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# TRIBUNE



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## Letter From The Editor

FOR THE LOCAL PRODUCER in the non-plantation agricultural sector, such as the one depicted on our cover this week, the reported decision by the Minister of Trade, Lalith Athulathmudali, to ensure RELIEF FOR THE CONSUMER WHILE PROTECTING THE PRODUCER, is veritable manna from the heavens. For the record, the *Ceylon Daily News* reported exclusively on Tuesday, February 12, that "the Trade and Shipping Minister yesterday decided to offer some relief to the hard pressed consumers by making red onions, chillies, potatoes, masoor dhal, dried fish and Lakspray, readily available while protecting local producers. At a conference at which heads of all the State trading institutions participated, the Minister decided to build up a buffer stock to keep the price of red onions down. This would be possible as it has been found that red onions could be stored for six months. This has been done in the stores of the Mathagal Multi-Purpose Co-operative Society. Cultivators of red onions, chillies, potatoes and cowpea need not worry about this decision, the Minister said. All their produce would be bought by the Marketing Department at prices to be decided on by the National Prices Commission. The National Prices Commission would fix a fair price leaving a reasonable profit to the producer. While protecting the local producers, Mr. Athulathmudali has decided to make essential goods freely available to the consumer. For this a detailed and regular import schedule has been worked out. Arrangements have been made to import red onions and potatoes on a weekly basis....." *If this scheme is implemented with realistic fairness it should provide local producers with the necessary incentives and urge to produce more and consumers to have the satisfaction that they are getting essentials at prices which cannot be said to be exploitative in the context of global and national inflation.* Further the *Daily News* report stated that "stern action including dismissal will be taken against any co-operative employee who is found trafficking in goods that are meant for distribution exclusively through co-operatives." This action had been prompted because "some co-operative societies were passing potatoes, Bombay onions, dried chillies and dried fish they get from the Co-operative Wholesale Establishment to the private trade". This scheme is excellent on paper. It undoubtedly endeavours to meet many of the exposures and critical suggestions *Tribune* and other papers have made ever since the new "liberalised trade" policies were initiated. If Minister Athulathmudali can drive his bureaucrats, even by cracking the whiplash, to make a success of this scheme, it will be a major achievement. Before we say three cheers for Lalith we shall wait and see how the scheme is worked. But the Scheme cannot be a success only by the efforts of Minister Lalith Athulathmudali alone. The Department of Agriculture and its Extension Services must play their full part, but this Department is today unable to induce farmers to engage in agricultural activity. Instead of finding ways and means of persuading farmers and landowners through incentives and better facilities to utilise their lands fully, a little czar has issued a diktat threatening dispossession for failure to cultivate. Such blustering threats will do more harm than good. Kangany tactics won't work in the rural sector.

# TRIBUNE

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Editor S. P. Amarasingam

Every Saturday

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## More Questions?

1. IS IT NOT TRUE that whilst no reshuffle had been announced when the last issue of *Tribune* (16/2/80) went to the printer, but as anticipated in the *Letter From The Editor*, a kind of "reshuffle" took place before this paper was on the newstands? That *Megara* of the *Weekend* described the exercise as SAME FACES IN NEW PLACES? That *Tribune* columnist *Crossroads* thinks that the reshuffle is no more than a little diarrhoea—something of a loose motion? That many *Tribune* readers have written in to say that they are sorely disappointed with the "reshuffle" and call it a damp squib? That one reader has asked what purpose an emaciated Minister of Plantation Industries serves? That another reader wants to know why there is all this concentration of power in the ( ) President and (1) the Prime Minister and wonders why there is no attempt to train younger men with responsibility and leadership? That a cynic has observed that the reshuffle is a terrible indictment against the quality of the 140 odd UNP rs? That some UNP circles feel that good, honest and capable men are being overlooked? That many seem to think that the reshuffle appears to have done is to ensure the proliferation of the number of Deputy and Subject (Project) Ministers? That more will certainly be merrier but at what cost to the taxpayer?

2. THAT A QUIDNUNC from Bandarawela has raised a query about Bandarawela's breadless bakers? That the Food Minister had said that there had been a temporary shortage of flour due to delayed shipments and consequently a breakdown in flour supplies reaching outstations? Although the flour supply position is said to have improved, the supply of bread to the consumer has certainly deteriorated? That the venality of bakers of Bandarawela town will shock anyone? That it is understood that when flour reaches each baker's stores, they deliberately reduce the normal quantum they would have baked—and which is retailed to the consumer at Rs. 1/35 per lb—and they make larger quantities

of "sweet bread" which is sold to the consumer at Rs. 3/50 per lb.? That eating-houses sell their quota of loaf bread they normally receive from the bakers only to consumers who would consume the bread in the eating house itself as the profit margin per loaf of bread when sold in this manner is far greater than were the bread sold as a whole loaf? That as a result many thousands of people go around town looking for substitute food—this is another nightmare as any other raw food has to be cooked—and with the paucity of available supplies of fuel, whether forest or fossil, the lot of the housewives can be imagined? That, incidentally, one understands that because of the fact that the District Co-operative Society has cash liquidity problems owing to the escalated costs of foodstuffs and kerosene the Co-op has money for only either of these commodities? That if there is flour in town, there is no kerosene available or vice versa? That one wonders what the Administration is doing about these problems? That the citizens of Bandarawela have had several t. mashes in the recent past for visiting VIPs and other celebrations—Bread and Circuses? That ere long there will be only circuses? That the situation described as prevailing in the Bandarawela town is understood to be true of all Upcountry planting districts from Gampola to Badulla.

3. THAT THE SAME QUIDNUNC has asked whether it is a fact that railway waggons carrying flour for distribution to upcountry districts invariably are sent EMPTY to Colombo from railway stations starting from Gampola right down to Colombo and that there are rackets going on between dishonest lorry fleet owners and venal government officers (including a District Minister) whereby lorry owners are given the bulk of the transporting of estate produce from upcountry areas to Trincomalee and Colombo? That in the good old days of the British planter, they constructed the Railway to transport the estate produce to Colombo? That is it not criminal irresponsibility to allow such waggons to be sent down empty in modern times without produce being brought in them—with the energy crisis now getting a stranglehold on our economy? That one wonders whether these anti-national (venal) officers described above are aware that there is an energy crisis in the

world—leave alone Sri Lanka—and that other countries are getting their 'THINK TANKS' to devise schemes to reduce dependence on logistical transportation costs in order to meet the situation? **Flash**—that the latest we hear is that flour is now sent upcountry by lorry transport and not by railway waggons?

4. THAT A QUIDNUNC IN COLOMBO asks whether it is a fact that Air Lanka (AL) has signed a contract to purchase a TRISTAR from Lockheeds without Board sanction or even without the sanction of big brother SIA who are expected to nurture the nascent Airlanka until it gets on its feet (or wings)? That there is soon going to be a mass exodus of SIA personnel who were seconded for service with AL owing to the infant AL deciding on such important matters unilaterally? That something big is going to break in AL?

5. A PERSON CLOSELY CONNECTED WITH MATTERS AGRICULTURAL has sent in a warning about a question we had asked in this column about the quantum of subsidiary food crops produced in 1979? That *Tribune* had published the 1978 figures as set out in a report of the Ministry of Plan Implementation? That it would be foolish, says our informant, to expect the Ministry of Agriculture to publish the statistics? That as an Agriculture Extension man, he had his doubts if the figures will be released without the statistics being "processed" or "inflated" to keep up with the current inflationary trends? That what is disturbing is that there are palace guards who help officials to see that "vicious", "unpalatable" or "mischievous" facts do not "leak" to the top, be it Minister or President? That those who attempt to break this insulation are placed on the mat? That many technocrats who for patriotic reasons tried to bring bald truth to the higher rungs of the hierarchy are today "cheerfully paying the price in bureaucratic exile?"



## FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD

by Grassroots

# The Cabinet Reshuffle

—Little Diarrhoea?—

The long awaited Cabinet reshuffle came last week. Talk of Cabinet changes began when Mr. M. D. H. Jayawardene resigned in mid-November after contravening the principle of Cabinet responsibility. It was then rumoured that the President was waiting for the Budget Debate to be over so that abrupt changes would not affect the Budget debate. It was then said that he was waiting for the Festive Season of Christmas and New Year to pass. As time dragged on without any change, other excuses were talked of, such as the Independence Day celebrations and 2nd Anniversary of the Executive Presidency etc., both of which fell on 4th February. The headlines of some leading newspapers were like the slogans at an Auction Sale—"coming, coming, come" for "going, going, gone." But yet nothing happened and newspaper credibility also waned. Mischief makers and some practical jokers also had a field day. Many Parliamentarians teased each other about "promotions." They used to ring their colleagues and say that the call was from the President's office and to come over to Ward Place etc at a given time. Many fell for it and went along with their wives and there are several amusing anecdotes as to what happened. Then suddenly on the auspicious day of Thursday 14th February (which was a Public holiday), the President acted, and in a swift operation the entire re-shuffle was over.

It is too early to make a critical analysis of the changes—how effective they will be etc. We do not yet know all the details. For example, who the new Secretaries will be. The Secretary Education is likely to be replaced. Also some of the newly appointed Deputy Ministers have no office or building to work in. It will take some time—at least a month—for the details to be worked out.

But at a first glance, it appears that nothing substantial has happened except in *Education* which went to Rutil W. K. M. S. Singh and *Highways* which went to the Prime Minister.

Mr. Nissanka Wjeratne who stated in Parliament that he will revert to the Maligawa, if he is moved out, has however accepted the portfolio of Justice.

The President has taken upon himself a very heavy work-load and job. Now he has Five Ministries—(1) Defence (2) Plan Implementation (3) Higher Education (4) State Plantations Corporation, and (5) Janavasama Estates Corporation (JEDB). In addition he has the GCEC (Free Trade Zone) and Aviation (Airports Authority and Air Lanka included). Does he physically have the time to handle all these, however efficient he may be? And what about the responsibility to Parliament? Since he is no longer in the House, will Parliament be satisfied with the responsibility of these Ministries being shouldered by Deputy Ministers. It is also difficult to understand what happened to Mr. Lionel Jayatileke. It would have been better if he had remained as Deputy Minister of Education in addition to being a Project Minister for Education Services. So also with Health. Now it is a case Homagama (Minister) and Maharagama (Deputy Minister). Both represent adjoining constituencies (The Job Bank in this area will no doubt benefit). With Mr. Dharmasena Attygalle (Indigenous Medicine) and Dr. Ranjit Atapattu (Colombo Hospitals and Family Health) there are now four overlooking Health affairs in the country. A little more co-ordination would have been better. Let's hope there is no tug of war and they don't fight each other.

The Plantation Ministry may also not now need the entire floor area of their large Shaw Wallace building in Kollupitiya—now that SPC and JEDB have been elevated to Ministry status. Also how do you work out the dual role of Chairman and Secretary in SPC and JEDB? Will it be a Jekyll and Hyde split personality?

These are some of the immediate questions that can arise in public minds. The re-shuffle has been a little more than a pillow change but all in all it appears that it has no **CLOUT**. It is a *Pus-Vedilla* (a dud shot). With all the time and planning that went into it (so we hope) a better job could have been done rather than merely satisfy some *Young Turks* among the UNP back-bench. Will the creation of these new posts and the public

expenditure which is required to maintain them and their staff—justify the appointments. Only results can tell. More about it next week. The constipation about the Cabinet re-shuffle is now over. The all out effort to get rid of it, has resulted in a loose motion!

X X X

## THE LAND ACQUISITION ACT ORDER UNDER SECTION 39 A (I)

By virtue of the powers vested in me by sub section (1) of section 39 A (inserted by Act No. 8 of 1977) of the Land Acquisition Act (Chapter 460), I Lionel Gamini Dissanayake Minister of Lands and Land Development, do by this order divest with effect from 07th December 1979, the land specified in the schedule hereto, which has vested absolutely in the State by Order made under section 33 of the aforesaid act and published in Gazette No. 216 of 04th June 1976 the possession of which has been taken for or on behalf of the State under paragraph (a) of section 40 of that Act.

**Gamini Dissanayake**

Minister of Lands and Land Development.  
My No. 03/J.75 LP. 196  
G.A.'s Reference No. 25/3/160.  
19—November 1979.  
Colombo.

### Schedule

The following block of land situated in Ranakothdiwela village, Thinipparu Pattuwa, Galabuda Korale East D.R.O.'s Division in Kegalle District and depicted as Lot 8 in Plan No. 701—prepared by the Licensed Surveyor Mr. M. B. Ratununga, and bounded as follows:—

- Thetiyawala kumbura—extent about—**  
**0A.1R.15.00P.**
- North:—** Walauwatta claimed by Kunarapperuma and A. M. S. Marikkar.
  - East:—** Rural Court road and Lot No. 9 depicted in Plan No. 701.
  - South & West:—** Lot No. 6 depicted in Plan No. 701.

