

TRIBUNE



25TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION



RACE & CLASS

A JOURNAL
FOR BLACK AND
THIRD WORLD
LIBERATION

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

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

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

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

NAME

ADDRESS

..... Zip Code

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

Letter From The Editor

LAST WEEK we had pointed out that the ordinary people find it hard to swallow the explanations the government propaganda machine has been churning out to justify the total elimination of subsidies in food, travel and other basic essentials. Even people, who had earlier been willing to accept the government thesis that whatever ills that presently manifested themselves were due to (1) the misdeeds of the last government, (2) the OPEC oil price increases and (3) the global inflation and recession, have now begun to ask whether this Government has followed the best policies and programmes in the interest of the country. Everybody is now sick and tired of hearing about the horrors suffered under the SLFP. So are they of the unending talk about global inflation over which they have no control. What people want is what the government can do to improve matters. Moreover, with the current increase in the price of bread and flour (50%), rice (20%) and bus and train fares (50%) on top of all the price increases that followed on the 1977 devaluation, the "horrors" of the SLFP have tended to disappear into the distant horizon. Today hunger stalks the land, not metaphorically but literally. In an editorial on February 27, the *Sun* very correctly pointed out: "Right now, most Lankans live in an era in which they must pay for this week's groceries from next month's pay..... The money in their pockets today will not be enough to bring them to the workplace tomorrow and have a square meal." The *Sun* felt that it would be "futile to blame the government for this state of affairs, and no government could legislate to proscribe inflation.....". After discoursing on inflation throughout the ages (from the days of Plato and Aristotle), the editorial went on to say that if inflation grew unchecked, "..... the trust in the government too diminishes while basic social values will begin to deteriorate.....". The *Sun* seems to have faith in the "realistic strategy of monetarism" propounded by Milton Friedman, but we do not propose to enter into a discussion of the merits and demerits of the Friedman remedy. We, however, totally agree with the *Sun* that "inflation cannot be fought by increasing the supply of Treasury Bills or by raising salaries. Borrowing will also compound the crisis. Slashing subsidies alone will not be helpful in the long run. The reduction in the demand for goods and extending supply at the same time could be more helpful. An increase in domestic production has always helped hold prices down. A highly organized short-term food production drive with political patronage at the highest level could be a practical way out of the dilemma." Instead of this, the Government has decided to increase the limit on issues of Treasury Bills by another Rs. 1,000 million—this will give a further spurt to inflation. The Finance Minister has also left on a world jaunt with a begging bowl to borrow Rs. 400 million to pay for our imports. Unfortunately the food production drive, especially subsidiary foodstuffs, is on reverse gear. The time will soon come when the people will critically scrutinize the validity of the IMF package.

TRIBUNE

Ceylon News Review

Founded In 1954

A Journal of Ceylon and

World Affairs

Editor S. P. Amarasingam

Every Saturday

March 8, 1980

Vol. 24 No. 35

TRIBUNE

43, DAWSON STREET

COLOMBO — 2.

Tel: 33172.

CONTENTS

COVER	
—Television	p. 2
EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK	
—More Questions	p. 2
MARGINALIA	
—Birendra, Olympics	p. 4
SELF-RELIANCE	
—Within One's Means	p. 5
YUGOSLAV VIEW	
—Nonaligned In Action	p. 8
BOOK REVIEW	
—Tamil Pluralism	p. 9
FOR THE RECORD	
—CRM On New Law	p. 9
FILM FOCUS	
—Mixed Grill	p. 11
HAVANA DIARY—23	
—Closing Session	p. 12
CHRONICLE	
—Feb. 21—27	p. 16
QUALITY OF LIFE—1	
—Our Ethos?	p. 20
LETTERS	
NADSA, Voluntary Service	p. 23
INTERNATIONAL	
—Malaysia, Yugosl via, India, Afghanistan,	p. 25
CONFIDENTIALLY	
—Marketing Dept.	p. 32

TELEVISION

ON THE COVER we have one of the best dancers this country has known. This picture we felt, was appropriate to a comment on the very controversial issue of the current state of Television in this country. *Tribune* has so far not made any survey or analysis of Television in Sri Lanka because it was premature to do so. Television was due to start only in 1981 or 1982 when the Japanese (gift) sponsored system would have come into operation. But in the euphoria of free enterprise, the private Independent Television Networks jumped the gun and started televising videotape canned programmes last year from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. The ITVN programmes were uneven and generally poor. The Company started operations even before arrangements were made to collect any revenue in the form of licence fees or other levies. For some months, those who had TV sets had the benefit of free shows. At the start, the ITVN programmes had an overdose of blood and thunder and crime films with violence. But fortunately, long before this local TV viewing public became accustomed to such films, the company developed inner-partner troubles and the Government stepped in to take over the Company and continue the shows. The Government thus entered the TV business through the backdoor by having to hold the ITVN baby.

But to the Credit of the Ministry of State which is in charge of TV, as it is of Information and Broadcasting, it has done better than many had expected it to do. The quality of ITVN programmes, under government management, has improved considerably in the last six months although there is still much room for improvement. *Sesame Street* for children appeals even to adults—at least to children. Children should be taught everything from the alphabet and numbers to good behaviour. Arrangements should be made to avoid repetition of scenes and episodes. *Sesame Street* is one of the best items on the TV today. Unfortunately, the UNICEF documentaries are far too many and far too boring. UNICEF film producers do not seem to know the value

of editing or brevity. Didactic, tedious and tiresome, UNICEF documentaries (even in Sinhala or Tamil) will not interest even rustic villagers at whom they are obviously directed. Why the UNICEF should waste time and money on such films is difficult to understand. Documentaries from different countries are certainly more interesting but most of them are dated.

But the Ministry of State must be congratulated for bringing in such excellent series as *The Explorers*, *Madame Curie*, and *David Copperfield*. More recently we have had some first rate shows like *Tamika of Tokyo*, *A Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* and the *Nutcracker Ballet*. And even in regard to crime and action film, there is a welcome trend towards *Crime-Does-Not-Pay* themes. Our Govt. Film Unit, it must be said, has done some good work on local documentaries mainly about events e.g., the Jetavanarama restoration work, the National Day celebrations at Matara, King Birendra's visit, and the like. With all limitations the Film Unit suffers from in the way of equipment and personnel, the productions so far must be rated high. And when the State TV really gets going, with full studio facilities, we can expect some excellent shows.

To those who deride and ridicule our canned TV programmes, a visitor from a neighbouring Asian country (not India) which has had TV for many many years told *Tribune* that our programmes are far superior in quality content, and selection to what they have in that country.

X X X

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

More Questions

IS IT NOT TRUE that there is today a total shortage of broiler chicken meat? That the price of such meat, whenever available, varies between Rs. 12/50 and Rs. 15/- a pound? That knowledgeable circles say that this shortage and price hike are because many producers went out of production when the government imported broilers in order to force the price down? That the import of Chinese broilers has now either been reduced or abandoned?

That this policy of blackmilling local producers to compel them to reduce prices has boomeranged? That it is the consumers who now suffer? That the bureaucrats who were asked to work out the local costs of production didn't know their job and worked out figures far less than the actual costs? That this dishonest method of econometrics and an unrealistic policy of imports has ruined the island's once flourishing broiler industry? That if the government has any other explanation for the current shortage of broiler meat and the present high prices it would be good to know what it is? That instead of wasting time on post-mortems, it is now necessary to take steps to revive the broiler industry? That the producers of broiler chicken who were rich enough to withstand the holocaust of the imports of Chinese chicken are now making windfall profits with the Government helplessly looking on? That there should be balance between the interests of producers and consumers? That whilst producers are assured of a reasonable margin of profit, consumers should be able to buy at fair prices? That the tilt to give consumers short-term benefits through imports has led to long-term hardships?

2. IS IT NOT AMUSING TO FIND the Government bemoaning the fact that vegetable production has not kept up with the demand? That the agricultural sector has fared badly in 1979? That *Tribune* has emphasised over and over again that the agricultural sector was in shambles? That producers of vegetables and subsidiary food crops had stopped production not merely because of the unimaginative import policies but also because of the havoc that Ministers, MPs and bureaucrats have wrought in the countryside? That no attention has been paid to the real needs of the farming community? That rural credit was a mirage? That credit went on MPs' chits to the wrong persons? That even when they went to the right persons the credit was either late or inadequate—and was therefore not utilised for agriculture? That there was no system of supervision to ensure recovery of loans? That government officials do not seem to have realised that money credit and fertilisers are useless without seed? That in spite of the millions spent on importing seed, there is hardly any of the

seed farmers want? That a sizeable fraction of the seed paddy issued for last Maha did not germinate? That those who do not have MPs' chits find it so hard to obtain agricultural credit that they have stopped their efforts to get credit? That our State Banks, which were entrusted with the job of extending agricultural credit, have no concept of what it means? That they are so hamstrung by obsolete banking rules that it takes months for them to make decisions? That farmers cannot market their produce except by submitting to the exploitative skulduggery of private traders and for Marketing Department officials? That the silver linings in the agricultural firmament are few and far between?

3. IS IT NOT A MATTER FOR CONGRATULATION that the Ministry of Trade has at last woken up to the fact that many of the officials of the Marketing Department (MD) are dishonest? That so far action has been taken only on those on the sales side? That if the production of vegetables and subsidiary foodcrops is to be improved the Purchasing offices of the MD and PMB have to be made to do their work properly and honestly? That many, if not most, of them are only adjuncts of the private traders? That the bulk of farm produce, therefore, reaches the MD or PMB through traders (some of whom operate under cover of being producers) and not direct from the producers?

4. IS IT NOT TRUE that after the query was raised in the *Tribune* of Feb. 23, about the milk purchase by the National Milk Board (NMB) from its Vavuniya agents, there was frantic activity in the area? That the agents and sub-agents who supplied milk to the authorised NMB collector in Vavuniya went round the district making a list of farmers who had cattle asking them whether they would be willing to supply milk? That most of the farmers declined to have anything to do with these operators who had ignored their existence all these years (because water was available in Vavuniya even in the worst drought to make one litre of milk into ten)? That the list of these farmers with cattle will probably now be furnished to the Ministry which has called for a report on the *Tribune* expose as suppliers? That the Ministry should not be satisfied with such reports? That if an independent investigation is conducted by

a person with no vested interests in the matter, it would be possible to discover the truth? That the present attempt to make the fictitious list on which operations were carried out a little more real should not mislead the Minister Thondaman more than he has so far been in all matters connected with the NMB?

x x x

MARGINALIA

:: King Birendra : Moscow Olympics

by Serendib

AT A TIME WHEN this country is in the throes of major economic difficulties, when the Government has sought parliamentary sanction to print an additional Rs. 1000 million of paper money, when the cost of essential items has soared to heights never before known—not merely because of global inflation but also because of the 1977 devaluation of the Sri Lanka rupee, the removal of subsidies, the fall off in the local production of food items and the wanton waste in the government sector—the Government spent many millions to make the visit of the King and Queen of Nepal more “royal” than what the common people of his own country would have accorded him. King Birendra is one of the last remaining ruling monarchs in the world and is very precariously perched on the seat of power. Last year student agitation and popular unrest had very nearly toppled him from his throne, but Morarji Desai and the pro-West Rightwing elements in India had saved him from suffering a fate similar to the Shah’s by persuading him to proclaim that he would democratise the regime by introducing a new Constitution. This promise has so far only been observed by him in the breach through devious devices and dilatory tactics. A new Constitution acceptable to the major political parties—which enjoy only a semi-legal status hemmed in by restraints—is still only a carrot dangled before the people.

