

Vol. 24 No 29 — January 26, 1980 — R. 2-50

TRIBUNE



25TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION



RACE & CLASS

A JOURNAL
FOR BLACK AND
THIRD WORLD
LIBERATION

Quarterly journal of the Institute of Race Relations and
the Transnational Institute

Race & Class is an anti-racist, anti-imperialist quarterly covering black struggles in metropolitan countries, migrant workers' struggles in Europe and liberation struggles in the Third World. Recent issues included: Orlando Letelier on Chile, John Berger on peasant experience. Malcolm Caldwell on Thailand, Basil Davidson on Angola. Eqbal Ahmad on Tunisia, Noam Chomsky on Vietnam, A. Sivanandan on racism and the state. Recent articles have examined science and imperialism, the IQ myth, racism in popular fiction, class struggle in Ethiopia and Sudan, health and underdevelopment, fascism in Britain, women in Cuba and China.

Race & Class is now available to individuals at \$12/£5.50 per annum (\$20/£8.00 for institutions).

I enclose \$12/£5.50 for one year's subscription to *Race & Class* starting with the current issue.

NAME

ADDRESS

..... Zip Code

Send to the Institute of Race Relations, 247 Pentonville Road,
London N1 9NG, UK (please send cash with order, cheques to
be made payable to 'The Institute of Race Relations').

Letter From The Editor

THE YOUNG LADY on our cover this week—an attractive member of Sri Lanka's gipsy tribe—is smiling not because of the happiness which many may think has been evoked by the euphoria created by free text books to school children and the gift of free houses to tenants who paid less than Rs. 25 rent per month. This picture was taken long before the age of dharmista dawned in this island. The young lady, moreover, has no need for text books and as for housing she and her people carry their little houses along and settle down for a period in suitable sites under trees besides a flowing stream or in close proximity to a tank. They have never paid rent and are not bothered about title deeds. She is all smiles because our photographer said some nice things to her. We chose the picture for our cover to go with a review of a Woman's journal that appears in this issue at page 27. We had also hoped to publish in this issue some articles on the question of beauty contests, exploitation and other matters which seems to interest Sri Lanka women's lib movement. But other matters of great national and international significance have claimed priority in our pages this week. At the first available opportunity we will revert to all the questions that rightly agitate the leading lights of our women's lib movement. Whilst giving all encouragement and support to the cause of women's emancipation, we would however point out, as we have done in the review, that many things can be pushed to the point where they boomerang or turn counter-productive. For the moment we can leave women's lib alone and turn to matters of greater urgency. Last week we dealt with the question of food production—rice and the subsidiary crops. This year the government has planned to import 300,000 tons of rice and not less than 500,000 tons of wheat flour. If the Maha crop is not the bumper expected these imports will increase further. If the production of subsidiary food crops are even less than last year, there will be more imports. Ministers still continue to talk about self-sufficiency in rice and about exporting rice surplus soon. Little do they realise that self-sufficiency—to make a decisive impact on the economy—must be in respect of all grains consumed (not merely rice alone) and therefore our production of rice, kurakkan and other staples must be sufficient to stop the import of rice altogether and reduce the import of wheat flour to a marginal minimum. In spite of big talk, one cannot as yet detect any silver lining in the dark and overcast horizon of subsidiary food crop production. After nearly three years of free imports of all subsidiaries that can be produced here—to teach farmers (not the middlemen who are now importers also) a lesson—there is talk of floor prices and a gentle hint that if enough is produced locally there would be no more imports. If this policy of floor prices (based on local costs of production and not the dumping prices of certain exporting countries) and with a realistic regulation of imports had been adopted by the UNP in 1977, food prices in Sri Lanka would not have soared to the dizzy heights they have now reached.

TRIBUNE

Ceylon News Review

Founded In 1954

A Journal of Ceylon and

World Affairs

Editor, S. P. Amarasingam

Every Saturday

January 26, 1979

Vol. 24 No. 29

TRIBUNE

43, DAWSON STREET
COLOMBO — 2.

Tel: 33172.

CONTENTS

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

—Houses, Books, Food p. 2

AFGHANISTAN

—Carter, Brezhnev p. 4

PAKISTAN

—Reprieve? p. 6

JANA SUGATHIYA

—News p. 8

FOR THE RECORD

—UNP On Loans p. 9

IN JUSTICE?

—Spotlighted p. 10

NEDECO—iv

—M. haweli p. 12

HAVANA DIARY-17

—Fourth Day (2) p. 14

CHRONICLE

—J n. 7—16 p. 18

BANK UNION

—On Thuggery p. 24

BOOK REVIEW

—Women p. 27

HOLIDAYS

—in Asia p. 28

CONFIDENTIALLY

—Living Costs p. 32

Houses, Books, Food*Colombo, January 21.*

Last week the country witnessed an impressive demonstration of the UNP's and the Government's capacity to put through an exercise intended to catch the popular imagination and presumably satisfy the some of the latent hopes and aspirations of less affluent sections of the community for a better life. Prime Minister Premadasa masterminded a scheme to hand over title deeds of ownership to 21,000 people who had long been tenants of buildings (it would be a travesty of truth to call most of them "houses") which fetched rents less than Rs. 25 a month. The foundation for this distribution had been laid in the days of Keuneman whose radical measures had caused a large number of surplus houses to be vested in the National Housing Department. Premadasa has been able to do what Keuneman had failed (owing to landlord vested interests impinging on the SLFP)—to distribute these houses to the tenants. He has gone further, and in areas where there were no such houses, he has used governmental powers to see that a few persons in each electorate did receive such title deeds.

But, whether this distribution of title deeds will yield the dividends expected is another question. What these "free" houses will mean to the tenants is yet to be seen. Do all of them have the money to repair and update the buildings—and most of them are in need of urgent repair? In the bad old days the landlords were expected to attend to repairs and maintenance, but they did not. After these buildings were vested in the State, the Housing Department had the duty to do this, but the neglect of these tenement buildings continued. And now the new owners have to take over the responsibility—and the State has necessarily to give them loans to accomplish this. One can visualise a new kind of vicious circle unless groups of such title-holders are organised into co-operatives of small house owners.

Much has been made of this distribution of title deeds: that this is a start of a "house-

owning democracy." The UNP is well known for these slogans. In 1952-54 Sir Kirthiah Valthiananthan, a Minister in the UNP administration, also started schemes to establish a house-owning democracy, and the final outcome was that a handful of top bureaucrats and other lucky members from the top shelf built near-palatial houses in Cinnamon gardens and in some of the City's suburbs and that at subsidised prices. The Prime Minister has started at the other end of the stick at a time when the top elite who own houses have begun to exploit tenants mercilessly and ruthlessly. As a populist gimmick, the free (less than Rs. 25 a month rent) house scheme, has its virtues. It can be used for propaganda purposes for a time. But in the long run, or even in the short run before the 1983 election, it can boomerang on the UNP and the government in a number of ways. People have already begun saying that the free rice has been taken away from millions of poor, but free houses are being given to a few thousands of tenement dwellers. Every poor and lower middle class family will now similarly expect a free or nearly-free house (title deeds and all). It is not conceivable that even a minor fraction of those who deserve to receive such a bonanza will get such houses—and those who do not receive such title deeds may decisively demonstrate their feelings of bitterness and frustration in the 1983 ballot. With house rents soaring for middle and lower middle families in and out of Colombo, this distribution of free houses may prove a costly exercise for the UNP.

The free text books to school children is another cup of tea. The scheme is universal in that it is applicable to all children in all schools up to grade nine (the earlier distinction between state and private schools was wisely done away with). There is no doubt that free text books is a necessary and worthwhile prerequisite to take the free-tuition system of education in Sri Lanka one step nearer a truly free system. As the President had envisaged in 1945 children had to be given free text books and free clothing if they are to enjoy the benefits of free education in this country with a low per capita income. Moreover, free text books will go a long way towards making primary and even secondary education real to a very large number of child-

ren who customarily drop out. But it must be remembered that the difficulties in the purchasing of text books is only one (not the most important) reason for drop outs. Parents want children reaching the age of ten or eleven to help them out in domestic chores or to be employed at sub-standard wages (as domestics, seasonal farm hands, lottery ticket-sellers, hawkers etc. etc.) to add to the family kitty.

It was a wise decision on the part of the President to utilise Rs. 50 to Rs. 60 million of the Rs. 3 bill on allowed by the IMF to Sri Lanka for subsidies to provide free text books for school children. The scheme was announced in the Budget in mid November and the Prime Minister appointed Mr. Lionel Jayatileke to be the Minister in charge of the textbook exercise. Between the President and the Minister of Education Services, not only were the required number of text books (running into many millions) printed on time by state and private printing presses but they were moved to every centre and school for distribution well ahead of the scheduled date. This organisational feat is an accomplishment of the first magnitude in Sri Lanka which has a reputation for lotus eating, procrastination and slipshod work.

If the same determination, perserverence and clock-work fulfilment of functions were shown in the sector of agriculture, and more especially in subsidiary foodcrops, the future of the country (and the UNP) will be assured. Why does the President not nominate or appoint persons who can do a job of work in the way it should be done in the field of agriculture—the key sector which might well prove to be the Achilles Heel of this government?

There is another aspect to the massive propaganda barrage that was mounted to introduce the distribution of 21,000 title deeds to tenement dwellers and text books to three million school children. It was undoubtedly a strategic backdrop to push through the first stage of the further cuts on the welfare subsidies that had become an integral part of the economy and which Sri Lanka has now undertaken to eliminate in stages to qualify for IMF blessings. The distribution of title deeds and text books were over on Friday January 18. On the night of Sunday, January

20, the increases in the prices of bread, flour, sugar and rice were announced. The Ceylon Daily News set out the increases: "Flour Rs. 1.50 a lb. (up 14 cts.); Bread Rs. 1.35 a lb. (up 10 cents) Sugar Rs. 4.50 a lb. (up Rs. 1.50); Local country raw rice Rs. 1.78 per lb. (up 19 cents); Local parboiled rice Rs. 1.78 per lb. (up 15 1/2 cts.); Imported raw rice Rs. 1.90 a lb. (up 10 cts.) and Imported parboiled rice Rs. 2.00 per lb. (up 17 1/2 cts.," and the CDN report went on to say: "Most of the items affected by the price increases carry heavy subsidies. The subsidy bill today is Rs. 5,100 million a year. President J. R. Jayewardene inaugurating the Rs. 50 million a year free textbooks scheme last Friday at Kaiyapitiya said the government would have to take a decision soon as to whether it could spend money on subsidies or use it in development instead, which would give employment to youth and the 200,000 annual school leavers. He said that owing to oil price rises Sri Lanka had to spend more on its imports. The government was now spending on subsidies Rs. 1,800 million on rice, flour and sugar, Rs. 700 million on the CTB, Rs. 200 million on the railway, Rs. 1,200 million on the food stamp scheme and Rs. 1,200 million on oil, making a total of Rs. 5,100 million per year, he said."

It is clear that further increases in bus and rail rates, in the prices of diesel, kerosene and petrol and also rice, sugar, flour, and bread can be expected before the Aid Consortium meeting in Paris in May-June. To find the local funds to qualify for the World Bank and IMF sponsored loans for development, as Tribune has explained many times before, the subsidies which had kept domestic retail prices low have to be cut—thereby increasing the prices for the people. The two Rs. 50 salary increases and the third which will in all probability be imposed soon cannot by any stretch of imagination make ends meet for the majority of ordinary people. Already parents grumble that the money they had hoped to save on textbooks will not be enough for the increases in the prices of bread, flour, sugar and rice. The euphoria about free title deeds and free text books is likely to fade away much sooner than other populist euphorias most governments since independence had created through propaganda avalanches based on slender and marginal benefits.

But it is likely that the price increases will be accepted without any serious repercussions. Most people feel that with the global price increases there was little the Government could do. A Tribune reader, very unhappy about many recent developments, said: ".....Is there anyone else or any other party that can do any better?....."

There is no doubt that he said what many millions feel in this country. No other individual or Party has so far suggested a way out.

X X X

ON AFGHANISTAN

:: SLFP :: Frontier Gandhi

:: Carter :: Brezhnev

Colombo, Jan. 15.

The Sri Lanka Freedom Party views with grave concern the presence of Soviet troops in Afghanistan, the party's General Secretary, Mr. Rathasiri Wickramanayake said in a statement on Monday. The statement said: "It is an internationally accepted principle that no country should interfere in the internal affairs of another country, more so by despatching troops. This is also a cardinal principle of the Non-Aligned Movement. The Sri Lanka Freedom Party notes that the situation in Iran and Afghanistan and strengthening the Diego Garcia base by the US have led to the two power blocs straining to increase their military presence and to enhance fighting potential in the South Asian region, in particular in the littoral states of the Indian Ocean. We fear that this situation may result in nullifying the UN resolution to make the Indian Ocean a peace zone. It is the view of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party that the only way to diffuse the situation and maintain peace, stability and security in this region is for both power blocs to desist from military expansion. In this context the earliest withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan and the dismantling of bases like Diego Garcia will contribute to ease the tension and assist in maintaining peace and security in this region."

Ceylon Daily News

VETERAN LEADERS' VIEWS

Kabul, Jan. 12.

Veteran Pakhtoon leader, Khan Abdul Ghafar Khan known as the frontier Gandhi, yesterday hailed the victory of the new stage of the April Revolution in Afghanistan. Speaking to a correspondent at Jalalabad, he expressed profound joy and satisfaction at the "disinterested aid" from the Soviet Union, and the effective measures taken by the new leadership of Afghanistan "to protect our sacred homeland, its territorial integrity and national sovereignty from all sorts of encroachments from outside." On behalf of the Pakhtoons, "Just as other people and nationalities inhabiting Afghanistan", he expressed, "indignation at the slanderous hullabaloo being created by the imperialists over the so-called Afghan issue in order to smear Afghanistan and divert the attention of international public from their own aggressive acts against, for example, Iran." The use of Afghan refugees, "mostly people confused and stupefied by hostile propaganda", from the territory neighbouring Pakistan cannot but complicate Afghan-Pak relations, Giffar Khan said and stressed that the differences between Afghanistan and Pakistan must be ironed out—and this should be done on the basis of friendly and frank high-level negotiations."

—(UNI), Indian Express

o o o

BOYCOTT OLYMPICS

Washington, Jan. 21.