## LETTERS

PLEASE keep your letters, short as possible to avoid the necessity for cutting. We regret that in future we will not acknowledge all the letters received for publication and we can return only those which enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

### :: Coconut Decoration

Sir,

When we read history books we learn of the primitive human practice of adorning oneself with the laurels of evergreen shrubs; crowns of thorn and skirts of trailing leaves — and also of how man lavishly utilised the greenery that grew in abundance around him for festive occasions or decorated his pandals of welcome with clusters of luscious fruit. We in Sri Lanka have seen the abundance with which man freely gives vent to his feelings of grief with decorative motifs of "ralli palang" or streams of immature and tender Coconut leaves to form a canopy leading to a house of death. We have seen the clusters of tender Coconuts adorning the pandals of welcome to visiting dignitaries—but these customs are now in such a state of abuse that sycophants of all hues and bootlickers of the panjandrums in power now vie with each other on providing "gedi geval" for VIPs of dubious importance—and often such pandals of welcome are erected with enforced levies made by the local henchmen of those in power, for their own glorification and monetary benefit!

But now, at this point of time, we could fittingly ask ourselves whether all this is necessary? Can we afford to remove scores of immature fronds of Coconut leaves for every minor function in every village in Sri Lanka whenever human vanity demands this kind of 'ostentation' being the 'sine qua non' of sycophants and bootlickers and thus allow such valuable vegetation with productive potential to be utilised for what has fast become ludicrous situations? Do we realise how many

coconuts we lose by each such fiesta? On the one hand we are bemoaning the prospect that this country will have to import Coconuts ere long; on the other hand we allow this state of 'laissez-faire' in this sphere of agricultural activity with nonchalant abandonment! We Sri Lankans are by no means a disciplined race to impose a voluntary ban on the use of such vegetable matter whether it be immature fronds or tender nuts of the Coconut tree. Should not government do some rethinking on this urgent subject and impose a total ban on these reckless practices which are so very rampant and by no means vestigial or marginal?

V. N. D. Gunewardene

124, Saman Mawatha,  
Sirimal Uyana,  
Ritmalana.  
11.2.80

### :: Education Stench

Sir,

There is an unbearable stench emanating from the Examination Dept. of the Government for some time. A senior Commissioner of Examinations has been interdicted and the matters that have come to light would, in another country, have caused the downfall of the Govt. itself because this is a greater offence and the malodorous vapours emanating much more nauseating than that from Watergate and provided that no Tamil is involved, the Govt. aided by its sycophant press the Lake House is trying to throw a thick pall over all these thereby obliterating it from public gaze or smell.

The public is very anxious to know the true details about the forged GCE AL certificates. It is said that those who entered on these certificates are today Doctors and Engineers helped again by the same or similar processes to get through their professional examination. Surely the only way to clear the air is to have a public enquiry to sift all these charges and the Govt. to lead all the evidence the Police have so far obtained. Even here very disquieting reports have been published in the Press.

In the Sun of December, 7th, it is published that an inside attempt was made to

## Democracy in Sri Lanka

sabotage the ensuing GCE examination and that the Ministry has rejected the immediate transfer of implicated officials. But what is more alarming is the statement that one of these officers is having his own key to a steel cabinet containing vital documents pertaining to the rigging of the examination. Why is the Ministry not allowing truth to come out?

Again in the Sun of January, 4th, there is a news item "Now—SLAS exam fraud—Ministry calls in the CID". Here the Ministry calls in the CID. Earlier it countermanded the CID request for transfer of implicated officials. As Alice said in Wonderland it is getting all the more curiouser and curiouser.

Last of all, what is the part Hon. Mr. Cyril Mathew and Prof. Siriwardene are playing in all this? They were able to chase a few scripts which they alleged contained over-marking by Tamil examiners, as far as Valaichenal. And the Lanka House flashed headlines that the poor Sinhalese students were being denied University education by these overmarkings. Why, oh Why, were these gentlemen keeping quiet over these alleged frauds? Is it because the victims must have been Tamils. If actually they were unaware of all the frauds going on in the Examination Dept., why did they keep quiet when the Press published open accusations of fraud and rigging of examinations, and manufacture of completely false AL certificates.

The only way to clear the air, is to have a public enquiry to sort out the evidence and arrive at the truth which will clear all the stench regarding: (1) Overmarking; (2) Manufacture of completely false certificates; (3) The fate of those who entered the University for their professional study on these manufactured certificates; (4) Leakage of question papers; (5) The part played in all these by many important personages.

This enquiry must be held immediately because already it looks as if material evidence is being destroyed steadily. Any later enquiry would serve only one purpose. It would whitewash all the guilty.

S.A.V.

Jaffna.

8th February, 1980

X X X

Sir,

What Rev. Fr. E. Crowther has said on the subject of 'Democracy in Sri Lanka' in the Tribune of January 26, 1930, is brim full of meaning to us, the true and genuine citizens of Sri Lanka. He has said: "Race, religion, and language are unchangeable realities. Any attempt to base government on them is a negation of democracy". And it has been very well said and has much to commend. But unfortunately, in Sri Lanka, these realities namely, race, religion and language have, throughout her thirty three years of self-rule, been the basic factors that have been determining the ruling party and the Government; and as such, majority rule has been identified with either racial or religious or language majority votes. What the Rev. Father has rightly pointed out with unerring accuracy is that what has hitherto been obtaining in Sri Lanka is not democracy; for it has been grounded mostly in sentiments of race and language and often religion.

It is high time that in the light of what the Rev. Father has said, we in Sri Lanka, every right-thinking citizen, despite the fact of our racial, religious and language base and leanings, take a resolve to shake off these shackles for purposes of statecraft, and begin to think in terms of a single well-knit community of people with a 'fundamental unanimity', with a well-defined community of common interests; and that everyone of us from the lowest paid worker and peasant to the highest president of the Republic beget a patriotic feeling and have a concern for the total well-being of the people of Sri Lanka; and governed by a deep sense of austerity and justice and fair play, learn to renounce all claim to any post or position on the basis of race or religion or language.

But the question arises: How can the desired 'fundamental unanimity' be arrived at? In a multi-racial, multi-lingual and multi-religious community like ours, it will be nothing but fair, that we make all possible efforts to discover the 'fundamental unanimity' that shall serve as the working basis of our democracy. If, of necessity, merit and capability and character do count as the bases to be adopted



for the selection of persons for posts and positions, and if the people are so disciplined and so educated as to give their votes to the candidate or political party that has the most suitable and acceptable socio-economic policy and programme for the development of the country as a whole, then, we may rest assured that we may be paving the way for the evolution of true democracy in Sri Lanka.

Since it is never too late to mend, why don't we, in Sri Lanka, persuade ourselves to be admonished by what the Rev. Father has pointed out; and taking what he has said, in all seriousness, follow it for what it is worth in letter and in spirit and help build a true democracy? In doing this we shall be making a moral advance and prepare the ground for laying the foundation for a juster, more enduring and truly 'Dharmistic' democracy. It is then that we shall have shed our racial, religious and linguistic prejudices, and shall emerge into a single human group: a community of common interests.

K. Kanapathipillai

52, Angle Road,  
Batticaloa.  
10.2.80.

x x x

## :: Oh God! Save Us From Becoming Bribe Givers

Sir,

I was amused to read the report in the newspapers regarding a "Poster Campaign" purported to have been launched by the Bribery Commissioner's Department. This will undoubtedly give plenty of colourful publicity to justify the cost of paper consumed and printing charges, both of which are expensive items now. It would also give a considerable amount of satisfaction to those officers concerned for displaying these various methods to control bribery in the country, everytime they see these posters. That is actual fact almost all citizens of Sri Lanka today including those living in the jungle chenas of remote areas know that giving a bribe is an offence under the law of the land is no matter. If an analysis is made in regard to the incidents of bribery in the past it would invariably reveal that the persons involved are not people ignorant of the illegality of giving a bribe.

The poster, according to the news report, says "Help us to stamp out bribery in Sri Lanka. Bribery is not only a crime, it is an offence against morality". This is undoubtedly a nice appeal for help. But, in return for helping the Bribery Commissioner's Department to stamp out bribery by not giving a bribe, has the Bribery Commissioner's Department or any other authority any arrangements to help the bribe giver to be, in regard to his problem which he feels a bribe alone could solve? It is the common belief that bribery in cash or kind is involved mainly in regard to appointments, transfers, tenders, contracts and the like. It might be interesting to note that even public servants and ex-public servants sometimes find it difficult to get their own problems solved officially.

Let us study a case or two from my file-  
Case No. 1:—

"Mr. P.P." is a retired public servant from Point Pedro. He retired from Public Service in the year 1976 having completed a meritorious career up to the last day that one could serve according to the AR and FR. Although his promotion to the Special Class was due in the year 1974 and there was nothing against him for the Department to deny him the due promotion, the Department had not promoted him duly despite vacancies in the cadre. More often than not the promotions to respective grades and classes are not done by the Heads of Departments duly and such delays had right along caused hardships to Public Servants, for no fault of theirs as in the case of "Mr. P.P.". The officers due for promotions in 1974 including "Mr. P.P." were actually taken up by the Department in the year 1977. "Mr. P.P." was by then not in service. Those who were in service were promoted with retrospective effect from 1974. Had the promotions been duly done by the Department "Mr. P.P." would have retired from the Special Class and drawn a pension accordingly. But due to this serious lapse on the part of the Department "Mr. P.P." is now drawing a lesser pension based on his Class I salary which he was drawing at the time of retirement.

Apparently to remedy the financial losses caused to officers due to such delays the Secretary to the Minister of Public Administration & Home Affairs had issued a circular instruct.

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ing all Secretaries to Ministries and Heads of Departments etc. to give promotions to officers from the due date even though the officer is retired or deceased by the time promotions are made.

Accordingly "Mr. P.P." had made a number of representations to the authorities concerned requesting a revision of his pension and also had interviewed officers concerned having come all the way from Point Pedro. But so far he has not received even an acknowledgement to his written representations which had been sent under registered post. A certain friend of his, another pensioner, has told him that he might never obtain redress in this manner and had advised him as to how things could be done expeditiously. But this being rather a big issue the solution may not be in the "KKS" level or even the "Subject" level for that matter. He might have to tap a bossy level personnel before he could get matters solved and draw his enhanced pension and arrears. This again involves time and money.

"Mr. P.P." is not a person who is prepared to give in when he is not at fault. Before long he will seek redress through law courts as he has means to do so. Another person not in a position to pursue action that way will invariably follow the aforesaid adviser's modus operandi.

#### Case No. 2:—

"Mr. G.P." is again a pensioner. His pension voucher for a certain month which was perfected and returned to the Bank as usual had apparently got lost in transit. It is common knowledge that it is not only air mail letters to foreign countries that get lost in transit but even local letters. When "Mr. G.P." discovered that his Bank statement did not show that month's salary in the credit column he promptly made enquiries from the bank and the bank informed him that the relevant voucher was not received and the amount was therefore refunded to the Pensions Department. In such situations the normal procedure is to obtain a fresh pension voucher from the Director of Pensions and to forward it to the bank having receipted. Accordingly "Mr. G.P." made a written representation to the Director of Pensions annexing a copy of the Bank Manager's letter

and requesting the Director of Pensions to take necessary action to remit this un-paid pension. Despite a large number of reminders including registered letters and reply paid telegrams "Mr. G.P." has so far not had the courtesy of even an acknowledgement from the Director of Pensions. "Mr. G.P." being a person who had been in Government Service since colonial days and who understands the rate of day to day deterioration of the efficiency of Public Service since achieving independence is of opinion that according to the present speed of activity in the Public Service and the Level of standard maintained one should give at least a period of about five years' time before a reply could be obtained from a Government Department however urgent and important it may be to the persons concerned. "Mr. G.P." says that only three and a half years had lapsed from the first communication, and that he should be patient for at least another one and a half years whilst continuing to send reminders. Being a retired public servant himself with a greater degree of tolerance, "Mr. G.P." would not take such drastic steps as contemplated by Mr. D.P. He says one cannot expect an office staff to waste office hours to go through old files and attend to such unimportant individual matters when they cannot cope with the day to day routine things of greater importance. Further they cannot be expected to do a thing over again simply because the pay voucher apparently got lost in the hands of another department. If not for the rules and regulations of the Bribery Act "Mr. G.P." would have been in a position to get the matter expedited outside the working hours. In a matter like this he will have to negotiate in a fair, reasonable and gratifying manner with the "K.K.S.", the "Subject" or even a person of the bossy level to explain his problem and obtain redress.

This letter is based on true facts which can be established, if necessary. Names are fictitious.

**Dr. T. G. D. Chandra Perera, J.P.**

66, Attanagalla Road,  
Veyangoda.  
26.01.80

## FIFTH DAY — Sept. 7th

— continued —

by S. P. Amarasingam

**SINGAPORE'S FOREIGN MINISTER, S. RAJARATNAM**, made a long speech defending the "right" of the Pol Pot-leng Sary clique to be represented at the Conference. This regime, which no longer exists, has been universally condemned for its unprecedented genocide. The representative of Singapore said that he did not disagree with the general assessment of the deposed Pol Pot regime, that is, he acknowledged its barbarous and oppressive nature. However, he said, it should be represented in the Movement of the Non-aligned. Finally he criticized the Non-Aligned Movement, which he said was a good source for recruiting agents. "We are wild elephants. That's what we have been so far. But there are also tame elephants that would lead us into the fold of the big powers." Maurice Bishop, acting chairman of the session, thanked the representative of Singapore for his comments, especially those about "wild elephants and tame elephants" which provoked laughter among the delegates.