How long Birendra can fool and cheat his people is yet to be seen, but with typical

Rana cunning he is endeavouring to strengthen and stabilise his monarchical regime by pursuing pro-West, pro-China and anti-India policies under cover of non-alignment. The ruling clique in Nepal, consisting of feudal and obscurantist groups of landowners, make it out that the democratic forces in that country are only subversive agents of foreign political elements (in India and elsewhere). Birendra’s attempt to use the Non-aligned Movement to declare Nepal a zone of peace is only a device to seek international guarantees to perpetuate his outdated and outmoded regime. He wants the Rana anachronism accepted by the Non-aligned Movement and through it the rest of the world in a way so as to ensure that any attempt by the Nepalese people to emancipate themselves from Rana tyranny could be branded as subversion of the Nepal peace zone.

Though President Jayewardene was careful enough to say that Peace and Peace Zones should not be confined to Nepal alone, the Sri Lanka government fell into the Birendra booby trap of extending indirect support to the concept of the Nepali-Peace Zone. And by tying up Kampuchea and Afghanistan in the communique, Sri Lanka has moved closer to the ASEAN foreign stance, and the Brzezinski U.S.-China plan of a *cordon sanitaire* around India as yet another protective arc to encircle the Soviet Union—to contain communism and keep the world safe for free enterprise.

The intricacies and nuances of foreign policy manoeuvres do not and will not generally interest the mass of the common people—except, of course, when such geo-strategical tactics impinge on welfare and prosperity—but at a time when kings and queens have become jokes for our government to spend millions to make a fetish of their visit is only to add to the list of governmental acts of wanton waste. Our government seems to believe that the current tilt in Sri Lanka’s foreign policy under cover of non-alignment (with an overdose of protesting one’s attachment to non-alignment overmuch) will attract foreign capital, credits and assistance from the West and enable this island to overcome its economic problems. Whether this gamble will work is yet to be seen. Or will this suffer country the same fate as countries like

Jamaica, Zaire, Bangladesh, Pakistan and other which adopted the IMF package with its dubious varieties of semi-regulated free enterprise?

LIVING WITHIN ONE'S MEANS—2

Status Symbols

by K. Kanapathipillai

AGAIN, AFTER THE MANNER of Aunt Betsy Trotwood, let us attend to doing one thing at a time; and that thing we shall resolve to do devotedly and efficiently. First and foremost let us give ourselves a good wash, and rid ourselves of all our accumulated dirt of generations. It shall be our 'thirtham'—the sacred bath, that washes away all our sins of omission and all our sins of commission.

*THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPICS COMMITTEE (IOC) has decided that Olympic XII will be held as scheduled at Moscow at its meeting at Lake Placid where the USA hosted the 13th Winter Games. In an unusual departure from normal procedure it was addressed by US Secretary of State, Cyrus Vance, who urged the Committee to transfer, postpone or cancel the Moscow games in view of the presence of Soviet Troops in Afghanistan. After two days of discussions, the 73 members (including the US delegates) present decided unanimously that it was neither desirable nor possible to change the venue for the Summer Games as agreed upon six years ago and finally confirmed at Montreal in 1976.

The U.S.A. will do well, therefore, to accept the IOC decision and abandon its current stand on the Moscow Olympics. To persist in the present policy would be foolish. The Afghan issue cannot be decided by the fate of the Olympics. It is difficult to agree with the Carter stand, that the Soviets must somehow be punished and that the boycott of the Olympics would be an effective penal measure—for the simple reason that the proposed punishment will be inflicted on sportsmen and athletes and not on the government of the host country. Continued efforts to subvert the Moscow Olympics will lead to further rebuffs for the Carter administration or it will split the Olympics Movement. It is doubtful if the majority of the world's nations will join the US-sponsored boycott. If they do it will mean the doom and extinction of the Olympics Movement. Olympics XII should, therefore, be allowed to take place with partial or near complete boycott so that the youth of the world could meet in these quadrennial games for friendly competition and greater glory of sports.

We have resolved to be self-sufficient in a few more years. This was the resolve of almost all our past Governments; and this is the unshakeable resolve of our present government. Since the much-flaunted and much-discussed Mahaveli project is in the offing let us hope for the best; and let all of us, irrespective of party leanings, make an all out attempt to have a finger in the pie. Disruptive criticism apart, let us be true and genuine participants in this great undertaking of raising a full-blown ear of fully-swelled corn in place of a single grain. Then shall we live.

And then comes the second question: What shall we do with him next? "When I had bathed, they (I mean my aunt and Janet) enrobed me in a shirt and a pair of trousers belonging to Mr. Dick, and tied me up in two or three great shawls." Yes, we have to be clothed, and to begin with, tied in swaddling—bands of our own make. For this purpose at the present, every square inch of cloth, directly or indirectly comes from abroad. Another shameful thing!

There was a time—taking a known instance—when Batticaloa was noted for its 'thuppaddi'—long cloth—'Chandra padi' sarees and 'soman-soduv' which the weavers in these parts wove in their handlooms and dyed, patterned, designed, and sent on pack animals, via Badulla and Kandy to the rest of the Island; and when Jaffna's dyers were able to supply the entire estate population with dyed 'yalikodi' sarees and 'Mallikaipoo verties' and loin cloth. The wide and straight lanes that are still to be seen in the Pioneer street and in Thamaraikerni' in Batticaloa, and in



the villages of Araipattai and Maruthamunai, have a story to tell of how they were used as lanes for stretching out yarns and starching and dyeing them. Several handlooms and calico printing equipments may still be seen lying idle in New Kattankudy and Palaimunai, Araipattai, Pankadu and Miruthamunai. In the densely populated villages such as Kattankudy, Maruthamunai and Araipattai there are lamentable signs of the fast dwindling weaving industry: shattered factory sheds, rickety, creaking and rattling looms and neglected heaps of calico-printing gadgets and heaps of unsold handwoven fabrics, benighted and caught in the stranglehold of a crippling competition that has invaded the trade from abroad. *The outcome, is that unsold sarongs, "thuppadis", and other hand-loom woven materials and handprinted fabrics go a begging in our streets for want of buyers.*

WHAT DR. ALBERT SCHWEITZER had prophetically said of the dwindling of native industries and of the disappearance of a 'solid industrial class' in the Belgian Congo, has come true and has been reflected in our rural economy. The many manufactured fancy goods; fancy textiles, fancy toys, expensive motor vehicles, fancy gadgets that have, of recent years, poured into this country, have flooded our markets and laid siege to the fanciful unsound notions of our people and have proliferated rapidly and surfaced immensely and set into motion the people's slavish native trends to hug to imported, new-fangled notions and beliefs and fashions, to beget a false sense of progress due to an utter paucity in a sound philosophy of life and of existence. Governed by an inferiority sense of progress, our ship of progress has gone off its moorings and drifted far too long in a stormy sea of messy and muddled economics. Surely it has to be realized, that the time has come for us all, to re-think our issues: social, economic and political; to re-plan our life-pattern basing it on a sound philosophy of human existence and morality. *It is opportune that we, in all true earnest, gave serious thought to the Gandhian pattern of rural economy, and the Wardha system of craft-centred education.*

Why have all our useful and productive disciplines, our small industries, disappeared? This is a matter to be pondered over by all,

in all seriousness: The citizen must examine his own conscience, and the State must take steps to refabricate the several rural crafts and put them on a sound footing, and open up new avenues of productive employment. Then the citizen shall not idle and become a rogue and a knave; and then the state machinery shall be free of all sorts of underhand dealings and machinations; then shall our green Isle be free of environmental pollutions that have been dumped on our shores under the guise of fertilizers and pesticides; and then shall our vegetables, fruits and yams, fish, cattle and poultry be free of cancer cell proliferating chemical toxins.

The answer to all the queries so far posed may be summed up under the following heads: (1) The State must cry halt to all imports, especially those that have turned out to be stumbling blocks to the progress of our native industries; (2) The State shall provide the necessary incentives to revive the native industries that were once prospering in this country; (3) The State and the various social service organisations shall sponsor a 'Swadesi Movement' on Gandhian lines; and the nucleus for such a useful and benign venture may be found in the 'Sarvodaya Movement' that has fortunately taken root in several villages in our country.

This movement will help to provide the necessary anchorage for a stabilized way of life and a meaningful existence, backed by a sound philosophy of life, based on moral principles.

BY WAY OF CONCLUDING REMARKS it may be said that the import trade in a developing country touches its interests at one point or other. Hence, it is incumbent on the part of our Government to maintain a watching brief and keep an eye on the nature of our imports, their relevance to our economy and our culture, to find out how it affects our local national industries, and act in their best interests and in the larger interests of the world trade without coming into conflict with the interests of the other nations of the world. In this direction, it is always best, to see to it, that right understanding prevails among those who have trade links and commercial ties with us.

And in this connection, it may not be irrelevant to state that the world trade of the day is so brimful of intrigue and subterfuge with an enticing patina of evasive diplomacy, that we, infant nations that we are, still in our swaddling clothes, can hardly imagine the most intricate ways, the tantalizing frame of mind, of the great entrepreneurs of the great manufacturing complexes in the industrially advanced countries of the world. Why should we earthen pots go to rub shoulders and befriend golden pots?

All of us here, whether we will or no, irrespective of our party bias, have, therefore, to take a very serious, unbiased and essentially national interest in the progress of our native industries, and see to it, that our people take to them in all seriousness and deep concern; for, their survival and their progress are tied down to our survival as a nation. Isn't it true philosophy to think, that so long as one of us is naked, is hungry and starving and is in the midst of squalor and dirt, all of us, despite the expensive garments that clothe us, the rich imported food that nourishes us, the posh surroundings in the midst of which we live, are placed in the most sordid and abject of circumstances?

