

# TRIBUNE

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NON—  
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CO-OPERATION  
IN ASIA
- PALI AND  
SUNSKRIT  
IN SCHOOLS
- IN SRI LANKA  
TODAY

## PADDY PRICE

THE MOST EFFECTIVE answer which the Government has so far put forward to meet the demand for an increase in the guaranteed price of paddy was the news released over the SLBC and the *Observer* last Sunday that the price paid in Sri Lanka was higher than in any known rice-growing country in Asia. Comparisons are often misleading and statistics can be torn out of context, but in this instance the Government seems to have established a strong case for not raising the PMB price of paddy any higher than what it is. We do not know how the conversions were done, but we must assume, until the contrary is shown, that the figures set out in what is undoubtedly an official document are correct. From what is also known, and from the information available so far to *Tribune*, the figures cited in regard to prices paid for paddy in a number of countries are correct. In terms of bushels, and in the currency equivalent of the Ceylon rupee—according to the news release—India pays Rs. 12.12, Pakistan Rs. 15.52, Malaysia Rs. 19.17, Philippines Rs. 16.98, China Rs. 15, and Burma Rs. 9.68 (for grade one) and Rs. 8.35 (for grade two). These are impressive and telling figures in the backdrop of the Rs. 25 paid in Sri Lanka for a bushel of paddy—it was Rs. 14 right up to 1973 and then it was moved up to Rs. 18 and now it is Rs. 25 with the Food Production Drive started last year.

BUT THIS IS NOT THE END of the paddy price controversy. Why do farmers in Sri Lanka demand a higher price for paddy? We have no statistics about the actual costs of production in the other countries mentioned above, but we are aware of what they are in Sri Lanka, and whatever officials may assert, as matters stand today, the price of Rs. 25 a bushel is realistic and economic when the yield per acre is over Rs. 75 to 80 bushels per acre. Lands which produce less will necessarily be converted to the cultivation of other crops, where the costs of production are less—and except in times of shortages as now it is likely that many cultivators will not want to produce paddy. This will be especially so in the case of all rain-fed paddy cultivation. The demand for a higher PMB price for paddy has come from the producer who is not able to attain a yield of about 75 to 80 bushels an acre. This is one aspect of the question, but the more important one is that the cost of production in Sri Lanka seem to be much higher than in most, if not all, of the other countries concerned. Our costs of production are certainly much higher than in India and certainly more than in China. Apart from the new psychology which has been inculcated in our farmers that high-cost mechanisation, expensive fertilisers, insecticides and the like were absolute necessities without which paddy farming would be a failure, the productivity of our labour is low in spite of the much higher wages (in terms of Ceylon currency) paid here than what is paid for equivalent volume of work done in India, China, Burma and Pakistan. In Malaysia higher wages are paid, but man-power productivity seems to be much higher. All this brings up the vital question as to how the costs of production could be lowered in Sri Lanka and the productivity of labour increased? At least immediately, less and less reliance must be placed on imported mechanical aids, imported fertilisers, and other imported inputs, and greater reliance placed on local resources and on the fullest utilisation of manpower. The many radical reforms introduced by Government, like land-reforms and labour legislation, will no doubt help in the long run, but for the immediate urgency, a new dynamic spirit of self-sacrificing labour on the part of everybody has become an imperative need. Whatever one's politics, the food crisis in Sri Lanka must be solved through increased local production. This is something which the common man, especially the farmer, has sensed but have our politicians and our established political parties realised the need for a common national effort to produce more food? How long can we expect other countries, even socialist countries, to come to our rescue?



# Tribunania

## \* Sri Lanka's Non-Alignment in the Interdependent World

THE PRIME MINISTER'S special envoys, Mr. Maithripala Senanayake and Mr. T. B. Ilangaratne, returned to the island last Sunday bringing with them good news about food supplies that will be immediately sent to Sri Lanka from India, China, Pakistan and Russia.

At the time of writing, details about prices are not known but what is important is not the price at which rice, flour and sugar were made available, but that they are made available at all. In the current global situation, rice, flour and even sugar, are hard to get commodities at any price, and Sri Lanka must consider herself very lucky to have got these supplies without too much difficulty. Furthermore, supplies are being made available on very favourable terms of deferred payment, and in one case the loan of 10,000 tons of rice from India is without any date being set for the return of the rice.

The fact that the biggest countries closest to Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan, China and Russia, have responded so splendidly to the appeal sent to the leaders of these respective countries is an indication, whatever be the internal situation within the Island, of the high esteem in which the Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, is held in those countries, primarily no doubt, on account of the policies of non-alignment and dynamic neutralism which have been followed by the United Front government. At least, it is clear, that in the third world group of developing countries like India and Pakistan, and also in the socialist bloc like Russia and China, Sri Lanka is rated highly and is treated without discrimination. Knowing the estranged feel-

ings between India and Pakistan on the one hand, and Russia and China on the other, it is a remarkable achievement of historical significance that Sri Lanka was able to get so much from these two groups of countries which are locked in a cold war that transcends the mere ideological conflicts of the confrontation between them.

There have been many in Sri Lanka and elsewhere who had felt that this country had tilted a little too heavily towards China and Pakistan, but the fact that India and Russia have responded so generously, in spite of their own difficulties, to Sri Lanka's appeal for food is clear proof that this country, has succeeded in maintaining its position of non-aligned neutralism even vis a vis countries that were likely to be hostile.

The ultimate and crucial test of Sri Lanka's neutralism will rest on whether the governments of the rich capitalist countries are willing to accept Sri Lanka's non-alignment without any publicly declared reservations or actions which would denote that Sri Lanka's foreign policies were suspect. All indications point to the fact that countries like Canada, Australia and the USA are now willing to trade with and extend aid and assistance to Sri Lanka on the footing that she is a neutralist non-aligned nation. Australia has already agreed to supply over 100,000 tons of wheat and wheat flour on favourable terms, Canada has always been a generous giver (in addition to trade on mutually beneficial terms) and though the USA for a long time had continued to be hampered by a hangover of Dullesian cold war anti-left antipathies, there are happy signs that Washington in the Kissingerian era (in spite of Nixon) has begun to approach non-aligned nations like Sri Lanka on a more realistic basis.

IN THIS CONNECTION, in regard to the attitude of Washington towards countries like Sri Lanka, the speech made on March 21 at the Rotary Club in Colombo by the US Ambassador, Mr. Christopher Van Hollen, entitled OUR INDEPENDENT WORLD: THE NEED FOR NEW APPROACHES had some very significant and illuminating remarks. Apart from emphasising that countries like Sri

Lanka felt the pressure of interdependence between different countries even more than others, and after commenting on the implications of the energy crisis and the global food shortages, and after stressing the need of the liberalisation of trade and developing a new rationale for economic development, Mr. Van Hollen went on to say:

"In reviewing four broad areas of international inter-action-energy, food, trade, and development—I have already alluded several times to the problems faced by Sri Lanka in these areas. In my concluding remarks, I will discuss specifically the relations between the United States and Sri Lanka not only in these four areas but also also within the broader framework of the shared values and common interests which underpin our diplomatic relationship.

"There is an enormous disparity between our two countries in size, in population, and in relative wealth. We are located almost half-way around the world from you. But despite the disparities and the distance which separate us, there are many ties that bind. To begin with, our political interest and objectives in the South Asian Subcontinent largely parallel your own. President Nixon expressed it this way in his Foreign Policy Report last year: "I have always believed that the United States, uniquely among the major powers, shared a common interest with the nations of the Subcontinent in their peace, independence, and stability."

"The President went on to explain that we have no economic or strategic interest in obtaining a privileged position in South Asia. We have no interest in forming ties directed against any country in the region or outside the region. Nor are we interested in changing the basic political framework on the Subcontinent. We are interested in the evolution of a stable regional system in South Asia based on the secure independence of each nation in it.

"We fully honor and respect Sri Lanka's independence, its non-alignment, and its desire to forge its own destiny in keeping with its traditions and political institutions and the special talents of its people. Shortly after your



country's independence, the United States began a co-operative economic relationship with Sri Lanka by providing economic assistance. To date, this assistance has exceeded £ 200 million—over rupees 1,275 million and is more aid than has been provided by any other country. Over half of our assistance has been in the form of grants, the balance in loans on liberal concessional terms, including our most recent loan for PL-480 wheat flour.

"Looking ahead, the United States fully supports the convening of the Aid Group Meeting later this spring. We consider the Aid Group a valuable form within which donor countries can discuss Sri Lanka's development plans and requirements with representatives of your country and can convey to your representatives some ideas of the amount of assistance they believe they will be able to provide for the coming year. Because the meeting may not be held until early May, we have not reached any decisions within our own Government and it therefore would be premature for me to speculate on the amount or nature of American assistance. However, I can say that we plan to continue to contribute to Sri Lanka's economic development and to work co-operatively with you in your efforts to achieve a viable economy.

"Trade, however, is as important as, if not more important than, aid in moving a country along the road to economic progress. Today the United States is a major trading partner of Sri Lanka. In 1972, the last year for which figures are available, total trade between our two countries exceeded £ 55 million, with the trade almost exactly in balance. We buy twice as much tea from Sri Lanka as from any other country and are one of your most important tea markets. We are your largest customer of graphite and the fourth largest purchaser of your rubber. And I am pleased to note that we have been buying increasing quantities of your smaller non-traditional exports, such as seafood, canned fruits, and shirts. With the anticipated passage of the Trade Reform Act, you should be able to sell additional products in the American market. I hope so. I also hope that, as your economy recovers, you will be able to buy increasing amounts of American goods and services.

In conclusion, let me ask, and then try to answer this question: "To what extent are bilateral relationship between the United States and Sri Lanka in harmony with the broader political and economic objectives of our countries in today's interdependent world? The answer, I believe, is that although our two countries have and will continue to have differences on individual issues, there is now a very broad bedrock of common agreement and co-operation upon which the foundations of our relations firmly rest. As Prime Minister Bandaranaike noted, in connection with the commemoration of 25 years of diplomatic relations between Sri Lanka and the United States last year: "Our two nations have many things in common." I would summarize some of these areas of general agreement and co-operation as follows:

"We share with you a common commitment to democracy and representative government.

"We fully honor and respect your non-alignment and your independence.

"We have developed an even closer outlook between our two countries on international issues because of America's new and greatly improved relationships with the Soviet Union and the Peoples' Republic of China, because of the termination of the war in Viet Nam, and because of recent American diplomatic actions in the Middle East, including the resumption last month of diplomatic relations between the United States and the Arab Republic of Egypt.

"We seek, as I hope you do, a global solution to the global problem of energy.

"We hope the forthcoming World Food Conference will result in understanding which will help to mitigate some of the problems of shortages and high prices which have adversely affected Sri Lanka.

"We are committed through our Generalized Preferences Proposal in the Trade Reform Act to help meet the needs of the developing countries, including Sri Lanka, by enabling them to expand their exports.

"We believe that those nations which enjoy advanced stages of industrial development, or which

have benefited substantially from the sale of their natural resources, have a direct responsibility to the other less-fortunate countries.

