snowball into something big very soon? That if the story is a canard, Government should forthwith deny it over the SLBC? That *Tribune* will be happy to hear that this story is untrue is because it is difficult to believe that Sri Lanka could be so foolish as to export a commodity much needed here at a time when prices were on the brink of an upward swing?

IS IT ALSO A FACT or is it another canard to say that Sri Lanka exported a shipload of cement a short time ago to Saudi Arabia? That this is also a story which is going the rounds in a big way? That with cement in such short supply here it is unbelievable that anybody would have wanted to export cement on a cash basis? That even the *foreign exchange* earned from the Saudis would have vanished into thin air on the crest of the oil price hike? That if the cement had been exported in exchange for oil on the same inflated price level, then, nobody could have grumbled? That there are defenders of the Faith (the UF Faith) who say that the rulers of Sri Lanka would never have been so foolish as to export cement at give away prices? That if this story were false, like the iron and steel export to Singapore, the Government should explain the real position and expose the calumny? That in this column we are only reflecting what is being talked about in high political and other circles? That people are tempted to believe these stories because the Government less than a year ago had exported poonac at a time when it was sorely needed in Sri Lanka?

That *Tribune* is now doing its best to look into this matter to see if the Government could have been so foolish as to permit the export of these essential goods? That whilst *Tribune* has drawn attention to talk that is going the rounds it is also at the same time investigating more fully into this kind of exports? That whilst there are some commodities which are for export only, there are other commodities which

should be exported only under special circumstances? That there are other commodities which should never be exported under any circumstances at all at the present juncture? That cement and iron and steel fall into this category in the same way as that of rice and other foodstuffs? That housing is as important as food so far as the common people are concerned? That if such exports are being made it is time that there is some basic re-thinking on these matters?

\* \*

IS IT NOT FACT that there is much talk in planting circles about current developments in the super-duper Bandarawela tea estate *Aislaby*, which was taken over some months ago? That this estate was one of finest tea estates in Sri Lanka and in the world? That it was known that on most of its acres an average of 2400 lbs of tea were plucked per acre? That this was among the highest yield ever produced in Sri Lanka? That there had been much opposition to the take-over of the rupee company estate which was owned by a British family long associated with planting in this island? That Government circles insisted on this takeover to show that a state corporation could run an estate even better than the private sector? That from time to time there have been loud blasts from certain quarters that everything was going very well and the estate was being better run than ever it was under private management? That to support this contention the Corporation concerned and the management of the estate should publish its green leaf intake figures as well as its made tea output figures. That it would be the easiest thing in the world to publish these figures for the last two months with the comparable figures for the same months in 1970, 1971, 1972 and 1973? That, if necessary, the rainfall figures too could be published to see what effect an unusual drought does have on production? That in the best interests of public sector undertakings it would be best if these figures are published. That after making allowances for the drought and poor rainfall it would be easy to see how things are going on *Aislaby*?