**GUSTAVO FERNANDEZ, MINISTER OF FOREIGN RELATIONS OF BOLIVIA**, began his speech by thanking Cuba for its generous hospitality and the Movement for having admitted his country as a full member. He said his country had joined the Movement a few days after the establishment of a constitutional and democratic government in keeping with the will of a people who had struggled for the democratization of the country's domestic and foreign policy. He added that Bolivia had been the scene of a long struggle for the re-establishment of the people's rights and that this was only the beginning of a difficult task, that will call for decision and consciousness, to consolidate the democratic system they have opted for. Regarding his country's policy he said that it was one of ideological pluralism, that it respected self-determination and every country's freedom to choose its own form of government. He went on to say that, because of its own roots, Bolivia

abhorred racial discrimination and all forms of colonialism, neo-colonialism and paternalism. He hailed the presence of Nicaragua in the 6th Summit and referred to the heroic struggle waged by the people of that sister nation. He said that Bolivia aspired to an outlet to the Pacific because it has the right to have one, the same way that Panama has the right to the Canal, Cuba to the Guantanamo base and the people of Belize and Palestine to liberation. He declared himself in favour of through and consistent co-operation among the developing countries and for confidence in their own strength, without copying the model of concentration of wealth and its subsequent unfair social distribution of labour. He added that his country's lifeline is the export of raw materials and that it is opposed to acts of economic aggression and to rigged markets.

**MAHMOUD MESTIRI, TUNISIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UN**, expressed his country's hope that under the chairmanship of Fidel Castro the Movement of Non-aligned Countries would continue to develop with firmness and confidence. He said that with the entry of new members from Latin America and the Caribbean the Movement continues to grow in strength. The Tunisian ambassador said that the ideological contradictions in the international arena have multiplied and that unity is essential in order to struggle for detente and total disarmament. He appealed to all of them to "overcome their differences in order to unite the entire group and proclaim their common will based on higher common interests." Mestiri referred to the enormous sums swallowed up in the arms race while some deeply human UN projects are running into difficulties for lack of funds. He said that in the Middle East, Israel is persevering in its policy of aggression and expansionism, insisting on its right to exist at the expense of the lives of the Palestinian people, and that the Camp David agreement leaves no doubts as to the intentions of Zionist Israel. He emphasised that all peace attempts in the Middle East were illusory if they did not examine what lies at the base of the conflict; the right of the Palestinian people to live in a free and independent state. Many African countries, he said, have not succeeded in overcoming the ties of depen-

dependence abroad, and these ties only increase their fragility and vulnerability. Referring to colonialism in southern Africa, he spoke of the stepping up of violence, racism and apartheid and said that the supposed political solution in Zimbabwe is just a sham. Addressing himself to the economic field he said that it was time to put an end to superficial measures and implement radical changes. In conclusion he said that in the present situation oil is an important weapon of the non-aligned countries in their struggle to achieve a new international economic order.

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF TOGO, AKAPO - ANYO KOMA - ANAAI** expressed his pleasure in being in Latin America and especially Cuba, which has played an important role in the struggle of the underdeveloped peoples to achieve their freedom. He said there was no better place than Havana for the peoples' hopes to be expressed. He said that the aggressive policy of Israel made it more and more difficult to achieve peace in the Middle East and that, despite Morocco's efforts to thwart the independence of Western Sahara, the problem there must be solved once and for all. He added that it was necessary to support the Korean people in their struggle for the reunification of the country. The Deputy Minister called for disarmament, an end to the arms race and the dismantling of military bases on foreign territory. He criticized the imperialist countries for maintaining unequal terms of exchange with the underdeveloped countries and called for new economic relations between states.

**GAMANI COREA, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (UNCTAD),** spoke as a guest of the 6th Summit of Non-aligned Countries. He referred to the underdeveloped countries' problems of development, and mentioned the last meetings of this organisation (4th and 5th (UNCTAD)) in which no agreement was reached in the North-South dialogue. He said that the developing countries must assert their demands and must exert pressure to make them heard, and that they should also assure the conclusion of the negotiations initiated within the framework of UNCTAD. The speaker said that at the 5th UNCTAD held in Manila, gov-

ernments were asked to present their most urgent problems. On this point, he added, the underdeveloped countries must dedicate themselves to the task of seeing that the declarations made at the 5th UNCTAD are carried out. He asserted that the search for structural changes must continue. He said that the success of the developing countries depends, in large measure, on the co-operation that exists among these countries themselves. He concluded by saying that UNCTAD has a broad mandate to help the developing countries.

**CARLOS ROBERTO CAVANDOLI, THE ARGENTINIAN UNDER - SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,** referred to the growth in the number of countries in the Movement and said that his country believed in a flexible movement with a membership that represents a wide gamut of political and economic systems. He defended the right of the Puerto Rican people to self-determination and spoke of Spain's lingering hope of recovering Gibraltar. He stated that the Movement should define its positions on juridical issues and expressed his country's support for the people of southern Africa in their struggle against colonialism. With respect to the Middle East problem, he said that it will persist until the measures recommended by the UN Security Council are taken into account. He denounced the United States' refusal to recognize countries' sovereignty over their coastal waters beyond the three-mile limit. On economic issues, he expressed the need for close co-operation between member countries and said that regional co-operation by groups would facilitate work that would be more difficult to carry out individually. He called for closer relations with the Group of 77 and said that the Summit should make important agreements that point the way to "the Movement's future over and above all ideological considerations."

**SAHR R. FILLI-FABOE, DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF SIERRA LEONE,** expressed his satisfaction for the support that the Non-aligned Movement is giving to the national liberation movements and called for a majority government in Zimbabwe and a government in Namibia that includes the South West Africa People's Organisation

(SWAPO). He expressed his government's recognition of the POLISARIO Front and the right of the people of Western Sahara to self-determination. The Deputy Minister Sierra Leone also touched upon economic issues, problems of disarmament and the arms race and called for unity and cohesion within the Non-aligned Movement.

**THE AMBASSADOR OF SOMALIA IN GREAT BRITAIN, AHMED M. ADAM,** said that his country was "true to the principles of the Movement" and made many references to previous documents approved in other conferences. He expressed his country's support for the peoples of Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa and condemned apartheid. He also said that the problem of the Palestinian people is the crucial issue in the Middle East and referred to the economic problems affecting the underdeveloped countries.

**AMBASSADOR ALI AHMED SAHLOOL, SUDAN'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN** praised the role played by the Co-ordinating Bureau of the Non-aligned and said he regretted that the Movement suffered from misunderstandings on the part of some of its members. On the Middle East, he defended the right of the Palestinian people to create a free state in the land occupied by Israel and called for the withdrawal of Israeli troops, including those in Jerusalem. He recognized the PLO as the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. He condemned the Israeli attacks on the settlements in the south of Lebanon, accusing Israel of taking advantage of the imbalance in the region to step up its acts of aggression and terror. Before concluding, the Sudanese representative called for support for the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front, SWAPO and for all those in southern Africa who are struggling against racism, apartheid and other forms of exploitation perpetrated by the racist minority in this African territory. He also asked for aid for the Front Line states, who are resisting the racist attacks.

**SAYYIK EIN TAIMUR, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DELEGATION OF OMAN,** spoke of the need for peace and security among nations and said that the old social order must give way to a new one, based on co-operation between nations. He called for

unity within the Movement, and said that with respect to political and economic emancipation, "the Non-aligned Movement has much to do." The representative from Oman said that "we are witnesses to Israel's brutal bombings of Lebanese civilians and the Palestinian population in southern Lebanon." With respect to Southern Africa, he said that the legitimate rights of its indigenous peoples are denied by the racist regimes. He urged that the Indian Ocean be a peace zone and called for an end to nuclear tests. Finally, he expressed the need to work together for the creation of a new international economic order.

**THE CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN, SIMON PIERRE KIBANDA,** praised the hospitality of the Cuban people and the triumphs of the Cuban Revolution. He noted that the Non-aligned Movement has been growing in strength over the years. With respect to the problems in southern Africa, he said that there could be no solution in Zimbabwe without the participation of the Patriotic Front, that the only solution to the situation in Namibia lies in the application of the UN resolutions which would allow the people of that country, under the leadership of SWAPO, to exercise their right to self-determination. Kibanda also mentions the problems of the Middle East, Cyprus, disarmament and the economic problems of the underdeveloped countries.

**AT 3.50 A.M. AFTER THE SPEAKERS** had finished, the Vietnamese Ambassador at the UN asked for permission to reply to the speeches made by the representatives of Singapore and Malaysia. The representative from Vietnam said that in the speeches by the delegates from Singapore and Malaysia "they are dreaming of imposing the murderous regime of Pol Pot-Ieng Sary once again in Kampuchea." He said that during the liberation war against US imperialism, Singapore was on the side of the United States and enriched itself because of the war. He pointed out that Singapore has taken up the defense of the deposed puppet regime of Kampuchea and that it is presently on the side of China. He described the words of the delegate from Singapore as an affront to the Vietnamese

people, who for centuries have struggled against first colonialism and later imperialism. He also called the speech an offense to the government and people of Cuba, who have so successfully prepared the site of the 6th Summit. Afterwards, the delegate of Zambia asked for the right to reply, at a more propitious moment, to the delegates of the Central African Empire. The representative from Singapore asked for the right to reply to the Vietnamese delegate at a later date.

The session ended at 4.00 a.m. on Saturday morning.

(To be Continued)

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## SPOTLIGHT

### On Mini Hydro-Power Stations

by R. Kahawita

Today's CDN announced the arrival of a team of Chinese engineers with an interpreter to study the setting up of mini hydro-power stations in this country. We have had this kind of visitations in the past—may be going back to the fifties. In spite of all these visitors to advise us—and according to the Planning Ministry statistics we spend over hundred millions of rupees a year for this kind of expert visitors—we are still running around with the begging bowl asking for alms to keep us afloat.

His Excellency the President and Hon. Prime Minister, on more than one occasion, have bemoaned that our officials do not work. All that happens in an office is to get a letter into a file—if there is a file or into a waste paper basket so they say. Why should the officials work? All the working, thinking and reporting is done by alien experts who get VIP treatment. For them everything is available. When our "home grown" experts want to do a job, they have nothing. One such expert told me, "we have given up thinking", "we allow the alien experts to think and their thinking carries more weight than ours with

the powers that be, so why should we bother to think?" The NEDECO report on which I commented in the Tribune is one such example.

In my articles on Mahaweli Project I referred to one stream in the system that could be developed for mini-hydro power stations. These are not new to our Engineers. There is one such station in Minneriya Scheme already. I can name six of our Engineers who can produce an excellent report and implement them. That is, of course, if they have not been carried away with the brain drain. I know of one officer who was sent to Japan to study the subject as I was instrumental in sending him.

It is a great pity that the present administration has no faith in our men, and they in turn have no faith in the administration—otherwise "we have given up thinking" would not have been uttered by one of our experts.

6.2.80.

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## PERKS AND PRIVILEGES

### Of Planterdom

by Roy Muthaya

DURING THE RECENT BUDGET debate and particularly at the committee stage, the plantations of Sri Lanka in general and the tea estates in particular came in for heavy criticism by the members of Parliament. And this criticism did not emanate from only the opposition either. Most of it was from responsible members of the Government.

The manner in which tea estates are being run and the ensuing losses caused must cause concern to every right thinking citizen in this country—for tea is still our chief export product and the top foreign exchange earner. There is no close second to tea in this regard. There are those who talk glibly of replacing tea with other crops. But no such feasible replacement appears to be in sight at the moment. Sri Lanka is still heavily dependent on tea and therefore all factors which are causing the tea industry to sink must be carefully analysed and immediate

remedial measures ought to be promulgated if this industry is to be saved.

**There are a few important factors for the deterioration of the tea industry. Only one of these factors is considered here. This factor alone causes a loss of millions to the industry. The privileges, perks and fringe benefits which the planting community enjoys is stupendous and is not at all commensurate with the work they do or the qualifications of the members of the profession.**

During the days of the British Raj the planting profession was an exclusive preserve of the white man. Privileges were heaped on them to enable them to live as a race apart. Everybody else was exploited to keep the planter in his castle and reap high profits as well. One expected this inequitable set-up to change with the passing away of the white planters' regime. But under the Agency houses the brown sahibs maintained the glorious tradition. With the take-over of estates one expected these undue privileges and perks to be curtailed to reasonable proportions, but on the contrary they have increased boundlessly to unimaginable extents.

*Today a mere cataloguing of these fringe benefits and privileges staggers those outside the charmed circle. Highly qualified members of other professions do not enjoy even a fraction of what these planters get and planters are by no means noted for their high qualifications!*

**Salaries of planters are much higher than those of doctors, engineers and accountants.** It must be remembered that the latter start after many years of training at Universities and other institutions and after passing rigorous examinations. Planters begin their earnings soon after their 'O' Level! **In addition to their salaries planters have various allowances** which inflate their salaries to astronomical heights. Educational allowances towards children's education, medical allowances, entertainment allowances and leave allowances are some of the allowances which go to boost planter's salaries. 'Commission on Cash' is another practice which persisted from ancient times. The cash brought from the bank to pay staff and workers on

estates entitles the superintendents to a commission on the money. Some superintendents never issue cheques for anything done on the estate. They take the cheques to the bank, cash it and bring the cash to the estate and settle the dues and then draw a commission on the cash brought to the estates. Many planters earn thousands on 'Commission on cash' alone.