"We, on our part, intend to continue our economic co-operation and to assist Sri Lanka's progress.

"The days ahead will not be easy ones but I am personally optimistic about the future. As the interdependency of this world of ours grows and as partners such as Sri Lanka and the United States work together in mutual respect and co-operation, I am confident that the aspirations of all of us will be better realized."



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We have set out this part of the US Ambassador's speech in full, although this speech has had full coverage in many daily newspapers and even over the SLBC, because we feel that the speech is a major landmark in US-Sri Lanka relations.

Earlier in the speech he had indicated a new approach to the question of foreign aid. This is what he said: "One should not exaggerate the importance of foreign aid. The sooner a country can dispense with such aid, the better. However, if the local environment is good, external assistance can perform and has performed a critical role in providing the stimulus for economic development. In the case of foreign assistance from the United States, we have recorded both successes and failures but I believe our overall record over the past 25 years, including our record in Sri Lanka, is a good one."

With the oil exporting countries coming into the field of foreign aid, the virtual predominance of rich countries like the USA had in this matter, has vanished. Countries like France, Japan and West Germany have for sometime now had stated re-orientating their foreign aid policies to meet the

imperatives of the current period. Even Britain had begun to exhibit symptoms of major change, but it was the United States which had endeavoured to sustain the outposts of Dullesian cold-war inhibitions.

**IT IS IN THIS BACKGROUND** that one must view the response which had been evoked by the special appeal made by our Prime Minister to India, China, Pakistan and Russia. China has given us 30,000 tons of rice for shipment in April-May on deferred terms of payment, India has given an immediate loan of 10,000 tons of rice and also agreed to sell 10,000 tons of sugar with more to come later, Pakistan has agreed to sell 80,000 tons of rice on deferred terms and Russia will also supply 30,000 tons of wheat flour also on deferred terms. China has also indicated its willingness to supply part of the crude oil required by Ceylon whilst Russia seems to have agreed to supply a wide range of machinery required for development projects in this country.

All this is no doubt happy news and it would be possible for the Government to give extra quanti-

ties of flour and rice on the ration from April or from the New Year.

But this does not absolve the Government of the urgent need to take additional steps to ensure increased food production in this country. We have been able to tide over the current food crisis by the generosity of our neighbours but we cannot expect such luck every year. Furthermore, even in the interdependent world of today, this country must grow as much of its food requirements as it could, because we must utilise the foreign exchange we earn from our exports to mainly import capital goods for economic development.

The new approach the USA has developed in economic and trade matters has not yet been reflected in its global military strategy. The USA continues to take an aggressive attitude in regard to matters like the expansion of military facilities in islands like Diego Garcia. The change of Government in Britain and the opposition which has been evoked in nearly all littoral states of the Indian Ocean towards US plans in Diego Garcia, except for the feeble support from countries like Pakistan and Iran, may yet have some effect on the USA, but Kissinger who was recently been threatening blood and thunder against France and some of the West European countries has not yet shown any change of heart in regard to Diego Garcia. If the United States hopes to establish happy relations with the littoral states in the Indian Ocean region on a long term basis, it should pay some heed to what all these countries have had to say about Diego Garcia.

Sri Lanka, and especially the Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, have taken a special initiative in the matter of making the Indian Ocean a Zone of Peace, and US-Sri Lanka relations can be brought to a happy fruition only when Washington recognises the aspirations towards making the Indian Ocean a zone of peace. If the vessels of the Soviet fleet are to be kept out of the Indian Ocean, it can only be done by direct negotiations among all parties, involved in the matter, willing to make mutual adjustments, but it cannot obviously be done by increasing the number or effectiveness of the permanent land bases in the region by one party or another.

Ayurveda

**LUMBAGO**

Lumbago is a common term used for the pain in the lower part of the back and hip. The person affected with this is unable to bend or even turn from one side to another. Ever though the pain may be constant, it gets aggravated on movement. Even cough brings pain in the back. This is a disease of the middle-aged and women are affected more than men. Over-weight and fatty people suffer more than thin and underweight persons. People who lack exercise and persons with sedentary habits get this often. This is termed as a metabolic disease, meaning that the food taken is not properly digested, absorbed and utilised by the body tissues. It also means the waste products of metabolism are not eliminated from the body properly. Some of these waste products accumulate in certain places. In this disease they accumulate above the hip bone and around the vertebral bone muscles. So the mobility of the joint becomes painful. If the bones are involved, it is a different disease even though pain may be similar. In the involvement of the bones, the pain may radiate down the legs. In lumbago it is local.

The treatment is simple. That is, the patient should take exercise or at least walk a few miles daily to shed some of his weight. He should take less fatty diet and eatables that contain more carbohydrates, i.e. potato, plantain, too much of sugar, curds etc. Meat should be avoided when pain is acute. Vegetarian food with green vegetables and wheat preparations is preferable. The affected part may be fomented with application of medicated oils like Dhanvantara Taila and Narayana Taila. Mild purgative with castor oil is good. Yogaraja Guggulu can be taken. Garlic boiled with milk or fried with ghee can also be taken.

Dr. V. Narayanaswami.



## CHRONICLE

## March 13-21

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

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13:** Sri Lanka is expected to receive the same level of assistance this year as last year from the majority of the donor nations of the World Bank sponsored Consortium: the Consortium meeting to consider aid this year is expected to be held in Paris in early May. The leaders of the Joint Council of Trade Union Organisations (JCTUO) meet the Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, today to discuss the Council's demand for a 20% wage increase for both the public and private sectors. Sri Lanka and Pakistan have entered into a credit arrangement on a bilateral basis for a sum of 4 million dollars: the agreement has been signed in Pakistan by the representatives of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka and the Pakistani authorities. A Secretariat is to be set up at the Foreign Ministry to prepare for the next non-aligned nations 'summit' to be held in Colombo in 1976. Several new cases of cholera were reported from various parts of the city of Colombo. According to the *Sun*, the Shannon Free Industrial Zone Authority in Southern Ireland has asked Sri Lanka to make up its mind—whether it is going ahead with the export processing free industrial zone project in Sri Lanka or not: it is said that the LSSP Ministers are against this proposal. The Dutch Airline KLM will once again commence its flights through Colombo from April this year, after a break of 12 years. The case for the prosecution in the Criminal Justice Commission (Exchange Frauds) was closed yesterday. The Labour Government of Britain pledged itself to seek fundamental negotiations of Britain's terms of entry into the European Common Market, and to put the results before the British people: the pledge was given in Queen Elizabeth's speech at the opening of the new Parliament. Arab Oil Ministers are holding an important meeting in Tripoli today to discuss the Arab oil embargo against the United States. The United States has sent the aircraft carrier "Kitty Hawk" to the Indian Ocean.

**THURSDAY, MARCH 14:** The spreading cholera epidemic is causing grave concern in business circles which fear adverse economic consequences to the country unless the situation is brought under control: the economy of the country will be hard hit in the event of buyers of Sri Lanka's agricultural commodities deciding to suspend purchases because of the epidemic: it also poses a major threat to the tourist industry. The rice ration will be increased to one-and-a-half measures a week from April 1, to all the districts. Sri Lanka is likely to initiate discussions on the oil crisis at the forthcoming meeting of the Bureau of the Non-Aligned Nations scheduled for next Tuesday at Algiers. The conference, leaders of the Joint Council of Trade Union Organisation (JCTUO) were scheduled to have with the Prime Minister yesterday over the Council's

demand for a 20% wage increase, was postponed. All goods exported from Sri Lanka will be subject to compulsory quality control. Sri Lanka's Navy patrol crafts operating in the Palk Straits have been ordered to strictly confine their activities to the eastern side of the islet's waters during the Kachchativu festival next week: according to a Defence Ministry spokesman, special emphasis was being laid on this matter particularly in view of the "substantial progress" made during talks over Kachchativu: Indian Navy's patrol crafts are also expected to confine their activities to the northern side of the Indian waters. President Nixon has reaffirmed that the United States will continue to work for the disengagement of Israeli and Syrian forces despite the continuing Arab oil embargo. Syrian and Israeli long-range guns fought an artillery duel on the Golan Heights front yesterday for the second day running.

**FRIDAY, MARCH 15:** Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, Leader of the Opposition, has sent an urgent telegram to the Prime Minister requesting her to permit the transport of at least two measures of rice per person immediately: the telegram sent on behalf of the Joint Opposition said that the opposition groups would meet next Wednesday, to consider a proposal to call upon the people to oppose the paddy and rice transport throughout the country. Several ships carrying rice from foreign ports are expected in the Colombo Port next week. According to the *Sun*, Communist Party hardliners are expected to return to the United Front Government before the month of May. The cholera death toll went up to 12 yesterday with the death of another cholera patient. Mr. Maithripala Senanayake, Leader of the National State Assembly, now in New Delhi met the Indian Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi and External Affairs Minister, Mr. Swaran Singh: Informed sources said that he had discussed the possibility of India sending some essential supplies, including food, to help Sri Lanka meet serious domestic shortages. According to the *Daily News*, the Treasury has been requested to work out the cost implications of a proposed salary rise for Government employees and others in the public sector. United States Secretary of State, Dr. Henry Kissinger, is expected to visit the Soviet Union for three or four days starting on March 24. A challenge over the pay policy emerged yesterday as possible first parliamentary threat to Britain's minority Labour Government. The Arab Oil Ministers meeting in Tripoli postponed all decisions on whether to lift the oil embargo against the United States until a further meeting in Vienna on March 17. The Soviet Union's Mars-6 probe has landed on Mars yesterday.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 16:** The National Planning Council which is chaired by the Prime Minister decided to appoint a top level committee to study all questions involved in the implementation of the proposed industrial processing zone in Trincomalee: the committee will be required to report within three months. Dr. N. M. P. Mendis, Epidemiologist of the Health Ministry, told a press conference yesterday that it would be extremely difficult to forecast the end of the cholera epidemic in Sri Lanka: according to the *Sun*, cholera is fast assuming epidemic proportions in the country. The Local Government Service Commission is to be abolished and in its place a Local Government Service



Advisory Board and a Local Government Service Disciplinary Board will be appointed. The total harvest for Maha season in the Anuradhapura, Vavuniya and Mannar districts is estimated to be 8 million bushels and the Paddy Marketing Board is expected to purchase at least 5 million bushels of paddy out of this, said Mr. K. B. Ratnayake, Minister of Sports and Parliamentary Affairs who was on a tour in the above areas. With the oil import bill now expected to top Rs. 1,400 million this year the Government is waiting for the outcome of oil negotiations taking place in Vienna this week. The French Navy's helicopter carrier the "Jeanne d'Arc" and her escort vessel the "Forbin" will make a five day official visit to Colombo from March 19 to 23. An Opposition MP, Mr. Prins Gunesekera, has given notice of a motion calling for the repeal of the emergency regulations relating to the transport of rice. Denmark's Sterling Airways said that 46 people were killed yesterday at Teheran airport when one of its Caravelle jets caught fire during takeoff. Israeli Foreign Minister, Abba Eban, has said in Washington that the real test of progress in the Middle East conflict would be if Syria accepted a meaningful agreement with Israel.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 17:** With one-third of the harvesting nearing completion in the rural areas, said the Sunday Observer, the prospect of a 50-million-bushel paddy output seems a fair estimate according to the latest Maha figures reaching the Government. The Government has ordered that the L. B. de Silva Salaries and Cadres Report be published: a consultative committee under the Finance Ministry has also been set up to consider whether the recommendations made are to be implemented. According to the Observer, revelations made by the Prime Minister, Mrs. Bandaranaike, in Parliament last week are causing anxiety to the pro-Dudley wing in the UNP. According to the Sunday Times, highest Government circles are considering the question whether the UNP under cover of a bogus 'coup' story is attempting to sabotage the home food production drive and disrupt the food supplies coming to the country through certain international agencies: the Times also said that it has been brought to the notice of the Government that along with the Satyagraha campaign in the provinces the farmers are being exhorted not to hand over their produce to the Government at least for the next three months in order to create an artificial food scarcity in the country while for mysterious reasons the shipments of rice and flour expected during the next few weeks are being delayed. Sixty thousand shanty dwellers in the city who now live in make-shift huts on Government and Municipal land are to be removed out of Colombo. C.I.D. operatives are hot on the trail of a multi-million rupee gem deal by a local firm: the money realised from this deal has not been brought to the country. Indian Minister of State for Defence Production has told the Parliament that India took into account the recent developments in the Indian Ocean, including the proposed Anglo-American base at Diego Garcia, in preparing its naval defence plans. President Nixon has insisted he will not resign over the Watergate scandal and that he will be found innocent of any wrongdoing.