President Carter has launched a major campaign to deprive Moscow of this summer's Olympic Games as a punishment for the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan. He said in a televised interview yesterday he had sent a letter to the US Olympic Committee asking it to advise the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to remove the Games from Moscow or cancel them altogether. He also urged the US allies to support the transfer, cancellation or boycott of the Games.

But Lord Killanin, the IOC President, said in a newspaper interview from Dublin that there was no question of the Games being transferred from Moscow to another venue.

Mr. Carter, speaking on the NBC-TV's *Meet the Press* program said: "They (the Soviet Union) cannot invade a country with impunity. They must suffer the consequences. If the Soviets do not withdraw immediately from Afghanistan within a month, I would not support sending an American team to the Olympics.....".

—Reuter

—0—

SOVIET VIEW

Moscow, 12th Jan.

Answering questions by a *Pravda* correspondent, Leonid Brezhnev pointed out that lately, the militaristic tendencies in the policy of the United States find their expression also in the acceleration of new long-term arms programs, in the creation of new military bases far beyond the United States, including in the Middle East and in the Indian Ocean area, in the forming of the so-called "Quick Reaction Corps", this instrument of the policy of military interference..... Referring to the situation in Afghanistan, Leonid Brezhnev said that today the opponents of peace and detente are trying to speculate on the events in Afghanistan. "Mountains of lies", he said, "are being built up around these events and a shameless anti-Soviet campaign is being mounted." He reminded that a revolution took place in Afghanistan in April 1978. The Afghan people took its destiny into its hands and embarked on the road of independence and freedom. As it has always been in history the forces of the past ganged up against the revolution. "The people of Afghanistan of course, could have coped with them itself. But from the very first days of the revolution it encountered an external aggression, rude interference from outside into its internal affairs.... Thousands and tens of thousands of insurgents armed and trained abroad, whole armed units were sent into the territory of Afghanistan," Leonid Brezhnev went on to say. In effect imperialism together with its accomplices launched an undeclared war against revolutionary Afghanistan.

Afghanistan persistently demanded an end to the aggression, that it be allowed to build its new life in peace. Resisting the external aggression, the Afghan leadership already during the life-time of President Taraki

and then later, had repeatedly asked the Soviet Union for assistance. "On our part," Leonid Brezhnev said, "we warned those concerned that if the aggression would not be stopped we would not abandon the Afghan people at a time of trial. The unceasing armed intervention," Leonid Brezhnev stressed, "the well-advanced plot by external forces of reaction created a real threat that Afghanistan would lose its independence and be turned into an imperialist military bridgehead on our country's southern border. In other words, the time came when we no longer could not respond to the request of the government of friendly Afghanistan. To have acted otherwise would have meant leaving Afghanistan a prey to imperialism, allowing the aggressive forces to repeat in that country what they had succeeded in doing, for instance, in Chile where the people's freedom was drowned in blood. To act otherwise would have meant to watch passively the origination on our southern border of a seat of serious danger to the security of the Soviet state."

The Land Acquisition Act (Cap. 460) As Amended By The Land Acquisition (Amendment) Act, No. 28 Of 1964 Notice Under Section 7

Ref. No. 3/62/521/J. 74 E. 662

It is intended to acquire the Lands described in the Schedule below, For further particulars please see the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka No. 73 (part III) of 25-01-1980.

Schedule

Name of village etc:— Reddegoda Thalaga village in Madure Korale, Ridigama D.R.O.'s Division, Kurunegala District.

Name of Land:— Reddegoda watta

Plan and Lot No:— Lot Nos. 133 and 134, in Supplement No. 2 in F.V.P. 851 A

H. M. W. Chandraratna
District Land Officer,
Kurunegala District.

The Kachcheri, Kurunegala.
04, January 1980

"The only task set to the Soviet contingents", Leonid Brezhnev stressed "is to assist the Afghans in repulsing the aggression from outside. They will be fully withdrawn from Afghanistan once the causes that make the Afghan leadership request their introduction disappear." He said that imperialist and also Peking propaganda distort the Soviet Union's role in the Afghan affairs. "Also absolutely false," Leonid Brezhnev went on to say, "are the allegations that the Soviet Union has some expansionist plans in respect of Pakistan, Iran or other countries of that area..... The events in Afghanistan, "are not the true cause of the present complication of the international situation. If there were no Afghanistan certain circles in the United States, in NATO, would have surely found another pretext to aggravate the situation in the world." regard to the steps of the US administration taken in connection with the dents in Afghanistan, Leonid Brezhnev said: "It is difficult even to enumerate the number of treaties, inter-Governmental agreements, accords and understanding reached between our two countries on questions of mutual relations in various fields that have been arbitrarily and unilaterally violated lately by the Government of President Carter. Of course, we will manage without these or those ties with the United States. In fact, we never sought these ties as some sort of a favour to us, believing that this is a mutually advantageous matter meeting the mutual interests of the peoples of our countries, and first of all in the context of strengthening peace...."

"But the arrogation by Washington of some sort of a 'right' to 'reward' or 'punish' independent sovereign States," Leonid Brezhnev said further, "raises a question of a principled character. In effect, by such actions the US Government deals a blow at the orderly international law system of relations among states....." "As a result of the Carter administration's actions the impression is increasingly forming in the world of the United States as of an absolutely unreliable partner in inter-state ties, as a state whose leadership, prompted by some whim, caprice or emotional outbursts, or by considerations of narrowly understood immediate advantage, is capable at any moment of violating its international obligations, and cancelling treaties and agree-

ments signed by it. There is hardly any need to explain what a dangerous destabilizing impact this has on the entire international situation, the more so that this is the behaviour of the leadership of a big, influential power from which the peoples have the right to expect well-considered and responsible policy..."

—APN.



PAKISTAN

Sudden Reprieve For Gen. Zia

by Iqbal Hussain

PRESIDENT ZIA - UL - HUQ OF PAKISTAN is likely to reap indirect benefits from the recent events in Afghanistan. He is in the midst of an unmanageable domestic crisis on several fronts and may cash in on the Kabul developments to tide it over. So far, he tried his best to sort out his problems without much success. His recent unscheduled visit to Saudi Arabia, and the ministerial level talks in Washington in mid-October last year between Mr. Cyrus Vance and Pakistan Foreign Adviser Agha Shahi were in the direction of eliciting some sort of response from the "Cited of Islam" and the "Big Brothers".

Gen. Zia's immediate problem is his retirement which is due in February this year and that of his three confidants, i.e., Lt. Gen. Sawar Khan, Governor of Punjab, Lt. Gen. Faiz Ali Chishti, Governor of "occupied" Kashmir and Lt. Gen. Iqbal. The latter are due to retire shortly. If Gen. Zia does not retire (and he certainly does not want to), it is difficult for him to find a pretext to order the retirement of these three influential Generals. One has also to take into account the ambitions of the new Generals, who are preparing to take over the high offices relinquished by the retiring Generals, and the frustration their failure to retire would cause. The so-called 'unity' and normalcy of the armed forces will be affected in a manner in which a coup of the Bangladesh type led by some Brigadier or junior rank officer cannot be ruled out.

Therefore, the immediate task before Gen. Zia is to use stratagems to divert the attention of the junior rank army officers from their "due promotion" owing to the

"coming aggression". Government-owned dailies and other establishment media have already started screeching about the movement of Soviet troops along the Pakistan border. They provide an indication of official thinking and can be treated as a pointer to the possible Pak-Afghan border clash—major or minor only time will decide. Gen. Zia is preparing the Pakistani people as well as the armed forces physically for clashes with Kabul through an extensive management of the media.

The second problem facing Gen. Zia is his total isolation from almost all political parties as a result of the postponement of the elections and banning of all political activities. Before he imposed these draconian measures he enjoyed some sort of backing from the so-called centerist leader Air Marshal (Retd.) Asghar Khan, Chief of the Tebrik Istiqal, Shah Ahmed Norrani of rightist Jamiat Ulema Pakistan and the rightist Jamaat Islami. During his first year of power he also enjoyed the support of the Mufti Mahmood-led PNA, but gradually he frittered away all this fund of goodwill and sympathy. However, if he raised the question of national security, external threat, and above all "threat to the 'mini citadel of Islam' (Pakistan), there is a likelihood that the rightist Jamaat Islami, JUP and PNA as well as Tehrik Istiqal will find an excuse to help the General out of the tight corner and also be able to share power to defend the security of Pakistan as well as of Islam—the only argument they relied on to support Gen. Zia right from the overthrow of Mr. Bhutto till the ban on political parties.

GEN. ZIA'S GRAVEST PROBLEM today is Pakistan's sliding economy. The chronic foreign trade and balance of payments deficit, the rejection by foreign donors of Government's requests for aid, the record resources gap of Rs. 11,100 million; the desperate attempt to squeeze additional Rs. 5,100 million from the common man and the proposed ambitious development plan of Rs. 23,000 million despite a chronic shortage of resources, highlight without any ambiguity Pakistan's financial bankruptcy. In spite of this bankruptcy, Gen. Zia has proposed a defence expenditure, which is 250 per cent more than the defence expenditure of 1972-73; and 10 per cent more than last year's budget. In its resources, the 1979-80 budget has shown that three billion

rupees as "expected aid", but who is going to fulfil this expectation is not clear.

However, the change in the Afghan administration has come to the rescue of Gen. Zia, temporarily, if not permanently. As an immediate reaction to the Kabul events, President Carter has ordered immediate defence aid to Pakistan, supplemented by economic aid, which was stopped in April last year under the Symington Amendment.

The arms which have been ordered to be rushed to Pakistan are worth 150 million dollars and Washington has already received a huge shopping list which is being reviewed by Mr. Carter. The Pakistan Government has asked for clarification about US assistance, and the manner in which the constitutional amendment can be bypassed. This clarification hardly seems to matter because it is not difficult for Mr. Carter to certify that he has 'responsible' assurance that Pakistan is not engaged in the development of nuclear weapons and thus secure a go-ahead clearance from Congress.

Along with the US, its allies are also reviewing their policies to rearm Pakistan. Hence all this is going to be a bonanza for Gen. Zia. The Rs. 3,000 million expected aid in the 1979-80 budget is going to materialise and the 10 per cent increase in the defence expenditure is going to be subsidised by the US. The donor countries are also likely to review their policy on Pakistan's request for more aid and debt rescheduling. This is the pattern of how Gen. Zia is going to cash in on the Afghan developments for getting a short-term reprieve on the economic front also.

THE PHYSICAL ELIMINATION OF MR. Z. A. BHUTTO from the Pakistani political scene damaged Pakistan's reputation in the western world and among the Islamic countries. Now is the time when Gen. Zia can regain the last round in the name of Islam. By inventing and exaggerating the threat to Pakistan, which according to him, is equal to a threat to Islam, he will try to regain sympathy for Pakistan among Islamic countries. The Western nations have already forgotten Mr. Bhutto. They are

now concentrating on building up Pakistan as a base from where the obscurantist rebels of Afghanistan can launch guerilla warfare against the existing Afghan regime.

What has happened in Afghanistan has been of help to Gen. Zia which he is going to exploit to the full. While a war between Afghanistan and Pakistan is not an impossibility, major border clashes cannot be ruled out. These will again help Gen. Zia, if not Pakistan. But the important question before the General is, how long can he hope to stay in his present position.

He cannot forget the fate of Field Marshal Ayub Khan who met with a disastrous end after the 1965 war with India. Therefore, if Gen. Zia wants to stable future for himself he cannot rely on external developments. He must try to solve the internal crisis. He will have to take politicians into confidence and allow normal political process for the restoration of democracy which is the only alternative for him as well as for Pakistan. Unfortunately, this does not seem to suit Gen. Zia's power game.

—IPA.

PRESS RELEASE

Jana Sugathiya

REALISING the need for collective and organised action by the public and with a view to assisting citizens to secure what they are entitled to by law, a group of concerned citizens have decided to come together and seek public co-operation: (1) to obtain for citizens what is due to them by right from local and national authorities; (2) to facilitate and expedite services to the public from Government agencies; (3) to highlight and bring to the notice of relevant authorities, cases of corruption, neglect of duty, discrimination and other unjust or corrupt practices on the part of officers and servants of local authorities, Govt. Depts., Corporations and any organisation in the private sector; (4) to assist the authorities and societies duly constituted under the new Consumer Protection Law, protecting citizens from overpricing of goods and exorbitant charges for services, and low quality or sub-standard products; (5) to

assist local bodies and the Central Govt. in action to maintain and improve the environment and protect the public from pollution; (6) To take such other action as may be necessary to create greater awareness and interest among citizens and government authorities regarding the rights and obligations, so as to improve the quality of life for all.

THE OBJECTS of the Society in order to achieve the above as laid down in its Constitution:— (a) to co-ordinate the activities of all residents in helping each other; (b) to safeguard civic rights and help in cases of unjust deprivation of rights; (c) to generate public opinion regarding the urgent and neglected needs of the people; (d) to take steps to ensure an equitable proper and efficient supply of public utilities to every resident; (e) to provide consumer protection; (d) to protect and improve the environment and enhance the quality of life of each resident. The Society, which is non-sectarian, non-communal and non-political, is called "JANA SUGATHIYA".

It invites public spirited and concerned citizens to join it and contribute in whatever way they can by voluntary service to further the objectives of the Society in order to benefit all citizens.

The Society can be contacted as follows:
Honorary Secretary, JANA SUGATHIYA,
P.O.Box 52—Mount Lavinia.

OFFICIAL EXCHANGE RATES

Official Exchange Rates of Commercial Banks to their customers for Telegraphic Transfers fixed on Tuesday this week were as follows:—

CURRENCY	PER 100 UNITS	
	Buying Rate	Selling Rate
U.S. Dollar	Rs. 1548.00	Rs. 1551.00
Sterling Pound	Rs. 3520.75	Rs. 3526.75
Deutsche Mark	Rs. 892.00	Rs. 893.60
French Franc	Rs. 381.15	Rs. 381.85
Japanese Yen	Rs. 6.5305	Rs. 6.5455
Indian Rupees	Rs. 194.00	Rs. 194.40

UNP On Foreign Loans

COUNTRY NOT MORTGAGED: SLFP CANARD ON LOANS. Ever since the present UNP Government was installed by the people, the defeated parties, mainly the SLFP and its erstwhile partners, the Communists and the Sama Samajists, have been deriding the ruling party on loan facilities obtained. This derision has gone on for over two and half years. Now, we are ushering in a new year, the third year of UNP trusteeship, and also a new decade. Therefore, it is time that we put a halt to the canard about the loans, aid and credit facilities.