**The houses of planters can only be described as luxury bungalows.** These bungalows come complete with immaculate lawns (Australian blue grass) flower garden, vegetable garden, poultry yard and dairy farm. The extent of these depends entirely on the planters' wishes; on estates land is cheap. The icing on the cake for many planters is the swimming pool which is attached to their bungalows. Many planters have appropriately converted their luxury bungalows into tourist resorts. It is not merely the bungalow which the planters get. **It is fully furnished** and also supplied with heavy and soft furnishings, curtains, seat covers, pillows, mattresses, mosquito nets, door mats, bath mats, floor polish, furniture polish, brass polish and brooms. Even the polishing cloth is supplied on estate account! It goes without saying that refrigerators and cookers are also supplied.

**Cars and jeeps are dime a dozen in planting circles. Driver and petrol are supplied.** Servicing, greasing and washing are all on the estate! The planters are unaware of anything called an energy crisis. They are the most mobile community in Sri Lanka. The petrol prices have not affected their running around one bit. Sometimes jeeps are sent to the nearest town to bring a packet of cigarettes or a bottle of arrack. There are many planters who consume over a thousand rupees worth of petrol for their private running, while a nominal sum of about Rs. 100/- (one hundred rupees) is deducted from their salary.

**Today it has become extremely difficult to get domestic help or any form of labour for the home.** On estates labour is cheap and planters have a surfeit of it. **Every superintendent's bungalow has a watcher, a cook, a second servant, a gardener for the vegetable garden and a gardener**

for the flower garden. The estate pays their salaries.

The gardens are equipped with taps at various points, hose pipes, garden tools, mechanised lawn mower etc. There is a generous allowance of kerosene oil, firewood and tea. Electricity and gas cylinders are also supplied free. Many a planter makes a fortune on vegetables, dairy and poultry alone. No other profession can come anywhere near the planting profession for privileges and fringe benefits of this nature.

In almost every estate there is a superintendent and an assistant called SD. In the bigger estates sometimes there are two or three SDs. The cost of the fringe benefits in monetary terms is staggering.

Now that many estates are running at a loss is it wise to continue imposing such heavy burdens on the industry? In the event of the State, subsidising the tea industry—just to keep it afloat—the vital question arises!

Is it fair to use the taxpayer's money to keep a small coterie of people wallowing in the lap of luxury, while there is immense hardships in the country? These are the searching questions which must be asked and answered by those in power.

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## A SRI LANKA SAGA

### Artificial Rain

by V. Buvanasingham

IT HAPPENED IN THE YEAR OF OUR TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE. The eclipse was over on June 20th, 1955 and the budget debate was in August. Mr. C. Suntharalingam MP for Vavuniya, for the first time brought in the state assembly,—"Put our men on the job, let them go abroad, study the methods and see, whether in fact, we cannot produce artificial rain." Mr. Wilmot Perera supported him, "It was done in Russia 100 years ago." Our President was, then, the Minister of Agriculture and Lands and he cut short a cross-talk that ensued, with an assurance, that he will look into the matter ending with

his customary dig, "This is the only valuable suggestion that this member has made." During that cross-talk, Mr. Suntharalingam had called our Director,—"A Moon Gazor"—"He is observing the Moon that is the trouble with him", he said,

Dr. D. T. E. Dissinayake was, then, the Director of Meteorology. A strict bachelor and remained the same, even unto retirement and death. His interest in artificial rain started in 1952, when the Director of Food Production, sent for his observation, a suggestion made at a meeting of the District Agricultural Committee, Vavuniya,—"The committee suggested that the services of Technical Assistants under Colombo Plan be obtained to consider to explore the possibilities of using aircraft for the condensation of clouds to procure rain." He knew, world organisations wouldn't care less, whether it rained in Sri Lanka or in Zanzibar, so he wrote to his colleagues all over the world—Norway, Canada, USA, Australia, India and many more for their opinion and published literature on this subject. All responded, but the opinions and experiences of industrially developed countries of higher latitudes would not suit a tropical agricultural island. "We would do with less rain and more sunshine". That is what, Sir. Graham Sutton told me at a BBC interview in 1959, besides their clouds are different. Dr. E. G. Bowen of Australia is the chief of the division of Radiophysics at the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation. He is considered the father of Artificial rain. When he was consulted, he wrote "I can best summarize the present position as you yourself assumed. The conditions necessary to precipitate rain from single cloud cells (like the ones, we see over the NCP, during the southwest monsoon) are pretty well established and predictions can be made."

Dr. S. K. Binnerjee, O.B.E., D.Sc., F.N.I., a former Director of the Observatory in the Indian Government was a pioneer in this in India. He continued his experiments in artificial rain making, even after becoming Professor of Mathematics at the College of Engineering and Technology, Bengal. He too replied with a detailed analysis of his experiments. "The balloon method is cheap", he said "one has to form mobile units and the personnel employed must have knowledge of the struc-



ture of clouds and air currents". Hundreds of experiments, most of them performed in the region of Calcutta, are to his credit. They were all discussed at the Symposium on Artificial Rain held in New Delhi on 9th & 10th February 1953. A few experiments useful for our experimentation, particularly in the Mahaveli Basin are listed below.

1. Isolated clouds over Calcutta area after the onset of the monsoon. June 2nd, 1952. "On this date, when an isolated cloud passed over Jadavpur shortly after noon covering about three-fourths of the sky, two balloons were let off to spray ice cold water. The balloons were rising at the rate of 1,000 ft/min. and entered the cloud after  $2\frac{1}{2}$  min. The cloud moved northward and at the same time became darker and bigger. The cloud was followed; after about 15 minutes, it commenced giving light drizzle over Ballygunge and after about 40 min. the cloud was over Howrah and gave a shower. There was no rain on that day from any other cloud in Calcutta area, though several such clouds passed over the station.

2. Towards the end of the monsoon, August 22, 1952—"Three balloons spraying ice cold water and also with blocks of gunpowder impregnated with silver iodide were let off at 3.15 p.m. They entered into a small cloud, coming from southeast and covering about half the sky, after 6 min. The cloud darkened over Jadavpur and South Calcutta and first caused a light drizzle followed by heavy rain after about 30 min. Jadavpur had a fall of 1.12" and Alipore, 0.57."

3. "August 29, 1952, monsoon had weakened and only small cumulus clouds were moving overhead, one balloon carrying six blocks of gunpowder impregnated with silver iodide was let off at 12.50 p.m. This caused a concentration of clouds which developed into a thunder cloud and caused fairly heavy rain slightly to the east of Jadavpur and light rain over Jadavpur (0.09").

4. "October 1st, 1952 was a clear day with a blue sky and no clouds. There was, however a considerable amount of moisture. Two balloons each with 12 blocks of gunpowder impregnated with silver iodide, were let off after 3.40 p.m. The balloons went off almost vertically and could be seen for nearly 30 min.

with naked eye. The gunpowder exploded between 3.50 and 4.00 p.m. Soon after, the sky became hazy in the region where the smoke nuclei were injected. This cloud formed, which slowly extended northwards and finally developed into a convective cloud during the night over north Calcutta. In the morning of the next day this convective cloud developed into a thunder cloud and became an extensive formation over the whole of Calcutta and light rain occurred over the area.

The Symposium ended with a reply in the negative to the ever-burning question. Will not artificial rain-making in one region mean depriving another adjoining region of its rain to some extent? If the experiments are conducted with adequate caution to avoid the cases which are likely to result in premature decay of clouds. The loss of moisture of the atmosphere on account of artificial rain-making will no doubt be compensated in due course through the agency of evaporation. Planes cannot be expected to take such precautions.

UNLIKE IN RECENT TIMES, when trips abroad are made and the need for them found later, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs received an invitation for this symposium. He tried his best to persuade our Director to send at least one representative but the Director adamantly refused. "No staff" he said. "That's my revenge on a government that refused me staff to expand the activities of the department", he told me that day in '55, when I went to quarrel with him for not sending me to UK for my basic training, when all others, who joined with me had gone and returned. "You are my hostage", he said to me, "I am using you to get more staff, but are you unhappy? You for the first time started welfare in the department. You organised a fine Met Day celebrations, cricket matches and sports meets. Every evening, when I leave office, I see my staff practising cricket and athletics, playing volley ball and table tennis. All are enjoying, you are also enjoying. Then this Eclipse is, you put out. I know, you wrote most of it. I enjoyed everyone of your articles. You are a born writer". Saying thus, he pulled out a cheque for Rs. 350/- sent by Radio Ceylon,

or his talks on weather. "Take this and use it on welfare, enjoy yourself and keep us all happy, till I am ready to send you."

Caught in this mood, made worse by Mr. Suntharalingam's remark, the government asked him to report on artificial rain. It was a lengthy report he submitted, underlining a vital sentence, he himself would not have believed in, with all this wealth of information with him. "In almost every successful operation, artificial rain was induced from clouds, which had reached the critical stage of rain formation", and attached a covering letter in which he stated, "I would not recommend the formation of a research unit, the training of personnel and, of course, the expenditure of large amounts of money, while the subject remains purely of academic interest". He had his revenge again.

OUR PRESIDENT WAS EVEN THEN, AS SHREWD AS OVER. He saw through it but a vintage Ph.D. is different and should not be insulted. He tactfully requested another report in six months time. That report was never to be. Governments changed and the matter ended. The Director had a long wait for his staff and got his chance, when Katunayaka airport was to be taken over from the RAF. I went off to UK for my training and he retired before time in 1958. I was in bed that night of the morning he was run over by a train. I was not asleep but my eyes were closed. He came in his fawn suit saying "I am sorry, I delayed your training. It has turned out for your good. You know more meteorology than others." Before, could jump out of bed, he was gone.

Directors, who followed him were not interested in this subject of artificial rain. Their interests were varied and different, Astronomy, Astrology, Clocks, Instruments Purchase, Thrift, Foreign Trips, Jobs Abroad and even Credit councils. Reports of experiments conducted in Israel, New Delhi and Pakistan were coming in, in 1959. None made use of it, they were merely filed. In these files, that have been abandoned for the last 21 years are some papers missing. There are endorsements to say, secret or confidential. Who removed them? Perhaps, these papers contained the Director's true opinion on this subject, that artificial rain is possible in Sri Lanka.

Israel is a land far worse than our dry zone. Its wet hills of Galilee in the north has an annual average of 100cm (40"), like our Mannar, Kilpitiya and Poomparipu. There are some places in Sri Lanka like Mirichchuk-kaddi, Nachikali, Silavatural, Palutupana, Yala and the worst of them all Dillit with 33.83". South Israel is land locked and there is hardly any rainfall there, the annual average for south Israel is only 3cm. In Israel, it rains mostly during the winter months, so that it was in March 1949 that the first cloud seeding experiments began, using aircraft and was continued for an year—"Clouds were seeded on 10 occasions and on most occasions, good results appeared". The next year, aircraft seeding was abandoned and a ground generator was used to spray silver iodide nuclei. The freezing level in Israel varies between 3,000 and 14,000 feet, with an average of 8,000 feet. The base of clouds during the winter months are low, generally below 2,500ft. so that freezing nuclei, active at a relatively high temperature, like silver iodide at  $-04^{\circ}\text{C}$ , should be able to stimulate precipitation.

The following year, two generators were used. The rain in the seeded area in north Israel was higher than anywhere in Israel. On the third year of operation, with two ground generators, the centre of the seeded area received 50% in excess of its normal rains. After 6 or 7 seasonal seedings, there was a 20% increase in the entire area. By 1959, when this report was made, there was a distinct increase in the annual rainfall of north Israel but these children of Abraham, now become sons of Shylock, do not admit this enhancement of rainfall. Perhaps, they are waiting till their land flows with milk and honey. At the end of their ten year experiments, they stop the assessment by averages and lament the big variability in their annual rainfall.

"In Eliat, 1945/46—0.7cm, 1953/54—7.8cm. This is an extreme case, but variations of 400 to 5000% a short period are not unusual, e.g. 18.0cm in 1932/33 in Tiberias just 4 years before a season with 79.4cm."

They now want a wait of 21 years to get a proper assessment of their results. That was in 1959 and that brings us to this year, 1980.

but many years ago milk, honey, fruits and vegetables overflowed out of Israel into European markets.

It is well known that only about 5% of the water content of a cloud precipitates naturally, the rest passes off with the cloud. So that, even a little percentage increase in precipitation would mean that some external agency had gone to work to improve on the natural process. Some years back, the rainfall Committee of Israel took over the experiment. In Pakistan, it still remains with the meteorological service. In India, the irrigation engineers took over and have experimented with great success, particularly in the south, as reported by the WMO. The atmosphere over South India is not very different from that of our dry zone.

IN SRI LANKA, two decades of neglect has sent this subject back into hands of "Manthra-Karayas", who approach the government staking their claims to bleed the blue sky any time. The government is seeking the department's advice about their claims. They should be given a chance to prove or disprove themselves, before silencing them once and for all. Not much is known of the power of sound energy, but the Sun has demonstrated that sound energy can be converted to heat energy.