**MONDAY, MARCH 18:** Non-arrivals and late arrivals of ships intended to bring food items to Sri Lanka are now being investigated by the Government:

sabotage is suspected in this connection: according to the Daily News, several members of the SLFP working committee have urged the Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike, to summon an urgent meeting of the seventy-five member working committee to formulate a course of action against those who deliberately sabotage government activity on the economic front. In view of the present shortage of food in the country. Pilgrims going to Kachchativu for this week's festival will not be allowed to take any food items other than one and a half measures of rice. Sri Lanka is to submit a report to the United Nations Secretary General on big power naval activity in the Indian Ocean. Medical Students of the University at the Peradeniya Campus have begun a boycott of classes. An uncertain future for the developing nations of Asia this year is underlined in an ECAFE report which is to be presented to the meeting of the ECAFE Commission which begins in Colombo on March 27. The world's major oil exporting countries will freeze prices at present levels for a three month period beginning on April 1. Arab Oil Ministers meeting in Vienna will today issue a decision lifting the embargo on oil exports to the United States unconditionally. Diplomatic circles in Brussels criticised President Nixon's scathing attack on the Common Market and according to Reuter, relations between the United States and Western Europe have been deeply bruised by this attack. Syrian and Israeli forces yesterday fought a tank and artillery duel on the Golan Heights for the sixth day running. The Gujerat Legislative Assembly in India was dissolved yesterday.

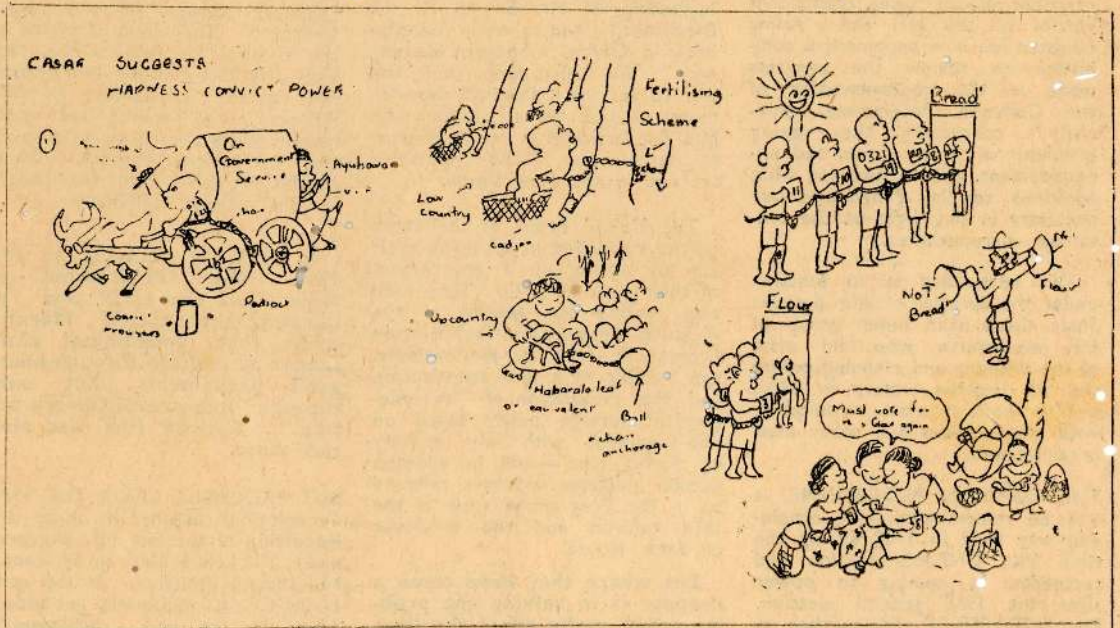
**TUESDAY, MARCH 19:** A committee has been appointed by the Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, to review the Common Program of the United Front manifesto and to evaluate the progress made in the implementation of the program. The committee whose members have not yet been picked will work under the auspices of the Socialist Study Circles with special attention to the problems created by rising prices and the level of employment. Mr. T. B. Illangaratne, Minister of Foreign and Internal Trade, met the Chinese Prime Minister, Mr. Chou En-lai, in Peking yesterday. There was a decline in tea prices at yesterday's auctions and this is attributed to a decline in quality. More positive cases of cholera in the Colombo district were detected over the weekend. Two teams of surveyors from India and Sri Lanka are to undertake a joint survey of the Palk Strait area shortly, as part of the moves now being made to solve the dispute over the ownership of the island of Kachchativu. Sri Lanka has been assured of 20,000 tons of wheat flour under the PL 480 food assistance program, this year. The Sri Lanka shipping Corporation vessel, the Lanka Rani left for an Indian port to load a cargo of rice for Sri Lanka: the rice is being loaned to Sri Lanka by the Government of India: this is the first result of the negotiations that the mission headed by the Minister of Irrigation and Power, Mr. Maithripala Senanayake, had with the Indian Government. Seven Arab oil-producing nations yesterday lifted a five-month embargo on oil supplies to the United States. Foreign Ministers representing the 75-nation non-aligned movement meet in Algiers this week to prepare for a world conference on international economic relations which they hope will lead to a new philosophy of development for the third world.



**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20:** Government has relaxed its financial regulations to ensure maximum food production in the 22 administrative districts of the country: Government Agents can now exercise "discretionary powers" in the utilization of funds allocated by the Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs to the different districts. India has agreed to give 10,000 tons of rice to Sri Lanka on loan: this rice is due to arrive in Colombo tomorrow. The Joint Opposition meets today to map out its strategy to oppose the ban on the transport of rice and paddy. A petition challenging the election of Mr. S. A. Abdul Rahim (UNP) to the Mannar seat in the National State Assembly was filed yesterday in the Supreme Court: the petitioner is Mr. S. M. John Mark who unsuccessfully contested the seat as the Federal Party candidate: the election is being challenged on the grounds that Mr. Rahim "is disqualified for election in that he is not a citizen of Sri Lanka". Medawachchiya and Kurunegala Municipal areas have been declared diseased areas following the detection of several positive cases of cholera: seventeen positive cases of cholera have been detected in Kurunegala with four deaths and five positive cases have been detected in Madawachchiya with one death. According to British officials, the Labour Government has not yet considered its approach to proposals for a 40-million-sterling United States air and naval base on Britain's Indian Ocean island of Diego Garcia. The minority Labour Government of Prime Minister Wilson won Parliamentary approval for its legislative proposals after the Conservative Opposition withdrew a controversial amendment that threatened to throw the country into a constitutional crisis: the vote in the House of Commons was 294 to seven—a Government majority of 287. At least five people were shot dead by police yesterday when thousands of students blocked the legislative assembly

building in Patna, capital of the Eastern India state of Bihar.

**THURSDAY, MARCH 21:** The Prime Minister Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, is expected to make an important statement in the National State Assembly this afternoon regarding certain documents and other material placed before Parliament by Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, Leader of the Opposition in the course of the debate on March 6, on the motion on alleged conspiracy. The Joint Opposition yesterday announced a tough new programme to compel the Government to resign and hold a general election so that the people could elect a Government of their choice: the programme was outlined in a statement issued yesterday by the Joint Opposition, after a meeting attended by members of the UNP, FP, CWC, Dr. W. Dahanayake and Mr. Prins Gunasekera. Mr. J. B. Maramis, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE) is due to arrive in Sri Lanka today to finalise arrangements for the 30th session of the ECAFE starting here on March 27. A proposal to deploy armed forces to prevent people using water from the Kelani River in Colombo is now being considered by the Health Ministry in the context of the cholera epidemic. A consignment of 15,000 tons of rice arrived in the port on Tuesday from Shanghai. Before the opening of the Algiers conference of Foreign Ministers and delegates of 17 non-aligned nations, Guyana circulated a note among delegates proposing a special one dollar levy per barrel of oil which would be paid by oil producing countries to poor Third World Nations to help offset the increases in oil prices. UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, expressed deep concern yesterday about the serious deterioration in the situation between Israel and Syria in the Golan Heights and called on both sides strictly to observe ceasefire orders.





## A TURNING POINT

## A New Common Programme?

by LANKAPUTRA

New thinking is evident among all the constituent parties of the ruling United Front.

The ball was set rolling by the *Janawegava* in a recent issue when it highlighted the need for a new programme by all those connected with the United Front Government if they were to take both the country and the progressive movement out of the present impasse.

On the LSSP side, Batty Weerakoon, General Secretary of the LSSP-led Labour Federation, no doubt reflecting the aggressive mood of the workers present at the JCTUO rally on February 28th, has referred to the futility of a mere two day's token strike to win their 28 demands and called for "an all-out fight in which the strike will end only with complete success." (*Nation*, 15th March).

Not to be left behind, the soft-lining Communists through their organ *Satan Maga* (16th March) has questioned the very possibility of further advances being made without smashing up the capitalist framework and called especially for closer trade and economic links with the socialist world.

FROM ALL THIS it would appear that a new ferment has begun to set in within the United Front. This is an indication that the present dissatisfactions and frustrations of the people are beginning to have their effect on the ruling quarters also who are now realising that they can be ignored only at their own peril.

Probably in response to these reactions of the three constituent parties of the UF, the Prime Minister has now appointed a committee to review the progress made in the implementation of the Common Programme, especially concerning the vexing problems of rising prices and unemployment, and to find out what additions to the Programme are necessary in the light of the prevailing circumstances.

This committee is to function under the auspices of the *Socialist Study Circle* (the inner group of UF intellectuals who did most of the thinking and planning before the UF election victory in 1970) and to work in close consultation with trade unions and other mass organisations.