The SLFP admits that it could not easily obtain loans but it also tries to hide behind excuses, lame and silly, that it could not be pressurised by international lending institutions. As was pointed out during the budget debate, the Coalition Government and later the SLFP regime had no credibility and were not trusted. And now the SLFP accuses the UNP of mortgaging the future generations. The impression the SLFP wants to create is that it had no intention of rushing to the IMF or IDA or ADB or any other international lending agency and that only the UNP government is doing so. The actual position is completely different. The Government of Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike obtained commodity aid, project aid and aid from companies providing manufactured goods. This is known as suppliers export finance. It obtained short term loans. The SLFP also had obtained loans on an interest rate of 14 per cent. The SLFP obtained loans from the Shah of Iran, mortgaging the future production of tea. The another two hundred odd millions were obtained from Libya. Thereafter Iraq 32 million dollars on tea advances; Kuwait, 20 million dollars for the Central Bank. The previous Government had also taken loans to purchase military equipment during the insurrection of 1971; Russia 3.5 million; Britain 11.5 million, India 4.9 million.

The countries from whom the SLFP Government obtained loans were: Japan, Iran, Kuwait, Libya, UAE, India, West Germany, United States of America, Australia, France,

Yugoslavia, Soviet Russia, East Germany, Canada, Romania, Singapore, Belgium etc. To some of these countries the SLFP went with the begging bowl many many times. Apart from the International Agencies, such as the Asian Development Bank, the IBRD and the IDA. There were other Socialist countries such as Bulgaria, China, Czechoslovakia, North Korea and Hungary. Similarly the SLFP received grants from more than 20 countries or agencies. Its Finance Ministers went before the World Bank chief three times annually.

When such people point an accusing finger at our Government, it is mainly to hoodwink the masses and to create an impression that they have not gone to foreign lands for aid or loans. The next accusation comes from the so-called Marxists of different hues, from pink to scarlet, or maroon. They make such a hue and cry about our obtaining loans mainly to give the impression that socialist countries do not obtain loans. This again is a canard. The local Marxists try to paint a picture which, perhaps is bound only in their imagination. Obtaining loans has nothing to do with the social system or the political set up of a country. While we have the highest regard for those countries to select their own form of administration, yet the true picture has to be placed before our own people.

In the last few years, many of these lands in the Socialist camps have taken loans from the Western capital markets. Yugoslavia, Romania, Vietnam, being members of the World Bank, have taken aid from that agency. Others have gone to Suppliers Credit and Export Finance. The total loans raised by the Socialist countries of Europe in the Western capital markets in the last ten years has exceeded US \$ 250 Billion. They also have recourse to the Euro-Dollar market: — Bulgaria in 1974, US \$ 160 million; 1975, 125 million; 1976, 240 million and 1977, 245 million. Cuba in 1974, 119 million; in 1975, 275 million; in 1976, US \$ 140 million and 1977, US \$ 10 million; Czechoslovakia, in three years, US \$ 410 million. Democratic Republic of Germany 1978, US \$ 562 million. Hungary from 1975 to 1978 inclusive, US \$ 1,565 millions; Poland from 1974 to 1978 inclusive, US \$ 2,044 millions; USSR from 1975 to 1978, US \$ 1,432 million. These are a few examples.

We ask the question what is wrong? Yet, these self-styled Marxists blame us for taking money or aid for the speedy development of the country. War ravaged West Germany and Japan are industrial giants today, mainly due to Marshall Aid.

The ideal situation will be to be free from obtaining any loan and develop on our own. This will be a very slow process and problems will reach monstrous proportions. Therefore, the only answer is a speedy solution to unemployment etc. For that the country needs 23,000 million. Why do we need this vast sum?

For the development of the Mahaweli; for the decentralized budget to allocate 2 million for each electorate; for the Kirindi Oya project; for the Inginiptiya project; for the establishment of the Free Trade Zone for building 100,000 housing units; for development of the Kotte area; for completion of Sevenagala, for agriculture, for fisheries, for general industries etc.

By taxing the rich, even up to 90 percent, the country could obtain only around a maximum of 50 million. Therefore, the only recourse is to go to international agencies which have accepted our policies and recognized our credibility.

—The Journal (UNP), 5/1/80

SPOTLIGHT

A Case Of Injustice ?

—something to be looked into—

Dear Editor,

I enclose herewith for close perusal by you copy of my second notice to CCD & RCS (Commissioner, Co-op Development).

There is indeed much infamy attached to disempanelment. The facts of the case reveal nothing dishonourable, only breach of some rule of conduct embodied, it is claimed, in circular instructions if any carrying neither date nor number, unknown altogether also, as far as inquiries go, to fellow arbitrators. This

is only one instance of administrative justice to which on appeal the Courts have reacted adversely quashing the order involved or modifying it substantially. Democracy cannot survive without such effective safeguards.

Arbitration references are extremely few and far between: gerrymandered as from Colombo they go not often to the locally competent and duly authorized, but to Colombo favourites and hangers-on at the metropolitan office. Apart from the infamy which can be considerable especially when the removal is given wide publicity in the Tamil provinces, there can be no serious objection to being outside the panel. One is more lucratively placed as plaintiff or defence representative than when formally commissioned to adjudicate in the dispute. But once empanelled it is to the manner of removal arbitrary at once and *altera parte non audita* that indignant exception must be taken in the interests of fundamental justice.

To you as a lawyer bred in the British tradition, it must be particularly galling to hear of such flagrant departures from time-tested norms ensuring the rule of law even in traditionally alien surroundings. There are so many such cases in the Co-operative and other services in and about Chenkaladi that call for immediate redress before the return to the rule of the Jungle becomes the order of the day in East Ceylon.

Please highlight this gross irregularity in Tribune's inimitable manner as only one instance of several such cases reminding one of Kipling's power-drunkenness, itself the very negation of natural justice and institutionalised democracy.

As I rush to the post on the eve of the New Year there is conveyed to me news of the elections to Co-operative Boards at Vaharai and Chenkaladi in the Kalkudah electorate. Your sleuths should now be alerted and they will uncover to a dazed public how sordid love of self can be to secure entrenchment in the political saddles of East Lanka.

E. Seemanpillai

Mylambaveli,

Chenkaladi,

December 31, 1979

ARBITRATORS AND ARBITRAMENT

My letter dated 16 October 1979 addressed to you under personal cover was committed to registered post as from Koddaimunal Sub-Post Office on the same day, the registered article bearing No. 4736. In the absence of the elementary courtesy of acknowledgement of receipt as expressly requested in that communication and required as well by administrative regulations, it must be presumed, *positis penendis*, as irretrievably lost in transit. I have therefore requested the PMG to report the fact of service or otherwise of that communication on you personally.

I write in the context of the recent order of the Supreme Court in Walker Sons & Co. (UK) Ltd v All-Ceylon Commercial & Industrial Workers' Union dated 29 November 1979 whereunder it was held that the Minister had no power to revoke a reference once issued and that the purported revocation and re-reference were invalid. The Co-operative Societies Law No. 5 of 1972 section 58 (2) does not appear to confer any such jurisdiction on the Registrar of Co-operative Societies.

I have urged in that aforesaid communication that.

1. My removal from the panel of All-Island Unofficial Arbitrators was summarily effected without any prior notice requesting me to show cause as to why in the circumstances to be enumerated my name should not be struck off from the Roll of authorized Unofficial Arbitrators, any such default being construed as denial of a fundamental right enforceable at law.

2. The removal order did not explicitly specify the particular regulation contravened by my action as reported by ACCD, Batticaloa.

3. Inquiries also had revealed an absolute unawareness of any such regulation on the part of my fellow arbitrators.

I might further add, in this connexion, also as an erstwhile member of the Ceylon Administrative Service, that further silence or inaction in this regard could lead to a legal imbroglio serious at once and blissfully unforeseen by your legal Deputy, when matters of such high consequence were dealt with in

such summary fashion in your name and on your behalf by your authorized representative.

I would remain,
Yours very faithfully,
E. Seemanpillai B.A. (Lond)
C.A.S (Retd.)

Mylambaveli,
Chenkaladi.

December 1979

Copies to: A.C.C.D.'s,

N.P. & E.P. Amparai alone excluded.

X X X

MAHAWELI & NEDECO-IV

Why Not Review Accelerated Programme?

by R. Kahawita

VICTORIA FALLS dam will be operational in 1986 to provide power needs till 1989. This brings the power needs to a close till then. It will have an installed capacity of 210 M.W. against the original installed capacity of 120 M.W. with a low dam and supplementary to Bowatenne, Moragahakande, Randenigala, Kothmale, in that order of priority. This has been changed to a high dam at Victoria.

If we analyse the figures in the report and the reasoning therein, the end result of the accelerated program is worse than the thirty year program. We will achieve very little except to develop power to meet an exaggerated power forecast. May that be so. Let us now examine the irrigation potential.

The report says that by 1989 "there are no further requirements for irrigation purposes, power reasons are decisive for the selection of new capacity". Why they conclude thus is: "because of the estimated maximum speed of implementation for irrigation development and settlement, total Agricultural development of the accelerated programme cannot be completed before the mid nineties." This is taking us to the threshold of the 30 year programme which we discarded saying "too slow." The consultants, even with no expe-

rience of local conditions have realized the difficulties of settlement but not our advisers to the government.

Again power development is foremost in the mind of the Consultants. "Various options for power are available then, i.e. 1989/90 Randenigala, Samanawewa, Thermal Power installation."

What is the value of this report? We ask. We have spent a whole life time to develop irrigation in the dry zone to improve the existing irrigation systems and bring another million acres under crops in the dry zone to stop the drain of our external resources in importing the basic needs of our people, rice, sugar, chillies, onions, pulses, coarse grains, vegetables etc. These are the food items we need to feed the people, as well as give them employment in producing them. It is a national problem which the Consultants have not understood. We do not blame them, because they have to work within their Terms of Reference as we said in part II. For the muddle the blame must go to our Organisation.

OUR ATTITUDE towards our problems is reflected in a very pertinent observation in the report "No firm recommendation can be made at this moment (ie. because of absence of sufficient data about Samanawewa), but in view of the degree to which on-going studies are advanced, the Consultants believe that construction of Randenigala power house would be a good selection." They have recommended or made this suggestion, not as the rational follow-up in an integrated development programme, taking all national needs into consideration, but because more study data is available compared to other on-going studies. To our thinking, this is the sort of patch work that is going on after the original programme was mutilated without an alternative programme to accelerate developments as desired by the present Government. If the Government was correctly appraised of the situation then, it would not have announced a five year target in 1977.

Then the question is "What have we been doing all these long years? And how did we recommend an accelerated programme to the Administration when the studies and

investigations are far below requirements? If power was the primary problem why wasn't the studies on Samanawewa continued to bring it to the construction stage which is essentially a power project? Earlier reports, broadcasts, political speeches said that we were ready to start the work and even "A Highway to the site was constructed". Is it a game of blind man's bluff again?

In the final assessment of national power requirements, it is obvious that power development in the "Wat Zone Rivers"—that is Samanawewa and the cascade system in the Kelani Basin—has been shifted to Mahaweli at the expense of Irrigation, Land Development and a practical solution to our food production and unemployment problems. The muddling of these problems will have to be carried on by every Government that comes into power hereafter, unless corrective measures are taken now to put our problems in the correct perspective and assign their solution potential to various development programmes.

Dealing with Irrigation Potential in their terms of reference the Consultants conclude that "Kotmale will be sufficient for the additional water requirements of Systems H, IH, MH, DI and D2". Water for these areas will be available from early 1984 on-wards. That is the commencement of water storage at Kotmale in a very tight construction schedule"—That is water requirements of Kalamawewa region. It may be a remote possibility 50 to 60% of the time; what is going to happen during the balance 40 to 50% of the time?

The Consultants have not gone in depth to this problem. Their wandering into this area is a side step to their terms of reference. Without carry over storage the situation that was in this area before Mahaweli water was brought in cannot be improved. It will be worse because some of the village tanks in the region have been converted into paddy fields in a scheme of modernizing the irrigation system. The major storage system now available in this region cannot take additional storage, except Kaudulla and may be Kantalai, without endangering their safety. What we say has happened in this region last

month during the last inter monsoon radius—with several smaller tanks breaching.

WITH EARLY FILLING of these smaller tanks to capacity with Mahaweli Water, the design and safety of these tanks, which can be fed from Mahaweli water, have to be re-examined. These tanks were designed based on certain technical assumptions and operational programmes. These assumptions are no longer valid. With Mahaweli water available before the start of the NE monsoons, a new set of probabilities has to be imposed on the earlier assumptions and check the design for safety of each tank. This, in itself, is the work of a separate technical task-force for several years. If we neglect this aspect we may find ourselves with several major tanks breached as a result of some of the minor tanks not being able to accommodate run off from their own catchments in their catchments—as it happened during the recent Cyclone. We have almost forgotten it within one year.

We dare say that our Engineers are aware of these consequences. But due to the rush to get the accelerated programme through, one is bound to overlook such details till the problem confronts one. It is for this reason we mention it here and as a warning because there is a deplorable neglect of maintenance and repair of Irrigation works.

With technical limitations placed against increasing the capacities of the ancient tanks in the system, additional storage is necessary to supplement the water requirements of the existing fields in the system and the additional acreage to be brought under cultivation. The obvious point of additional storage and to accommodate the water available from diversion is Moragahakande. This would take over the irrigation load in the NCP area. But having given top priority to Kotmale for power reasons, the Consultants say "The Irrigation functions of the Moragahakande in the accelerated programme have been taken over by Kotmale." Then the report goes on to say, "For Irrigation of the NCP area Angemedilla Reservoir is any-how required and because of hydrological reasons this considerably reduces Moragahakande's capacity to supply ad-

ditional water. Moragahakande's possibilities for Irrigation are therefore limited."

The Consultants have been forced almost to come to this conclusion. It is a very unfortunate conclusion of the Consultants, which if implemented, will impair for all time, the whole hydrological balance and water management in the region. It may be the out-come of the 12 revised projects mentioned by the Consultants in their terms of reference. Or they may have not understood the main functions of Moragahakande Reservoir in the integrated programme of development.