At the time of a total solar eclipse, when the Moon obscures Sun's disc, there is that beautiful sight of luminous halo around the obscured disc of the sun. This is known as the Corona. A strange feature of this Corona is that its temperature is a million degrees, while the underlying, obscured photosphere is only 6000 degrees Kelvin. M. Schwartzchild, a German born American astronomer proved mathematically that the Corona is heated up by the "Noise" of the Sun produced by the turbulent ripples of the solar photosphere. Centuries before, Goethe sang, "The Sun is chanting his ancient song in contest with brotherly spheres."

Life, as it exists on earth is because the Sun heats up the earth's atmosphere from below. It is the decrease in temperature with height, that causes convection, clouds and rain. If the decrease in temperature were downwards, convection will act downwards and clouds cannot form. If the downward convection started after the clouds had formed, then the clouds would dissolve.

Some years back, one morning, a crowd came into the forecast centre at Ratmalana. I was the forecaster on duty and they wanted a forecast for that evening. I need not have looked at the charts but to impress, I did. It had rained that previous evening and all evenings that month of November. On the 11.30 A.M. local chart, Nuwara-Eliya had reported thunder and already tall cumulus clouds had built up over Kurunegala and Ratnapura. "Thundershowers", I told them, believing that brevity is the soul of forecasting, no bluff and straight to the point. "Our Perehera starts at 7 p.m.", they said, "Will it rain then?" "Sure" I said. "Sure!, we will see to that and walked away. "Idiots", I mused.

I was on my to work that night. It was past 7 p.m. and the Perehera was already on Galle road. I followed, cock-sure they will all be drenched. The dancers, the whip crack and the chant, Sadhu Sadhu went ahead, while I still followed. The clouds in the east were flashing, bursting and crawling west. "That's it", I said and drove fast to the airport. That night, it rained not a drop at Ratmalana nor at Mount Lavinia. Did the "Noise" of the Perehera heat up the upper atmosphere and dissolve the clouds If it could happen on the Sun, why not on Earth! This Swiss claim that in their mountains land, ringing of church bells produce rain. Anyway, much has been made of other forms of energy but not of sound energy. Is it because, it came from the east?

Gospel according to St. John, Chapter I Verse I.

"In the beginning was the WORD and the WORD was with GOD and the WORD was GOD".

Is this WORD, OM? It sounds like the hum of the Universe.



Feb. 4 — Feb. 13

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 Lankadipa; JD—Janadina; SU—Sun; DV—Davasa; DP—Dinapathi; CM—Chinthamani; WK—Weekend; RR—Riviresa; DK—Dinakara; EN—Eelanadu; IDPR—Information Dept. Press Release.

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4:** Religious ceremonies at temples, kovils, mosques and churches will usher in National Day celebrations throughout the country today; National Day marks the regaining of independence on February 4, 1948 and also the inauguration 30 years later, on February 4, 1978 of a Presidential system of Government with the President as the head of State and the head of the Executive; President J. R. Jayewardene in a message on the occasion, has said he is certain that the continuation of the positive policies adopted by the Government would result in the near future in better economic and living standards of the people and a happy unified community. Minister of State Anandattissa de Alwis yesterday inaugurated the new three channel rural service—the second regional station of the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation at the auspicious hour of 3.30 p.m. at Nupe House, Matara amidst the beating of Magulbera—CDN. The President Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, will shortly take under his wing the sphere of Higher Education; with the significant change, the President will ensure a complete re-orientation of the country's educational structure—CDM. National Day will be celebrated in Sri Lanka today with a series of ceremonies in all parts of the country; the focus will however be on Matara—one of the oldest kingdoms in the country and the birthplace of King Dutugemunu—SU.

The Coconut fertilizer loan scheme has been extended to cover all coconut estate owners in the island—DM. A representative of the IMF will arrive in the island tomorrow to get firm promises from the government on further withdrawing subsidies including increases in Train and bus fares—JD. The Government is reported to be considering introducing laws usually enacted in war situations to further reduce subsidies and suppress protests from masses and Trade Unions following reduction of subsidies—DK.

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5:** President J. R. Jayewardene took the salute at the thirty-second National Day parade of the armed forces at the Uyanwatte Stadium, Matara at 8.30 a.m. yesterday; all roads led to the grounds from the small hours of the day, and the gathering that finally assembled was unprecedented; the police estimated it at ten lakhs; the celebrations began with the offering of flowers by President Jayewardene and Prime Minister R. Premadasa, at 6 a.m. at the Samudragiri Maha Vihare; Ministers and Members of Parliament participated in the ceremony. A Consumer Advisory Service aimed at consumer participation in implementing Government decisions has been set up by the Internal Trade Commissioner M. Ramalingam at the request of the Trade and Shipping Minister Lalith Athulathudali. The people of Belgium and Sri Lankans residing there have pledged to construct a model village in Sri Lanka. The National Prices Commission will today meet chilli growing farmers in the Anuradhapura district to find out first-hand how much it costs to produce one pound of dried chillies—CDN. The whole of Matara where the National Day celebrations were held yesterday was transformed into a carnival by the illumination of buildings, trees and parks; the town was also gaily decorated with national flags and coloured paintings of the portraits of the President and the Prime Minister. The government has decided to import toilet soap in large quantities; this is because of an anticipated price increase by local manufacturers of this essential item. A new era in the transmission of telegrams was tried out on a field trial basis within Matara and Kandy by Mr. R. B. Wijetunge, Minister of Power, Highways, Posts and Telecommuni-

ations; the transmission was specially meant for Sinhala and Tamil telegrams through ultra-high frequency waves when a facsimile of a telegram could be transferred within three minutes. Inaugurating the second regional station of the SLBC at Nipe House, Matara, the Minister of State M. A. Randitissa de Alwis, said that the new service would bring local and world information to the doorstep of every house in the country—CDM. The establishment of a Public Enterprises Manpower Services Commission which will be responsible in recruiting skilled personnel on a contract basis to the Corporation sector, has been recommended to the Government by Ceylon MP Harindra Corea. Sri Lanka's burgeoning jewellery industry has become the latest sector to be affected by the drain of skilled personnel from the country—SU. The 1980 budget presented to Parliament last November, has already gone haywire, Dr. W. M. Tilakaratne, Secretary to the Ministry of Finance and Planning, has told a recent meeting of the Development Secretaries—CO. National Day was celebrated in a quiet manner in the Northern and Eastern provinces with temple ceremonies—VK. In a bid to ease the fuel shortage one of the steps the government is taking is to produce spirits from Sugar cane; plans are afoot to plant 50,000 acres with sugarcane in the Kalutara district—DP. Paddy production in the country has reduced by 774,800 bushels in the first nine months of last year; the harvest for that period was 82,852,000 bushels. The government is considering selling the Thulhiriya and Veyangoda Textile mills to two private sector companies from Pakistan and India; only the administration of all textile mills are under the private sector at present; these companies have promised the government they could run more mills with profits—ATH. There is a crisis in the cabinet over the question of whether Mr. Upali Wijewardene should be removed as the Director General of the GCEC; the Parliamentary Select Committee on high public posts headed by PM R. Premadasa has decided that Mr. Upali Wijewardene should not be kept as the Director General of the GCEC but the President is said to have told Mr. Wijewardene that he will not allow him to be removed; a number of senior cabinet ministers headed by PM R. Premadasa and about

back benchers have protested over this decision—DK.

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6:** Government proposes to set up Chinese style mini hydro-power stations throughout the country to increase power supply quickly and economically; Power and Highways Minister D. B. Wijetunge told a press conference yesterday that a six-member Chinese engineering team headed by Mr. Lou Fangyang had arrived in Sri Lanka to make a feasibility study of the potential for mini hydro-power stations. A five-day seminar on Working Women and Society has concluded with a call to Government to pass legislation prohibiting the taking and giving of dowries. A second batch of three women officer cadets to be trained in England will be recruited by the Army shortly. Youth centres to promote young artistic talent and offer better opportunities for participation in cultural, recreational, sports and other extra curricular activities for rural youth are to be set up in all parts of the country; the project to be launched by the National Youth Services Council this year is expected to be completed by 1983—CDN. The Government is considering a proposal by the Minister of Power and Highways, Mr. D. B. Wijetunge to ban illuminations, decorative lighting etc., to conserve power. President J. R. Jayewardene has highly commended the Inspector General of Police, Mr. Anaseneviratne and the Police Department for keeping the crime rate low—CDM. President J. R. Jayewardene is today expected to effect changes in his 23-member Cabinet; the lines on which the changes will take place appeared to be a closely guarded secret; it kept Government MPs and even some Ministers guessing as Parliament met yesterday. The Agricultural Development and Research Ministry has now launched on a war footing its efforts to eradicate the brown hopper paddy pest which is rapidly devastating paddy cultivation in the Eastern province; nearly 23,000 acres of paddy have been severely affected by this disease; this is out of a total acreage of 110,000 acres in this region. Norwegian Foreign Minister Knut Frydenlund will visit Sri Lanka on February 11—19 and New Delhi on February 19—22, Norwegian Foreign Ministry said today—SU. The Supreme Court has ruled that government servants cannot appeal to the Supreme Court under contra-

vention of the Civil Rights Law in disciplinary actions instituted against them—VK. Even though the government owned business undertaking of the independent TV net work is running at a loss the government has decided pay for 3rd grade American films telecast by the ITV; this money is to be paid to the American partner of ITV before it was acquired by the government; the government has decided to run the ITV from the profit of the SLBC till other arrangements are made—JD. Sterling tea estates which earned millions of rupees of profits under the previous government are now losing millions of rupees because of bad administration, wastage and corruption—DK.

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7:** Finance Minister Ronnie de Mel stunned a crowd at Devinuwara when he told them that Sri Lanka would have to import coconuts within the next ten years at Rs. 25 a nut; speaking on Independence eve to a crowd which included agricultural extension officers the minister said the overall condition of the 11,000 acres of coconut lands in the district left much to be desired; some estates which could produce 10,000 nuts a year were barely managing to produce 1000 nuts. Our diplomatic missions abroad have been told to place emphasis on trade and economic affairs; instructions to this effect have gone out from the Foreign Ministry—CDN. The Cabinet yesterday revoked a circular issued recently by the Excise Commissioner to all Government Agents directing them to find new places to set up liquor shops. Five percent of the inmates of Sri Lanka prisons are drug addicts; this was the observation made by two Japanese professors who were in Sri Lanka on a study tour on crime prevention and treatment of offenders—CDM. Cabinet yesterday decided to declare Hikkaduwa and some other tourist destinations as Resort Areas. All exports of live fish will be henceforth banned by the Government, the Cabinet decided yesterday. A team of doctors, technicians and a nursing sister from the University of Kiel, Federal Republic of Germany, has arrived in Sri Lanka to introduce open-heart surgery at the General Hospital, Colombo and to acquaint local surgeons with the latest advances in this branch of medical science—SU. The Chairman of the Trincomalee Urban Council has resigned

as a result of differences of opinion between him and the heads of the TULF controlled Urban Council—DP. The government is taking steps to set up a separate Remand prison for Armed Forces personnel charged with murder, assault etc. The price of essential food items are increasing daily in the open market—DV. The government has decided to set up a Cultural Centre in the Kelaniya University premises at a cost of Rs. 15 million. The government is to further reduce the import of textiles in a bid to protect the local producers—DM. Political advisers are reported to have advised the President that a cabinet reshuffle at a time when the government is in a crisis situation might split the government; the President has been unable to carry out the cabinet reshuffle the way he wanted it as a number of ministers are reported to have told the President that they will resign if their powers are reduced and fight from outside the government—DK.