It was not a foolish and imprudent and crazy idea or a mere idle aberration of the brain that fermented and proliferated in the mind of such a genuine patriot and lover of mankind as Mahatma Gandhi who was obstinately and consistently, as also justly, confirmed in the living faith, that the Indian nation can be built and fabricated on the hand-loom industry. Wasn't the 'takli'—the spinning wheel his national emblem justly and emotively significant of the ancient 'dharma', duty of man, a creative artifact that appeared to emanate from the ten tender fingers of the Indian cottage artisan? Wasn't he insistently and irresistibly persisting in the notion: *Man has to live through the skill that flowed through his fingers?*

This cardinal notion, this supreme 'dharma' sublime in its effects, and pragmatic in its universal appeal; that is now dormant, will have to be stirred and awakened in the inner depths of the 'being process' that resides in everyone of us, humans. Let us not, as Mahatma Gandhi said, be swept off our feet by what appear to be winds of progress that blow on

to our shores from the four quarters. Let us be firmly grounded in our pristine skills till they have evolved into better ones, and provided us with the confidence required to face the hazards of life and the dangers that have invaded our shores and that beset us, having instilled into us an inferiority feeling which is dangerously disastrous to our progress: both material and spiritual.

The economy of a country, however rosy its prospects might appear to be, when not grounded in the native skills of the people, presents a false show, and is bound to crash sooner than later. Our pristine skills and 'primitive' industries preach to us without words; hence the necessity to adhere to them and to grow with them and evolve into true nationhood.

52, Angle Road,
Batticaloa.

OO OO OO

Notice under Section 7 of the Land Acquisition Act. (Chp. 460) as amended by the Land Acquisition (amendment) Act. No. 28 of 1964.

Reference No. ATH 17/364

It is intended to acquire the land described in the schedule below. For further particulars please see the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka No. 79 (Part III) of 07.03.1980.

Schedule

D.R.O.'s Division : Kaduwela & Nugegoda
 Situation : Ward 8, Talangama
 South within the T.C. limits of Battaramulla, Talangama Town Council and Ward 6, Pita Kotte within the U.C. limits of Kotte.
 Village : Talangama South and Pitakotte
 Lot No. : 01 - 04
 Plan No. P.P. Co. : 5218

H. C. Gunawardena
 District Land Officer,
 Colombo District.

The Kachcheri,
 Colombo.

Date: — 18th February, 1980.

The Nonaligned In Action

by Branko Savic

Belgrade,

In the atmosphere of concern in the world on account of the increased rivalry of the big powers, which has jeopardized the most important trends of the past favourable development in international relations, the non-aligned countries have increased their activity. They initiated the UN General Assembly resolution condemning foreign military interference in Afghanistan, it was they who launched the initiative for the holding of the international conference on turning the Indian Ocean into a "Zone of peace and co-operation": it was they who proposed fresh negotiations on the peaceful use of nuclear power etc. The movement as a whole or individual groups of non-aligned countries are participating in the settlement of all major international problems, insisting on more stable international development.

This role shows the absurdity of those theses which are always launched from bloc circles when crisis situations erupt in the world—that the policy of non-alignment has "suffered defeat" and that—on account of contradictions within the movement—it no longer plays an important role in international relations. Developments show the very opposite: the policy of force, on which the military-political blocs mainly rely, constantly deepens antagonism and multiply the focuses of crisis in the world. The only alternative to mankind—if he wishes to assure his very existence—is the policy of non-alignment.

The accuracy of this is demonstrated by the latest developments. The NATO decision to deploy the nuclear "Pershing 2" missiles in Europe has jeopardized the results of the "Salt 2" treaty, while events in Afghanistan have not only caused an acceleration of the arms race but have also hindered the stabilisation process over the whole of the region. The eruption of new focuses of crisis in Central Asia has also obstructed the settlement of crises in South East Asia.

It has been proved that the super powers, refraining from direct conflict which would

surely be catastrophic, are endeavouring to assure their own "zones of influence" by means of the destabilisation of certain countries and the causing of "local wars". This kind of policy is not only aimed against the non-bloc countries and people but also contains the constant danger that the wars will extend and even escalate into a global war.

It is for this reason that the non-aligned countries have once again, as always in similar situations, launched a number of initiatives and actions in order to halt the negative processes and open up the prospects for peaceful development. In addition to their efforts to "put out" the flames of crisis, they are also exerting efforts to solve those problems which jeopardise the peaceful development of international relations. Involved here is, first and foremost, the halting of the arms race, the closing of foreign military bases, the establishment of the largest possible number of "zones of peace and co-operation", but also the adoption of the new international economic order and the narrowing of the huge gap between the developed and the under developed.

Their activity does not remain without result. Despite the fact that the big powers subjugate in the main everything to mutual rivalry, they do—under the pressure of international opinion and on account of public opinion at home—accept some of these initiatives which create better prospects for the achievement of the goals of the non-aligned.

All this demonstrates that in the conditions of the deterioration of international relations, the policy of non-alignment is in no way losing in value but is, in fact, becoming more necessary than ever before. This is the conviction which moves the majority of non-aligned countries to be more active in present conditions than in situations when international processes are going smoothly.

—Tanjug



Tamil Pluralism

TAMILS AND CULTURAL PLURALISM IN ANCIENT SRI LANKA is a little book of 54-pages in English by the Rev. D. J. Kanagaratnam, Ph.D. of the Theological College of Lanka, Pilimalalawa. The thesis of his essay: The Brahmi inscriptions reveal Tamil presence and multi-cultural interaction in earliest Sri Lankan social stata. He says that "the Brahmi inscriptions of Sri Lanka and South India contain a number of references to the Nagas, the Yakshas and their cultures. There are a number of personal names bearing the pre-fix NAGA, and the Tamil form NAKA shows Tamil presence and links." The Sinhala word LINDA is a borrowing from the Nagas and has fertility connotations connected with the word LINGAM, is the contention of the author. The writer, while not emphasising the written works, desires that the new interest in epigraphical, archaeological, linguistic and mythological resources for historical study is bound to throw much new light on our ancient history.

According to Dr. Kanagaratnam, "the earliest strata of Sri Lanka society consisted of various tribes, ethnic groups such as Damedas, Kabojhiyas, Pulayas, Munidis, Velir, Brahmanas and traders.....Sri Lanka is still called by the Sinhala people as Ela rata while the Tamil people call it by a very odd name Eelam. The word Eelam has been used by the Tamils from the time of the Brahmi inscriptions up to now. Many of the plants, fruits and animals which are indigenous are referred to in Sinhala as ela dhena, ela-batu, ela-valu."

Writing on the scriptal and phonological evidence, the author concludes that it is remarkable that the Tamil script upto now has managed to survive as an alphabet without the aspirates, conjunct consonants and multiplication of letters for each sound difference, which are characteristics of the North Indian languages. "The phonetic structure of Tamil developed from liturgical and cultic source. The few words and connotations as a result of their use in mystic incantations and invocations to the great goddess Kottavai and

her son Murugan." Although Rev. Kanagaratnam, is trying to explain his thesis lucidly, his attempt is a little disorganised in that a logical continuity is lacking in the essay. "Human culture is a unitary whole and its separate cultures are the dialects of one and the same languages of the spirit"—this quote from Ananda Coomaraswamy is indeed an apt conclusion of the book.

K. Sivakumaran

FOR THE RECORD

CRM On New Law

A gross and unprecedented violation of freedom of association will result if the proposed new law to control voluntary social service organisations is passed. The law will bring all voluntary social service organisations under direct government control. Such bodies are widely defined to include all whose object is to help the infirm, to provide relief in cases of sudden and urgent necessity and to relieve poverty, and it includes a "community hostel". These organisations will have to be registered, but that is not all. A government official may *enter and inspect* the premises of the organisation, may *convene an executive committee or general meeting* to take place *at such place and time* as he directs, may *attend any meetings* himself, and may *give direction* to the executive committee! No self-respecting voluntary organisation can be expected to operate under such conditions.

The new law also provides that after an inquiry by a Tribunal appointed by the Minister, the Executive Committee of the voluntary organisation may be dissolved and a Board of Management appointed to function in its place until a "new" (and presumably more acceptable) Executive Committee "is appointed. Or, the registration of the organisation may be cancelled, and its assets distributed as the Minister deems "just and equitable". The collection of any public charity for any social service activity without the prior written authorisation of the Registrar will be illegal.

CRM does not accept that such a law is necessary to prevent fraud. The law is discriminatory against one type of voluntary organisation and one type of activity. For instance the collection of public charity for other purposes (e.g. religious) which could equally turn out to fraudulent remains unimpeded. If there is sudden flood disaster in a remote area written authority from the Registrar will be required before one can start a public collection, whether locally or nationally, of essential food and clothing for the victims, or for coffins to bury the dead. Contravention of this law will make one liable to a fine and/or to not less than (sic) six months jail. But public collections for religious ceremonies or for decorating the roads for a festive occasion may be made at any time without formality.

In Sri Lanka well known social service organisations have functioned over the years with a record of integrity, selfless service and achievement which many government institutions and corporations could envy. To bring such organisations under government control and make all social service organisations subservient to the government of the day to prevent some possible instances of mismanagement is, to say the least, ludicrous.

Freedom of association connotes the freedom of like-minded persons to group themselves together for any lawful purpose and to govern their own affairs in the pursuit of their common interests free of governmental presence at their meetings and governmental directives in their policies. In Sri Lanka, as elsewhere, many people choose to fulfil a desire to be of service to the community by participating in the humanitarian organisation of their choice. To do this is the individual's right, it is one of the ways in which he or she finds self expression. In this instance it also happens to benefit society, which may not be so in the case of the other associations and clubs that persons are equally free to form and join to pursue their inclinations. Yet humanitarian bodies are now singled out to be denied the right to exist as the free and independent associations that we know today. One foreign humanitarian organisation of repute, which gave Rs. 50 million last year alone to Sri Lankan projects, has already announced

that it will stop future grants if the law is passed, as its function is only to assist independent voluntary organisations. Other such aid agencies are likely to follow suit.

It is not easy to comprehend how such legislation emanates from a government which frequently asserts its commitment to human rights, which repeatedly also stresses the duty of citizens to society (and which should therefore be expected to encourage not discourage voluntary social service), and which in the commercial sphere favours greater freedom and power for the private sector.

It must also be remembered that a ruling party may well have prejudices against certain organisations; individual politicians too may for their own reasons be tempted to interfere. CRM is particularly qualified to point to this danger. In 1972, when thousands were in custody without trial, CRM started a Distress Relief Fund to aid destitute families where the breadwinner was detained. In one such case CRM helped seven children aged from four to eighteen years whose father and mother were both detained (and were never subsequently charged) leaving them with no means of support. A Minister of Government attacked CRM in Parliament for its distress relief work calling it "supporting terrorism", "treason" and tantamount to giving aid to the families of enemy soldiers when one's country is at war.

CRM continued to do what it thought was right despite such unpleasant attacks and, to its credit, the government then in power in no way interfered with this work. Had there existed a law of the sort now contem-

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. 1585.50	Rs. 1588.50
Sterling Pound	Rs. 3545.50	Rs. 3551.50
Deutsche Mark	Rs. 888.95	Rs. 890.55
French Franc	Rs. 379.15	Rs. 379.85
Japanese Yen	Rs. 6.3916	Rs. 6.4065
Indian Rupees	Rs. 194.70	Rs. 195.10

plated, however, we may well have found that CRM meetings were suddenly being convened by a government official to take place in his office during working hours (when most of our members are not free to attend), and that this official was present at every meeting and was giving CRM directions as to how to conduct its work. We might even have found our organisation dissolved, and our Distress Relief Fund distributed by a Minister "as he deemed just and equitable."