A NEW RESERVOIR—Angemedilla has been introduced into the system. This is a reservoir not in the Master Plan and not necessary in the management of water resources of the region. It may be a proposal picked up from the 1946 studies. There is a reservoir site, called "Sudukanda gap" above Angemedilla Anicut of PSS. This was investigated and abandoned for two reasons, one technical, due to the faulty geological formation, the other was, over 5000 Acs. of very good cultivable land that comes under Irrigation command of Elahera Channel would be inundated by the reservoir bed. When the storage site is shifted from Moragahakande to Angemedilla the irrigation potential of Elahera is reduced by fifty per-cent. What are the advantages of this new reservoir we ask?

According to the Report the entire system of Water Management is going to be changed to fit into an unachievable accelerated programme. This is how we understand the conclusions of the NEDECO Report. Kotmale cannot take over Irrigation functions. Its operation and storage capacity is not sufficient to mitigate even the effects of floods in Nawalapitiya—Gampola region one of its functions in the original plan. The question of water that can be passed to Ambanganga basin is also restricted by the limited capacity of Polgolla tunnel. Its main function is power production. Therefore without storage in Ambanganga, diversion is of very little value for Irrigation in the NCP region.

The structures that have been already constructed viz. Polgolla Diversion and tunnel, Bowetenne bifurcation structure, improvement to Elahera Anicut, Elahera Con-

veyance channel, the feeder channels to Kala-wewa system are based and designed with Moragahakande as the main control and management point. Therefore the first UNDP report had given it a very high priority for political reasons, a request to step it down was made and that is how it got into the second phase of development. We had explained this in an earlier series in the Tribune. At Moragahakande the total volume of water to be managed annually is 1,017,000 Ac.ft. with a storage capacity of 792,000 Ac.ft. independent of Kotmale or diversion. Its own water-shed can contribute this yield, giving almost a hundred percent utilization of the annual yield. These are main guide lines in an integrated plan of development.

The whole of the NCP system has to depend on storage at Moragahakande. Therefore Irrigation functions of Moragahakande cannot be passed over to another system in any programme. Its construction can be delayed but with an attendant high percentage of crop failures in the old system and retardation of the development of the new areas. These lands too will have to face periodical failures similar to the old fields.

MORAGAHAKANDE will operate for about five months year in the system. Rest of the time it will be building up carry over storage—from its own catchment and from the diversion. Therefore it can supply only secondary power during the five months or at best the power ratio when discharging the direct requirements of Elahera cultivations. It has a low power facility compared to Polgolla, Bowatenne or Victoria. Its primary function is to supplement Irrigation water to the system during the SW monsoons to increase the cropping to 85 to 95% success a year. *This problem has not been grasped by the Consultants nor the planners of the accelerated programme. Its economic feasibility is in Agricultural production only. If power is linked up with economic viability it gets a low priority. This is what has happened in the Report.*

If we are going to mutilate a well conceived development programme to give way to an *ad hoc* decision to accelerate the development programme—which no one has understood yet since it was announced two years ago—it is far better

to cry halt and review the so called “Accelerated Programme” but within the frame work of the Master Plan. To do this, there is the NEDECO findings which points, even to a longer period than 30 years of the UNDP recommendations.

The 30 years was marked up from 1970. But several floods have gone down Mahaweli since. We are behind schedule by ten years today. So let us see how we can catch up to lost time—1970 to 1980 and be still within the original target year—2000. This is earlier than the target date one could glean from the NEDECO report, if productivity were to be the criterion of success.

(To be continued)

V V V

HAVANA DIARY—17

FOURTH DAY—2

by S. P. Amarasingam

ADAM MALIK, VICE PRESIDENT OF INDO NESIA, who was the first speaker in the afternoon session which began at 7.00 p.m. declared that the Non-aligned Movement has become an autonomous factor with a growing capacity for transforming international relations. Non-alignment does not mean neutrality, he said, because we cannot be neutral before imperialism. After calling for a reinforcement of the Movement's unity and solidarity, which are the source of its strength, he referred to the present situation in southern Africa, the site of the last bastion of imperialism and colonialism. He said that the Movement should be completely dedicated to supporting the struggle of the peoples of Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa. With respect to the Middle East, Adam Malik pointed out that the Israeli policy of aggression, colonial expansion and occupation are perpetuating a situation of conflict and injustice. He added that the defiant Israeli acts of aggression and its persistent disregard for the United Nations' resolutions are the major obstacles for a just peace in the region. He also said that the problems of the rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination and to their own country are the key issues

in this area of the world. In addition, Adam Malik called on the Movement to continue its support for the struggle for a new international economic order.

MANUEL PINTO DE COSTA, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SAO TOME, the next speaker, declared that the Movement should undertake the task of establishing a certain number of rules of conduct, so that the opportunists and traitors could not do as they pleased. "We should be intransigent," he proclaimed, "with the members that betray the Non-aligned Movement, if we want to preserve the purity of its principles." He expressed his delegation's firm support for the POLISARIO Front in its just struggle and urged the Movement to increase its solidarity with this revolutionary force. He expressed his support for the Palestinian people, for the cause of all the Arab peoples, and strongly condemned the Camp David agreement, a US scheme to divide those peoples. With reference to the Far East, he expressed his solidarity with the "thousand times heroic people of Vietnam" with Laos and with Kampuchea, "whose delegation should occupy its rightful place in this Conference." He also gave his support to the DPR of Korea and called for the unification of these people.

ABDUL FATAH ISMAIL, PRESIDENT OF THE PEOPLE'S SUPREME COUNCIL OF THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN, said that as of the Great October Socialist Revolution, a whole movement for emancipation had developed and the most recent people's victories: Cuba, Vietnam, Nicaragua "gave us the right to presage from this moment the total victory of the peoples' will in other regions of the world." He welcomed the new members and urged all Movement members to further a policy hostile to imperialism. "Above all, we must determine who our friends and who our enemies are."

LEON MABIAME, PRIME MINISTER OF GABON, outlined his government's views on international issues. Regarding Namibia, he expressed support for the independence of that nation and stressed that the only legitimate representative of the Namibian people was the South West Africa, People's Organisation. The prime minister of Gabon condemned the apartheid policy in South Africa:

and in the case of the Middle East he said how peace was linked to finding a solution to the Palestinian problem.

PEDRO PIRES, PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF CAPE VERDE, started his speech by expressing appreciation for the Movement of Non-aligned Countries solidarity for the liberation of his country. He recalled the days when the Movement of Non-aligned Countries was set up and said that in view of the vigour of the peoples, "the struggle against colonialism is inexorably coming to an end". It was becoming necessary for the Movement to give thought to new forms of showing solidarity, because when colonialism is finally eliminated other problems will have to be faced. A struggle for just and harmonious economic development is required; a battle against under-development, along with the implementation of this basic objective of non-alignment.

ILEO SONGO AMBA, PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF ZAIRE, said that the 6th Summit is being held at a time when the international situation "compels us to make an analysis of our past action and a clear action for the future." In his speech, Lleo Songo Amba attacked the socialist camp and spoke about "the appetite of east and west" asserting that "imperialism is not confined to just one side." In his speech the Zairian representative quoted several thoughts of his country's president, Mobutu Sese Seko, and said that "Zaire will never retreat from the possibilities opened to it by history." He said his country supported Egypt's peace efforts in the Middle East; and he also voiced his disagreement with the SALT II negotiations on disarmament.

MOROCCAN PRIME MINISTER, MAATI M. BOUABIB, referring to the Middle East question, said the solution must be a global one and always with the PLO's participation as sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. He called on the international community to remain on guard and not accept a partial solution and to hold Israel responsible for the great tension prevailing in the Middle East that threatens world peace. The speaker also condemned South Africa's policy of apartheid and supported the struggle of the peoples of Namibia, Zimbabwe and South Africa.

Concerning the liberation struggle in Western Sahara, he said his government was opposed to the right of the Saharan people to separate independent state.

MAUMOON ABDUL GAYOOM, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES, raised the need for turning the Indian Ocean, in whose midst the small islands of his republic are located, into a peace zone. He also said that in order to defeat the aims of imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism, all the world's progressive and peace-loving forces have no choice but to unite and close ranks. Referring to the Middle East situation and the suffering inflicted on the Palestinian people, the Maldivian leader said he wondered how long the injustice committed against that people would last and pointed to the need to recognize all their rights, including the right to have their own state.

LIBERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER CECIL DENIS, Jr., took the floor at midnight. He called for blocking the efforts of anyone trying to interfere with the internal affairs of the non-aligned. He appealed for closer economic co-operation among all member states and for a new international economic order. He said that in line with the decision adopted at the Summit Conference of the African countries held in Lusaka, no international recognition should be extended to the Zimbabwe puppet regime. He denounced South Africa's illegal presence, that persistently defies the international community with phony elections and an assembly that represents no one, that Africa will never accept. Cecil Denis made reference to the OAU decisions adopted in Monrovia urging the UN Security Council to establish sanctions against South Africa's racist regime. Concerning the Middle East situation, he made clear that any step taken on behalf of peace must take into account the Palestinian people and the PLO. Finally, Cecil Denis urged the non-aligned countries to increase the level of economic co-operation among all member states, which, he said, "will improve our peoples' standard of living."

HASSAN MAKKI, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF NORTH YEMEN, in regard to the situation in the Middle East said it was the result of the existence of a foreign entity (Israel), based on violence, in the area. The

imperialists, he said, have collaborated with Zionism in an attempt to find centers capable of "defending their rights" and those of the Zionists, and this has been reflected in fascist repression. Hassan Makki also called for international sanctions against Israel which, he said, is encouraged by the military and political aid being given it by US imperialism. He went on to say that the Zionists have not contented themselves with usurping territory that belongs to Palestine and are now carrying on a war of extermination against the southern part of Lebanon as part and parcel of their policy of expansionism which they try to cover up with false claims about security. He added that the treacherous agreement with Egypt had made Israel even bolder in its attacks. He expressed his opposition to the establishment of a military base in the Indian Ocean and the Red Sea. Finally, he declared himself in favour of the reunification of Yemen. The colonialists, he said, have created two states out of a single people, and unity must be based on stabilization and prosperity.

SAM NUJOMA, PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTH WEST AFRICA PEOPLE'S ORGANISATION, condemned and rejected the anti-Cuba campaign launched by US imperialism which, he said, was aimed at isolating the national liberation movements from their most proven friends, Cuba for example. Nujoma said that the increasing strength of the liberation movements has forced the racist regimes in South Africa to speak of peaceful solutions. He denounced the attacks on the Front Line countries and urged the Movement to give material aid to those countries. He reiterated the condemnation of the persecution to which SWAPO leaders and members are being subjected in Namibia by South Africa in its attempts to destroy the organisation. As an example of this repression he mentioned the arrest of thousands of persons who were sent to a concentration camp for 25 days during which they were given no food or water and many of them starved to death. He said that the rural areas had been the ones hardest hit by the repression and that the racist regime of Pretoria had set up a large number of concentration camps in which the prisoners were being savagely tortured. Due to the intensity of the struggle that is

being waged by SWAPO, the South African regime has placed half of Namibia under martial law and all sorts of arbitrary acts are being perpetrated in the area, he said. He added that the racist regime is dead set against the establishment of an independent government, that it wants a puppet government and is looking toward the West for support. "It is very unlikely that an election controlled by the UN will ever be held in Namibia, he said." Nujoma also called for the implementation of the UN program.

JOSEPH BRINCAT, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OF MALTA, advocated a new international economic order, which could only come about, he said, once riches were evenly distributed. Brincat referred to Malta's contribution to the principles of non-alignment when it closed the military bases that existed in the country. In this connection, he said, Malta used to be NATO's amusement grounds for bored sailors and a likely trouble spot. He said that dismantling the bases radically changed the nation's economy but that the people's decision was irreversible. "Malta will go on being a strategic spot, but for peace," he concluded.

ASSAN MUFA CAMARA, VICE - PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GAMBIA, drew attention to the explosive situation in parts of the world, placing special emphasis on racism and the practice of apartheid in southern Africa. He went on to say that his country also supported the people of Namibia and the struggle being waged by SWAPO. He congratulated Mauritania for having given up on its claims on a southern part of Western Sahara and reiterated his government's support for the Palestinian people led by PLO and for the demands for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from all occupied Arab territory, including Jerusalem.

A. M. MOGIVE, MINISTER OF FOREIGN RELATIONS OF BOTSWANA, urged the US government to allow the Puerto Rican people to decide on their future without coercion of any kind; expressed his support for the POLISARIO Front; denounced the fake elections held in Rhodesia; and condemned the attacks against the Front Line countries, the South African regime's manoeuvres to prevent the independence of Namibia and the practice of apartheid. He expressed his support for

the people of Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa in their struggle for independence and said that contemporary history is full of examples of the achievements of those peoples who are determined to win their independence.

SHEIK MOHAMMED B'N MUBARAK AL KHALIFA, FOREIGN MINISTER OF BAHREIN, said that the Movement should close ranks to struggle against "the covert and overt manoeuvres against the non-aligned." He urged all to pay great attention to the resolutions that would be adopted at the 6th Summit because of the Conference's great influence on the world scene, adding that the countries struggling to get rid of oppression "expect a great deal of us." He went on to say that the Movement must be decidedly in favour of the Palestinian people's cause and described Israel as the most ferocious expansionist power of the 20th century with no qualms in ignoring all international decisions aimed at the achievement of peace. He added that, unfortunately, some countries continued to encourage Israel and that the Middle East conflict could only be solved when all the parties involved in it entered into dialogue.

MOUSTAPHA NIASSE, MINISTER OF FOREIGN RELATIONS OF SENEGAL, began his speech by referring to "the combat being waged by our brothers in the southern part of the African continent." He was against sanctions against Egypt and said he considered the Camp David agreement to be incomplete. He concluded by declaring his country's support for so-called Democratic Kampuchea, whose spokesmen are trying to represent the overthrown regime of Pol Pot-Ieng Sary.

SIMEON AKE, FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE IVORY COAST, said that the Movement should struggle for peace and neutrality and call on all present to meditate on this, taking Switzerland as a model. He went on to say that attempts are being made to lead the Movement toward socialism "as if imperialism had only one facet," and he called on the Movement to maintain its unity and avoid any kind of foreign influence.