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8:** Indian Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi is sending a top official of India's Foreign Ministry here today for talks with the Sri Lanka Government authorities on recent developments in Asia, particularly the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan; Eric Gonsalves, Secretary of the Indian External Affairs Ministry in charge of the East Asia Division, will have extensive talks with W. T. Jayasinghe, Secretary to the Sri Lanka Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Prime Minister R. Premadasa told the Government Parliamentary Group yesterday that at the rate of progress made in building houses the 1983 target of 100,000 houses would be exceeded by 50,000. The unprecedented number of lorries and private buses imported during the past three years has generated over 40,359 jobs, an official of the Registrar of Motor Vehicles said yesterday. The Bureau of Ceylon Standards had listed 27 manufacturers of substandard food and drink and other consumer goods a spokesman for the Department of Inland Trade said yesterday. Sri Lanka yesterday became the first South East Asian country to adopt a regional health charter to improve the health of the people; the Charter was signed by Prime Minister R. Premadasa and Health Minister Gamani Jayasuriya on behalf of Sri Lanka and Dr. H. T. Mahler Director General of the World Health

Organisation on behalf of the WHO, at the Prime Minister's office in Parliament yesterday; the Charter was drawn up in 1978 at a WHO conference—CDN. Over one and a half million employees in the Private Sector will shortly get consolidated salaries; this follows a proposal submitted by the Minister of Labour, Capt. C. P. J. Seneviratne to the Cabinet to consolidate the salaries of employees in the private sector—CDM. President J. R. Jayewardene reassured Government MP's yesterday that there would be no change in Albert Silva's nomination as MP for Kamburupitiya. State agencies importing major food items have been ordered to ensure that stocks are immediately distributed into the domestic market in a move by Trade and Shipping Minister Lalith Athulathmudali to combat malpractices. Sri Lanka's first Tree Bank, the second in Asia (Singapore also has one) has been set up in Kirillapone by the Land Development Department—SU. The government has decided to start emergency schemes for increasing food production; the schemes should be worked out on a district basis and implemented fast said the President at yesterday's government parliamentary group meeting; he also stressed that food production should be increased on a non-party level—DP. The government is to launch a programme to cultivate Jute in 5,000 acres with aid from Thailand; about 10,000 youth are expected to be employed under this programme—DM. MPs have complained that work in departments under some Ministers who may lose their portfolios in the cabinet reshuffle have come to a standstill—DK. Economic experts have pointed out that the country may face bankruptcy in 3 years if the present economic policies are continued; the country may not be able to find money to face any urgent situation—JD. All major government development projects may come to a stand still as the country may not be able to find the resources to carry out these projects in the face of world economic crisis; the government allocated Rs. 47,000 million for Mahaveli scheme, housing projects and cyclone development projects for 1980 but with the world economic crisis and increased oil prices the amount has now risen to Rs. 110,000 million; the government will now have to find an extra Rs. 63,000 million for the development projects for 1980

alone. 10,000 workers of the Textile Mill will perform a sathyagraha in the working places in protest of textile mills being handed over to the private sector—ATH.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9:** Government has appointed a seven-member committee comprising several secretaries of key ministries to examine and report on the proposed urea project at Sapugaskanda. The committee will examine and evaluate various aspects of the project and submit to government its final recommendations; the urea project, almost reaching completion, was established at a cost of Rs. 2,700 million; half of this amount was provided as soft loans by the Asian Development Bank, the Kuwait Fund for Economic Development the Federal Republic of Germany and India. The Ministry of Agricultural Development and research is sending letters to 1.5 million landowners warning them that their lands would be taken over if they failed to cultivate, Ministry Secretary Ranjan Wijeyaratne said yesterday. Visiting Austrian Secretary of State Dr. Adolf Nussbaumer had talks on Thursday with Lands, Land Development and Mahaveli Development Minister Gamini Dissanayake, and Trade and Shipping Minister, Lalith Athulathmudali on bilateral economic co-operation. A nine-member economic delegation from Brazil will arrive here next Wednesday on a four-day visit during which they will discuss possibilities of joint venture projects in Sri Lanka and bi-lateral economic co-operations. A special envoy from India began talks in Colombo yesterday with the Sri Lanka Government on the crisis situation in the Asian region following the intervention of the Soviet Union in Afghanistan—CDN. A master plan for the development and to beautify towns in municipal and urban council areas has been mapped out by the Urban Development Authority—CDM. The Defence Ministry yesterday formulated contingency plans to deal with any internal security problems that may be caused by the global political situation; part of the plan already put into operation entails the provision of tight security to Egyptian and other Arab diplomatic missions in Colombo; this was to curb any incidents that may arise following the opening of diplomatic missions in each other's country by Egypt and Israel later this month. A special message from Indian

Premier, Indira Gandhi will be handed over today to President Jayewardene, by her special envoy—Eric Gonsalves. The government last week signed an agreement with Asia Foundation in California, United States, to reopen a branch office in Colombo and carry on a programme of activity in this country—SU. Minister of Trade and Shipping Lalith Athulathmudali stated in Parliament yesterday that over 90% of subsidiary food items like onions and potatoes which were imported for the X'mas season were spoilt and had to be dumped into the high seas; this was because the ship that was carrying these food items was delayed—DP. The three services will begin a combined patrol in the Northern Province from next week; the area covered will be from Vavuniya to Valvattithurai—VK. The government is considering abolishing overtime payments to public servants as most of them are playing out the overtime; the government pays over Rs. 200 million as overtime annually—DV. Japan was Sri Lanka's biggest importer last year according to the Central Bank report; Sri Lanka has imported Rs. 1,494 million worth of goods from Japan; this is 13.5% of the net imports—DV. The President has advised officials of the Ministry of Plan Implementation to give priority to needs of the poor when drawing up joint district development programmes—LD. Most of the government ministers are saying that it is Finance Minister Mr. Ronnie de Mel who must be dismissed and not Mr. M. D. H. Jayewardene who predicted that the third budget of the government will collapse completely—JD.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10:** Mr. N. G. P. Pandiaratne, Director-General of the Mahaweli Authority, chairs a high powered National Committee that has been appointed by Government for the rehabilitation of the village tanks that are the backbone of the rural economy; many of these tanks have been neglected in recent years and government is accordng high priority to their rehabilitation as their restoration would ensure quick benefits at comparatively low levels of investment—SO. The Indo-Sri Lanka Joint Economic Commission which has been dormant for several years will be reactivated shortly; this decision emerged from the talks held yesterday between Mr. Eric Gonsalves, Secretary (East Asia Division) of the Indian External Affairs

Minister and Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali, Minister of Trade and Shipping—ST. President J. R. Jayewardene will pay an official visit to Saudi Arabia in April this year; this is in response to an invitation extended by the Saudi monarch, King Khaled Ibn Saud, it is reliably understood. Indian Premier Indira Gandhi's special envoy to Sri Lanka, Eric Gonsalves, yesterday briefed President J. R. Jayewardene on India's concern regarding developments in the sub-continent following Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. The construction of Sri Lanka's new administrative capital of Sri Jayewardenepura at Kotte is learnt to be facing problems in implementation due to lack of planning, incompetency and work irregularities—WK. A scheme to decentralise the issue for motor vehicle licences is now being worked out by officials under orders from the Minister of Transport, M. H. Mohamed—DP. A massive cinema complex will be set up in Colombo at a cost of Rs. 100 million; a complex proposed to be set in 8 acres area will have separate theatres for Sinhalese and English films and one exclusively for top grade films—RR. Women employees are considering setting up their own trade unions; they argue that the present trade unions led mostly by men have not worked to protect the rights of women—SM.

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11:** Finance Minister Ronnie de Mel yesterday warned that the Government would soon be compelled to take certain painful and unpopular decisions to tide over an unprecedented economic situation caused by world inflation and escalating prices; he told a public meeting at the Warakagoda Raja Maha Vinaya in Bulathsinhala that it was unfortunate that Rs. 47 billion which was to be spent on development over the next five years would have to be spent on oil imports alone during the next four years. Sri Lanka's Public Interest Committee has urgently appealed to the government to cut down heavily on the indiscriminate use of street lights, floodlights and ornamental illuminations. Some doctors in three hospitals in the country—the General Hospital Colombo, the Kalubowita Hospital Colombo South and the General Hospital, Kandy, members of the GMOA are expected to keep away from work today, reporting sick, informed sources said. Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's special



envoy Eri Gonsalves left Colombo yesterday after a series of talks with the Sri Lanka Government on the cold war situation in the Asian region following the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan—CDN. India feels that the United States has over-reached in the situation created by the Afghan crisis. The massive supply of arms to Pakistan has brought in its wake one of the most dangerous situations in the Region, Mr. Eric Gonsalves, a senior Secretary at the Indian External Affairs Ministry said at a press briefing on Saturday night winding up his two-day visit to Sri Lanka. The President Mr. J. R. Jayewardene is expected to visit cyclone-devastated Batticaloa for the second-time in 15 months, next month. The Government has decided to grant pensions and gratuity rights to High Court judges—CDM. The Law Commission has recommended against conferring wider powers on military personnel assisting civilian authorities in counter-insurgency and anti-terrorist activities. The government will set up a national TV Authority to administer and control matters relating to television broadcasting in Sri Lanka—SU. Prime Minister, Premadasa speaking at the Kandy Municipal Council on Saturday said that money for Urban development will in future be obtained from rich people who will get tax concessions for ten years—DP. A Survey carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture has revealed that 78% of dry and wet land in the country is not cultivated; the reason for this is not getting a fair price for agricultural produce, financial difficulties not knowing the know-how for the development of the land and having no interest, in developing the land—DV. A drug specialist will arrive in the island soon to find out the extent of the use of drugs by youth in the country—LD.

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12:** Trade and Shipping Minister Lalith Athulathmudali yesterday decided to offer some relief to the hard pressed consumers by making red onions, chillies, potatoes, maosor dhal, dried fish and lakspray readily available while protecting local producers; this decision was made yesterday at a conference at the Trade Ministry at which heads of all the State trading institutions participated. About 350 doctors—members of the GMOA kept away from work yesterday at four hospitals in Colombo and

Kandy, completely disrupting hospital work and causing grave inconvenience to patients. Sri Lanka's High Commissioner in Ottawa, Ernest Corea is due here for consultations with President J. R. Jayewardene and Foreign Minister A. C. S. Hameed today; Sri Lanka's permanent representative at the United Nations, B. J. Fernando has also been summoned for consultations. The British High Commissioner in Sri Lanka J. W. Nicholas yesterday said that the standard of English in Sri Lanka has been deteriorating over the last few years. Dr. Wickrema Weerasooriya Secretary, Ministry of Plan Implementation has been nominated by President J. R. Jayewardene to represent Sri Lanka in the United Nation Population Commission—CDN. Losses from harvest to consumption could be estimated at 10 per cent in the case of cereals while for perishables like food and vegetables, the figure could be as high as 20 per cent; so observed the Minister of Food and Co-operatives, Mr. S. B. Hurath yesterday at a seminar on "Post Harvest Food Losses" held in Colombo—CDM. Government yesterday cancelled all leave for medical officers including interns, in the Department of Health. Sri Lankan women are crowding in the Kuwaiti jails in a big way; last year they constituted 11.2 per cent of the total; there were 68 Sri Lankan female prisoners; this was against only eight of their male counterparts. An attractive salaries structures to prevent a drain of personnel from the country's public sector to the private sector is one of a series of measures approved by the Government. An official delegation from Norway led by Foreign Affairs Minister Knut Frydenlund arrives today on an eight-day visit to discuss Norway's commitment to the integrated rural development programme at Hambantota and the possibility of further aid to Sri Lanka—SU. The Secretary of the Jaffna District Agricultural extension service said that chilli cultivation has been reduced by a further 6000 acres from last year's production; this is because a floor price for chillies has still not been fixed—DP. Another 15,000 workers will be added to the 5,000 odd workes in the RVDB who are paid salaries without doing any work; the additional 1,500 are from the Tnelava and Maduru Oya worksite where the work has been completed—DV. The railway fares

will be increased by 50% from March 1st—JD. The government is considering rationing flour; the price of flour and outside the rations will be increased by further 30 cents—DK.

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13:** President J. R. Jayewardene has directed that free biscuits now being given only to children of some schools be given to children of all schools in future; some 1,250,000 children studying from the kindergarten to Grade 5 in 7,534 schools receive free biscuits now; each child gets 6 biscuits free; as a result of President Jayewardene's directive 750,000 more children in about 1,513 more schools will benefit by the free issue of biscuits. The Government Medical Officers' Union (GMOA) which paralysed the services in four hospitals in Colombo and Kandy on Monday to press their demand for the retention of foreign medical post-graduate examinations, yesterday extended its campaign to 14 other hospitals; a total of 800 doctors have joined the campaign and are out on sick leave, a GMOA spokesman said. The Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Knut Frydenlund arrived in Sri Lanka yesterday on an official visit and was met by Sri Lanka Foreign Affairs Minister A. C. S. Hameed at the Katunayake airport—CDN. The creation of a Presidential Secretariat to be entrusted with the task of formulating overall national policy, economic goals and functional tasks for each Ministry is under consideration by the government—CDM. Deputy Defence Minister T. B. Wera-pitiya has called on the security forces to maintain strict vigilance in respect of the movements of foreign tourists in the northern region; this comes in the wake of intelligence reports that organised smuggling is taking place on a large scale in this area. Sri Lanka's relations with Egypt will come up for review at a top-level conference starting at the Foreign office in Colombo today. Finance & Planning Minister Ronnie de Mel is scheduled to leave tomorrow on a five-nation tour in a bid to mobilise further aid to meet the growing costs overlays in the country's developing programmes. The tougher laws proposed by Government to combat the destruction of the country's flora and fauna will include a total ban on the export of parts of any animal—SU. The GMOA has decided to abandon its current trade union action

demanding resumption of the holding of British post-graduate medical exams here, an association spokesman said today—CO. Sri Lanka could well be placed in a strategic position in preventing a third world war due to the situation in Afghanistan; a number of foreign ministers, special envoys and representatives are expected in Colombo to hold talks with the Sri Lanka government in this connection—VK. The CWE has decided to run a bus service; in order to ease the transport difficulties of the people the Minister of Trade and Shipping has requested the CWE to start the bus service islandwide—DP. The government has decided to appoint a competent authority for the railway department as a first step to hand over the railway department to the private sector. The Secretary of the Ministry of Public Administration has already directed all department and corporation heads and secretaries to ministries to take disciplinary action against those who take part in anti-government demonstrations—ATH. Deputy controller of Food said that 3 million out of the 7 million food stamps have been taken by people unqualified to get them; investigations have revealed that a survey carried out on this matter through AGAs and Grama Sevakas at a cost of Rs. 23 lakhs has been a complete failure; a Central Bank report has pointed out that the number eligible to receive the food stamps is around 4 million—LD. The government has decided to set up a separate ministry called the Ministry of Indigenous Medicine for the further extension of this system and to set up a medical system that will suit the country—DV.