THE COMMON PROGRAMME, it will be remembered, was concluded way back in 1968 during the time that UNP-led coalition had succeeded in coming to power after the 1965 general election. The SLFP-LSSP-CP alliance, then in

the opposition, chalked out the Common Programme as the political H.C.F. on which they could jointly agree to appeal to the country for their election to power.

It was stated in the Common Programme that the three parties had come together and concluded the Common Programme "in order to carry forward the progressive advance begun in 1956 under the leadership of Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike and in order to establish in Ceylon a socialist democracy." As a first step, their aim was to set up a People's Government of the three parties with Mrs. Bandaranaike as Prime Minister to carry out the measures set out in the Programme.

The United Front of the three parties succeeded in achieving their aim of setting up a government of their own in 1970. They have also carried out several of the measures mentioned in the Common Programme—such as, for example, the framing of a new constitution and the restoration of "an independent foreign policy based on non-alignment with any military or power bloc"—and in addition certain measures not even referred to in the Programme such as the land reforms and the take-over of Lake House.

But where they have come a cropper is in solving the problems that really affect the lives

of the ordinary people such as bringing down the cost of living and providing full employment "within the shortest possible period."

THE COMMON MAN is not concerned so much with the country's foreign policy or the constitution under which we function as with the problems affecting their own lives as jobs and prices of essential goods. And as the latter problems have grown worse, not better, under United Front rule, it is not surprising that many thousands who voted for the UF in 1970 find themselves betrayed and have started to lose their enthusiasm, if they have not actually turned actively against the UF Government.

It is this situation, now made clear even to the highest in UF circles, that has led to the present "new thinking" on the part of those at the top in the ruling hierarchy.

There is another matter that must be considered in the light of the prevailing circumstances, especially as it affects the LSSP and CP. Till recently both these parties were preaching against the possibility of achieving any worthwhile results of lasting benefit to the ordinary people without a revolutionary change in the social structure. Their line was that of the classical Marxists of the 19th and early 20th century who decried the Fabian "inevitability of gradualness" and opined that only revolutionary overthrow of all existing institutions through violent revolution could lead the people to the socialist millennium.

In fact, as recently as the 1950s the "Programme of Action" of the LSSP was reiterating the classic Marxist credo that fundamental aims cannot be realised through bourgeois parliaments, but only through "mass revolutionary action." The CP line was also the same.

BUT PROBABLY AFTER THE 1956 "revolution" ushered in under the leadership of the late Mr. Bandaranaike, the Left leaders in Sri Lanka had second thoughts. In the case of the CP, it undoubtedly got added boost to the new "parliamentary



line" when Khrushchev himself at the famous 20th Congress that same year (1956) propounded a new thesis of both peaceful and non-peaceful roads to socialism depending on the national traditions and concrete circumstances prevailing in various countries at different periods.

Now, both the LSSP and the CP, having tried the "Khrushchev line" for over four years, probably feel that after all the classical Marxists were right, that real socialism cannot be ushered in through piece-meal reforms enacted through parliament. Or it may be that they hope to give this line a new vigour by changing the "old House of Commons rules" (a phrase made famous by Philip Gunawardene in his revolutionary days) to ensure a speedier transition to socialism.

It is in this light that one of the questions to be answered by the new Committee to be set up ("whether the machinery for the implementation of the Common Programme has been satisfactory") gains a new importance.

It is difficult to say what the Committee will report as to the measures that must be taken to enable the UF Government to raise itself from the morass in which it finds itself today. A recent issue of the *Nation* stated explicitly that a government claiming to be socialist can no longer defend itself before the people by claiming that the burdens it feels compelled to impose on them are due on the rising prices in a market controlled by world capitalism in its last death throes.

What then will the UF "new thinkers" do?

Will they advocate the abandonment of the policy of a mixed economy and go all out for a full-fledged state-controlled economy as the only way out of the present economic and social crisis? What then is to happen to other theories of theirs that Sri Lanka is still a backward, agrarian country not yet ripe for full socialism?

It will be interesting for all students of the local political scene to wait and watch developments.



## SHAMBA

### Still Clearing Jungle

By  
Aratory Bukoba

March 7,

Our housewife was unable to do business while I was away. The recent regulations have made it virtually impossible, as it appears that rice is a must for most of what she makes: all the equipment I bought her seems pointless. I did not know so at the time. So we are back where we were, the money gone on other things, feeding her and children. The tots look fat. The little pup died—a brave little watch dog it was.

It is quite a trek from where the family live to where I bathe. Just as I was leaving to return to the house after my bath the eldest girl arrived to wash herself. As she is so small, I thought I had better wait for her. The rocks are treacherous and it is quite deep. She had brought a little mug and with this, at the water's edge, she poured water all over herself. People still bring them presents of food.

There was not much time to look over the *Shamba*. At a cursory glance nothing seemed much changed. I hope to spend a week here this time.

Our neighbour, big strong man though he is, has had a fright. It seems he saw a ghost. He lost his power of speech, someone said, and he had to be admitted to hospital. He was still in bed when I saw him though this happened a week ago. Well, I have seen strong, young men act strangely at Kudagama. I once lost my voice myself through a fright, but it was only momentarily, and the sound which came out of my mouth then was a high-pitched squeak, it seemed to me, but I at once got back my normal voice.

More *kaddays*, I would say, have opened in the last few weeks. One, this last week, was by an employee at another *kadday*. His

old *mudalali* seems quite pleased about it.

Full moon day it is and, after dark, there were many people on the road by the *pansala*. My impression was, for it was too dark to see well, that they were mostly young people. I seemed to know pretty well everybody who dropped in at the *kadday* where I was, and they all, almost without exception, came to have a word with me. They were of all ages, of all classes and pretty well all races.

Talawila was where I was this morning. The statue of St. Anne, there, came by sea, washed-up it was, I think. I thought of the Queen of the Indian Ocean, her daughter, Mary, and I thought how important it is that we look beyond our shores.

March 8,

Afternoon, near evening, it was, before I got to work, *vici katha* again, and this time at the turn of the piece of land between our hill and the pathway to the far bathing place, and, as usual, what a difference I had made by the time I had knocked off. It is not, I thought, the *katha* I used when I was last here. Has the metal really deteriorated? I can hardly believe it. I shall ask the *bas* what he thinks. Recognising tools is, like recognising cattle, a gift, which I have not yet. It took years to learn to recognize cattle, and I can do so better than most men; at least, our cattle in another place.

Our food, or at least the family's seems better organised on the *Shamba*. We had a *mullung* today from a vegetable growing on the *Shamba*; I cannot remember the name, but I thought at the time it was a wild version of a well-known vegetable, such as *wambatu*, brinjal, and this is what it might have been, we just had the leaves and very tasty had it been made. There was a delicate kind of rusk being sold in one shop, and it was crisp and fresh and not in the least had to break.

At the blacksmith's was I again after a lapse of time. The eighteen year old was at work on his own, and still looking sixteen. He had two *Hirramana* blades in the fire, and an axe-head. The *Hirramana* or coconut scrapers, he bent with



the assurance of a man who might have been doing it for years. I left before he started on the axe head. The bellows they had used had sucked up fire, and so that it was out of action; they had perforce to rig up another bellows with a paper-bag and a piece of stick. I saw it being used, making the charcoal red hot. The senior blacksmith returned and set to at once repairing the old bellows. Only the flappers of it was left. I was reminded of a friend of mine in Cumberland, a self styled agricultural engineer, which he was, owning a smithy, and who was never stuck for anything, for he used to turn out his own tools as he went along about any repair job. He was rarely stuck for a spare part either, for in any urgent matter he used to find, or rather the owner of a vehicle did, that a piece of wire did the trick. The last I heard of him, he was selling vintage Rolls-Royces to the U.S.A., after having bought up the local manor. To get back to where I was, I left my blacksmith friends and returned. On this walk out, I also visited local artist. Almost half the people a in Ceylon can draw anyway.

As in the kadday last evening, when I was walking to where I am now, a distance of about half-a-mile, I kept meeting little groups of people, each one in each group from a different home, and I had to stop to talk with each knot of people, as I knew them all. Each group was full of fun, and they were all returning home.

March 9.

Here am I seated on the rock. I had read in the Messenger that St. Bernard of Clairvaux had said; You will find more in forests than in books; to penetrate into the meaning of that, I had no other masters than the beeches and the oaks. Well, something strange happened just now. This morning it had been the turn of the vici katha, continuing in the direction that comes here, when the head flew off, so it was the bas, a bath, and I was reading Merton standing as there was no shade to sit in. All at once there was a wind and every dead leaf fell down, a rain of leaves lasting half a minute, and the rock, earlier shorn of leaves, was strewn with leaves, more anon. It is not the time now.

When I had been working some time with the katha I was called in to drink some cander. It was salted well and tasted good. Then later my hostess insisted that I have a bite, that tasted good, too, and it was before the katha broke.

There is much more on trees in the Messenger I would like to read. Phrases will do? Plant more trees, cleanse the atmosphere, prevent flood, drought and protect growing crops from harsh elements, to replenish the soil with richness and to check erosion.. unwise agricultural methods, civilization after civilization has been engulfed by deserts. All this by Dr. Richard St. Barbe Baker, on what the tree will do, on the cause of their depletion, and the consequences.

By mid-day I really felt fagged out, and I could not get out of the English lesson. Two attended, and we kept up conversation with the absolute minimum of notes. Clearing had gone on apace in the afternoon with the repaired vici katha. I just pushed on in the direction I had been going.

When I am here, I get along without newspapers for the most part and rarely hear a wireless. When I catch up with civilization I find I have not missed much. If there is anything really important I have to know, I hear of it from others.

## THE ENERGY CRISIS-I

### Western Miscalculations

#### — Arab Unity and the Shahanshah's Acumen —

by K. Subrahmanyam  
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THE COMING of the energy crisis was foreseen by many people independent of its connection with the Arab-Israeli confrontation. Even during the winter of 1972-73 parts of the United States and Europe experienced shortages. Some American writers have been warning about the crisis since

1971. The warning related to both shortages in availability of oil as well as its rising cost.

But some others were inclined to dismiss the crisis as a phoney one and a number of people even felt that the oil companies were manipulating an artificial shortage to earn profits. There was a school of thought which urged that if all the major consumer countries could join together and present a solid phalanx against the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) it would be possible to contain the demands of oil producers.

This plea was put forward after the first round of price rise took place and before long the petroleum exporting countries under the leadership of Shahanshah of Iran extracted a second hike in prices by the Teheran Agreement in February, 1973. The ideas now put forward at the Washington Conference of a consumer's conference and thereafter a consumers-producers dialogue has not been advocated by some American oil economists for the last three years.

Before the present crisis is discussed in detail one must understand some of the important parameters of the problems and the relationship between the petroleum price and its availability. Those who took an optimistic view about the energy problem overlooked these aspects and that was partly responsible for the reaction of the Western Press, the western statesmen, diplomats and academicians in the initial stages. At the Washington conference the US Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger, warned that failure to resolve the energy problem among nations would threaten the world with a vicious circle of competition, rivalry and depression such as led to the collapse of the world order in the thirties.