AHMEDOU OULD ABDALLAN, MINISTER OF FOREIGN RELATIONS OF MAURITANIA, who began his speech at 4.20 a.m. was the

last speaker of the day. He said that there would be no peace in the Middle East until the Palestinian problem was solved. "We must demand the evacuation of all the territory now occupied by Israel, including Jerusalem," he said. He condemned the Camp David agreement and the attacks on Lebanon. He went on to say that his country had put an end to the state of war in Western Sahara and declared his neutrality in the region, adding that he hoped that the states involved would put an end to the conflict. He advocated the reconstruction of the national economies of the non-aligned countries, drawing attention to the fact that the price of manufactured products were constantly increasing while those of the underdeveloped countries' exports continued to decrease. He said that his country supported Iraq's motion that a working commission be set up to determine the objectives of the non-aligned.

The session was adjourned at 4.35 a.m.

SRI LANKA CHRONICLE

Jan. 7 — Jan. 16

DIARY OF EVENTS IN SRI LANKA AND THE
WORLD COMPILED FROM DAILY NEWSPAPERS
PUBLISHED IN COLOMBO.

CDN—Ceylon Daily News; CDM—Ceylon Daily Mirror; CO—Ceylon Observer; ST—Sunday Times; SO—Sunday Observer; DM—Dinamina; LD—Lankadipa; VK—Virakesari; ATH—Aththa; SM—Silumina; SLDP—Sri Lanka-dipa; JD—Janadina; SU—Sun; DV—Davasa; DP—Dinapathi; CM—Chinthamani; WK—Weekend; RR—Riviresa; DK—Dinakara; EN—Eelanadu; IDPR—Information Dept. Press Release.

MONDAY, JANUARY 7: Industries & Scientific Affairs Minister Cyril Mathew has commended the nine Sri Lankan engineers who designed and fabricated a device called Pre-calculator which helps boost cement production by 30 per cent. Dr. D. R. Karunaratne, President of the Government Medical Officers' Association and his Committee resigned from

office on Saturday when the association met in an emergency session to discuss the foreign primary examination issue—CDN. Government Agents have been told by the Ministry of Public Administration and Home Affairs to make arrangements for the implementation of the provisions in the Constitution relating to the Tamil language—CDM. The Central Working Committee of the Tamil United Liberation Front has decided to sack the first MP for Batticaloa Chelliah Rajadurai from the TULF. Sri Lanka's initial purchase of wheat for processing and export by Prima the massive flour mill in Trincomalee will begin in July—SU. The Minister of Plan Implementation has decided to ask for explanations from 125 public institutes for not recruiting trainees from the Job Banks; a special report on this will be forwarded to the President this week—DV. The government has launched a new programme to bring all Artists in the island under one organisation—DM. The Government will distribute 190,000 acres of state land among landless people this year—LD. The bribery allegations against deputy minister of Post and Telecommunication Pillapitiya is being studied by the President; the President has asked the Deputy Minister to make a statement in parliament explaining the matter; as this has not been done so far the President has ordered the Bribery Commission to make full investigation—ATH.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 8: It was fragrant jasmine garlands, hundreds of them, all the way for Industries Minister Cyril Mathew when he went to Jaffna on Sunday. Relations between Sri Lanka and the Maldives were now closer than at any time since the two countries gained independence, the Maldivian External Affairs Minister Fath-hulla Jameel said yesterday; Mr. Gayoom and Mr. Jameel are in Sri Lanka on private visits accompanied by their wives—CDN. The government will shortly review the leave structure for the public sector; this follows representations made to government by certain trade unions pointing out anomalies in the leave structure that came into force from January 1 this year—CDM. Health Minister Gamani Jayasuriya said yesterday that the Government stood firm on the decision regarding foreign post-graduate examinations for doctors. Experts from the French Nuclear Power Com-

mission has confirmed that the ashes found under the South Dagaba is of king Dutugemunu; they have confirmed that the ashes are between 1900-2000 years old; the government will receive a full report on the findings of the commission in a few weeks—LD. The cost of living index has increased by 1.46 to 274.4 in December compared to November. The full requirement of flour will be milled in the country from next year. Public servants will launch a massive picketing campaign demanding the re-introduction of the holidays that were withdrawn by the government this year—ATH.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9: Addressing the first Government Parliamentary Group meeting for this year, President J. R. Jayewardene yesterday referred to the victory of Mrs. Indira Gandhi at the Indian General Elections and said that indications were that her victory would be like what his Party, the UNP scored in 1977, he said he had learnt that the Sri Lanka Freedom Party was putting up posters all over saying, "India today—Tomorrow Sri Lanka", but he would like to say that the slogan should be Yesterday Sri Lanka—Today India". A strict check is being kept by Customs on all outgoing cargo and passenger luggage following the ban on the export of edible coconut products by the Trade Ministry. Three policemen, including a senior officer of the Fort Police station were injured when some Central Bank employees belonging to the Ceylon Bank Employees Union, clashed with police during a picketing campaign at the Central Bank premises yesterday afternoon, police sources said—CDN. Nearly 21,000 tenants will shortly become owners of the houses in which they are now living; the Prime Minister R. Premadasa told the government Parliamentary Group meeting yesterday that the policy of the government was to create a Home-Ownning Society—CDM. President J. R. Jayewardene yesterday expressed confidence that the friendly relations between Sri Lanka and India would continue under the leadership of Mrs. Indira Gandhi. Police moved in yesterday to disperse a crowd of over forty persons who demonstrated opposite the Soviet Embassy at Sir Ernest de Silva Mawatha—SU. The Government of Sri Lanka and Mitsui, the giant Japanese multinational will sign a contract this after-

noon to set up the national television network in two phases—CO. The Tourist Board has forecast that 300,000 tourists will visit Sri Lanka this year, an increase of 50,000 compared to last year—DM. The government is to introduce a new scheme to uplift the living standard of the middle class people; this step has been taken by the government in a finding of the survey which has revealed that the middle class are hardest hit by the inflationary situation. The Wellawatte Textile Mills is to be modernised at a cost of Rs. 670 million—DV.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10: The government has decided to phase out the income support scheme by June 1980 and to use the balance half year's money that would be saved as a result for development work in the electorates where the scheme was being implemented. A large-scale overhaul of the present administrative system of the government was under urgent consideration of Cabinet, State Minister Anandatissa de Alwis told a press conference yesterday. The Bank of America, the world's largest banking company with branches and affiliates in 101 countries, and with assets totally over 94 billion US dollars has received Sri Lanka Government approval to open a branch here. Several doctors who had stayed abroad after going on no-pay study leave under the previous government have now come back and joined the Health Department. Several persons were injured when rival factions clashed yesterday afternoon in York Street in the Fort near the Bank of Ceylon where members of the Joint Action Committee of Trade Unions were picketing against the government's decision to cut down the number of holidays of public servants—CDN. Eelam Badges manufactured abroad were produced before yesterday's Cabinet meeting by Mr. Gamini Dissanayake, Minister of Lands, Land Development and Mahaveli Development—CDM. A separate Minister will be appointed to be in charge of training and development of the country's bureaucrats, State Minister and Cabinet spokesman Anandatissa de Alwis told a press briefing yesterday. President J. R. Jayewardene yesterday urged Buddhists to move into the Tamil areas of the country and teach them the ideals of Buddhism in order to bring the two communities closer together.

A violent scuffle at York Street yesterday afternoon between two rival factions of demonstrators protesting against the new leave scheme for the public sector, figured prominently in Parliament. Over 3,200 students of the Kelaniya University were moved out and the University closed down last morning; the sudden closure of the Varsity followed demands made by the Bhikku students of the University in regard to their boarding facilities in the University—SU. Plans have been made to cut the coconut palms uprooted by the cyclone in the Batticaloa, Amparai and Po'onnaruwa districts; the EEC has undertaken this work at a cost of Rs. 15 million to be given to Sri Lanka as a loan; the Sri Lanka Government will contribute a sum of Rs. 6.4 million for this—DP. The Ministry of Higher Education is to draw up development programmes for each University. 25,400 married men and women have undergone sterilisation operations since October last year and over 6 lakhs of people have undergone temporary sterilisation operations according to the Family Planning Association statistics—DV. The government will launch a programme costing Rs. 150 million to rehabilitate coconut estates destroyed by the cyclone—DM. The Moratuwa University students Federation has requested the President to order the University Heads to withdraw police units stationed around the campus—JD.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 11: The energy crisis has presented such grave problems to Sri Lanka that the government will have to take hard collective decisions soon taking the people into its confidence; the six-hour Sunday ban on private motor vehicles might have to be extended by a few more hours; in addition, the Sunday ban might have to be extended by another day; this was the gloomy picture painted yesterday by Prime Minister R. Premadasa and Industries Minister Cyril Mathew at a seminar on "Energy in Sri Lanka" at the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science headquarters. The Bribery Commissioner's Department is at present examining whether "donations" given by parents to schools to admit their children contravened the Bribery laws; Bribery Commissioner Noel Wijenaike yesterday said this was being done after representations made by parents—CDN.

A new Marco-economic Plan for Sri Lanka will be drawn up shortly; half a dozen Harvard dons will collaborate with their Sri Lankan counterparts to draw up the new plan; on the invitation of the Minister of Finance and Planning, Mr. Ronnie de Mel, a team of six Harvard dons arrived in Sri Lanka to work with the Ministry of Planning with a view to strengthening the whole planning apparatus in Sri Lanka. The President, J. R. Jayewardene and the Prime Minister R. Premadasa will declare open the newly built Chaithya at Kattarama Vihare in Grandpass tomorrow at 5.30 p.m. by offering flowers and Gilanpasa—CDM. Sri Lankans may be compelled to pay nearly ten times the amount they pay now for electricity in a few month's time; this is due to the present consumption exceeding the production and therefore the country having to depend on costly thermal electricity; now the supply comes from cheaper hydro-electric plants. A handbomb flung by an unknown person exploded near a Police riot squad on duty near a group of picketing trade unionists in Slave Island yesterday afternoon, injuring two constables. Prime Minister, R. Premadasa last night appealed for help to identify those who were responsible for the assault on six people in Wednesday's picketing scuffle—SU. The Ministry of Food and Cooperatives has decided to take into custody flour hoarded by the traders and re-distribute them through the GA's; traders expecting flour prices to increase are hoarding large stocks. The merciless attack on the workers who were picketing in Fort yesterday was planned at "Siri Kothaa" the UNP headquarters according to well informed sources; CTB buses and scooter taxis were used to transport thugs for the attack; foreign representatives to the Conference on human rights and development presently held in Colombo expressed their condemnation at the recent attack on those who were picketing—JD.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12: Parliament yesterday stripped former Secretary to the Ministry of Justice Nihal Jayawickreme of his civic rights for seven years; the Special Presidential Commission appointed by the Government in February last year found Mr. Jayawickreme guilty of misuse and abuse of power on 21 allegations made against him and

recommended that he be deprived of his civic right; under the penalty imposed on him, Mr. Jayawickrema will not be able for seven years to contest or vote in elections, or hold office in government or semi-government institutions. Despite the 24-hour vigil by 27 policemen and two sub-inspectors in the wake of mounting losses of parcels, air mail letters and packets from the Central Mail exchange, a number of thefts have taken place recently. From Wednesday all state employees will fall in line with the new working hours—8 a.m. to 3.30 with a 30 minute lunch break. The Janawasama Commission will be dissolved shortly; its assets and liabilities will be vested with the Ministry of Plantation Industries and the Ministry of Lands and Land Development—CDM. The government will embark on a Rs. 670 million project to modernise textile mills that have been taken over; the project under the Ministry of Textile Industries will encompass the Government-owned business undertaking of Wellawatta Spinning and Weaving Mills, Ceylon Silks and Libra Industries, the Competent Authority Saratchandra Gunaratna said. The outright gift from Japan the National Television Project will be ready for operation by September next year; the agreement for the Rs. 270 million construction work was signed yesterday by Yama Moto of Mitsui Ltd., the contractors and State Ministry Secretary, Sarath Amunugama on behalf of Sri Lanka—SU. About 1 million lbs. of tea leaves are wasted each month as small tea holders are unable to find factories to buy the green tea leaves. The PMB expects to buy 33 million bushels of paddy under the guaranteed price scheme this year—LD. The government has appointed a Special Cabinet Committee to find out whether people face any difficulties or unfairness because of the new food stamp system—DM. All left oriented political parties have strongly condemned the abuse and attack on those who are picketing by the police and UNP-led thugs—ATH.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13: Wide-ranging talks on the United States aid program to Sri Lanka will begin in Colombo this week when a top-ranking delegation headed by Mr. Douglas Bennet, Administrator of USAID, arrives here on a 5-day visit between January 19-20—SO. The President Mr. J. R. Jayewardene

arrives here on a 5-day visit between January 19-23—SO. The President Mr. J. R. Jayewardene condemning violence and thuggery declared that whoever broke the law would be dealt with according to the law; he was speaking after the opening of the new building of the Jitika Dumriya Savaka Sangamaya at Ocott Mawatha, Pattah, yesterday—ST. Most of Sri Lanka's TV viewers say they are getting a raw deal; the rapidly mounting circle of Lankan TV owners who already complain of poor quality programmes are now up in arms against the move to compel them to fork out Rs. 250 as licence fee—WK. Two percent of women over 50 years of age are unmarried and women delay their marriage for 5 years compared to 1946; these statistics are revealed in a survey conducted by the UNO on world population trends—RR. The General Knowledge of graduates leaving the University has gone down to unprecedented levels according to vice-chancellors; this is because they tend to study only text books—SM.