### 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. 1552.00	Rs. 1555.00
Sterling Pound	Rs. 3575.45	Rs. 3581.45
Deutsche Mark	Rs. 892.20	Rs. 893.80
French Franc	Rs. 381.15	Rs. 381.85
Japanese Yen	Rs. 6.4355	Rs. 6.4505
Indian. Rupees	Rs. 197.30	Rs. 197.70

● **Gromyko Visit**

● **Pakistan's Dilemma**

New Delhi, Feb. 17,

The Gromyko visit was the culmination of the first phase of India's diplomatic initiative to defuse the tensions arising from the Afghan crisis. Right through the discussions with Gromyko, India had insisted on a Soviet pull-out from Afghanistan without prejudice to its own legitimate security interests in the region. The Soviet Foreign Minister had made it quite clear that the withdrawal would be carried out once the necessary conditions had been created to prevent not only US and Chinese interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan but also the programme to arm Pakistan had been stopped. The Afghan government has also made it known to New Delhi that it would request the withdrawal of the Soviet troops only if there was a guarantee of the territorial integrity of the country together with a pledge of non-interference in its internal affairs: it also wanted an acceptance of its socialist state system. Moscow's position is that it was on Kabul's invitation its forces had entered Afghanistan, and that it would withdraw its troops only with the concurrence of Kabul not merely for the restoration of the status quo ante but only after a proper assurance that the Western Powers and their allies in the area had reconciled themselves to the changes in the country. This meant that there could be no automatic return to its earlier status as a buffer state without recognising its new socialist state system.

No agreed proposals emerged from the Gromyko talks which India could hope to put forward to the USA, China and Pakistan with any reasonable hope of acceptance. India herself realised that a unilateral Soviet withdrawal was not an end-in-itself unless it could automatically ensure peace and stability in the region—that it was essential that the kind of situation which led to Soviet military intervention would not occur again. This could be possible only if the other Big Powers like

US and China were ready to display matching restraint and circumspection. It is this aspect of the problem that India is studying carefully. At the end of the talks it was clear that "unless a way could be found for dovetailing the regional concerns of India with global considerations of the Soviet Union it was going to be extremely difficult to persuade Moscow to make the first move for defusing the Afghan situation. Though India continued to plead for a Soviet withdrawal on terms of first principles, it was not shutting its eyes to the reality that this could not be brought about without the co-operation of other powers concerned and neighbouring nations....."

In spite of Russia's reluctance to commit itself to a unilateral withdrawal of its forces, New Delhi was determined to pursue "its peace efforts with other countries on the clear understanding that the Soviet Union would do nothing to intensify the tensions or worsen the situation." India was therefore hoping to "resume the threads of the recent discussions with the US and Pakistan to create the right climate for the Soviet withdrawal as part of a wider international settlement to avert the threat of war in the region."

This is not going to be an easy task. The US continues to insist that the restoration of Afghanistan's status as a buffer state should mean its neutralisation with adequate international guarantees—not merely the status quo ante that had prevailed before the Soviet military intervention. It is relatively easy to work out a formula for preserving the territorial integrity of Afghanistan but more difficult to evolve a formula for ensuring non-interference in its internal affairs as an independent state with all its geopolitical limitations.

The key to the situation is Pakistan. There is no doubt that the interference in Afghanistan after the revolution of April 1978 was mainly organised from Pak soil. And there is also no doubt that the US and China had been the chief instigators in this process. An AFP despatch from Washington dated 15/2/80 stated: "The United States is secretly supplying Afghan rebels fighting Soviet forces in Afghanistan with guns and light anti-tank weapons, the *Washington Post* reported today."

The paper, citing reliable sources, said the weapons were of Soviet manufacture in order to hide their immediate origin. According to the paper, the arms—limited in number—had been smuggled into Afghanistan from Pakistan soon after the Soviet intervention. Full details of the operation were not yet known but the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) was said to be running it. The Congressional committees concerned with secret operations had been kept informed by the State Department and the CIA. The *Washington Post* also said that even before the Soviet intervention, the United States had sent in aid to the rebels in the form of medical and communications equipment."

N. Ravi reporting for the *Hindu* from Washington stated: ".....Meanwhile earlier reports that the US Central Intelligence Agency was covertly supplying weapons to the Afghan rebels were confirmed by White House officials, according to the *New York Times*. The supplies are said to be mostly Soviet designed light infantry weapons including Kalashnikov rifles. The decision to funnel arms to the insurgents was made early last month by a special co-ordination committee chaired by the National Security Adviser, Dr. Brzezinski, and approved by President Carter. As required by law, seven Congressional committees were informed of this operation which is the largest by the CIA since its activities in Angola in 1976. It is not clear how exactly the Soviet designed weapons were obtained. But there has been speculation that they were taken from the stocks of Soviet weapons with Egypt. China which manufactures the old Soviet designed weapons, and the underground arms market in Eastern Europe are mentioned as other possible sources. The weapons are reportedly supplied through Pakistan and China and Iran too are said to have offered limited amounts of arms to the rebels. Egypt announced a few days ago that it was training the Afghan rebels and sending them back with weapons."

In retrospect, observers and commentators here agree that Soviet actions in response to the request by new Afghan government to render economic, political and military aid caught the Pakistani government by surprise when it had intended to proceed

with its support for Afghan refugees and the training of the units for the incursions in to the territory of Afghanistan. At the same time there appears to be a growing concern in Pakistani government circles in regard to the prolonged stay of 500,000 Afghan refugees on the territory of Pakistan's north-western frontier province and Baluchistan. At the beginning, Zia ul-Haq's administration had evidently planned to use the refugee problem to compel the United States to undertake a more attentive approach to Pakistani military and economic interests, but at present it would appear that it has lost the initiative and that further development of the events would be guided by the USA and to a certain extent by China. Pakistani circles privately admit that their government had practically lost control over Afghan refugees and all work with them is mostly being done by Americans under the direction of the CIA and that many officers of Pakistani army were afraid that Americans pursuing their personal interests will proceed with the sending of military groups from Pakistani territory to Afghanistan, and that this would

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**Notice Under Section 7 Of The Land Acquisition Act (Chapter 460) as amended By The Land Acquisition (Amendment) Act No. 28 Of 1964**

Reference No. 9/2/2/103

It is intended to acquire the land described in the schedule below. For further particulars, please see the Gazette No. 77 (Part III) of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka of 22-02-1980.

**Schedule**

Name of Village: Nawelagama  
 Name of land: Ellawatta Estate  
 Lot & Plan No. Final Village Plan No. 1  
 Supplement No. 11  
 Lot Nos.: 843, 846, 847, and 849  
 Nawela Grama Sevaka Division, in the Divisional Revenue Officer's Division of Bandarawela Badulla District, Uva Province.

**N. C. Harvie**  
 Acquiring Officer  
 Badulla District.

The Kachcheri,  
 Badulla.  
 1st February, 1980

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lead to the reciprocal actions and refusal by Kabul and Moscow. Such a turn of events can create a real danger for the preservation of Pakistani sovereignty, because the situation in Baluchistan and in the north-western frontier province are not conducive for the health of present administration. The majority of sober-minded military leaders in Islamabad consider that the best way out of the present situation is refugees' return to Afghanistan.

In these circumstances, it is understandable that the Soviet Union should seek guarantees from Pakistan that it would cause "incursions" from its territory into Afghanistan. Speaking at a dinner in his honour by the Indian Foreign Minister, Mr. Gromyko had accused the Pakistani leadership of spoiling its relations with a number of states. He said that Pakistan should weigh "which political path for it will be better—the path of peace and good neighbourly relations or the path of tension with neighbouring countries."

In the meantime, Pakistani hopes of extracting a few billions from the USA in military and economic aid seem to be vanishing into thin air. Reports from Washington all confirm that the USA is not likely to ask Congress for more than \$200 million for 1 year (\$100 million for military aid and \$100 million for economic aid). Carter had originally offered out the \$200 million or \$400 million for 2 years and which Zia had called "peanuts".

### IMF ORDERS JAMAICA TO 'TRIM THE FAT'

Jan. 12.

Following its failure to meet the International Monetary Fund's end-of-year foreign assets test, the Caribbean island of Jamaica has launched a suicidal "trim-the-fat" campaign which threatens to plunge that nation's population into a holocaust of starvation and disease. During the past week, acute shortages in virtually every basic product, including milk, sugar, eggs, bread, salt, rice, flour, and cornmeal have plagued Jamaica. Prime Minister Michael Manley has even reduced the size of his cabinet from 20 to 13 ministers, citing bureaucratic waste. The remaining ministers are reportedly devoting their energies to slashing the already inadequate national budget to meet IMF approval. —NSIPS

Pakistan has to decide whether it will sell its territory for "peanuts" for the Americans and Chinese to base their covert actions against Afghanistan or whether it will prefer to retain its self-respect as a sovereign and independent nation and also maintain its traditional friendship with its neighbours. This places the Zia regime in a terrible dilemma.

—Tribune Correspondent

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### YUGOSLAVIA

## Will The West Try To Push New Leadership Away From Nonalignment?

by Godfrey Sinclair

London, Jan. 25,

The greatest danger now feared by the Yugoslav Government is not a Russian invasion but Western pressure for the country to give up its non-aligned stance and come directly into the Western orbit. This stems not so much from the end of President Tito's effective leadership of the country, but from the feeling growing in the West that, with Afghanistan having been firmly moved into the Soviet orbit, there will be pressure from cold warriors in the West to try to move Yugoslavia the other way.

Ever since the break with Russia in 1948, Yugoslavia has come under great pressure, both from West and East. For a good period after the rift there was an element within the Yugoslav Communist Party which wanted the country to go back into the Russian sphere of influence. It led to the imprisonment of a number of members of the YCP. But Tito was particularly careful to keep Yugoslavia non-aligned and, in the fifties and sixties played a leading part in building up a group of non-aligned states which tried to avoid taking sides in the cold war. However, Russian pressure on Yugoslavia's economy after the rift meant inevitably that the country had to strengthen its ties with the West. It meant also that external investment was allowed in Yugoslavia, although the system of self-management limited the power of that in-

vestment drastically to change the basic economic policy of that country.

For the period during which Yugoslavia was the lone dissident among communist countries, the row that Tito had to live was a hard and bitter one. His regime was oppressive and did not allow dissent to grow. But in later years it was partly liberalised as it became apparent that Yugoslavia was not the only country to resent the hardline Russian policy.

Tito, however, kept a scrupulously neutral line in the splits which developed in the communist world. Yugoslavia maintained relations with Romania and China but was bitterly attacked by the Stalinist regime in Albania which rejected Russian hegemony and for a while sided with the Chinese in their argument with Moscow. At the present juncture of time, the Yugoslav predicament is complicated by the country's economic problems. Although the economy has grown and diversified in the last decade, Yugoslavia is still heavily dependent on trade with the Soviet Union and its immediate neighbours.

Its relations with Common Market countries have been complicated by barriers put up against trade by the EEC and by the fact that much Yugoslav labour which went abroad to earn its living is now moving back as the recession deepens in Western Europe. Yugoslavia has also had to borrow heavily in the West. It is now the largest borrower from the World Bank per head of population. Many of the most important schemes for industrialisation are backed by this source, while other funds come from individual companies which have taken a small stake in Yugoslav industry.

Inevitably this does leave the Yugoslav Government open to pressure. In the past such pressure has been limited because of the tight grip on the economy which the government has maintained despite workers' self-management. In the changing circumstances it is an area of pressure which may be used once again.

**Direct Russian influence in Yugoslavia is very small. There is still a tiny element of the YCP which hankers after a rapprochement but it is divided.**

**There is also some pressure from within the industrial establishment in Yugoslavia which sees closer political ties with the West as an economic advantage not to be sneezed at. But there is little doubt that the main pressure of opinion within Yugoslavia is in favour of maintaining the non-aligned attitude which Tito has so patiently built up.**

Both West and East have stirred the dangerous nationalistic feelings which still exist within Yugoslavia between the various provinces which make up the country. The Yugoslav communists have been genuinely surprised at how long such separatism has continued, despite the major unification which took place in the war against the Nazi occupation. Much of the reason for the alert which has recently been started for Yugoslav armed forces has less to do with a threat from outside than the fear that nationalism will once again raise its head as Tito's grip weakens.

But the Yugoslavs emphasise that what they fear most is that Yugoslavia represent a virility symbol for Western cold warriors. Just as China's disaffection with Moscow has been used by them to exploit anti-Soviet feeling, now they fear that Yugoslavia is a target for Western "friendship" that has little to do with sympathy for the policy pursued by Tito and much to do with a counter blow to Russia's action in Afghanistan.

—Tribune, U.K.

## THE U.S.A.

# And The Sub-Continent

Washington, Feb. 6,

The Soviet march into Afghanistan has led, among other things, to high-level US Missions to India and Pakistan. In the 19th century it was sometimes called "The Great Game"—the rivalry of the major powers, including Britain and Russia, focussing on the Khyber Pass and other strategic points of the region. Now, as the 20th century goes into its last two decades, the geography is the same. But many other factors have changed.