CRM urges the government not to proceed with this Bill.

Desmond Fernando
Secretary,

Civil Rights Movement of Sri Lanka.

16/1, Don Carolis Road,
Colombo 5.
1/2/80

x x x x

FILM FOCUS

MIXED GRILL

by James N. Benedict

"One man's meat is another man's poison" has to be accepted as a truism in dissecting films qualitatively in the celluloid world. As I ramble along on my frequent visits to the cinema in and around the city, I would be casting pen reviews of the films I have seen (English, Sinhalese and Tamil) in this weekly column with a sincere request that I should not be taken as the last word on the subject.

* **THE STING**—This Universal Production boasts of seven academy awards, including that of the best picture in the year of its release, in its easy going run which spirals, upwards in the six following stages—The Set Up, The Hook, The Tale, The Wire, The Shut Out and the Sting—to uncoil a colossal hoax that was perpetrated around the gambling empires, strung out between Illinois and Chicago, way back in 1936... As the film captures, the times to the last detail it also projects the super ingenuity of two spivs—roled by Paul Newman and Robert Redford who teamed up successfully earlier in the

film "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid"—who used their wits to turn tables, hook line and sinker on a powerful adversary (Robert Shaw) to calculatedly checkmate him out of his last penny. Watch this film from the first reel to last, so as not to miss the cup of enjoyment that gradually fills up and spills over with revenge that was never sweeter.

* **THE DON IS DEAD**—This is yet another Universal release, but bearing the stamp of Hal Wallis, a big name in the business. The story strictly toes the line taken by the Academy Award winner "The Godfather" but is packed with quicker mafia styled killings that churn one's stomach. The story gets off with a get-together by 3 underworld chiefs to knot up a non intrusion 'deal' into each others' empires, to have it violated almost overnight by a fly in the shape and form of an attractive blonde, who shatters the loosely bound "detente" by slipping into the bloody ointment. Veteran actor Anthony Quinn gives a convincing portrayal as one of the leaders and his fans in Sri Lanka would relish the role that he has taken upon himself. There are a number of budding actors—Fredric Forest and Robert Foster to name just two gun-toting through this film, and more would be heard of them. This film is certainly not for the squeamish as it equates human lives cheaply and to what a refuse bin would normally hold. There you are adults, and the choice is yours.

* **MAL KEKULU**—This Sinhalese entertainer has the 'Uthumaneni' cast and is directed by Sena Samarasinghe. From an excellent musical fiesta in the first half, the film descends smoothly to the serious business of disturbing a marital nest in the second, but even so moves on well, with Ganini Fonseka and Farina Lye giving more relaxed performances than in 'Uthumaneni'. Watch the contrasts in acting and remember to take the family along.

* **ARABIAN ADVENTURE**—With Gentle popping out of bottles and magic carpets sweeping the air, this film is a must for children. It is done in fine colour too.

o o o

CLOSING SESSION

by S. P. Amarasingam

THE CLOSING SESSION began at 7.10 a.m. on the morning of Sunday, September 9. Fidel Castro first gave the floor to President Sekou Toure of Guinea to read a Conference resolution paying a glorious tribute to President Tito of Yugoslavia. Before reading the resolution, President Toure praised the work and contribution of President Tito for the non-aligned movement and world peace. This evoked a Standing applause that went on for several minutes. Immediately after that, Fidel gave the floor to President Tito who in an emotion-charged speech expressed his gratitude and declared that the praise showered on him should go to all founding members of the Movement both dead and alive. Tito stressed that the Movement had achieved a lot and grown in number since the first Summit. And he was of the opinion that it was imperative that the resolutions of the 6th Summit be applied in practice, for words had to be made deeds. The 6th Summit, in Havana, had been an important one, he said, and would eliminate many past weaknesses. Likewise, he pledged to work for the good of the Non-Aligned Movement and expressed his great pleasure over unity having been maintained.

DIDIER RATSIRAKA, PRESIDENT OF MADAGASCAR read a resolution expressing the thanks of the heads of state or government for the great effort that had been put in by Fidel Castro, the Government and the people of Cuba to ensure the holding of the 6th Summit and for the friendly welcome they had been given, all of which contributed enormously to the success of the Conference. Great satisfaction was expressed in the document for the militant fraternity that had prevailed throughout and the democratic frankness and openmindedness with which President Fidel Castro had chaired the Conference. The organisational efficiency and quality of services offered by the Secretariat was also accorded special mention. The optimism and trust of the heads of state or government in the Movement's prospects as a result of this Conference was reaffirmed, in terms of

the strengthening of the Movement's unity, the active solidarity of the non-aligned countries and the growing role the Movement is being called on to play in finding solutions to the main problems facing the world today. The Resolution was accepted with a round of applause.

AS RAPPOREUR OF THE CONFERENCE, HENCK HEIDWEILLER, SURINAM'S REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN then proceeded to read the Conference report on proceedings, the number who attended, the agreements reached and so forth.

ON BEHALF OF THE ASIAN COUNTRIES, ABDUL FATAH ISMAIL, PRESIDENT OF THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN declared that the countries attending had been pleased to see how successful the Conference had been which was due, he said, to President Fidel Castro's chairmanship. Abdul Fatah Ismail declared that, at this moment of struggle, the people of the non-aligned countries were for peace, independence and independent social progress; and he described the Conference as a new victory for the forces of peace.

THE REPRESENTATIVE OF MALTA spoke for Europe. His short speech was initially to thank Cuba for the hospitality and the success of the Conference. After this Summit, he said, the Movement embarked on a new stage in its history, under Fidel, whose chairmanship augurs the Movement successes. The Maltese representative praised President Fidel Castro's opening speech which, he said, took in the main concerns of the peoples. He hoped that the same themes would be taken up in the UN. On behalf of the European countries he again saluted Cuba's hospitality and specially mentioned the presence of President Tito, one of the founding members of the Movement. Further on he said that the struggle would continue; that the Movement has to progress and adjust to its new duties. It was cause for rejoicing, he said, to see how the non-aligned had reached agreement and that it was important that other countries understand the objectives behind non-alignment. Although they were on the verge of taking leave of each other, this gathering was one that would remain imprinted on their minds, he said.

SEKOU TOURE, PRESIDENT OF GUINEA, spoke on behalf of the African delegations and began by saying that they did not agree with what the Senegalese delegation had had to say about President Fidel Castro. In the part of the session that had taken place behind closed doors, the Senegalese representative had not been respectful in his language regarding President Fidel Castro and the rest of the delegates to the 6th Summit. And he was refuted by several countries, including Benin, Zambia, Mozambique and Cuba. The President of Guinea went on to say that the head of the Senegalese delegation had asked him to put it to the Conference and the chairman of the Conference that he withdraw what he said. The major part of Sekou Toure's speech was on economic issues. He referred to the transnationals and the right of the underdeveloped peoples to set the price of their raw materials—prices which at present were unfair and by no means on a par with those of the more up-to-date technology. If the non-aligned countries were to progress, he said, they must defeat their enemies, which he identified as imperialism, colonialism, neo colonialism and racism. Sekou Toure said that 6th Summit decisions must be put into practice as of today, and that everything possible must be done to make this the case. President Sekou Toure proposed a vote of thanks to all the translators, Secretariat personnel, journalists, drivers and others who had gone about their work concerning the Conference.

PRIME MINISTER OF GRENADA MAURICE BISHOP began his speech on behalf of Latin America expressing a vote of thanks to President Fidel Castro, the Government and people of Cuba for the hospitality and friendship proffered. He stressed the fact that at the Conference there had been great expressions of solidarity with Latin American peoples in struggle, such as Belize and Puerto Rico, and with the peoples of Cuba, Grenada, Nicaragua and Dominica, the last having been devastated by a hurricane a few days back. Bishop made the point that it was fortunate that Prime Minister Pham Van Dong was present to refute the lies that were being said about the Vietnamese people. He also hailed the presence of the Palestine Liberation Organization, the African liberation movements and

the Front Line states. Those who were suggesting that the Movement was on the point of splitting, and waiting for just that at any moment, had been frustrated, he said. It was specially significant that the Conference should have been held in Havana, in revolutionary Cuba.

YASSER ARAFAT, PRESIDENT OF THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANISATION' was the last but one speaker of the closing session. On behalf of the PLO and the other liberation movements, he thanked the people and Government of Cuba and President Fidel Castro for the reception they had been given. This Conference, he said, has reaffirmed that our struggle against imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism and Zionism for the benefit of peoples suffering injustices, is not to be held back. Arafat also stressed that the consensus of the delegates of Asia, Latin America and Europe reflected the desire of all to fight for a better world, one of justice and well being. Arafat thanked the thousands of comrades "the sons and daughters of this people who had worked so hard anonymously," the various levels of the Party, local and overseas journalists for their part in making the Conference a success.

THE CONCLUDING SPEECH was made by Fidel Castro. He summed up the work done in the seven days. He paid a handsome tribute to Marshal Tito and after ending his speech went over to where President-Tito was and the two embraced. Pham Van Dong followed suit and went up to Tito and embraced him. This was followed by several other heads of state.

Everybody was tired, but before one could get some sleep, one had to cable the concluding despatches. Extracts from some of these despatches I had sent immediately after the Summit ended have a contemporaneous validity which is difficult to recapture at a later point of time.

"The historic conference of the heads of state and government which was declared closed at 9.30 a.m. this morning (Havana time) by Fidel Castro is undoubtedly one of the most significant of this era. The Conference had opened on September 3 with Castro's address which will long be remem-

bered. It will become one of the classics of the age just as his speech at his trial for the assault on Moncado in 1953 entitled "HISTORY WILL ABSOLVE ME" still remains a classic of revolutionary literature. In his statement the outgoing Chairman, President Jayewardene in praising Castro had made an extempore remark not in the printed speech. He had turned to Castro and said, "we won 141 seats in the 1977 elections, but if you were there we would have won all 168". President Jayewardene and the way he had helped to get consensus decisions on many matters have won praises from circles close to the Secretariat.....

"Although Sri Lanka Foreign Minister Hameed did not play a high key role in the rostrum, observers say that he was responsible for a great many of the private consultations which helped to bring about consensus on many tricky matters. Foreign Minister Hameed's work as Chairman of the Ministerial Co-ordination Bureau in the last three years has won him a permanent place in the history of the Non-aligned Movement. Sri Lanka can be proud of his record of work in the Non-aligned Movement.