MONDAY, JANUARY 14: A Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry in the Maldives has held that the former Maldivian President Amir Ibrahim Nisir, had misappropriated large amounts of State funds and stacked away 4 million US dollars in his private accounts in banks round the world; this was disclosed by Mr. Puthulla Jameel, the Maldivian External Affairs Minister who was in Sri Lanka on a private visit. President J. R. Jayewardene will address the nation at 9 a.m. on January 18, before he formally inaugurates the Government's Free School Text Books distribution at Nakkawattia Madhya Maha Vidyalaya in the Kiliyapitiya electorate. Leading South Asian citizens who met in Colombo last week to discuss "Human Rights and Development" have set up a Colombo-based committee to preserve, protect and promote human rights and development in the South Asian region—CDN. The President Mr. J. R. Jayewardene heads a Ministerial Committee to monitor economic development projects for the northern and eastern regions; political observers believe that this is an indication of the personal interest taken by the President to ensure that the Northern and Eastern provinces were developed on a scientific basis. All owners of coconut land will in future be able to obtain

loans from the Bank of Ceylon and the People's Bank to purchase fertilizer; earlier, only those owning 25 acres and less were entitled for loans for fertilizer: President J. R. Jayewardene has turned down a request by SLFP leader Sirimavo Bandaranaike to refer the Special Presidential Commission's findings against former Justice Ministry Secretary Nihal Jayawickrema for consultative jurisdiction by the Supreme Court; he is learnt to have told Mrs. Bandaranaike that the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka is being properly followed and no irregularities have been committed. The government Medical Officers' Association (GMOA) will resort to trade union action over its demand for the continuation of foreign medical examinations, its newly elected President S. Y. D. C. Wickremasinghe said yesterday. Several income-generating activities for women in slums and shanties in Colombo are to be started by the Women's Bureau shortly; this follows a survey by a Project Committee appointed by the Ministry of Plan Implementation. The Education Ministry has decided to give training to students above 15 years of age leaving school, for a period of six months; 1080 Industrial Training institutes are to be installed in the country to give training in agriculture, farming, animal husbandry, carpentry etc.—DP. The Joint Committee of Trade Unions is due to hold a meeting at Hyde Park on the 17th in protest against the violence used by thugs on Trade Union leaders and members—VK. Workers in all sectors will participate in a token strike to express their protest against reducing the holidays—ATH. The Minister of Public Administration and Home Affairs has warned that disciplinary measures will be taken against those who report late for work from the 16th—DK.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 15: The members of the Executive Committee of the Central Bank Employee's Union were interdicted yesterday for defying the orders of the management, by instigating union members to picket within the Bank premises, a Central Bank spokesman said. President J. R. Jayewardene spent about an hour yesterday with scientists acquainting himself with the progress made in research activities on a popular village back garden crop called Dambala (Winged Bean). The Sri Lanka Freedom Party views

with grave concern the presence of Soviet troops in Afghanistan, the party's General Secretary Rittasiri Wickramanayake said in a statement yesterday. The Inland Revenue Department has begun to refund some Rs. 25 million collected from about 10,000 tax payers as Compulsory Savings during 1973-74; forms on which applications for refunds have to be made are being issued by the Inland Revenue Department from today, a spokesman said. Britain's Minister for Overseas Development, Neil Martin will attend the ceremonial inauguration of the British-government-aided Victoria Dam next March—CDN. The Minister of Fisheries, Mr. Festus Perera has launched a massive plan to encourage educated youth to take to fishing; the Minister has outlined the co-operation of the National Youth Services Authority to achieve this objective. One hundred and thirty one international firms from all over the world are bidding for consultation work, engineering services and the construction of the proposed multi-million rupee Master Plan Project for the Colombo Air Port, Katunayake; the Master Plan has been prepared by a team of experts sponsored by the Canadian Government to raise the Colombo Airport Katunayake to International standards; it would cost the Government Rs. 1,091 million—CDM. The Parliamentary Select Committee to examine the suitability of candidates appointed to high posts, is to resume its examination of the five members of the Greater Colombo Economic Commission; the 10 member committee headed by Prime Minister R. Premadasa, is this week expected to fix a date for the resumed sittings—SU. A top businessman with close connections with the GCEC is depriving Sri Lanka of foreign investment on a large-scale; this businessman has set up a joint venture in Malaysia with a foreign businessman who originally held talks with another local businessman to set up a joint venture in the FTZ; the President has been informed about this matter—ATH. Leaders of a large number of trade unions have strongly condemned the government's and the UNP action to sabotage a picketing campaign against the reduction of holidays—DK. Political sources have revealed that the government and the TULF have come to some sort of agreement to solve their differences; this was amply shown in the budget debate where TULF mem-

bers showered praise on nearly all the ministers—JD. The government has decided to strengthen the administration laws of State Corporations and statutory bodies to streamline the administration; Rs. 100 million will be spent this year for University education—DV.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16: President J. R. Jayewardene told a delegation from the Jatika Sevaka Sangamaya, which met him on Monday at his Ward Place residence, that the new holidays scheme and the new working hours would apply at present only to the government sector, and not the corporation and the banking sectors; the delegation met the President to apprise him of the difficulties that would be faced by employees in the corporation, banking and other sectors represented by the sangamaya as a result of the new holiday scheme and the new working hours. Twenty doctors in government service who had violated the Compulsory Service Act would be prosecuted by the Health Department; their case files had been sent to the Attorney General who would institute proceedings against them a Health Department spokesman said yesterday. Two employees of the Central Bank who were arrested by the Fort Police in connection with Friday's handbomb throwing incident opposite the Central Bank building were produced before the Colombo Fort Magistrate Mr. T. Joganathan on Monday night and remanded till January 25. Tenants of 21,000 houses having a rental of less than twenty five rupees will be their lawful owners from tomorrow; arrangements have been finalised to hand over to the tenants these houses which hitherto belonged to local bodies or the Department of Housing—CDN. Sri Lanka is going ahead with plans to establish a Gold Market here and three Central Bank officials are now studying the operation of the Singapore Bullion Exchange. The Mayor of Colombo Mr. B. Sirisena Cooray has decided to open fair price beef stalls at the Municipal Markets in the City—CDM. State Corporations that cannot be made profitable should be wound up or converted to a joint enterprise with private sector participation a Committee of Development Secretaries has recommended. The Ceylon Electricity Board's engineers have complained of corrupt practices in the award

of tenders in the CEB—SU. People who were left out of the Sirima-Shastri Pact of 1964 and became stateless are to continue to remain in Sri Lanka; the Government has taken this step as a result of the drop in the production in tea and rubber estates. Life-sacrifice has been banned in all Hindu temples from Midnight yesterday which was Thai Pongal day—DP. Number of senior Cabinet Ministers led by PM R. Premadasa have launched a strong campaign against appointing multi-millionaire businessman Mr. Upali Wijewardene as MP for Kamburupitiya; about 60 back-benchers are supporting this group; political sources say this conflict might develop into a JR-Premadasa power struggle—DK. The President has ordered the Plan Implementation Ministry to treat every electorate in the same way when giving jobs through the job banks—DV.

OO OO OO

The Land Acquisition Act (Chapter 460) As Amended By Act No. 28 Of 1964 Notice Under Section 7

Reference No. 2/11/LD/A. 518

It is intended to acquire the land described in the schedule below for a public purposes. For further particulars see Part III of the Gazette No. 73 of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, dated 25th January 1980.

Schedule

Situation: Situated at Dahampitiya Village in Ambegamuwa Korale of Nuwara Eliya District.

Name of Land: Gilmahena

Plan & Lot No.: Lot No. 33 in F.V.P. 102.
(Supplement No. 2)

W. G. T. Gamanayaka
District Land Officer, Nuwara Eliya

The Kachcheri,
Nuwara Eliya.
07th, January, 1980

BANK UNION STATEMENT

Indiscipline, Violence & Thuggery

We publish below the statement issued by the President of the Bank of Ceylon Branch of the All-Ceylon Bank Employees' Union. Very serious allegations of thuggery have been made against the JSS and a band of so-called "UNP thugs." Extremely harsh criticisms have also been levelled at the management of the two state-owned banks. Tribune will be happy to publish statements from any interested persons or concerned organisations that will throw more light on the matter especially on the charges and allegations that have been made. Judging from the gravity of the incidents that have occurred, the Government should immediately set up a Committee of Inquiry to probe the violence and thuggery, and to take steps not only to punish the guilty but also to ensure that such incidents do not recur.

The government should take a serious view of the allegations made against the JSS and the band of so-called "UNP thugs" and take all steps to clear the political atmosphere of suspicions that have arisen concerning the role played by certain leading lights of the ruling Party and the Establishment—suspicions which are daily proliferating because of the "morarji" and "slanted" news now published in the daily papers. Unless the Government dispels these apprehensions that have begun to take root in the public mind, credibility in the Government will take a downward plunge—in spite of free books and free houses. It is wise not to forget the fate that overtook Morarji Desai. Pro forma denials will not help—only a full open Commission of Inquiry will help to restore the credibility in the Government. The Commission moreover must be manned by personnel whom the public will respect and whose conduct of the investigations will inspire confidence that an effort was being made to find the truth and do justice. —Ed.

SINCE THE FORMATION of Jathika Sevaka Sangamaya Branches in the state-owned bank

in 1978, we have witnessed an unprecedented rise of indiscipline, corruption, irregularities and fraud. Small groups in these three banks have been permitted to flout authority and all established norms and procedures, with the political patronage of the governing party for the time being, the United National Party, and the active connivance or utter spinelessness of the boards of directors and the managements of the three institutions. Governments have come and gone in the past—as they will surely do in the future—but this is the first time this sordid state of affairs had been experienced in the banking sector.

The latest manifestation of gross indiscipline and political thuggery occurred at the Head Office of the People's Bank on 3rd January 1980, when the Personnel Manager was physically assaulted and abused by certain office-bearers of the JSS Branch in that bank, in the presence of several members of the Staff Department. One of these JSS hooligans had even whipped out a knife to attack the Personnel Manager, but was prevented from using it by the physical intervention of other members of the staff. The irony of the situation is that the Personnel Manager, Mr. F. Seimon, was appointed to this post at the instance of the JSS, since it is through victimisation and threats of victimisation by the Staff Departments that the bosses at Sri Kotha imagine they can organise the working class under the UNP banner. We all know the situation prevailing in our own Staff Department. After this incident, the four JSS office-bearers concerned disappeared from the premises and are reported to have gone to the Police Station and made entries giving a completely distorted version of what happened. After a lengthy interval, they returned to the Head Office in a cream-coloured Jeep (ownership unknown) and were arrested and remanded by the police, who had in the meantime been informed of the assault. However, through political interference, they were released on bail in the sum of Rs. 250/- each. The following morning January 4, the President of the JSS Branch was seen near the Head Office entrance, threatening certain staff members regarding this incident. The same day, the management interdicted four persons in this connection. The four individuals are: Mr. N. C. Dharma

sen, Grade IV Supervisor—Secretary JSS; Mr. S. de S. Wickremasinghe—Grade IV Supervisor—Committee Member JSS; Mr. J. M. M. Nizam—Grade V Clerk—Chief Organizer JSS; Mr. N. C. Premaratne—Grade VII Peon—Treasurer.

THEREAFTER, a certain cabinet minister is said to have tried to intimidate the Personnel Manager and have given him time until 12 noon January 7 to withdraw his complaint. The ultimatum was extended to 12 noon the following day and the Personnel Manager apparently refused to comply, the minister ordered the JSS Branch in the People's Bank to hold a meeting. **This was held at 4.30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 8.** At this meeting unsuspecting JSS rank and file members were given a completely false picture of what had transpired. They were told that when the JSS officials met the Personnel Manager to discuss certain matters, the Personnel Manager assaulted them. **The following morning, January 9,** the JSS Branch officials stopped their members at the entrance. After work started, they entered the Head Office and walked in and out of all departments in the building shouting slogans and abusing and threatening the officers. They entered the rooms of the General Manager and AGM (Staff) and argued with them and abused them. The management was totally unable to control the situation. Eventually, they sent for the Police and the Staff Department was placed under police guard. The JSS mob then invaded the canteen and looted it completely. After filling their stomachs free of charge, they continued to roam about the building shooting and jeering. As a result of all this rowdyism, the People's Bank did not make an appearance in the Clearing House on this day and the Bank of Ceylon instructed all Branches not to make payments against deposits of People's Bank cheques.

The management of the People's Bank, like the management of the Bank of Ceylon, has been succumbing to political pressures of the most outrageous nature. Several appointments were made at the instance of the JSS, including that of the recently assaulted Personnel Manager. As a result, indiscipline is rampant.

TWO PREVIOUS INCIDENTS illustrate the state of affairs prevailing in the People's Bank. At the Nirahenpita Branch some time ago, a Grade V Clerk belonging to the JSS absented himself from work without notifying the Branch authorities or submitting a medical certificate when he returned. When asked for an explanation, he abused the Branch Manager in foul language in the presence of the entire staff and threatened to break his skull. The matter was reported to the Regional Manager who, after recording statements of the staff members (including JSS members), ordered the immediate transfer of the clerk concerned. This order was immediately countermanded on interference from Sri Kot'ra. Thereafter, the management decided to withhold the culprit's promotion, pending an inquiry. Without even questioning the Regional Manager or Nirahenpita Branch Manager, the Chairman ordered this individual's promotion to Grade IV. No doubt, like certain jumped up individuals in our bank, he will shortly be promoted to Grade III for meritorious performance, provided the People's Bank can borrow the services of the Chief Inspector of Branches of the Bank of Ceylon to head its interview panel. **A more recent example** of flagrant indiscipline and hooliganism in the People's Bank took place on the 19th of last month. At about 5.30 p.m., the President of the JSS Branch assaulted a member of his own union in the lobby of the Head Office, in the presence of about 300 members of the staff, including three senior officers—the Chief Inspector (Investigations), the Chief Inspector (Branch Inspections) and the Director of Training. No action was taken. The connivance or supine attitude of the board of directors and the management of the People's Bank has made the maintenance of discipline impossible. It would be superfluous to elaborate on the effect this must necessarily have on the efficient functioning of that or any other bank.

The differences in the situations in the People's Bank and Bank of Ceylon is one of degree only. If some semblance of discipline and order still prevails in the Bank of Ceylon, it is due entirely to the unity of purpose of the membership and the Branch Union's willingness to resist and expose acts of irregularity and indiscipline. On the other hand, the

management would do well to bear in mind that connivance in the nefarious activities of the JSS will not guarantee them immunity from the type of treatment meted out to the Personnel Manager of the People's Bank by the hooligan elements they are towing now. Furthermore, the time will surely come when answers will be sought for much of what is happening in the state-owned banks today.