THOSE WHO characterised the crisis as a phoney one (this included the London Economist, argued that the industrial nations would be able through crash programmes to develop alternative sources of energy such as new oil fields—in the North Sea, Alaska, on continental shelves etc. They could accelerate the nuclear power pro-



gramme and coal gasification technology.

*Underlying these arguments was a presumption that the unity of the oil producing countries would not be strong enough and last long enough to enable them to act as a cartel. Two of the world's largest exporters of oil were Iran and Saudi Arabia which were considered to be the staunchest allies of the West and controlled by moderate monarchs with pro-western leanings. The third largest exporter was Venezuela which was well within the US sphere of influence. Countries like Nigeria and Indonesia needed money so badly that it was hardly likely that they would restrict their exports.*

Only last February (1973) the Shahanshah had taken over the assets of the Western oil Companies but in return had guaranteed the supply of oil for the next twenty years. The King of Saudi Arabia was earlier known to be disinclined to use oil as a weapon in the confrontation with Israel. Though the King and his Minister for Petroleum, the Harvard educated Shiekh Yamani, started indicating from May 1973 onwards that unless there was a perceptible change in the US policy towards Israel, Saudi Arabia might not be willing to raise its oil output to keep pace with the rising demand of the industrialised nations, the general tendency, except among some observers like the US energy expert James Aiken who was appointed as US ambassador to Saudi Arabia, was to treat this as very polite diplomatic pressure to soothe the other Arabs.

The last time when the Arabs applied a partial embargo in 1967 following the Arab-Israeli war it was not successful. Except for the French, others were therefore inclined to take the view that another oil embargo would be no more effective. Lastly, there were very few who were prepared to bet that the Arabs would be in a position to take the initiative against Israel and precipitate a crisis. It was assumed that the Arab learning process would take more time to enable them to launch the cross canal operation. *On these assumptions it was expected that the oil price would cross the five dollar per barrel limit only sometime in 1975.*

EVIDENTLY it was not realised that from the early months of

1973 President Sadaat was working out a total strategy which would use oil as a significant weapon and the crisis which would justify the use of oil weapon would be triggered off by a cross canal operation. He had by his personal diplomacy brought round King Feisal, and the Sheikh of Kuwait to support his strategy. Unlike in 1967 the Arabs had now a longer staying power because of large accumulations of oil revenues and at the same time the dependence of the West, including the United States, on Arab oil had increased. Whether it was planned for or not, the crisis occurred at the beginning of the winter.

**On 16th October after their meeting at Kuwait the Arab States launched on their oil strategy. They cut back their production by twenty five per cent and announced that they would step up the cut back by five per cent every month till Israeli aggression was vacated. They imposed a total embargo on supply of oil to USA and Holland. They applied a scheme of differentiated cuts to various countries depending upon their relative support to the Arab cause.**

These cuts immediately highlighted a number of issues which were earlier not very clear. It became obvious that the US dependence on Arab oil supplies was higher than eight per cent which was then the widely accepted figure. While eight per cent constituted direct imports there were indirect imports of processed oil products via Italy and Holland which made the dependence double that percentage. *Though the United States was less dependent on imported supplies than others, it was not willing to share the shortage equitably with its allies such as Japan.*

Western European countries came to realise that while the United States expected its allies to support its policy of undifferentiated backing to Israel it was not prepared to consult its allies to arrive at a mutually acceptable policy. In fact, the United States, knowing full well that it could not carry its Western European allies with it, ordered a unilateral world wide alert of US forces on 25 October involving conventional and nuclear forces in the territories of its allies without bothering to consult them.

FACED with these circumstances the nine Western European countries, excluding Holland issued early in November a political declaration calling for the implementation of the Security Council Resolution 242 of 1967 which directed Israel to vacate all the Arab occupied territory. After considerable vacillation and getting little consolation from Dr. Kissinger for their energy problem during his visit to Japan in the middle of November, the Japanese too came out with categorical support of resolution 242 of 1967. In return the Arabs made a counter gesture of including Japan in the list of friendly nations. They first held back the five per cent further cut originally scheduled for December and then restored back the production by ten per cent, the cut being reduced to fifteen per cent.

This set of circumstances was too good to be missed by the Shahanshah. Iran prodded in the OPEC for an upward price revision and it was decided by OPEC that the government revenue from oil per barrel from 1 January, 1974 would be \$ 7.00. This meant that the sale price of a barrel of crude or Gulf oil will be around twelve dollars to the oil companies. Iran also auctioned a portion of its oil not committed for supply to oil companies and it fetched \$ 17.40 per barrel. All other oil exporters such as Venezuela, Algeria, Nigeria, Libya and Indonesia also revised upwards their prices in line with that announced by the Shahanshah. *The second and a more permanent dimension to the energy crisis was added to the earlier factor of restricted availability.*

*The Shahanshah professed to be opposed to the use of oil as a weapon, but he made the most effective use of the production cut by the Arab countries in pushing up the price. It is doubtful whether he would have been able to hike the price to the extent he did but for the Arab oil cut. Here the oil consuming industrial countries made a major miscalculation.*

Irrespective of whether the Arab unity in regard to oil embargo would last for a long time or not, all the oil exporting countries had a common interest in pushing up the price irrespective of their pro-West inclinations. They needed a production cut for a period



long enough to make the price rise credible and accepted. Once this has happened the process could be made irreversible. Even if the embargo is lifted and production cut restored, the price will not come down for many reasons.

THE OIL CONSUMING industrial countries had earlier planned that their expanding industrial growth would be based on an expansion of production of oil in the West Asian countries. Even if the West Asian oil production is kept at 1973 September level there will be a marginal shortage which will grow further with time and which would inevitably result in high prices.

These high prices are likely to reduce the incentive of the oil producing countries to increase their production as the high price will result in oil revenues which will be very much in excess of what most of these countries can absorb profitably. Therefore the present shortages and high prices will not just go away whether Dr. Kissinger brings about an Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories or not.  
—Foreign News & Features

### ONLY ONE BILLIARDS ROOM IN THE FORT

There is only one billiards table in Colombo Fort now—at the Central Y.M.-C.A.—for members only. Earlier, there was another one for the playing public in the neighbouring British Soldiers and Sailors Institute, but the institute has now closed its billiards room. Several years ago there were a number of billiard tables in the Fort—in the old G.O.H. the Bristol Hotel and the Dominion Hotel among others. Billiard enthusiasts say that with the world champion in our midst and with more people taking to the game more billiard rooms should be opened, instead of closing down the few that were available.

*Times of Ceylon*

IN ASIA

## Regional Co-operation

by  
S. Nilakanthan

'ASIAN PROSPERITY THROUGH MUTUAL CO-OPERATION' was the theme of the Fifth Conference of the Confederation of Asian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CACCI) held in New Delhi which was inaugurated by Mr. D. P. Dhar, India's Planning Minister, early this February.

The concept of regional co-operation in Asia has been discussed for a number of years in different forums, but, despite recognition of the need for co-operative effort for the rapid development of the countries of the region, progress in this direction has been slow as compared to other regions. As Mr. Y. B. Chavan, India's Finance Minister has observed, while in Europe, Latin America and Africa the institutional framework for promotion of greater regional trade and economic co-operation was very well developed, this is not the case in Asia.

Some steps have, no doubt, been taken through the initiative of the ECAFE towards drawing up an Asian Trade Expansion programme, the establishment of an Asian Clearing Union etc. But as Mr. K. K. Birla, who led the Indian delegation to the CACCI Conference pointed out, most of these proposals or projects are still in the preliminary stage and have not evoked the requisite response from the governments in the region. So far only a few countries, including India, have expressed their readiness to join the proposed Clearing Union which could be a very useful mechanism for promotion of regional trade; but it cannot start functioning until its membership includes most, if not all, countries of the region.

The more ambitious proposal of an Asian Reserve Bank was a non-starter, because it lacked the support of developed countries in the

region, particularly, Japan. Similarly, only a few countries have been participating in the trade expansion programme which envisages expansion of trade through tariff and non-tariff concessions and elimination of tariff barriers, as well as measures such as bulk purchases, long-term trade arrangements, joint commodity agreements, joint industrial ventures etc. The institutional arrangements for economic co-operation and supporting infra structure have yet to be evolved and implemented.

THE PROBLEM is complicated by the diversity of economic and political institutions in the region, the competitive nature of the economics of the countries and the need to transform the patterns of trade established during the colonial era. In view of these limiting factors, many attractive proposals of inter-governmental co-operation for the expansion of trade and industrial development, which are readily accepted in principle, remain in the stage of discussion at the successive conferences convened at different levels by inter-national bodies like the ECAFE.

For that reason, the recent conference of the CACCI cannot be dismissed as just another conference where discussions range far beyond the scope for effective follow-up. As an organisation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry in the region, the CACCI concentrates on detailed examination of the practical problems which come in the way of trade expansion and prepares the ground for effective collective action for the improvement of business conditions. The recent conference which brought together over three hundred delegates from eleven member countries of CACCI has provided the opportunity for establishing contacts, at individual level, between business men of the region for exchange of information and promotion of trade relationships.

As the retiring President Mr. Takashi Rinoiye pointed out in his address to the inaugural session, CACCI has sought to establish in each of the member countries a world trade centre, shippers council, to promote standardisation and simplification of trade documentation and commercial arbitration rules, exhibition of pro-



ducts of member-countries, exchange of trade missions and investments survey missions etc. Co-operation among the members have also led to the establishment of the Asian Agricultural Technical Service Center and the Private Investment Company for Asia.

Apart from dealing with the broader questions of regional co-operation, the conclusions of the Conference focus attention on detailed measures for facilitating the growth of inter-regional trade. For instance, the simplification and standardisation of trade documentation is of considerable importance for development of trade. While calling upon member countries, which have not yet done so, to adopt a fully aligned system of export documentation, the Conference has also set up a Commission of Asian Customs Brokers and Agents to promote the adoption of the aligned system throughout the region.

Lack of adequate shipping facilities and escalating ocean freight rates are major problems inhibiting the economic development of the region and the expansion of its trade. The Conference has underlined the need for adoption of a uniform and universally acceptable code of conduct, particularly in respect of freight rates for the Liner Conferences. As Mr. D. P. Chattopadhyaya, India's Minister of Commerce told the Conference, it may be worthwhile to explore the possibilities of regional shipping arrangements, including regional conferences. It has been agreed that CACCI would undertake to study the feasibility of regional co-operation in this field.

The Conference has noted that, in spite of geographic proximity, intra-regional trade formed only a small part of the total trade of each member country. Expansion of regional trade depends on increased complementarity in the economies of member countries and this will call for adoption of co-ordinated investment policies. It has been decided that CACCI would undertake a study of existing trade patterns in the region and examine the possibility of developing an overall trade and investment plan which would cover: expansion of trade and investment in the region; transfer of technology and arrangement for technical

training; establishment of joint ventures; and development of supporting services including transport, communications, tourism, consultancy services etc.