"The conference ended with an unanimous tribute to President Tito although there were and still are differences in approach and definition between Cuba and Yugoslavia, the Cuban leader has made it clear that differences were natural and necessary to attain the goals of the movement. President Tito had not expected this gesture of warmth and friendship which was obviously initiated by Castro although Sekou Tours of Guinea was the first spokesman, Castro himself paid glowing tributes to Tito. As the only surviving founding father of the Movement he was visibly moved and reciprocated the sentiments in words that would chill the hearts of those who had hoped that the differences which had surfaced in Havana and earlier could be utilised to undermine divide the movement.....The attempts at destabilisation will obviously continue. But these enemies of the Movement will have to contend with Castro's genius in winning friends and even neutralising those with whom he has serious differences, the manner in which he has handled President Tito and the way he won over even rightwing Latin American

countries to build regional unity has to be seen and examined in detail to be believed. Those who had hoped to make Kampuchea and Egypt issues to wreck the Conference have suffered serious setbacks. When the chips were down, only four countries came to the rescue of Pol Pot, and Sadat. At the start the Pol Pot group were able to get 24 countries to support the procedural demand to maintain the status quo. Although about 15 or 16 were willing to indicate support only four in the end were willing to stick to their necks out for Pol Pot. Egypt was in a worse plight. Though there was a great deal of sympathy on the suspension issue at the start, the manner in which the Cuba-baiters inside and outside the country had resorted to over-kill tactics and the unimaginative actions of Egypt's representative increased Egypt's isolation. Ultimately only four countries stood by Egypt. The attempts to use the Kampuchean and Egyptian issues to disrupt the movement have boomeranged. Whilst the energies of the rightwing and conservative countries were diverted to scoring points in Kampuchea and Egypt, the main bulk of the delegations concentrated on the resolutions—and the result in a declaration which is a new radical manifesto for the underdeveloped and still enslaved worlds for the rest of the century. In Baghdad this radical trend is likely to be taken further. In his speech Castro made it clear that it was wrong to use the euphemism 'developing' countries when the correct word should be "under-developed." It will be a futile exercise to show how much of the Cuban draft was changed or which of the Yugoslav proposals were included or rejected. The declaration must be taken as a whole to see how a heterogenous group of non-aligned and underworld countries can produce a manifesto outlining a political and economic programme for the 1980s.

"All who attended the Congress are happy that everything ended so well. Critics have been silenced at least for the moment. Observers praise Sri Lanka for its role in the Summit. It did not fall into the Kampuchean trap or the Egyptian imbroglio and its record stands high and unblemished....."In retrospect, the Sixth Summit which ended this morning, after an all night session (a good part was in closed sessions) had been extended

by two days. In spite of attempts to disrupt it from outside and inside, the Summit was a success. There were no walkouts, no splits, no breakaways. The final declaration was adopted by consensus. The usual reservations will be filed but very little comfort can be found in adding up the number of reservations in order to downplay the Conference.

"This was no doubt the most controversial conference of the heads of state of the non-aligned. But in spite of misgivings it adopted a most historic declaration. It pledged to step up support for the struggle against "imperialism, colonialism and expansionism in all its manifestations." All observers are agreed that the undoubted success of the conference was a personal triumph for the Cuban leader Fidel Castro. The resolution strongly denounced the Camp David accords and the Egypt-Israeli treaties with the USA and Egypt named. Regarding the suspension of Egypt, the conference decided to set up an *ad hoc* committee to report to the next meeting of the Non-aligned Bureau. A similar method had been earlier adopted to resolve the Kampuchean issue. The decisions on Egypt and Kampuchea are a big set back for all Cuba-baiters. This declaration is the most militant document ever adopted by the Non-aligned Movement. It has the distinct imprint of the revolutionary spirit and radical idiom of the Cuban leader. The declaration links the anti-imperialist, anti-colonialist and anti-colonial fight with the struggle for building a new international order based on justice and equality.

"The Sixth Summit was the biggest ever gathering of heads of state and government. Over one hundred and thirty countries were represented at the Conference and there were fifty four heads of state. The Conference began on September 2 and concluded early in the morning of September 9, after all night sessions on two days. One of the most important decisions taken is the agreement reached among Non-aligned countries to take concrete steps towards collective self reliance. The conference decisions are expected to bring about a significant breakthrough in resolving difficulties which underdeveloped countries face owing to the increase in oil prices.... Africa and West Asia have been pinpointed by the Non-aligned

leaders as the two gravest crisis points. The conference declared that Southern Africa constituted one single theatre of operations in which apartheid was the "central strategic issue", and that had to be dealt with politically, economically and militarily. The struggles in Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa were specially mentioned."

"The Summit's decision on Egypt had after a four and a half hour closed door session. Most observers had hoped that the Arab states would agree to drop the suspension issue if a strong denunciation of the Camp David accord and the subsequent treaties were included in the declaration. The Arabs had wanted a full debate in the open plenary and after the long closed door session they had agreed to the setting up of an *ad hoc* committee to examine this question of suspension. There was a certain amount of sympathy for Egypt at the start of the conference. But at the end only four countries had come to its rescue. Egypt had made a long and impassioned speech to prevent the adoption of the nation denouncing the Camp David Accord and also the proposal to suspend Egypt. Egypt did not even get the support it had expected from African countries. Senegal's attempt to come to Egypt's rescue proved to be futile when Zambia's Kaunda deplored the Camp David accords in no uncertain terms although he did not favour the immediate suspension of Egypt. Observers feel that the gimmicks tried by certain countries to disrupt the conference by starting scare stories about walkouts and the like boomeranged on Egypt. And Egypt's representative displayed such arrogant ham-handedness that prevented them from winning sympathy and support from Africans, Asians or Latin Americans.

"President Castro in his concluding remarks said that in spite of the differences the Summit was able to take all the decisions of consensus and that this showed that the non-aligned movement was more united than ever. He also said that the movement was more independent than ever before and pledged that he would make the greatest possible efforts to implement the resolutions of the conference. He concluded his short speech by asserting that in spite of so many differences there were many common goals and objectives which bound the members of the Movement

Before the Summit concluded the Non-aligned leaders from Africa, Latin America, Asia and Europe praised President Fidel Castro for providing effective and serene leadership to the movement. The declaration described his inaugural speech as a historic contribution to the definition of the objectives of the 'non-aligned movement.'

"In the economic section the declaration underlined the maladjustments in the International Monetary System and the unequal trade and financial relations between the developed and developing countries. It also attributed the present world economic crisis to the policies of market economy countries and emphasised the need for concrete steps for working out an international development strategy. Stressing the urgency of working for a New International Economic Order the declaration said, "the developed world can no longer shy away from its share of responsibility."

"The non-aligned summit conferred a rare honour on Yugoslav President Joseph Broz Tito by adopting a resolution paying homage to his devotion, loyalty and services to the non-aligned movement and to mankind. The President of Guinea who moved this resolution recalled the signal services rendered to the Movement since its inception by President Tito who had worked unswervingly for the unity and solidarity of the anti-imperialist struggles. He recalled Nehru, Nasser, Nkrumah and Sukarno who had along with Tito founded and built the Non-aligned Movement. Moved by the warm tributes paid to him President Tito said it was a homage to tell those who had worked with him for the furtherance of the goals of the movement. He went on to say that the Havana Summit had given a rebuff to those who had predicted that crisis would overtake the Non-aligned Movement. He urged that all members should steadfastly work for the unity and preservation of the basic principles of the Movement.

"The Conference also decided that the Twentieth Anniversary of the first Summit Conference will be celebrated in India in 1981 at the meeting of the Co-ordination Bureau there at the Foreign Ministers' level. The holding of the Ministerial Meeting in Delhi that year it was thought would be a suitable opportunity to observe the anni-

versary. The declaration expressed the hope that the government of India as the host country would take the necessary steps to celebrate the anniversary in a fitting manner. The Summit also recommended that all Governments should celebrate this anniversary nationally. The Summit also decided to hold the next Summit in Baghdad in 1982."

I was able to snatch a few hours' sleep before warnings that Hurricane Fredrick was approaching Havana were on the air. Hurricane David was much in the news just before the Conference began, but it skirted the tip of Cuba and struck neighbouring islands in the Caribbean. Hurricane Fredrick was heading straight for Havana after doing damage in areas not far from the Cuban capital, but just 20 kilo metres from the city it had veered round north-westwards and rushed to strike Florida and cause immense damage here. But in the 36 hours Hurricane Fredrick kept creeping up to Havana, wind and rain were plentiful in the city and the airport became water-logged for a few days thereafter.

(To Be Continued)

SRI LANKA CHRONICLE

Feb. 21 — Feb. 27

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

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

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21: House-owners who harass their tenants will soon lose ownership of their houses to their tenants; the country's housing laws are to be amended shortly to make this legally possible; this proposal was made by Prime Minister R. Prema-

dasa who is also the Minister of Housing, and approved by Cabinet yesterday; necessary amendments to the housing laws are to be tabled in Parliament shortly. More people died on the roads last year than in previous years because of the recent rapid increase in the number of motor vehicles; nearly 1000 people were killed and about 9,000 were injured in 19,106 accidents. The World Food Program will provide food assistance worth Rs. 12.7 million equivalent to US \$ 820,500 to low income groups engaged in the construction of 12,000 low cost housing units of the Government Aided Self-Help Housing Program—CDN. During the 1980 season of Lent the Catholic Church in Sri Lanka throughout its 300 parishes will organise 300 development projects as priority needs at parish level. A physical check of food stocks in all food stores has been ordered by Mr. P. M. Hassan, Food Commissioner; this is the sequel to the shortage of sugar, rice and flour valued at over one million rupees in two food stores—at Hambantota and Kandy—CDM. The Cabinet has decided that houses built after last January will not be subject to rent control, also new houses built before January 1980 and which have not yet been given on rent will enjoy the same benefit—DP. The Minister of Land and Land Development has decided to hand over the ownership of 140,000 acres of land to farmers who cultivated these lands illegally DV. The government has decided not to set up the ultra-modern press proposed to be set up at the parliament complex at Kotte—DK. Sri Lanka money supply will increase by 33% with the new decisions by the Cabinet to print Rs. 1000 millions—JD.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22: Chairman of the National Water Supply and Drainage Board N. D. Peiris yesterday appealed to the general public not to waste water because of the current widespread drought. Cigarettes, arrack and beer and imported liquor will cost more from today; the price of a cigarette goes up by four cents and a bottle of arrack—all varieties by Rs. 4 per bottle; the price increase on a bottle of beer is about Rs. 1.50—CDN. It was the intention of this Democratic Socialist Government to hand over gradually the management of the bus services now run by the CTB to the workers in the service; the President Mr. J. R. Jayewardene made

this announcement at the BMICH yesterday when he inaugurated a seminar on the "Role of the Workers' Councils, and Workers' participation in management."—CDM. A radio communication link is to be established between the Police and Immigration authorities of Sri Lanka and Tamilnadu to co-ordinate their action to combat illegal movement of persons and goods between Sri Lanka and South India. The Government has decided to temporarily relax the Sunday driving ban on March 23 to mark the inauguration of the Victoria project; British Minister of Overseas Development Neil Martin will arrive in Sri Lanka as Premier Margaret Thatcher's special envoy for this occasion; the British government has provided an outright grant of 100 million pounds (3,500 million rupees) to the government for the Victoria dam project. The drought prevailing in Sri Lanka has adversely affected the country's tea production resulting in a 1.3 million kilograms decline in last month's crop—SU. The President speaking at the BMICH said this was a democracy and one had the freedom to speak about strikes and about separatism; but this cannot be put into action for there was room for neither—DP. The Minister of Food and Co-operatives and the President held discussions yesterday to further increase the price of flour; a pound of flour is to be increased to Rs. 2.25 according to reliable sources. Though the UNP high command has asked all MPs to rehabilitate their respective party organisations the MPs are unable to go back to their electorates after the recent price increases. A group of MPs are reported to be discussing sending a petition to party high ups stating their grievances—DK. The amount of cigarettes smoked by Sri Lankans have shown a rapid increase; 4,500 million cigarettes were smoked last year compared to 4,200 million the previous year; the government revenue from cigarettes has gone up to Rs. 786 million last year—DM. A modern textile research and training institute is to be set up at a cost of Rs. 45 million for research purposes and to produce world-class textiles in the country. The administration of the Fertiliser Board is to be reorganised and will be brought under the Fertilisers Authority—ATH.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23: King