The efficient functioning of the Bank depends on the maintenance of discipline and the prevention of frauds, malpractices and other irregularities. This duty devolves ultimately on the Chairman of the Board as head of the Bank. The Branch Union has either reported directly to the Chairman, or kept him informed of, various irregularities and acts of flagrant indiscipline. The outcome has not been entirely satisfactory. It can be stated categorically that the levels of discipline and efficiency in the Bank of Ceylon have never sunk so low previously. If the human and financial resources of the Bank are to be harnessed to its development programmes, the stamping out of indiscipline and malpractices is a prerequisite.

ON JANUARY 9, members of the Central Office staff, customers of the Bank and the general public had a ringside view of the "Dharmastha" thuggery for the second time. Previously on 20th July 1978 when the Union staged a day's token strike to protest against the dismissal of 971 members over 500 UNP thugs attacked our members. On this day members of the Branch Union were scheduled to picket peacefully outside the Central Office in protest against the Government's proposal to reduce drastically leave entitlements in the public sector. At about 12 noon, a mob of about 600 thugs, armed with bicycle chains, clubs, hammers, knives and other weapons, arrived at York Street in three CTB buses, a Petroleum Corporation van and a motorcade of scooter tri-shaws. The President of the Union, Comrade Nimal Perera, who was on the steps of the Bank at the time, was pulled outside and brutally assaulted with bicycle chains and knuckle-dusters. He was gravely hurt and had to be removed to the Accident Unit of the General Hospital in a bank vehicle.

For about half an hour the "UNP" mob rioted outside the Central Office, climbing on to the bonnets of parked cars and hurling abuse and threats, while customers and members of the staff were unable to leave the premises. Mingling with the mob of hooligans outside were certain leaders of the JSS Branch in the Bank of Ceylon, including some who are working at Brubrook's Place. It is quite clear that these individuals were aware of the impending arrival of the thugs and their task was to point out prominent Union members. In fact, prior to this, they were roaming about inside the Central Office spying out the situation. Among them was an ex-employee of the Bank who was dismissed for fraud and has since joined the UNP with a number of outsiders. What business he had to roam about inside the Bank with outside thugs is something that must be inquired into.

Throughout this period, the police were conspicuous by their absence. They arrived on the scene after the mob had departed. In the meantime, apart from Comrade Nimal Perera, some prominent trade union leaders, press photographers and innocent passers-by were brutally assaulted. One lone police constable, who happened to be passing by, went to Comrade Nimal Perera's assistance and he too was brutally assaulted with bicycle chains and clubs. The General Manager was an eyewitness to these incidents. So also was the Security Consultant of the Bank, Mr. S. Abeygunewardene, a former Superintendent of Police, who probably has plenty of food for thought about the shameful conduct of the Force he once served. At one stage, the mob even threatened to invade the Bank and firearms were immediately issued to the Security Officers.

There is not the slightest doubt that this entire episode was planned and executed with the full knowledge and active connivance of certain important people. The Chairman has complained about indiscipline in the Bank. It has to be realised that, apart from his own failure to maintain discipline, this is a reflection of the growing indiscipline in the country which is being actively fostered, for its own purposes by the very Government that appointed him Chairman of the Bank. We look forward now to another 'inspiring' message from the Chairman on Independence Day, which is a fitting

occasion for reflection on one's duty to co-operate fully in building a Dharmista Society.

The Branch Union roundly condemns these cowardly attacks by armed thugs on our President and other unarmed persons, who were taken completely by surprise and demands a full inquiry into these outrageous incidents.

Ranjit Fernando
President.

Bank of Ceylon Branch of the
Bank Employees Union.

X X X

94-2/4, York Building,
York Street,
Colombo 1.
Jan. 10, 1980

FLASH: PEOPLE'S BANK LATEST

The four JSS office-bearers, who were interdicted for assaulting the Personnel Manager, were reinstated in service on Friday, 11th January 1980. The Personnel Manager is reported to have withdrawn all complaints against his assailants, under pressure from a certain cabinet minister. It is freely rumoured in the People's Bank that the Personnel Manager is to receive a promotion for this meritorious act. In Parliament earlier, the Minister of Finance gave an assurance that a retired District Judge had been appointed to conduct an inquiry into this incident and those found guilty would be prosecuted. We wonder what will happen to this inquiry now.

The assault on the Personnel Manager was a brazen and outrageous act of indiscipline, which concerns the bank. The Personnel Manager's willingness to pawn his self-respect by withdrawing his complaint is totally irrelevant to the issue. If the board of directors and the management are prepared to condone this challenge to authority and drop the matter, it would be better if they leave an important institution like the People's Bank to others of superior calibre.

Ranjit Fernando
President.

Bank of Ceylon Branch of the
Ceylon Bank Employees Union

Jan. 11, 1980

REVIEW

:: Women

VOICE OF WOMEN—a Sri Lanka Journal For Women's Emancipation: No. 1—1980 January. Price Rs. 4/- (16-1 Don Carolis Road, Colombo 5).

The aims and objectives of the Organisation are stated in the first page of the magazine. The Voice of Women was started in 1978 September as a women's group to discuss problems relating to women and find areas of common agreement where joint action was possible. *To campaign for the economic, political, social and legal rights of women and for the full participation of women in the development of Sri Lanka. *To monitor governmental policies in order to assess how such policies affect women; to be vigilant on the policies and attitudes to women in the public and private sectors of the economy as well as in the mass media and to urge action on these matters where necessary. *To organise regular meetings and discussions in all parts of Sri Lanka on questions relating to women and to provide speakers on such issues to women's groups and other organisations. *To initiate research and studies on women's questions and to disseminate these findings among various grass roots organisations in the urban, rural and plantation sectors of the country, and among other groups. *To publish and translate books and pamphlets pertaining to women, in order to raise the consciousness of both women and men on this question and to supply the mass media with material on women. *To publish a regular journal in Sinhala, Tamil and English expressing their views on women's issues, which should be made available to wide sections of women.

The articles in this first issue include one on Sexism and advertising in Sri Lanka in which the organisation claims that due to letters written by them to the advertisers stating that certain advertisements were 'vulgar' and 'degrading' using women as sex symbols, they were stopped; there is another about false values being spread through comic strips. There are articles showing inequalities in the wage structure between men and women; exploitation of women in the plantation sector;

working conditions and hours of work of women in factories and the exploitation of cheap Asian labour by the establishment of Free Trade Zones pointing out the lower wages the women earn.

"The Traditional Concept of Women and its persistence Today" is the title of the article by Kumari Jayewardene and it deals with four main attitudes which according to the author represent the traditional viewpoint—firstly women's role in the home subordinate to the males, secondly dismissal of the idea of a woman as an intellectual, thirdly the myth that women are the source of many evils and fourthly woman has to be looked at in terms of physical attractiveness. The author claims that these attitudes persist today and are perpetuated in art and mass media.

Women, the magazine states are portrayed in school text books as taking an inferior position and an example is reproduced from the grade I Tamil reader where the women are all on the floor. There is also the reproduction of an article on Wife Beating and an extract from the "Feminine Mystique" by Betty Freidan. An article about women in the Sinhala cinema says that most films display a backward attitude towards women and points out that Sinhala films have never dealt with the working women of this country in a realistic manner highlighting their problems. They cite example of films in which, despite being educated, women still have to practice virtues of obedience, docility, passivity and be subject to parental authority and feudalistic values. An article on women and the mass media analyses the percentage of women engaged in broadcasting and their participation as well as the women's programmes which the author Hema Goonetilleke claims portray women as non-intellectual beings whose interests are confined to women's role as wife and mother.

An interview with a woman in Balangoda who despite many tribulations participates in social and political activities; an article denouncing the dowry system, a protest against holding beauty contests; and the first article in the series "women leaders of the working class"; the child worker and the "export" of women are some of the other articles included in this issue.

News and Views from abroad include the editorial from the first issue of "Manushi" an Indian magazine and an article from Latin America on 'Machismo' the ideology of 'masculinity' prevalent in that country, which also gives a table of the major characteristics of a "masculine" and "feminine" stereotype still current in Latin America. "Towards Equality" comprises extracts from the conclusions of the first comprehensive report on the status of women in Sri Lanka prepared by a group of university women, reviews appearing in the local press about "Kantha Handa" No. 1 which appeared in Sinhala and Tamil and a list of publications concerned with the emancipation of women also find a place in this issue.

We welcome a magazine of this nature which for the first time deals with women's matters, the work they are engaged in and denouncing exploitation of women in all its forms. While commending this publication and agreeing that inferior social status and exploitation should be done away with we would like to point out that if the ideal society which this organisation hopes to achieve comes into being and a woman loses all her "feminine" qualities, that society may not be such a pleasant place to live in after all. And although we do not advocate servility, if all the softer virtues such as passivity, docility and obedience to elders are removed from the society it may turn into something depersonalised—mechanical, mundane and uninteresting. Absolute equality may create a society in which everyone becomes mere cogs with no time or thought to "the upliftment of the soul".

V.A.

IN ASIA—PACIFIC REGION

Holidays

AUSTRALIA: Jan. 1 (New Year's), Jan. 28 (Australia Day), April 4 (Good Friday) April 7 (Easter Monday), April 25 (ANZAC day), June 16 (Queen's Birthday), Dec. 25 (Christmas), Dec. 26 (Boxing Day).

BANGLADESH: Feb. 21 (Martyrs' Day), March 26 (Independence Day), April 15 (Bangali New Year), May 1 (May Day), Nov. 7 (National Revolution Day), Dec. 16 (Victory Day), Dec. 25 (Christmas). Certain Moslem religious holidays are subject to the appearance of the moon and have yet to be determined.

BURMA: Jan. 4 (Independence Day), Feb. 12 (Union Day), Feb. 29 (Full Moon of Tabaung), March 27 (Resistance Day), April 14-15 (Water Festival), April 16 (Burmese New Year), April 28 (Full Moon of Kaon), May 1 (Workers' Day), Oct. 24 (Full moon of Thadingyut), Dec. 2 (National Day).

CHINA: Jan. 1 (New Year's) Feb. 18-20 (Chinese New Year's Spring Festival) May 1 (Labour Day), Oct. 1-2 (National Days).

FIJI: Jan. 1 (New Year's) Feb. 4 est. (Prophet Mohammed's Birthday), April 4 (Good Friday), April 6 (Easter Saturday), April 7 (Easter Monday), June 16 (Queen's Birthday), Aug. 4 (Bank holiday), Oct. 14 (Fiji Day), Nov. 7 est. (Deepavali), Nov. 10 (Prince Charles' birthday), Dec. 25 (Christmas) Dec. 26 (Boxing Day).

HONGKONG: Jan. 1 (First Week-Day in January), Feb. 16-19 (New Year's), March 31 (General Holiday in Lieu of that for the Ching Ming Festival), April 4 (Good Friday), April 7 (Easter Monday) April 21 (Birthday of the Queen), June 17 (Tuenng Festival), July 1 (First week day in July), August 4 (First Monday in August), Aug. 15 (Last Monday in August) Sept. 24 (Day following Mid-Autumn Festival), Oct. 17 (Chung Yeng Festival), Dec. 25-26 (Christmas).

INDIA: Jan. 26 (Republic Day), March 2 (Holi), March 24 (Ramnavami), March 29 (Mahavira Jayanthi), April 4 (Good Friday), April 30 (Buddha Purnima), Aug. 13 (Id-UI-Fitr), Aug. 15 (Independence day), Sept. 1 (Janamashtami), Oct. 2, (Mahatma Gandhi's Birthday), October 17-19 (Dussehra), October 20 est. (Id-UI-Zuha), Nov. 7 (Dwali)-Nov. 19 est (Muharram), Nov. 22 (Gurunank's Birthday), Dec. 25 (Christmas). In addition the Maharashtra Region observes the following holidays: Jan. 31 (Id E Milad), March 17 (Gudi Padva), May (Maharashtra Day), Aug. 25 (Paisi New Year), Sept. 13 (Ganesh Chaturthi), Nov. 8 (Divali).

INDONESIA: Jan. 1 (New Year's), Jan. 31 (Mohammed Birthday), April 4 (Good Friday) May 15 (Ascension of Christ), June 11 (Ascension of Mohammed), Aug. 12-13 est. (Id-UI-Fitri), Aug. 17 (Independence Day), Oct. 19 est. (Id-UI Adha), Nov. 9 est. (Moslem New Year), Dec. 25 Christmas.

Local holidays falling on Sunday are not observed on Monday

JAPAN: Jan. 1 (New Year's), Jan. 15 (Adult's Day), Feb. 11 (National Foundation Day), March 20 (Spring Equinox Day), April 29 (Emperor's Birthday), May 3 (Constitution Day), May 5 (Children's Day), Sept. 15 (Respect for the Aged Day), Sept. 23 (Autumnal Equinox Day), Oct. 10 (Sports Day), Nov. 3 (Culture Day), Nov. 25 (Thanks giving day).

Most Japanese companies and government offices traditionally observe year-end and New Year holidays from Dec. 29 through Jan. 5.

MALAYSIA: Jan. 1 (New Year's), Jan. 30 (Prophet Mohammed's Birthday), Feb. 16-17 (Chinese New Year), May 1 (Labour Day), May 28 (Wesak Day) June 4 (King's Birthday), August 12-13 est. (Hari Raya Puasa), Aug. 31 (Malaysian National Day), October 18 est. (Hari Raya Haji) Nov. 9 (First day of Muharram); Nov. 14 (Deepavali), Dec. 25 (Christmas). When a holiday falls on a Sunday, the following Monday is then a holiday.

NEPAL: Jan. 11 (Prithvi Jayanti), Jan. 22 (Basanta Panchami), Jan. 30 (Martyr's day—half holiday), Feb. 14 (Shivaratri), Feb. 19 (King Tribbuvan Memorial and National Democracy Day), March 24 (Chaitra Ashtami and Ram Navami), April 13 (New Year's), April 30 (Buddha Jayanti), Aug. 26 (Janai Purnima), Sept. 1 (Krishna Jayanti), Sept. 12 (Tij—for women only), Sept. 14 (Rishi Panchami—for women only), Oct. 10 (Chatasthapana), Oct. 16-23 (Dashain), Oct. 24 (UN Day—half holiday), Nov. 7-9 (Tihar), Dec. 15 (King Mahendra Memorial and Constitution Day), Dec. 28 (King Birendra's Birthday). Regional holidays: March 16 (Ghode Jatra), Kathmandu Valley; Aug. 27 (Gai Jatra), Kathmandu Valley; Sept. 23 (Indra Jatra), Kathmandu valley. All dates after April 13 are tentative, as official government lists of holidays will not be published until March.