THE DEVELOPMENT of most of the countries in the region depends, to a great extent, on the flow of capital across national borders to make up for the shortfall in domestic savings. The Conference has emphasised that, for international investment to play its full and proper role in regional development, the legitimate aspirations of the host country would have to be recognised by the investors.

Attention has been drawn in this context to the code of conduct evolved by the Japanese Chambers of Commerce for their members, particularly big international cartels, to follow in dealing with foreign countries. Equally it is clear that the direction of the flow of capital will be determined by the climate for investment in the recipient countries. The study that CACCI proposes to initiate should help a better appreciation of different aspects of international investment.

The Conference met under the shadow of the Energy Crisis which has given a new dimension to the unstable international monetary situation. These developments, which have raised fear of slowing down of the economic growth of developing countries, emphasise the urgency of moving in to a greater degree of regional co-operation so as to enable the developing countries to withstand the dual shock of the energy crisis and monetary instability.

Mr. Chattopadhyaya has underlined the need to extend joint action in important commodities like jute and tea on lines which have led to the establishment of the Asian Coconut and Pepper Communities and the Association of National Rubber Producers.

In order to meet the energy crisis, the Conference has urged member countries to (1) arrange a progressive restructuring of energy bases and to encourage research into alternate sources of energy; (2) encourage the exploration of the oil resources of the region, both inland and off shore, and for this purpose, give realistic incentives

at all levels; and (3) initiate commodity agreements to bring greater parity in price levels in commodities.

—Foreign News & Features

## EDUCATION

### Pali and Sanskrit in Schools

by Jepharis

A study of the humanities is to be commended as it confers on growing minds a well rounded liberal education, a balanced outlook on life, a desire for scholastic pursuits, correct perspectives with which to assess and evaluate what they see and hear around them; and moreover, armed with the moral strength which the humanities are supposed to provide, supplementing the teachings of religion, they would be better equipped to resist the rising tide of materialism, one of the most disturbing features of modern life.

Just as the middle-aged of today had when they were in school the Western Humanities, Latin and Greek, to enrich the learning of English, of which they were derivative languages; modern students should have Pali and Sanskrit, the Oriental Classics, to do the same for the study of Sinhala, of which they are prime sources of origin, and of Buddhism, the religion of the people, with which they have rich traditional and cultural associations.

Pali was the language of the laity and Sanskrit the language of the Sangha, in ancient times. Much of the language of the sacred ola leaves was in Sanskrit, while the Mahavansa and Chulavansa were originally written in Pali.

The over-30s of today seldom had Pali and Sanskrit when they were in school, but they were burdened with Latin and Greek (usually small doses of Latin and less Greek), which by and large are



denied to today's generation. These studies were often a drudge in school, a love for them usually developing in later life, particularly for him who counts reading and/or writing among his hobbies. Latin and Greek, besides conferring on its pursuer a so-called 'finished education', a 'cultural polish' as it were, also gave him a certain scholastic attainment, embellished his appreciation of literature, and provided him with a spring-board from which to launch out into further creative work and research. It was also useful to some of the Professions such as Medicine and the Law, while both the Ceylon and the Indian Civil Service used to insist on its recruits offering Latin compulsorily, and Greek optionally, for its entrance examinations.

IN ORDER to encourage the learning of Pali and Sanskrit in schools, it would be most helpful if their enthusiasts could band themselves into an association for the furtherance of such studies on the lines of 'The Classical Association of Sri Lanka' or alternatively, if the latter association could add Pali and Sanskrit to its accepted range of subjects, in keeping with the nationalistic trends so rightly prevailing in modern Sri Lanka; and perhaps also include Arabic and Hebrew in its curriculum for the benefit of Muslim students and Biblical scholars respectively, and all others who may be keen on following such worthwhile pursuits.

In an age so culturally barren as the present, such institutions as 'The Royal Asiatic Society' and 'The Classical Association' stand out as beacon lights in a materialistic desert, transmitting aloft their ray of learning down the hallowed corridors of time, inspiring each new generation to keep alive cultural traditions and ideals from the storied Past, through the uncertain Present, into the unknown Future....

The study of Man's languages, both present and past, either in contemporary usage or obsolete, is an important aspect of the study of Man, but owing to the increasing demands and pressures of life, is sadly neglected nowadays. Where could one today, for instance, find a man of the calibre of that great linguist Canon Paul Lucien Jansz, said to be well versed in a

dozen or so languages, with a smattering of perhaps three dozen more? It is true that a knowledge of languages holds good only for ordinary mortals, and that in heaven we would be speaking an altogether new language, the language of LOVE made PERFECT in REDEMPTION; but nevertheless the study of languages edifies not only its pursuers, but also their contemporaries and those who follow in their wake, by giving them a wonderful example to follow.

IT IS A FACT that 'Science' is more popular than 'Arts', to take at random a common classification in schools today. This is because 'Science' holds the key to a greater selection of jobs and professions than do the 'Arts'. A study of the Humanities, or even the Oriental classics, would be less popular even than the 'Arts', because they do not open up any employment opportunities in modern Sri Lanka, where all or most of education must needs be 'job-orientated'.

Further, the unemployment problem is so great, that when a study of 'Arts', or even 'Science', or even 'Commerce' which some schools have introduced into their curricula to fulfil contemporary needs, do not supply the answers; where is the likelihood of children taking to the Classics? A mere handful perhaps of those blessed with more material means than others less fortunate, but hardly sufficient to justify the teaching of such subjects in schools.

One is aware that only a very few of the Colombo Schools offer Pali, that fewer still teach both Pali and Sanskrit; while of the boys' schools only, St. Thomas' and Royal provide a little Latin and less Greek, which not even the premier, Roman Catholic Institution St. Joseph's College sees fit to include in its curriculum. Indeed, apart from being taught in a handful of girls' schools, these subjects are now unobtainable anywhere else in the island below the University level. However, Pali, or Sanskrit, or both, together with Buddhism and Sinhala Literature, hold honoured places in the curricula of every recognised outstation school, and certainly in very many village and parivana schools.

IT IS very encouraging to note that a recent Education Minister's (the late I.M.R.A.I) blue print for a revised National Scheme of Education geared to contemporary circumstantial needs, contained a much greater emphasis than before on Technical and Vocational skills, training in Agriculture and Fisheries, and other practical occupations and means of earning a livelihood; which the Colonial set-up lacked, and successive Governments of Independent Ceylon have been trying to restore to their requisite priority in accordance with the crying need of the hour.

In the next White Paper on Education, the Minister should provide the 'leavening ingredient', or 'liberal element' by giving a place to such subjects as the oriental and Western Classics so that General Education would maintain a wholesome 'balance' and not lean over too heavily on the scale of materialism.

As regards the use of Latin in the day-to-day life of the country; this became almost obsolete when the last bastion of this classical language, the Roman Catholic Church, adapted its liturgy to the vernacular except in the most sacred portions of its Mass; but one believes this too has been brought in line with the rest of the Service. Doctors had long since given up writing their prescriptions in Latin, while the lawyers of Hultsdorf no longer take their oaths in this dead, albeit classical, language.

My concluding observation is that the pursuit of a liberal education, which that great English Essayist William Hazlitt vaunted (a study of the Classics, certainly today comes into this category) becomes more and more difficult, nay well nigh impossible, in an age which must needs pre-occupy itself more and more fully with earning its daily bread; and demands more leisure than most people can afford to spend in a world racing turbulently towards the close of the 20th century.





# Inania of this, that and the other

## Throw Freedom to the Winds

by Inna

With a big bang, the largest christian body closed a session on Justice and Celibacy in October 1971. (Uneasy male clerics so'd cyclostyled papers on celibacy at Fort station with garbled versions at a rupee each: that was their clever contribution, I'm told!). I peeped into the final document of this victory for justice of October 1971.

"Within the church, rights must be preserved. No one should be deprived of the ordinary rights of his because he is associated with the Church in one way or another. The Church recognises everyman's right to suitable freedom of expression of thought. This includes the right of everyone to be heard in a spirit of dialogue which preserves a legitimate diversity within the Church. The form of judicial procedure should give the accused the right to know his accusers and also the right to a proper defence..." (III, Practice of Justice, Synod document).

Is this happening in Sri Lanka?

I know of a priestly minister who has been hunted from place to place by his own religious leaders who are trying to ferret out "what he is doing and with whom he is living" or a christian grouping which has no clerical leadership (and therefore this document is not valid for them), has a member whose passport bears sad marks because she wanted to go to Lourdes on her own, and the leader of her christian sect had "no truck with Lourdes." And so on. Whether it be in Russia or Greece, Timbuctoo or Nice, Freedom must be maintained. It is not only for one country or one christian body.

SOME PRIESTS fought for the rights of Basques and were clapped in jail. A mission-country priest far from Colombo said that General

Franco was right, because if priests behave badly outside the sacristy (where he said, they have no right to be!) then the state takes them up.

What happened to this priest's Gospel I do not know. But it is strange that colonialists then and now, imperialists then and now, are the most vociferous in maintaining order! There is a supreme disorder in the world which comes from the devil and which parades as "decency" and "order"!

Listen to a country that has been, like ours, systematically raped by big powers:

"Priests and religions have so far been evincing greater awareness of their prophetic role in the Philippines with predictable consequences to themselves, arrests, imprisonment, raids, surveillance, a whole array of large and petty harassments. Among them the unspoken principle seems to be: if one level of leadership within the Church fails to exercise its role sufficiently, the next level will have to take more initiative. From all outward appearances, the principle seems to be fully operative" (Bishop Francisco Claver, SJ Bishop of Malaybalay, Bukidnon, Jan. 3, 1974 Paper: Church and State Under Martial Law, pp. 7)

OUR OPENING TO THE LEFT (see first issue of series) hails as our brothers and sisters the following religious (I had to look up the word and discovered a point which I will share with you later): "Five names were mentioned as representatives of the group: Fathers Nacu (La Sallette order), Geronimo (Blessed Sacrament Father), Jalandoni (Diocesan Secular priest, Bacolod), Yusingoo (Redemptorist), and former nun (Good Shepherd) Consuelo Ledesma. All five were under detention or arrest in 1973, October," and may be even now.

There, prices of prime necessities shoot up, but the people shut up.

It's Martial law. Export trade is siphoning off a good portion of primary commodities for their, high dollar-earning capabilities in the foreign market, but the people shut up. It's martial law. Foreign investors pour into the country. Oh yes, jobs, industrialization, but at what a cost? Exorbitant profits for big international conglomerates:

exploitation of the nation's natural and human resources...all this means that the people, ordinary people are the losers...and the people have to shut up! (p. 5, Bishop Claver)

### INDIA REGARDS

## SOYA BEAN-AS THE MIRACLE CROP

Soybean, or more popularly *Soybean*, the miracle crop of the twentieth century, is a leguminous crop that not only maintains the fertility of the soil, but also provides a balanced diet for our people and raw material for agro-industries.

Many of our farmers have earnestly taken up cultivation of soybean and they are harvesting 20 to 30 quintals of beans per hectare. There is a great demand for soybean chiefly from the antibiotic industry and from manufacturers of high protein foods and baby foods and vanaspati industry.