Including the speed and range of armies, planes and missiles. Above all, the global rivalries centred on the region cannot be regarded as a "game" played in distant capitals. The lives and livelihood of millions of people, in the region and outside, the independence and security of their nations are far too deeply involved. That is one reason the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan has called forth such a serious and measured response from the Carter administration. However, Moscow tries to describe the event, direct Soviet control of Kabul by force of arms changes an independent buffer state—a member of the Non-Aligned Movement that India, for one, helped found—into something quite different. And it is the positioning of Soviet military forces in Afghanistan so close to the Indian Ocean and the oil routes of the Straits of Hormuz, that evoked President Carter's gravest warning. Any attempt by an outside force—he said—to control the Persian Gulf will be regarded as an assault on the vital interests of the United States. And such an assault, he added, will be repelled by any means necessary, including military forces.

Since that warning, veteran Presidential adviser Clark Clifford has been to New Delhi to see Indian Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi. And National Security Adviser, Zbigniew Brzezinski and Deputy Secretary of State Warren Christopher have conferred with Pakistan's President Zia-ul-Haq. Their missions have been to enhance regional security in the face of differing views about how that can be done. President Zia wants US military aid and a strong commitment to Pakistan's defence. Mrs. Gandhi fears that Pakistan's weapons may be used against India. And she has criticized US policy, contending that it contributed to instability in the region, a view Washington contests. Mrs. Gandhi has long sought to keep the sub-continent as free as possible of super power rivalries—free, that is, of any 20th-century version of the great game. The problem, acute though it is, is obviously not of Washington's making. The crisis has been caused by the nearest superpower, the one with the largest army and the shortest lines of communication—and the ruthless willingness to gobble up a neighbouring nation.

—VOA Commentary

## SALT II

# And Afghanistan

by William Wade

Washington, Jan. 30,

The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan has effectively delayed US Senate consideration of last year's nuclear Arms Treaty with Moscow. But the treaty has not been abandoned in Washington. Soon after the massive Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, it became apparent that the US Senate would not take up the SALT II Treaty in January as planned. Leading Senators, aware of the strong criticism already levelled at the accord, indicated that the needed Senate approval was, in any case, extremely doubtful under the circumstances.

Even so, President Carter, in his State of the Union Message, said that he would continue to consult closely with Congress on the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty. And he pleaded that the effort to control nuclear arms not be abandoned. The Carter administration has argued, against opponents of the Treaty, that SALT is not a favour to the Soviet Union but a balanced bargain that helps the security of the United States and the security and peace of the entire world. Significantly, Carter told Congress that observing the terms of both nuclear arms Treaties—SALT I and II—will be in the best interest of both the Soviet Union and the United States, as he put it, "especially now in a time of great tension." *It is true that some Senators regard SALT II as a bad treaty and want to tear it up and start again. But there are few voices among the Treaty's opponents who are also against the SALT process—the need to negotiate some form of nuclear arms limits with the Soviet Union.*

More variations on that theme are bound to be heard during this year's Presidential campaign in which SALT and US-Soviet relations are already lively issues. Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, in a recent interview, presented an influential Republican view. He said he believes the Senate will not act on the Treaty this year. By 1981, he said parts of it will be effectively outdated. Therefore, he believes SALT II should be merged with SALT III: the planned discussion of addi-

tional limits on more kinds of weapons. Another suggestion, by one of SALT's supporters, is that the United States adhere to the provisions of the Treaty as long as Moscow does—this, even though the Pact cannot be ratified under the US Constitution without approval of two thirds of the Senate.

President Carter's emphasis on the need for mutual restraint in deploying nuclear arms at a time of tension is, of course, the governing factor for his administration. More recently, Marshall Shulman, State Department adviser on Soviet affairs, has commented that the SALT Treaty has not passed the point of no return for the Senate—that as a document, it can still be acted on when circumstances permit. And Shulman noted that an authoritative *Pravda* editorial has indicated Moscow's continued commitment to the SALT treaty. What is clearly needed is a better international atmosphere—some real evidence that Soviet leaders want to reduce the tensions they have created with their latest adventure—in short, a withdrawal from Afghanistan. USICA.

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FOR INDIA

## UK-US-China Trap

New Delhi Jan. 19,

Lord Carrington presumed that he would be received in Delhi as an honest broker, but he returned home a disappointed man. No one took his credentials seriously. His Lordship must have felt annoyed and looked foolish when External Affairs Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao used up part of his precious time on Zimbabwe-Rhodesia, the people of Indian origin in Britain and a review of bilateral relations. The best he could achieve was public propaganda at his press conference in favour of the US-China-Pak axis of which Britain is an advisory extension. Lord Carrington would have felt more at ease if he could roll back time and hold discussions with Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee and his senior colleagues who have joined the pro-West chorus on Afghanistan. The position India took at the United Nations remains unchanged, despite variations of emphasis in Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's speeches. Lord Carrington failed to allay Indian fears on the

emergence of US-China-Pak axis and resented his failure so much that he lost his aristocratic finesse and talked of the other side's fear of a "USSR-India axis". Sweet words gave way to a threatening posture.

Lord Carrington's visit has been negatively useful: It revealed the trap which the US and China have laid for India and the strategy they have worked out for the region. They want to frighten India with the Soviet bogey and at the same time create threats to India by massive arming of Pakistan—a black-mailing pincer movement to drive India into the imperialist-hegemonic camp. The wily Anglo-American leaders also coax and cajole—using the old carrot and stick technique—by extending assurances that India's security interests will be taken care of and that Pakistan will never be allowed to commit aggression. We are told that the Chinese support to Pakistan need not alarm us and that President Carter is working on a "framework of regional co-operation" and that the US may even offer military aid to India. The threats and assurances are intended to weaken and, if possible, break the ties of Indo-Soviet friendship and co-operation and disarm us politically, economically and militarily in order to reduce us to a dependent country like Pakistan and a big base for US-Chinese global strategy.

The net is being spread wide to catch the West Asian countries. The Islamic conference scheduled to be held in Pakistan is meant to perform this job. The PLO and some advanced countries in the region have seen through this plan and are resisting it. There is similar resistance in several ASEAN countries against US-Chinese machinations with the help of Thailand. Lord Carrington came here to dull our vigilance and divert our attention from the mischievous collaboration between Peking and Washington and belittle the threat to our security arising from the continuous flow of Chinese arms and military experts to Pakistan. The British Foreign Secretary did not even refrain from telling a lie about the quantum of US military aid: he reduced 400 million dollars plus 150 million, contracted some months ago, to only 200 million dollars. But lies and prevarications cannot cover up the diabolical plan in which London is playing the role of a crafty jackal.

—Editorial, *Patriot*



## PAKISTAN

### Islamic Conference

by William Leavitt,  
Washington, Jan. 30.

The strong condemnation of the Soviet invasion and takeover of Afghanistan issued by the Islamic-Nation Foreign Ministers, meeting in emergency session in Islamabad this week, underlines mounting Third World concern over Moscow's international behaviour. The Soviet Union may have thought the very boldness of its action in Afghanistan would frighten the rest of the world into acquiescence. But as the news from Islamabad shows, the very opposite has happened. While words alone cannot be expected to persuade Moscow to cut short its aggression, the anger so clearly expressed at the Islamic foreign ministers' meeting adds to the rising price the Soviet Union is paying in terms of a shattered image as self-styled friend and protector of developing countries. *Now that that image is cracked, and cracked badly, it is not likely it can be restored easily. Even if, as most people doubt, the Soviet Forces were to be withdrawn quickly from Afghanistan, what the Third World has seen by way of Moscow's open contempt of International opinion is not likely to be soon forgotten.*

What is so striking about the Islamabad Conference's denunciation of the Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan is the unanimity and strength of the negative response. Not only have the Ministers demanded Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, they have also suspended from membership the Soviet puppet Government in Kabul. That action makes quite clear the conference's rejection of Kabul and Moscow's trackspavago claim that the invasion amounts to nothing more than one friendly country helping another. Beyond that, the Islamic Foreign Ministers have also underscored their government's intentions to help in anyway they can the Afghan refugees who have been pouring into Pakistan. As well as to express support for those Afghans who continue to resist the Soviet move. The condemnation of Soviet behaviour is not confined to the invasion of Afghanistan. The Foreign Ministers have also spoken out against Soviet—and Soviet surrogate—involvements in the Horn

of Africa. This can be seen as an expression of serious concern by the Third World countries over Moscow's increasingly aggressive world stance.

If there is one tenet Non-aligned countries have already agreed on, it is their desire not to be pushed around by either super power. The declaration from Islamabad clearly spell out the message that it is the Soviet Union which is viewed as the super power doing the pushing around.

Other things happened in Islamabad too. There was apparently a good deal of pressure from Iran, which sent a representative to end the crisis brought about by the seizure and continued holding of American hostages. The conference turned back Iranian demands for condemnation of the United States and produced instead a mild resolution calling for a peaceful resolution of Iranian-American differences. In sum, the Islamabad conference cracked not only strong words but also what has to be seen as a new resolve by Islamic countries—a new resolve to manage and protect their own futures and ensure their independence. They can expect American and Western support in that resolve.

—USICA

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### POEM

#### To Professor Milroy Paul At 80.

At three score years and twanty young,  
You look so fit and well,  
The doyon of our doctors here  
You have so much to tell.

Your knowledge, vast experience  
Of medicine and men,  
The saga of a surgeon's skill  
You must set down—but when?

Mervyn Casie Chatty

# Confidentially

## Milk Board & Thondaman

IS IT NOT A FACT that *Tribune* had spotlighted the mess in the National Milk Board (NMB) for several weeks and months in the first 18 months of the life of this government? That all the exposures *Tribune* and other newspapers published had no effect on the Minister or the Government? That all that happened, coincidentally was that the majority of the qualified, trained and experienced staff had quit the NMB in disgust? That malpractices and corruption grew apace? That the import and distribution of milk powder was taken out of the NMB and handed over to the CWE but this did not help to improve matters in the NMB? That when Minister Thondaman was appointed to take charge of the NMB there were big expectations that things would be put right? That for almost a year *Tribune* had left the NMB alone? That some recent developments show that matters are now worse than before? That sixteen more trained personnel have recently quit the NMB but this has not deterred the big milk chief from starting out on February 27th on another long-distance world jaunt that will include any other countries New Zealand? That while all this gallivanting goes on corruption has increased? That in an upcountry area NMB operators were caught red-handed diluting milk with 50 to 100 percent water? That this fraud was detected in October 1979 and in November there was a sharp drop (to nearly half) in milk in-take in some areas? That no known action was taken against the culprits? That water seems to have come back into the milk in December? That if the November drop is any indication of the extent of adulteration certain NMB employees must have made millions of rupees every year adding water to milk? That it is surprising why the culprits were not sacked on the spot—in the way Minister Festus Perera has sacked employees of the Fisheries Corporation who were caught red-handed cheating the public and robbing the taxpayer? That it is said in government and other circles that if Minister Thondaman knew about this water-in-the-milk

fraud, he would have taken action? That it is said that the NMB employees have a way of keeping the Minister in the dark?

THAT MINISTER THONDAMAN should refuse to be insulated by the bureaucrats who surround him (and the number has evidently proliferated) and make some investigations himself? That to start with he should turn from the upcountry to the dry zone? That he will find that the total collected for the Dry Zone in October was 1,113,814 litres of milk? That for some strange reason this dropped to 720,838 litres in November and 441,393 litres in December? That insiders say that the story of the October detection in the upcountry had made the milk adulterations in the Dry Zone a little wary? That to help Minister Thondaman we will ask him to start with the collections in the town of Vavuniya? That here a MPCS Ltd., is the collector for the NMB? That in October this Vavuniya collector had supplied 77,531 litres of milk? That in November it had dropped to 29,247 litres and in December it was 9,574 litres? That Minister Thondaman should call for the list of farmers or dairies which had supplied the milk in October and earlier—to see how many were genuine and how many fictitious? That he must call for a list of registered dairies in the area and check with the NMB list with the list of the Veterinary Department, Agricultural Department etc? That the Minister must find out what price the NMB collector paid the producer and the fat content of each day's supply? That it will be worthwhile to find out from producers what payment they received? That he should also find out what percentage of the collection were from cows and what from buffaloes? That it may interest Minister Thondaman to know that the residents of Vavuniya were surprised when they learnt that the 77,531 litres were collected there? That Minister Thondaman is in for many surprises if he starts an investigation of this kind? That people expect him to sack corrupt miscreants if they are caught? That unless an example is made of those guilty of malpractices, the disease will spread? That something must be done to arrest the rot? That Minister Thondaman should find out first hand why so many have quit and keep quitting the NMB? That he should not be satisfied with the answers (and memorandum) provided by his bureaucrats?

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# A QUESTION OF INCENTIVES

".....Today unfortunately, we have been plunged into a sea of oil and consumer goods price rises. As a result of these factors the cost of living, building, and other requirements of civilized living have escalated every day at a speed never known before..... I feel in many aspects of our economic life we have to consider placing ourselves on a war footing..... "Let us ask ourselves can we keep on paying more and more for kerosene; can the State continue to subsidise kerosene at the expense of all other expenditure or can we do without kerosene. If so what alternative sources of energy can we find. Can we produce some other cereal than flour and bread. If so let us put the whole nation to work to achieve that object....."

*President J. R. JAYEWARDENE  
in Tangalle on February 2, 1980.*

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