Birendra of Nepal and President J. R. Jayewardene of Sri Lanka will have talks tomorrow on international affairs and matters of bilateral interest official sources said yesterday; these talks will take place shortly after King Birendra and Queen Aishwarya arrive in Sri Lanka on a three-day State visit; the Foreign Ministers of the two countries, Mr. K. B. Shani of Nepal and Mr. A. C. S. Hameed of Sri Lanka will have separate talks on the international situation and bilateral relations assisted by senior officials of the two governments. Government yesterday increased the price of bread, flour and imported rice; a pound of bread from today will cost Rs. 2.05 and a pound of flour Rs. 2.37; earlier a pound of bread was Rs. 1.35 and a pound of flour Rs. 1.50; imported rice, raw or par boiled will cost Rs. 2.17 per pound or Rs. 4.34 per measure; earlier the price was Rs. 4/10 per measure—CDN. The President Mr. J. R. Jayewardene has directed that all State and public institutions, including corporations should be run at a non-profit, no-loss basis; following from this directive the President has authorised his Ministers to take action to achieve this objective without reference to the Cabinet—CDM. Public and private sector employees poised for trade union action will soon be required to give several days of prior notice to their respective employers; a new labour relations law to be introduced by Cabinet which seeks to outlaw wild-cat strikes lays down that those in essential industry give 30 days advance notice of strike action; those in the non-essential service, the law says, will be required to give 14 days notice of the intention to strike—SU. Price increases are inevitable and subsidies cannot be granted therefore the only alternative is to increase individual incomes and this is the policy of the government; so said the PM in parliament—DP. The leader of the opposition A. Amirthalingam speaking in parliament said due to the increasing prices it was difficult to find solutions to the people's problems, today people are living in a half and semi starved state but soon they will have to face total starvation—VK. The Government has spent Rs. 469 million last August to import flour and rice; this is an increase of Rs. 380 million compared to the same month of the previous year; the government spent Rs. 2,768 millions to import flour, sugar and

rice for the first 9 months of last year—DV. A senior lecturer on Psychology at the Colombo Campus has stated that a recent survey done by him has revealed that 90% of the youth in this country are faced with psychological problems; the main reason for this is because youth have created a distance between them and religion according to the lecturer—DM. The Engineering Firm commissioned by the World Bank to forward proposals to reorganise the CTB has proposed to the World Bank to close down a number of sections of the CTB and also to increase the bus fares by 25%; they have also proposed that the number of employees must be reduced and that all repair work must be handed over to the private sector; the World Bank will provide aid only if the proposals are implemented—JD.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24: President J. R. Jayewardene announced yesterday that the Government would shortly usher in a new economic order by removing all subsidies and concentrating more on the intensification of employment-oriented development and on attaining self-sufficiency in the country's basic food requirements. An estimated Rs. 750 to 800 million has been lopped off the country's food subsidy bill by Friday's government decision to increase the price of flour to cost, authoritative sources indicated yesterday. The King of Nepal, his Majesty Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev accompanied by Queen Aishwarya Raiya Laximi Dev Shah will fly into a warm welcome at Katunayake at 2.10 p.m. today—SO. The President Mr. J. R. Jayewardene addressed a public meeting in Bulathsinghala today and said; "we need ten years to finish all that we have planned for the development of the country"—ST. The incidence of rabies in Sri Lanka, described as the highest in the world, is taking the life of almost one person a day, a study has revealed—WK. Opposition parties are planning joint action to protest against increasing prices and efforts are being made to incorporate the TULF into it—VK. A scheme will be introduced to safeguard banana, pineapple and betel plantations by the middle of this year; the aim of this is to protect them from natural disasters as well as to induce exports. The President has said that women too should be given the chance to be on advisory and ad.

ministrative committees; this comes in the wake of representations made to the President regarding the non-inclusion of women to serve on these committee—CM. A Sri Lankan expert has warned that the whole City of Colombo will be completely destroyed in another major flood like the 1947 flood. Those with a fixed salary are complaining that they are faced with a grave financial crisis after the recently announced price increases—RR.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25: King Birendra and Queen Aishwarya of Nepal were given a right royal welcome when they arrived in Sri Lanka yesterday on a three-day State visit; festive drums throbbed and a 21-gun salute was fired as the King and Queen alighted from the special aircraft at Katunayake airport, which was decorated with the national flags of the two countries. The Compulsory Service Act for public servants (doctors and engineers) is likely to be repealed shortly. Prime Minister R. Premadasa said that the government had already given three pay increases to workers and another pay increase was possible in the near future. The Water Resources Board has decided to promote the use of windmills throughout the island its Chairman, Dr. Leslie Herath said yesterday—CDM. The Universities Grants Commission is preparing a blueprint for university expansion in view of the large numbers qualifying for admission but only a fifth being found places. The Sri Lanka Ports Authority and Police have intensified security operations to curb largescale, organised smuggling and petty thefts in the Port. A red carpet welcome awaits King Birendra of Nepal and Queen Aishwarya when they arrive at the Peradeniya Botanical Gardens this morning—CDM. The 10-member Presidential Commission has finalised its report on the lines on which Development Councils and the devolution of power should be evolved in Sri Lanka. The second School of Agriculture of Sri Lanka will be set up at Angunukolapelassa in the Hambantota district in September this year—SU. King Birendra of Nepal and President Jayewardene held a 75-minute discussion yesterday on international affairs and bilateral relations—VK. 100 tons of Bombay onions worth Rs. 50 lakhs imported by the CWE have rotted due to the delay in unloading and the whole consignment was dumped in the sea; this is the third time in two months

that foodstuffs imported by the CWE have rotted and been emptied into the sea—DP. The Ministry of Agriculture has decided to remove Agricultural Officers who are not showing an interest to increase agricultural production and appoint new officials. The Special Parliamentary Select Committee on high appointments has unanimously decided that Mr. Upali Wijewardene is not suitable to hold the post of Director-General of the GCEC; the report was tabled in Parliament last Friday—ATH. The Government has informed the world bank on the recent price increases and the Secretary to the Ministry of Finance has left for Washington last night with a complete report—DK.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26: President J. R. Jayewardene has refused to grant the Government Medical Officers' Association (GMOA) an interview until its threat of direct action made by it in press statements is withdrawn; faced with this refusal, the GMOA in a letter to President J. R. Jayewardene denies that the statements appearing in several newspapers quoted by President Jayewardene in the course of his communication to the GMOA, were made by either the GMOA or its own President, Dr. S. Y. D. C. Wickremasinghe. Nepal's king Birendra said yesterday that his government had consistently opposed intervention in the affairs of a nation by another nation; "we would, therefore, like to see an immediate withdrawal of all foreign troops from Kampuchea, Afghanistan or the like, so that normalcy of relationship between nations could be restored to the satisfaction of all." The development in recent weeks in the South-Asia region could not be dissociated from what was happening in other parts of the globe, President J. R. Jayewardene said at the banquet Mrs. Jayewardene and he hosted in honour of the King and Queen of Nepal last night. A special exposition of the sacred Tooth Relic was held in honour of the visiting King Birendra of Nepal and Queen Aishwarya at the Sri Dalada Maligawa yesterday—CDN. The President, Mr. J. R. Jayewardene has told the Minister of Transport, Mr. M. H. Mohamed that school children should be exempt from the increase in bus fares. The Minister of Trade and Shipping, Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali yesterday ordered an island-wide check on the quality and the weight

of bread the bakers are making—CDM. Increased bus and rail fares will be effective from March 1; an official announcement in regard to this matter is expected to be made today; the increases will be, ten cents for the first section; that is an increase of only ten cents from the rate for the first section. Government is likely to introduce Employees Councils in establishments in Sri Lanka's free trade zone; this move, which will mark the extension of this new scheme to the private sector is intended to ensure better employer-employee relations in the FTZ, official sources said—SU. The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Employment has drawn up a scheme to provide jobs to graduates in the public sector institutions; a separate unit will be set up for graduates to register—DM. The President is to carry out another major cabinet re-shuffle before the Sinhalese New Year. The opposition parties unanimously decided to ask the government to appoint a parliamentary committee to investigate counter allegations on the circumstances to stop the tender for the hydro-cracker project—ATH.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27: President J. R. Jayewardene last night supported King Birendra's proposal that Nepal should be declared a Zone of Peace as an initial step to its extension to the Indian Ocean and the littoral and other countries in the Indian Ocean region. Foreign Investors in Sri Lanka hotel projects can now have a majority shareholding, Ministry of State Secretary Sarath Amunugama said yesterday; the Foreign Investment Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Finance and Planning had recently revised its project approved terms and done away with the earlier requirement that Sri Lankans hold the majority share capital in local hotel projects, he said. Bus fares will go up by 40 percent and train fares by 36.3 percent from March 1; announcing this increase yesterday, Transport Minister M. H. Mohamed said school children would be allowed to buy season tickets at the old rates; there would be no increase in bus and train fares for school-children's season tickets. Government will shortly introduce legislation to safeguard the interests at Sri Lankans seeking employment abroad Captain C. P. J. Seneviratne, Minister of Labour said yesterday—CDN. All season tickets 'us commuters will be given a 20 per

cent discount from April 1, the Minister of Transport, Mr. M. H. Mohamed, announced yesterday; he also said the clergy of all denominations will be given free bus and train travel from March 1. India has lifted the ban on the export of perishables; this has enabled the Sri Lanka government to place orders with India to import large quantities of onions and potatoes—CDM. Nearly 8,000 of the country's mechanised boats are to be converted for long line fishing purposes in a bid to double their catch. Government has gazetted the setting up of four Janatha Estate Development Boards—SU. A new scheme is to be implemented by which fertilisers and chemicals necessary for farmers will be supplied straight to the fields; this is being worked out by the Ministry of Agricultural Research—DP. Reports have indicated that the Government had achieved its target of reducing school drop outs by giving free text books; reports indicate a marked drop in the school drop outs after the programme was launched—DM. All Pharmaceutical organisations including the State Pharmaceutical Corporation has increased the prices of a wide range of drugs—ATH.