SOYABEAN is widely used in the industrial production of antibiotics such as streptomycin, oxytetracycline, actidione, etc. because it serves as the choicest food and source of nitrogen for antibiotic producing micro-organisms.

Soybean is also a rich source of protein and oil. It has about 40 to 43 per cent protein and 19 to 20 per cent oil. In addition, soybean contains several important vitamins and minerals such as calcium, phosphorus and iron.

DIFFERENT PROJECTS on Soybean have revealed that soybean could be successfully cultivated in different regions of the country. Further, these trials prove that cultivation of soybean would be distinctly advantageous because of its short duration (90 to 100 days).

Soybean can be inter-cropped with others like maize to bring in additional income. In areas where the monsoon retired early and makes groundnut harvesting difficult, growing soybean proves to be more profitable.

—Kuruksheeta

TRIBUNE, March 30, 1974



## IN TEA AND COFFEE

## CAFFEINE

— its dangers —

by LISA KAY

**Four out of five people in the U.S.A. have coffee for breakfast, and one out of four coffee-drinking readers drinks five or more cups a day.**

In 1969, scientists writing in *Chemical and Engineering News* reported chromosome breaks in human blood cells as a result of caffeine use. Caffeine they stated, may combine with DNA to distort parts of its genetic blueprint, thus making caffeine a mutagen a substance capable of producing genetic changes.

A **DRUG** is defined as a substance which increases, decreases, alters or distorts a given bodily process. Caffeine is the most widely used drug in the United States.

**Coffee is, of course, a popular source of caffeine, but caffeine is also found in equally large quantities in tea, and in varying amounts in chocolate, cocoa, cola drinks (including the sugarless varieties), headache and pain relievers, cold tablets and wake-up preparations.**

Recently, obstetricians have been advising pregnant women not to use caffeine in any form during the first three months of their pregnancies.

One cup of Coffee or Tea contains about 90 mgs. of caffeine, about the same amount as one No-Doz tablet. The immediate effects of caffeine are to increase the heart rate and cause the heart to beat more forcefully, raising the blood pressure. Caffeine also excites nerve centres in the brain, providing a temporary feeling of exhilaration followed by a feeling of physical and mental depression, until more caffeine is taken and the cycle repeats.

**COFFEE** itself contains no nutrients that the body can use in the repair or maintenance of tissues, and is thus not considered a food. In

addition to caffeine, coffee also contains volatile oils which irritate the lining of the intestines and are implicated in the development of duodenal ulcers. Coffee also has a congesting effect on the kidneys and overloads this vital organ and it plays a roll in the development of hypoglycemia, or low blood sugar by overstimulating the pancreas, which consequently overproduces insulin. (Hyperinsulinism is another term for describing low blood sugar).

**CAFFEINE** is addictive to the extent that discontinuing its use produces discomfort. The discomfort varies, and for some, it is not at all easy to give up. However, damage to the body is, I feel, not worth this paticualr indulgence, especially since there are good substitutes.

*Sanka* and other de-caffeinated coffees taste great when brewed like regular coffee. If you're lazy about this, like I am, use 1 1/2 teaspoons of instant instead of the recommended amount. It's even better if you add a few drops of vanilla extract and some cinnamon.

**Caffeine doesn't contribute to the taste of coffee, and more brands will soon be making their blends available in de-caffeinated form.**

**HERB "TEAS"** are delicious and mineral-rich. Alfalfa, papaya, comfrey, kaffir and linden blossom teas are herbs, leaves, or flowers and aren't really "tea", so they don't contain caffeine and do contain valuable nutrients. These are only a few of the many varieties available but are my favorites, along with peppermint, which I use by itself or mixed with the other flavours. *Drink these brews plain, with milk, or sweetened with honey or apple juice.*

Herb teas can also be used to cleanse the face. Wring out a facecloth in steaming herb tea and apply it to the skin until the pores open, after a few minutes, then wash as usual. Many herbs remove impurities that clog pores and prevent the skin from breathing properly.

**The first week or 10 days of coffee withdrawal can be ghastly, but needn't be. Extra B and C vitamins help enormously, and**

**should be used heavily during the first few weeks.**

Because it is a toxic substance, caffeine like, alcohol, has a deleterious effect on the liver, one of whose functions is to keep the body pure by acting as a filter for poisons we ingest. Vitamin C takes some of that pressure off the liver, and the B vitamins act to quiet a jangled nervous system.

.....

## MAURITIUS

The state of Mauritius consists of Mauritius, Rodrigues, Agalega and Cargados Carajos islands in the Mascarene group in the western part of the Indian Ocean. It is 2,100 square kilometres in area (with Mauritius accounting for more than 1,800 square kilometres) and has a population of about 900,000 made up of Indians, Africans, Europeans, Creoles and Chinese. The capital is Port Louis. The official language is English.

Discovered by the Portuguese in the 16th century, Mauritius was seized by the Dutch, then by the French and finally by the English. In 1968 it was proclaimed independent and is a member of the Commonwealth. The head of state is the British Queen, represented by the governor-general. The power to legislate is vested in the Legislative Assembly and executive powers are exercised by the Council of Ministers now headed by Seewoosagar Ramgoolam.

There are several political parties. A big role in public affairs is played by the Mauritian Fighters' Movement, which advocates progressive reforms and the nationalization of large enterprises.

The economy is based upon the cultivation of sugar cane, which accounts for 95 per cent of the country's exports. Also grown are tea, tobacco, aloe, fruit and vegetables. There are several large British and French owned sugar refineries. The main items of export are sugar, molasses and tea. Mauritius imports food and manufactured goods.



## ✱ DIFFICULT TIMES

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

### BICYCLE THEFTS INCREASE

Bicycle thieves are making their presence felt again. Figures maintained by the Crime Detection Bureau, Colombo, show that the number of bicycles stolen per month has increased from an average of 30 in early 1972 to about 70. Police investigators have found it difficult to trace stolen bicycles as thieves dismantle and sell parts to second hand dealers, police said. The Crime Detection Bureau had warned secondhand bicycle dealers not to purchase dismantled parts from unauthorised persons. The bicycle is a very expensive item today. So please take greater care if you own one. a city police official appealed yesterday.

—Daily News, 6/2/74

### RS. 120 TO CUT GRASS WORTH RS. 18

It costs the Colombo Municipal Council around Rs. 120 to cut and transport Rs. 18 worth of grass to feed the cattle at the Dematagoda Municipal abattoir. The council's grass field at Ferguson Road, Mattakkuliya, has a watcher and seven men employed to cut grass. Two of these grasscutters were reported missing when the Mayor Mr. A. H. M. Fowzie, paid a surprise inspection. The council has also to provide a truck to transport the grass to Dematagoda and employ a man to load the grass into the truck. The total cost of the operation has been worked out at Rs. 120 a day. The same amount of grass can be bought at Rs. 18, so the Mayor has ordered

that the purchase be made outside and the labour transferred to more profitable work. The two men who were allegedly missing from their work-place have been interdicted.

—Times of Ceylon, 6/2/74

### FISHERMEN RELUCTANT TO GO OUT

Fishermen operating motorised vessels now need a minimum of Rs. 50 to venture out to sea and they are showing reluctance to do so, according to Fisheries Department officials. Yet surprisingly, the price of fish in the market has not gone up in spite of the reduced supply. According to fish traders people have changed their eating habits in the wake of the spiraling living costs. The price of seer, for instance, has been fluctuating between Rs. 5 and Rs. 5.50 a pound. Last week-end fish traders could not dispose of their stocks even at Rs. 4.50. According to Fisheries Department officials, fishermen manning mechanised boats are reluctant to put out to sea because they fear they would not get a catch sufficient even to justify the minimum expenses of Rs. 50 for fuel.

—Times of Ceylon, 4/2/74

### FLOUR: adequate stocks ensured

### No Price increase or change in distribution says TBI

There is no cause for alarm over the supply position regarding flour, Mr. T. B. Illangaratne, Minister of Foreign and Internal Trade, told the Daily News yesterday. He said that adequate stocks of flour had been ensured and there was no need to speculate on a price increase in flour or a change in the present distribution system. The Minister said that in fact at present the Food Commissioner released as much as 42,000 tons

of flour a month for distribution on the ration and for supply to bakeries. This amount is 7,000 tons more per month than earlier when only 35,000 tons were released a month for these purposes. The supply of flour had been increased mainly to ease any difficulty that could have arisen as a result of fluctuations in the issue of the rice ration.

Daily News, 5/3/74

### BLACK FLAGS AT LAW COLLEGE GATE

Students of Law College, Hultsdorp are still on strike. Black flags have been strung across the entrance to the college and a prominent poster states: "Obituary: Ceylon Law College brother of Law Faculty, cousin of Medical College, expired under tragic circumstances. No flowers by request."

Times of Ceylon, 5/3/74

### FOREIGN EXCHANGE FALLACY

One of the great illusions under which sizeable sections of the United Front Government labours, is the fallacy that Doctors, Engineers etc. who migrate abroad make a substantial contribution, in valuable Foreign Exchange of course to our depleted exchequer.

For example, Immigration Department figures for 1972 showed that the 800 professionals who had left during that year had during six month period remitted only Rs. 42,000. This works out to Rs. 52.50 or Rs. 105 per annum.

The State spends nearly Rs. 27,000 on a medical student for his primary, secondary and University education. At the present rate of remittance it will take something like 257 years to make good the investment the State has sunk in its "exportable" professionals.

—Nation, 8/2/74

### CUP OF TEA AT 75 CTS.

The price of a cup of tea with milk ranged from 50 cents to 75

FOR NEWS  
BEHIND THE NEWS

read

TRIBUNE

regularly.



cents at eating houses and restaurants in the Fort and Pettah this morning.

Plain tea was generally sold at 40 cents.

—Times of Ceylon, 1/3/74

**HOT OVER RICE AND CURRY BAN**

United Front trade unions are perturbed over the Government's decision to ban the sale of cooked rice and curry meals in hotels and restaurants. They propose asking the Food Control authorities to exempt workers' canteens both in the public and private sector. A large number of white-collar workers and those of the subordinate staff bring their lunch from home in order to avoid the payment of Rs. 5 per month to lunch carriers.

There have been several instances where lunch carriers do not deliver the lunch plates to the persons concerned and trot out the excuse that the lunch basket had been pilfered. Hotels and restaurants,

"The Time of Ceylon" understands, will continue to serve cooked rice-and-curry meals in private rooms of their establishments. Since the beginning of this month, the few Chinese hotels in the city have had an increased clientele, but their prices are beyond the reach of the average white-collar worker.

Times of Ceylon, 1/3/74


**BEER RS. 5.25, STOUT RS. 6 A BOTTLE NOW**

Beer has gone up by a rupee a bottle. This follows last Thursday's price hike on off ration sugar which is an important ingredient at the local breweries. Wholesale liquor dealers have been informed by one large brewery from that today purchases will cost approximately one rupee more on a bottle. The same brewery has put up the price of a bottle of stout by Rs. 1.25. The current retail price of a bottle of beer is Rs. 4/25. Stout before the price hike sold at Rs. 4/75. The new prices: Rs. 5/25 for beer, Rs. 6/- for a bottle of stout.