NEW ZEALAND: Jan. 1 (New Year's), Feb. 6 (Waitangi Day), April 4 (Good Friday), April 6 (Easter Monday), April 25 (ANZAC day), June 2 (Queen's Birthday), Oct. 27 (Labour Day), Dec. 25 (Christmas), Dec. 26 (Boxing Day).

Regional holidays: Jan. 17 (Southland Anniversary), Jan. 21 (Wellington Anniversary), Jan. 28 (Auckland and Northland Anniversaries), March 10, (Taranaki Anniversary), March 23 (Otago Anniversary), Oct. 16 (Hawkes Bay Anniversary), Nov. 1 (Marlborough Anniversary), Dec. 1 (Westland Anniversary), Dec. 16 (Carterbury Anniversary).

PAKISTAN: Jan. 31 est. (Eid-i-Millad-Un-Nab), March 23 (Pakistan Day), May 1 (May Day), July 1 (Bank Holiday), Aug. 12-13 est. (Eid-ul-Fitr), Aug. 14 (Independence Day), Sept. 6 (Defense of Pakistan day), Sept. 11 (Death Anniversary of the Quaid-i-Azam), Oct. 20-21 est. (Eid-ul-Azha), Nov. 18-19 est. (Ninth and Tenth of Muharram), Dec. 25 (Birthday of Quaid-i-Azam and Christmas), Dec. 31 (Bank Holiday).

**The Land Acquisition Act (Cap. 460)
As Amended By The Land Acquisition
(Amendment) Act, No. 28 Of 1964
Notice Under Section 7**

Ref. No. 3/62/546.J. 75 E. 482

It is intended to acquire the Land/Lands described in the Schedule below. For further particulars please see the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka No. 73 (part III) of 25-01-1980.

Schedule

Name of village etc:— Koralampottha village in Pitigal Korale, Pannala D.R.O.'s Division, Kurunegala District.

Name of Land:— Bulugaha Watta

Plan and Lot No:— Lot Nos. 10 and 11 in Supplement No. 1 in F.V.P. 255

H. M. S. Chandraratne,
District Land Officer,
Kurunegala District.

The Kachcheri, Kurunegala.
04, January 1980

PAPUA NEW GUINEA: Jan. 1 (New Year's), April 4 (Good Friday), April 7 (Easter Monday), June 18 (Queen's Birthday), Sept. 16 (Independence Day), Sept. 17 (Public Holiday), Dec. 25 (Christmas), Dec. 26 (Boxing Day).

PHILIPPINES: Jan. 1 (New Year's), April 3 (Monday Thursday), April 4 (Good Friday), April 9 (Bataan Day), May 14 (Labour Day), June 12 (Independence Day), July 4 (Philippine-American Friendship Day), Aug. 26 (National Heroes' Day), Nov. 30 (Bonifacio Day), Dec. 8 (Immaculate Conception), Dec. 25 (Christmas), Dec. 30 (Rizal Day).

SINGAPORE: Jan. 1 (New Year's), Feb. 16-17 (Chinese New Year), April 4 (Good Friday), May 1 (Labour Day), May 28 (Vesak Day), Aug. 9 (Singapore National Day), Aug. 12 est. (Hari Raya Puasa), Oct. 19 est. (Hari Raya Haji), Nov. 6 (Deepavali), Dec. 25 (Christmas).

Where a holiday falls on Sunday, the following day will be a public holiday.

SOUTH KOREA: Jan. 1-3 (New Year's), March 1 (Independence Movement Day), March 10 (Labour Day), April 5 (Arbor Day), May 5 (Children's Day), May 21 (Buddha's Birthday), June 6 (Memorial Day), July 17 (Constitution Day), Aug. 15 (Independence Day), Sept. 23 (Thanksgiving), Oct. 1 (Armed Forces Day), Oct. 3 (National Foundation Day), Oct. 9 (Alphabet Day), Dec. 25 (Christmas).

SRI LANKA: Jan. 1 est. (Full Moon Poya), Jan. 15 (Thai Pongal), Jan. 31 est. (Full Moon Poya), Feb. 4 (National Day), Feb. 14 (Mahasivarathri), March 31 est. (Full Moon Poya), April 4 (Good Friday), April 20 est. (Full Moon Poya), May 1 (May Day), May 22 (National Heroes' Day), May 29 est. (Wesak Full Moon Poya), May 30 est. (Day following Wesak Full Moon Poya), June 27 est. (Full Moon Poya), Aug. 13 (Ramzan Festival Day), Aug. 25 est. (Full Moon Poya), Sept. 23 est. (Full Moon Poya), Oct. 20 (Haji Festival Day), Oct. 23 est. (Full Moon Poya), Nov. 6 (Deepavali Festival Day), Nov. 21 est. (Full Moon Poya), Dec. 25 (Christmas). June 30 and Dec. 31 are special bank holidays.

TAIWAN: Jan. 1-2 (Commemoration Day of the Republic of China), Jan. 27-29 est. (Chinese New Year's Eve and Spring Festival), March 20 (Youth Day and Chinese Martyr's Day).

April 5 (National Tombs' Sweeping Day and Death of President Chiang Kai Shek), May 30 est. (Dragon Boat Festival), Sept. 28 (Confucius' Birthday and Teachers' Day), Oct. 5 est. (Moon Festival), Oct. 10 (Double-Ten Day), Oct. 25 (Taiwan Restoration Day), Oct. 31 (Birthday of Chiang Kai Shek), Nov. 12 (Sun Yat-sen's Birthday), Dec. 25 (Constitution Day).

THAILAND: Jan. 1 (New Year's), (Jan. 28 (Chinese New Year's Day), March 1 Makha Bucha Day), April 6 (Chakri Day), April 13 (Songkran Day), May 5 (Coronation Day), May 14 (Pued Mongkol Day), May 29 (Wissakha Bucha day), July 27 (Assalaha Bucha day), July 28 (Buddhist Lent), Aug. 12 (Queen's Birth day), Oct. 23 (Chulalongkorn Day), Dec. 5 (King's Birthday), Dec. 10 (Constitution Day), Dec. 31 (New Year's Eve.)

—The Asian Wall Street Journal, Hongkong 29/12/79

O O Q

LETTER

Democracy In Sri Lanka

Sir,

Democracy was described by Abraham Lincoln as government by the people, of the people for the people. Obviously the stress was on the propositions 'by' and 'for' in the sense of 'for the benefit of'. For, it is by means of these propositions that democracy is distinguished from other forms of government.

The people referred to must be *all* the people, each and every one of them. For the description does not exclude any one. And in fact it would be difficult to discover who has the right to exclude any one and the grounds on which to do it.

With all the freedom of opinion and expression which is considered axiomatic in a democracy, the necessity of a fundamental unanimity in any form of government even in a democracy, perhaps especially in a democracy is lost sight of. "A kingdom divided against

itself (in fundamentals) cannot stand." This fundamental unanimity it seems to me is about the one goal of democracy. This unique goal I would suggest is the integration of the collective good of all the people with the individual and personal good of each and every one.

Even if every one who aspires to achieve the goal of every democracy accepts such an integration as the unique goal there are bound to be differences of opinion about the *ways* or *means* of achieving it. This naturally would lead to a deadlock as to what policy should be implemented and by whom. To end the deadlock the principle adopted seems to have been this; the policy considered best by a simple or absolute majority of the adult citizens is the one to be carried out and those who proposed it should be the implementers. This of course is a practical expedient. But this practical expedient came to be incorporated into the notion of democracy and so democracy came to mean government by the majority of the people. Naturally the majority who were in the driver's seat accepted this notion with enthusiasm. The minority too acquiesced in the hope that one day they would become the majority by producing a superior policy and more efficient leaders. And so democracy came to mean government by a changeable majority.

Now changeable majorities are impossible without the changeable realities of changeable policies and the changeable opinions about those changeable policies. But race, religion and language are unchangeable realities. Any attempt to base government on them is a negation of democracy. Such a government may be efficient as the British Raj once was; it may be just and righteous as the present government strives to be but it is not democracy.

Fr. E. Crowther S.J.

St. Sebastian's Parish,
Batticaloa.



Confidentially

How Much?

IS IT NOT TRUE that the question of the cost of living is a burning topic of the day? That some say that it is the most crucial question of the day? That our plea in this column of 12.1.80 asking our readers to send us their views on the Satyodaya Cost of Living Table has evoked a ready response? That the Satyodaya Table was for a family of five and the amount estimated was Rs. 790/40? That last week we had spotlighted the information sent to us by a reader regarding prices of vegetables? That prices of vegetables may fluctuate but the rock-bottom prices on which they have stabilised themselves for some months now have compelled most families ranging from the "poor" working class to the "average" middle class to cut down drastically on the quantity of vegetables they buy? That even the one-time cheap green leaves—gotukola, sarana etc. etc.—are now five to six times the prices they fetched an year ago? That a bundle that cost 10 cents earlier now sells at 50 to 60 cents (and the bundle itself is smaller)? That in response to our invitation to readers to send us their views on the topic "How Much", Mr. Y. Yoheswaran of 5, Rodrigo Lane, Dehiwela has sent us the following note: "I am a bachelor, employed in a firm of Chartered Accountants and in pursuance of higher studies. I keep a record of my cash transactions and my receipts and payments book is periodically reconciled with the physical cash. The statement of average monthly expenses given below is based on my receipts and payments book for the period October 1979—December 1979. It can be said to be a fair presentation of my expenses for a month.

Statement of Average Monthly Expenses:

Breakfast	55.50
Lunch	150.00
Dinner	64.50

	270.00
Travelling	40.00
Journals	25.00
Other expenses	40.00
Room Rent	125.00
Clothing	100.00

Non-recurring expenses	100.00
Total	700.00

The above statement does not include examination fees, I have to pay or the remittances I make to my parents." That if it costs Rs. 700 a month for a bachelor who will be categorised as the average "middle class" young man in Colombo today, what about a family of five? That even if both parents work, it will cost a family of five on the barest subsistence much more than the amount set out in the Satyodaya Table?

THAT WE HAVE ALSO RECEIVED a note from a housewife in Ratmalana whose husband earns a salary of Rs. 1,250 a month? That she does not work because they have two children to look after? That in any case, she says, that she does not have the "qualifications" for a well-paid job? That after deductions for the Provident Fund, Insurance, Thrift Society and Loan repayments, his take-home pay varied from Rs. 925 to Rs. 975 every month? That she listed the expenses as follows: Rent for annexe Rs. 250; Milk Rs. 100; Fuel, Kerosene and Firewood, Rs. 50; Rice and bread Rs. 80; Butter, Jam etc. Rs. 40; Coconut oil, Rs. 30; Vegetables Rs. 90; Provisions Rs. 150; Electricity, Rs. 25; Laundry, Rs. 15; Private Tuition for children for English plus charges levied by free school, Rs. 50; Travelling, Rs. 50; Incidental medical expenses Rs. 30; Entertainment, i.e. Cinema, a visit to Zoo or carnival etc. etc. Rs. 30—Total Rs. 1,005/-? That in the "provisions" they buy fish once a week, meat once a fortnight and for the rest they manage with dry fish and eggs (when the price does not go very much above 75 cents an egg)? That this budgeting does not allow for clothing, festivals, presents, for weddings, birthdays etc? That she says that every month they are in the red to the extent of Rs. 200 to Rs. 250 and that they are sinking into debt at the rate of Rs. 2000 to Rs. 3000 a year? That the annual bonus her husband gets helps them to keep afloat but every year the monthly loan deductions are on the increase? That she saves from her house-keeping money and buys a national Lottery Ticket to get a windfall—but so far she has had no luck? That they dread the time when the children will be older and would need more for clothing, education and pocket money?

THIS IS HOW A BURGLAR ENTERS YOUR HOUSE

* By scaling drain pipes, ladders or by using ropes to scale over walls. Even trees close to buildings are used by burglars to gain entry. * By breaking the bathroom windows or by creeping through the fan light. * By making a hole or opening in the wall. * By entering through open doors and windows. * By entering through roof by the removal of tiles, asbestos or zinc sheets and ceiling boards. * By force-opening doors and windows and in some instances by picking the locks of the doors or by using master keys on the lock. * By intimidating the inmates with bodily harm or by giving false excuses to gain entry.

YOU CAN PREVENT YOUR HOUSE BEING BURGLED?

- * Do not inform the breadman, the milkman, the newspaper boy, the neighbour's servant etc., that you are leaving on a vacation, where you are going, how long you would be away and so on.
- * Lock your communicating door between the bedroom and the toilet/bathroom.
- * Take precautions by reinforcing your doors and windows but do not neglect the roof.
- * Be careful when employing masons, carpenters for renovations some of whom can be professional criminals.
- * If and when you notice bulbs removed from the outer lights during the night inform the nearest police station immediately and also keep a watch for strangers lurking in the vicinity of your house.
- * When you return after dances, parties, work etc., towards the early hours of the morning do not retire to bed promptly leaving doors and windows open. This is what the professional burglar looks for because he himself keeps a watch on such houses.
- * Burglars sometimes gain entry into houses and business places unnoticed by the occupants. Do a careful search before a place is locked up for the night and ensure that no strangers are about the place.

SPACE DONATED

to kindle the flame of knowledge...



The concept of free education
attains new dimension
when text-books are distributed free
to more than three million
school children.

Every one of them
receives a text-book
on every subject offered,
in the language of instruction.

It is fitting that this
epoch-making event
in the history of free education
in Sri Lanka should be

implemented by a Government
led by his Excellency J. R. Jayewardene
Executive President of Sri Lanka.

For, as member for Kelaniya
in the old State Council,
on the 25th January 1945,
it was His Excellency
himself who proposed that
text-books be given free
to all school children.

Today in 1980, over three decades later,
we see an ideal achieved....
the fruition of his proposal.

**May the flame of knowledge now kindled, burn brightly today,
tomorrow and always.**

Ministry of Education Services

Tribute must be paid to the many who rallied round with enthusiasm
and burnt the midnight oil to make possible within a matter of weeks
the production and distribution of text-books dead on time.

RELEASED BY THE INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF STATE