QUALITY OF LIFE

Are Concepts Based On Our Ethos?

by

Dr. M. L. M. Salgado Ph.D. (Cantab). B.Sc. (Lond)

A NEW CATCH-WORD uttered by a few of the usually Vocal Crowd is occasionally heard in Sri Lanka today: the QUALITY OF LIFE. In the context of our Local scene, and the talk of a "Dharmishta" Society, we are told by amateurs in the field of popular social science-politicoes, so-called Social Science students from our varsity campuses, leftists and rightists and socio-economists that our national aim should be directed to the realisation of a "Quality of life". In the minds of most unthinking semi-educated people, and half-baked arts graduates, the Quality of Life is invariably a means having a "Good Time" and that these two terms are synonymous.

This indeed is a cliché that has, without understanding, entered our native vocabulary and more or less assumed to be a new development in our way of life. In discussions with various categories of people, the masses, the educated employed, the equally educated unemployed, in a world of variegated social confusion, few seem to know what they are talking about.

More often the concept of *Quality of Life* is meant to be an aspiration towards a Western oriented way of life, based more on Yankee trends and a standard of life hardly related to concepts related to our indigenous concepts based on our traditions and/or our culture, or the "*Good Life*" as we are expected to lead according to our ethos. There is no doubt a slow and perhaps sometimes even a too rapid disintegration of traditional values and even some of our eternal verities we have been taught to value since our ancestors founded our society.

The *Quality of Life* that is aspired to by the present generation and the "*Mod Set*" both young and old, particularly the more volatile and imitative female set, is a hankering after an artificially bloated Western concept of the aim of life, which involves an eternal conflict with some of the *Eternal Verities* that have been held sacred for generations from time immemorial. As in many things we do not have our priorities right in what should be our aims to achieve this intangible and ephemeral "*Quality*."

Is this "*Quality of Life*" an universal immutable concept applicable to all races and cultures the world over? In this context let us analyse and consider to what categories of people in SRI LANKA we can cater in the realisation of this CONCEPT: (a) the masses, comprising workers, peasants (the so-called proletariat), farmers, students of varied cultural and social backgrounds, who form the vast majority in our country, whose day-to-day lives should be affected by this new concept which may conflict with traditional values; (b) the easy-money-making Gem Mudalalies, the Black Marketeers, the "*Nouveaux Riche*", the so-called NEW ELITE, the new-rich businessmen and smugglers, dope peddlars, form the second category; (c) in the third category I would place the so-called "*ELITE*"—the bureaucrats, the whipping boy of the poli-

ticoes; and (d) in the fourth category those who claim to be on the political bandwagon, and the numerous brands of political entrepreneurs and finally in the last category; (e) the INTELLECTUALS, primarily the University dons, Priests of all denominations who intellectually lead the nation and its flock, acting as shepherds of the pastoral flocks, whose primary duty is to be friends, philosophers and guides showing the way towards the GOOD LIFE which should be synonymous with the QUALITY OF LIFE, based on our traditions, ideals and values.

LET US TAKE OUR MOD-GENERATION mostly volatile youth (particularly females of the species) who can (and should) carry out propaganda roles in terms of the ideals and aims of the "*Good Life*" that is (or should be) involved with the realisation of the *Quality of Life*, and also the gulf that separates the *Quality of Life* from the basics of *Good Life*.

To most of them the *Quality of Life* means having a "*Good Time*", with ideals and values aimed beyond the resources and means of existence that is available to most of us, beyond the resources and/or income limits of their parents, who have slaved for them at much sacrifice, in their endeavour to give them the best education as Sri Lankan parents invariably do, so that the best of this world and the next too are made available so that their children can proceed one or two steps higher in the socio-economic ladder, and on income based values.

The aim of a middle class parent of the generation which is gradually passing out of the picture and/or now reaching senility, is to provide at immense sacrifice an opportunity to go up in economic stability as well as social prestige, and more so realise for their progeny collateral benefits, financial and otherwise, which will ultimately improve the basic elements of the *Quality of Life*.

In our generation, perhaps now passing out of the picture, replacing the old with the new, the senior government clerk, the post master, the stationmaster, the government apothecary (with a secret "*private practice*", aspired to give his son or daughter (then only sons) to be a well paid prestigious job as a Civil Servant and/or Senior Executive, a doctor or engineer, and finally enter the closed ramparts of the matrimonial market,

and finally climb the socio-economic ladder, at the very peak, by marrying a rich heiress. This was indeed the practice even in England, when, with the high taxation the nobility and the aristocracy, like our own derelict "Walawa" folk, gave their socialites in marriage to the young educated and intelligent new socially viable young men and intellectuals, during the "London Seasons". This was more so in England among the sons of the new rich Merchants and Industrialists, who were dragged into a process of matrimony in reverse to what was referred as applicable to the young men of educated Sri Lankans who had secured prestigious jobs, as a result of the tremendous sacrifices their parents made.

Invariably it so happens that the mother-in-law may be originally in a lower social class, but has entered the category of the New Rich and made money in business as there has appeared a new class of female entrepreneurs. In the old world category of the Nouveaux Riches were Middle class Government Servants whose business-like wives saved up from the husbands allowances at a time when cost of living was minimal. The savings were invariably invested in opening up small rubber properties in the rubber districts such as Pasdun Korale and Raigam Korale of the Kalutara District, not far from where the bulk of middle class government servants had taken up residence in such towns as Panadura, Moratuwa, and Kalutara, where there were good educational facilities, and from where there had been matrimonial alliances. These wives of the government servants were enterprising in joining into family syndicates which planted on an almost co-operative scale. When the rubber boom occurred and wages were minimal at no more than 40 to 50 cents and with no Income Tax, and Free Education not having yet been established.

THE RUBBER BOOM in 1926/27 brought easy money and that in abundance to these middle class public servants, and there were several youngsters who were sent to UK for higher studies, some to pass out as doctors and quite a few engineers and a considerable number of Briefless Barristers, who were not clever enough to qualify as doctors and engineers. Another unfortunate consequence of this rubber wealth was that parents sent their children more money than was good

for them, even to get the best *Quality of Life* in UK and it became a case of the *Quality of Life* degenerating into having a really good time, and getting a false sense of values. Then the depression came like a cyclone in the early thirties and not only did the *Quality of Life* degenerate, but parents either got into debt or recalled them home, when rubber which was Rs. 2/50 a lb. in 1927 crashed to barely 15 cents a pound by 1932/33.

In fact during the second half of the twenties, when boom prices of rubber prevailed except for Government University Scholars who proceeded to UK for their studies (none proceeded to America, Germany or France). There was no Colombo Plan largesse then as is the case today or Medicos on study leave, for Postgraduate Degrees, and the bulk of those who went abroad, were children of the Rubber Barons, who were intellectually below par, but were competent enough to pass, part by part, and subject by subject, the Barristers Exam, and attended dinners at the Inns of court. These barristers came back home got married to an heiress of the new rich and continued to remain BRIEFLESS BARRISTERS until perhaps he joined a new political party, to which the mother-in-law donated a substantial amount to the Party Fund, forgetting the *Quality of Life* and or even the GOOD LIFE.

In the achievements of the *Quality of Life* and its achievements, there were then bright lads of respectable, but indigent families, who were sponsored by a rich heiress mother-in-law, and sent to UK to sit for the Civil Service, the Sammu Bohvan of the *Quality of Life* and having a really good time. At that time the *Quality* involving parties, visit to the theatre occasionally a cheap Holiday on a Seaside Resort costing no more than three pounds a week for full board and lodging and or a flying visit for a "fling" on the continent, gave a sense of value on the *Quality of Life*, based on having a "Good Time" and the Good Life.

THAT GENERATION of the sons of the rich and well-to-do, who returned to Ceylon at that time in the thirties, had absorbed the best and the worst of Western culture, but nevertheless were not worried over the QUALITY OF LIFE which had entered their souls. They were not MOD as this Cult of the MOD, which had not come from America

with an alien culture even to Britain at that time. They were mostly males, as female students were a rare species, and except for one solitary individual sent to England on a Scholarship by another female benefactor, and some wives of Postgraduate Doctors on study leave, the men were free, unhampered by female citizens of this country, had a really good time and sampled the **QUALITY OF LIFE** at that time. It is the females of the species of the Mod Brigade, who today are the first to absorb the worst of the Quality of Life as adumbrated abroad, and lead the Mod ideology.

It is they who are the first to imitate the glossy and superficial ideas and ideals, particularly relating to dress and fashion and the like. At least in the thirties there was a large band of Ceylonese self-styled **ELITE** who returned to Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) as Doctors, Engineers, Lawyers and Civil Servants, as well as a good many **PARLOUR LEFTISTS** (on the returned unemployed list without the dole) led by the Cream of the by products of the London School of Economics, trained and inspired by Professor Laski. These immigrants back home had witnessed and perhaps participated in the Hyde Park Soap-Box Orations on politics, socialism, and most of them had listened to attempts to destroy the Colonial Empire. Most of them had moved with future political leaders of the calibre of Jomo Kenyatta, the famous Krishna Menon, and even known Saklatvala (the Communist Member for Battersea) who were contemporaries in London at that time and had joined Camp Followers in the International Creed—the Socialistic Movement. Among the youth, particularly the University Undergraduates, inspired by a Free Press and the open doors of Hyde Park (as it is even today in London).

*That generation did not have an impact on the concept of the **QUALITY OF LIFE**—as its genre and genesis had not developed or seen even its gestation period, as concept at that time. Food was cheap, and food was the basic item in the complex of the **GOOD LIFE** which is involved with the **QUALITY OF LIFE**, that ephemeral factor. Recreation in Ceylon at that time was reasonably cheap.*

Theatre tickets cost even for a reserved seat the maximum of Rs. 5/- unlike today when theatres are the worst inflationary scene of financial

*comedy, where the **ELITE** (receiving a devalued Salary of Rs. 1000 to 1500 (though now Tax Free) and even the middle-class intellectuals can hardly afford to take their family of five, inclusive of husband and wife, to see **MY FAIR LADY** at the **BMICH**.*

*Even the so-called **ELITE**, the professionals, except the few lawyers getting fat salaries, and Doctors who are specialists on **CHANNEL PRACTICE** can afford this essential "luxury" to break the tedium and ennui of life today and the anxieties caused by the high cost of living, not knowing what price hike we can expect tomorrow.*

Only the **GEM MERCHANTS**, the bane of our social life today, where **MAMMON** is God, the rich politicoes who have jumped into a political band waggon as camp followers, Commission Agents who are inevitable in a Free Economy, can afford this essential "**LUXURY**"—if it can be so called, as well as the beneficiaries of the Free Trade Zone, can afford any worthwhile recreation of cultural value, except a cheap pedestrian **POP SHOW** or even a cheap Cabaret in the Cheap Tourist Hotel, now advertised **AD LIB**.