Bars and restaurants charge customers 50 cents to 75 cents more on a bottle of beer and stout respectively. Deposits on empties too have been increased. A large bottle requires a deposit of Rs. 1/- while a pint costs 35 cents. A spokesman of the brewery said yesterday that the price hike was inevitable after Thursday's off-ration sugar price was increased. A quantity of sweetening goes into the manufacture of beer and stout, he said.

Most traders in the country have in the meantime taken advantage of the price increase of sugar. For example old stocks of aerated water, sweets and chocolates are being sold at double the price. Grocers charge Rs. 1/25 to Rs. 1/50 for a bottle of aerated water. The earlier selling price was 60 to 70 cents. A chocolate slab which cost Rs. 2/25 is now sold at Rs. 4/50, the price marking on the cover has been defaced with ink. A single toffee or lozenge now costs 12 to 15 cents. Manufacturers however claimed yesterday that they had not increased the price of their products so far. They claimed that traders were "cashing in" on the sugar price hike and manufacturers had no control over retail prices.

—Daily News, 4/3/74



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**NO DISCRIMINATION —KOBBEKADUWA**

No discrimination whatsoever has been made between the farmers of the north and south in the provision of assistance for food production said Mr. Hector Kobbekaduwa, Minister of Agriculture at a meeting in Jaffna on Thursday evening.

He said this was always the Government's policy and it has always been consistent in this policy, he pointed out.

The farmers of Jaffna had responded magnificently to the Prime Minister's call to produce more food. The Government was grateful to the Jaffna peasant for the contribution made to the food drive.

The Minister of Post and Telecommunications, Mr. C. Kumarasuriya also spoke.

—Daily News, 2/3/74



## YUGOSLAVIA

# A Country Without an Official Language

## Equality of Language in Practice

by FADIL SILZAK

Belgrade,

A member of parliament of the federated Yugoslav republic of Slovenia recently stated that this legislative body was recently obliged to adopt the text of several draft laws in the Serbo-Croatian instead of the Slovenian language. Almost at the same time during the debate on the Constitution it was found by a commission of the Federal Parliament that the meaning of a paragraph in the Serbo-Croatian and Croato-Serbian versions of the text was not identical. This gave rise to an unusual controversy over the authenticity of translations of legislative prescriptions into the languages of all peoples and nationalities living in Yugoslavia.

None the less, the controversy did not concern the equality of rights of the Yugoslav languages or more exactly it was not of a political nature. In view of Yugoslavia's multinational character it was decided over ten years ago to assure strict respect of the equality of the languages of all Yugoslav peoples and nationalities—Serbs, Croats, Slovenes, Macedonians, Albanians, Hungarians and other nations whose minorities live in Yugoslavia. Consequently, the previous practice according to which Serbo-Croatian, the language spoken by the vast majority of the population in the federated republic of Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Montenegro was used as the official language has been abandoned.

AS ALREADY stated, the misunderstandings which occurred in parliament were due to difficulties of a technical nature. In order to assure the consistent enforcement of the principle of equality of languages in the Federation and in relations with the republics and provinces, provision has been made in the standing orders of the Fed-

eral Parliament for the translation of laws and other legislative acts into the languages of all peoples and nationalities. The deputies are even entitled to demand that a session be adjourned in case of failure to translate any of the amendments into a certain language. This is why the text of all laws are published at present in the Serbo-Croatian and Croato-Serbian version as well as in the Macedonian, Slovenian, Albanian and Hungarian languages.

**A Commission for the Authentication of Legislative Texts** in the languages of the peoples and nationalities of Yugoslavia has been set up in the Yugoslav Federal Parliament. The Commission members do not translate the texts, but collate them and ascertain whether their meaning is identical in all languages.

Prior to approval by Parliament, the texts of the draft legislative proposals are translated in a special Federal Centre staffed by experienced translators. The Centre which was established two years ago, serves the requirements of the federal administration. The ability and competence of all translators applying for jobs in the Centre is tested by the leading Yugoslav philological experts and scholars.

THE TRANSLATORS employed in the Centre are faced by considerable difficulties, however. Apart from the length of the individual texts which may sometimes exceed 200 pages, it is frequently necessary to provide accurate definitions of the many and various terms used in the day-to-day political jargon in order to assure that they are translated correctly. Adequate terms and words had to be found for many novel concepts and situations which inevitably appear in a society in which relations are regulated on a self-managing basis and for which there is no precedent. Needless to say, this was no easy matter.

According to current plans, special attention will be devoted to the further development of the translation centres. The latter are new institutions to which the meticulous practical enforcement of the principle of equality of languages of the peoples and nationalities in Yugoslavia will be entrusted.

The problem of how these centres and the Federal Centre in particular will follow the development of each Yugoslav language to whom equality in public affairs and official correspondence has been guaranteed is currently under consideration. This requires the careful and continuous maintenance of detailed and up to date records of all new terms, expressions, definitions etc. The translators of the Federal Centre will be required to visit the republican centres and language institutes for the purpose of consultations more often.

As recently stated by the Secretary of the Federal Commission for the Authentication of Legislative Texts in the languages of the peoples and nationalities of Yugoslavia, "almost all spheres of activity and life are regulated by law, and if the laws are badly written, the consequences can be very serious indeed."

IT IS CONSEQUENTLY IMPERATIVE that the texts of all laws be fully identical in all languages and this requires a highly competent staff capable of doing the job promptly and accurately. Only the draft federal laws which bear directly on their economic interests were examined thus far by the republican and provincial parliaments. According to the new Constitution, however, all laws submitted to the Chamber of the Republics and Provinces in the Federal Parliament must be debated beforehand by the parliaments of all socio-political communities.

The principle of equal rights of the peoples and nationalities of Yugoslavia is not limited to the foregoing only. The citizens' right to address the administrative and judicial institutions in their native language and demand of these institutions to do the same is no less important. Notwithstanding certain exceptions this principle has prevailed fully in practice. It is also applied by the Yugoslav diplomatic missions abroad in their communications with Yugoslav citizens,—members of the Yugoslav peoples and nationalities. Besides Serbo-Croatian, i.e., Croato-Serbian Macedonian and Slovenian inscriptions on the federal institutions and diplomatic missions have also been introduced long ago.

—TANJUG

TRIBUNE, March 30, 1974



# IS IT TRUE?

## Sherlock Holmes

### \* MALDIVES AGAIN

be less and less dependent on Sri Lanka to have a foothold on a mainland? That Trivandram and Cochin will soon replace Katunayake and Colombo for major air and sea contact with the Maldives? That tourists coming to India may hop over directly to the Maldives by-passing Sri Lanka?

IS IT NOT A PITY that Sri Lanka which could very easily have played a major and significant role in helping the new Maldivian Republic to fan out into India and the rest of Asia from a base in Colombo—has been side-tracked into isolation by the acts of commission and omission or the part of some of our bureaucrats who had no use for this little speck in the Indian Ocean? That for a country which was actively sponsoring the Indian Ocean Peace Plan the importance of the Maldives should have been realised by everybody? That the Madras Hindu, in an editorial on 13/3, pointed out that in 1956 the British had obtained base and staging post rights in the island of Gan? That for a 30-year lease of Gan in 1960 the British undertook to defend the Maldives and give substantial economic aid? That this had become a political issue among the islanders and the agreement was revised in 1965 when Britain gave up its role of protecting power and recognised the full independence of the group? That the right to continue to use Gan continues for some more years? That it was "against this background that Mr. Zaki's statement in New Delhi that he would join other Asian countries to check the competition among foreign powers in the Indian Ocean must be viewed? That while past commitments to the British are being honoured, the Maldivians would like to see the area controlled by the littoral powers?" That "meanwhile, the development of the islands must be taken up as fast as possible with the help of India and Sri Lanka"? That the Hindu, and India, seem to be more fully aware of the role Sri Lanka can still play vis a vis the Maldives than many important people in Sri Lanka itself? That it is time that Sri Lanka woke up to the importance of the Maldives in the Indian Ocean? That in our fight for the ownership of Kachchativu we seem to have lost sight of the significance of the Maldives?

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IS IT NOT TRUE that India has stolen a march over Sri Lanka so far as the Maldives are concerned? That the Prime Minister of Maldives went on his first State Visit to India early in March? That in the fitness of things, Sri Lanka should have been the first country to invite the Maldivian PM on a state visit? That the fact that the Maldivian PM, Mr. Ahmend Zaki, knows this island very well is no reason why he should not have been invited to Sri Lanka on a formal state visit? That the fact that Maldivian dignitaries have been in and out of Ceylon, over the years, is no reason for not honouring them—when their country has become an independent and sovereign Republic? That this column had drawn attention recently to the "patronising" treatment which Sri Lanka bureaucrats had inflicted on certain Maldivian VIPs. That the first consequences of this cavalierly off-handed treatment was that the Maldivians have now permitted the State Bank of India to open a branch in Male—the one and only bank in the Maldives—in spite of an application from a Sri Lanka bank to open a branch there? That Maldives may be a tiny island devoid of easily convertible natural resources (except maldivian fish), but she has now one of the biggest merchant marine fleets in the East? That it is a fleet about which countries far bigger than the Maldives could be well proud about? That the headquarters of this fleet had for long been in Colombo and Ceylon banks had done well on the operations of Maldivian ships? That owing to an unforgivable faux pas, the MNTC (the Maldivian National Trading Corporation) has shifted its main headquarters from Colombo to Bombay? That it is only natural therefore that Male should pick on the State Bank of India as the first bank to begin operations in the Islands?

vian Prime Minister was accorded a Red Carpet welcome in India? That India had sent an IAF HS-748 (Avro) to bring Mr. Zaki and his entourage from Male to Bangalore? That from Bangalore the party was flown to New Delhi in a VIP aircraft of the Indian Air Force, Raj Hansa, a TU-124? That at Palam the Maldivian PM was met by the Indian PM, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, Foreign Minister, Swaran Singh and other notables?

IS IT NOT A FACT that though the word Diego Garcia was not mentioned in official communiques and statements, India scored a major diplomatic triumph when it persuaded the Maldivian PM to extend "support for the concept of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace free from Great Power rivalries, tensions and military escalation?" That for a country, which allows the famous Gan Base on its territory, to subscribe in the joint communique to all the accepted tenets of third world non-alignment is a remarkable achievement? That even if Maldivian declarations on these matters are still no more than paper declarations of pious intentions, there is no doubt that they go a long way in slowly edging the Maldives away from the imperial hold of Great Britain? That even more important is the fact that India has agreed to extend assistance in the field of education and fisheries. That in the not so distant past all Maldivians, who could afford to be educated, or to whom the Government had granted scholarships, came to Colombo for their education? That now Maldivians flock to India for such education? That very soon India will establish an air link from Trivandram to Male? That there will also be regular coastal shipping between the Maldives and Cochin? That the Air Maldives, which Sri Lanka personnel are helping to build, will also enable the Maldivian Republic to