SO WHERE IS THE QUALITY OF LIFE and the cultural Quality of Life today?

(To Be Concluded)

x x

LETTERS

Displacement Of JEDB/SLSPC Employees Loaned To NADSA

Sir,

The injustice done to 53 employees of the above two organisations. The estates of both JEDB & SLSPC were taken over by NADSA on 1st August 1978. The permanent employees on these estates were loaned for a period of one year to NADSA according to the taking over agreements. On 31 July '79 after completion of the one year period, NADSA served one month's notice terminating the services of these permanent employees of these two organisations. This was subsequently withdrawn and period extended. Finally, NADSA has now terminated the ser-

TRIBUNE, March 8, 1980

vices of the above employees with effect from 31.12.79 again.

Several appeals have been made to the Hon. Minister of Plantations by these employees through political sources and trade union levels but there has been no response whatsoever from these two organisations. Meantime, these two Planting Corporations have recruited new employees and promoted the Juniors to several positions, whilst experienced and familiar employees have now been displaced.

NADSA being a Govt. sponsored project with international affiliations whilst terminating the valuable services of these employees are also recruiting new hands.

This injustice and unfortunate situation has been brought to the notice of His Excellency the President, The Hon. Prime Minister, the Acting Minister of Plantation Industries and the Hon. District Minister—Kandy.

The Ceylon Planters Society has requested the Chairmans of both organisations to grant them an interview to explain the positions of their Planting personal, but up to date this has not been granted. The salaries of these personals for the month of January '80 too, have not been paid by any of these three organisations. (The position in regard to February is not known). The list of the displaced persons appear below.

Victim

Kandy.
10.2.80

J.E.D.B. LOANED STAFF TO NADSA

Deltotta Group: Mr. C. E. Armstrong—Superintendent; Mr. S. Sethirane—Field Officer; Mr. S. T. Kandasamy—General K.P.; Mr. N. Alagiah—School Master; Mr. S. M. Mudiyanse—Lorry Driver;

Galaha: Mr. M. Kitnasamy—K.P.; Mr. S. P. Daniael—K.P.; Mr. I. Rasiah—Watcher;

Malgolla: Mr. I. Manikkavasagar—Senior Asst. Clerk; Miss P. Bandaranaike—Sinhalese Typist; Mr. D. N. Dharmasena—Storekeeper; Mr. K. Selvaraj—Field Officer; Mr. I. Hawke—Field Officer; Mr. P. L. N. Kumarasinghe—Field Officer; Mr. Jayasena—Field Officer;

Meddegoda: Miss Jayanthi—Checkroll Clerk; Mr. J. D. Piyadasa—Asst. K.P.; Mr. E. G. Lilanagaratne—Supervisor; Mr. W. M. Podimahath-

maya—Field Supervisor; Mr. W. Pathirana—Field Officer; Mr. S. Amarasingha—Asst. K.P.; Mr. S. R. Seneviratne—K.P.

Kellie: Mr. S. M. Abeyratne—Asst. Clerk; Mr. K. P. Seeladasa—Field Officer;

Mount Carmel: Mr. K. B. Subasingha—Jr. Asst. Clerk; Mr. S. Jeganathan—Jr. Asst. Clerk; Miss N. A. C. Nawaratne—Jr. Asst. Clerk; Mr. B. Piyasena—Field Officer; Mr. S. R. Velosamy—Asst. Field Officer; Mrs. S. Rosat—Teacher.

Ettie: Mr. C. Kulasena—Field Supervisor; **Gangawariy:** Mr. M. G. B. Mangalagama—Field Officer; Mr. P. S. Cooray—Field Officer; Mr. A. D. Somaratne—Field Officer; Mr. H. P. Karunadasa—Field Supervisor; Mr. P. Pitcheia Field K.P.; Mr. C. Chandrasena—Checkroll Clerk; Mr. G. R. Wijetunga—Chief Clerk.

S.L.S.P.C. STAFF LOANED TO N.A.D.S.A.

Storefield Estate: Mr. J. R. Rajakaruna—Superintendent; Miss R. M. B. M. Ratnayake—Checkroll Clerk; Mrs. R. G. Seelawathie—Checkroll Clerk; Mr. S. S. Herathge—Field Officer.

Dartry: Mr. Kumarasinghe—Asst. Supdt.; **Great Valley:** Mr. V. Egambaram—Field Officer; Mr. N. Edirisinghe—Field Officer; Mr. S. M. Samarasinghe—General K.P.; Mr. A. M. Abeyasinghe—Field Supervisor; Mr. E. M. Punchibanda—Field Supervisor; Mr. P. S. Vithanage—Storekeeper.

Warriagalla: Mr. R. K. Perera—Superintendent; Mr. Upul Weerasinghe—Field Officer; Mr. S. Palanisamy—Field Officer.

Goorookelley: Mr. A. B. Pilapitiya—Superintendent.

x x x

: Voluntary Social Service

Sir,

I have just received the protest of the Civil Rights Movement of Sri Lanka regarding the new law to control Voluntary Social Service.

The plan is, so it suggests, to bring all social service organisations under direct Government control,

What is the record of institutions directly brought under Government control?

If we just take one look at the Government run Hospitals, the picture is a sad one indeed. Anyone who has a choice prefers to take a loved-one to a private or co-operative run hospital.

Those who work in schools run by Government or taken over by Government uniformly report slack attendance by teachers and lack of discipline among students. Every MP who has children sends them to private schools—a clear judgement on the character of the State schools. Look at what has happened to the estates since they have become State owned—in the case of tea, production has dropped to disturbing low levels and the reports of indiscipline and dishonesty are constant.

I once had a conversation with the former Minister of Social Services, Mr. S. Kulatilake, on social service homes run by the State. He pleaded with me to take in more children to our institution for the mentally handicapped child. He confessed that the institutions run by the State could not, did not, compare with the ones run by voluntary agencies.

In the light of this kind of work performance, which is by no means exaggerated to make a debating point, only people who do not appreciate the present poor State performance in every sphere—low work output, overstaffing, political interference,—can have spawned the Bill which seeks presumably to control (kill?) the various voluntary organisations engaged in various fields of social service.

Bryan de Kretser

Prithipura Infant Home,
Hendaya,
20.2.80

x x

MALAYSIAN VIEW

Vietnam & Kampuchea

Kuala Lumpur

MALAYSIA and Vietnam have agreed to continue talking about regional problems, particularly Kampuchea. This was stated by Malaysia's Foreign Minister, Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen, on his return to Kuala Lumpur after a

three-day visit to Hanoi, from January 9 to 11. Tengku Rithauddeen told reporters that he had "frank discussions" with Vietnamese Prime Minister, Pham Van Dong, and the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Nguyen Co Thach. He said that they also agreed to discuss ASEAN's concept of a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality in Southeast Asia.

Tengku Rithauddeen said the Vietnamese agreed to further talks after both sides had "agreed to disagree" on some points, especially the Kampuchea conflict. Despite the divergent views on ways of tackling the problems in the region, Tengku Rithauddeen said the two countries agreed to continue the dialogue in the interest of peace and stability in Southeast Asia. Although the visit was made in his capacity as Malaysian Foreign Minister, he said he conveyed ASEAN's views on a political settlement to Kampuchea conflict and its readiness to have a dialogue with Vietnam. He said: "We must continue to have talks to find some convergence of views in future. There is no reason we should not keep on talking. I feel we should not give up."

He also announced that Mr. Thach had accepted his invitation to visit Malaysia, at a date to be fixed. Tengku Rithauddeen welcomed the Vietnamese assurance to respect the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Thailand and all ASEAN countries. He was also happy with Hanoi's assurance that it would abide its pledge for the orderly departure of people wishing to leave Vietnam for settlement in other countries.

—*Malaysian Digest*, Vol. 11 No. 1, 15/1/80.

x x x

LETTER FROM INDIA

Brzezinski and Goheen Drop Bricks

New Delhi, Feb. 27.

Some members of the Carter hierarchy seem to be adepts in dropping bricks. Carter himself had led the way. Not so very long ago, he had told the Iranians that even if they released the hostages unharmed, they would have to be punished for what they had done. Ever since the Carter administration started playing the Deng Xiaoping pack of China cards,

the centrepiece of US foreign policy has revolved around the determination to punish those who refused to toe the Washington line. The US has spent billions in sending a Task Force into the Indian Ocean to teach Iran a lesson, but the lesson may never be taught. The attempt to teach Moscow a lesson by calling a boycott of the Summer Olympic has already begun to boomerang on the US itself.

Leaving aside the bricks dropped in the attempt to teach sovereign states a lesson, leading members of the Carter administration have shown a rare capacity to tread where angels will not—in every part of the world. The *Time* of February 18, had a superb example of a Brzezinski bloomer: "Possibly inspired by the mountains that towered behind him, National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski was in an elevated mood when he inspected Pakistan's border with Afghanistan last week. 'You should know that the entire world is outraged', he told a group of refugees at Sadda, urging them to fight to reclaim their land because God is on your side'. After lunching in the mess of the famed Khyber Rifles, Brzezinski was garlanded by area tribal chiefs and had his picture taken at the Khyber pass, quipping that it would be a 'historic picture—three weeks before the march on Kabul'. He spotted a Pakistani soldier carrying a Chinese-made rifle and asked to see it fired. The heavy recoil knocked the embarrassed rifleman to the ground as the weapon sprayed bullets in all directions. 'Any casualties?' asked Brzezinski only half in jest. Luckily, there were none.....".

In this short excerpt, Carter's National Security Adviser first spoke on behalf of God to tell Afghan refugees that "God is on your side". How did Brzezinski know which side God was on? Then came the *piece de resistance*: that he was astride the Khyber Pass "three weeks before the march on Kabul". Three weeks to a day, the rebel *putsch* was triggered in Kabul on Feb. 21/22, allegedly by US and Pak agents. How did Brzezinski know that a march in Kabul would be attempted "three weeks after" unless he had a hand in organising it? Or did God confide in him?

But the scenario he had prepared seems to have gone wrong for the second time. The charge that a similar *putsch* and march on

Kabul scheduled for December 29 with the Amin's help is probably true. This is not merely a hindsight guess. Thwarted, the second attempt was evidently tried three weeks after Brzezinski stood and looked over Khyber Pass.

Such bloomers and bricks have, moreover, helped to surface similar *faux pas* committed by other Carter dignitaries. Here in the India capital a story, which was kept a fairly tight secret by a section of the diplomatic community for over a month, has begun to slowly erupt through the diplomatic grapevine into the political arena.

The story concerns another Trilateral Commission star-turn (like Carter and Brzezinski viz', Robert Goheen, U.S. Ambassador in India. It all happened, it would appear, at a reception at the Saudi Arabian embassy a short while before the recent Indian General Elections. At this reception, reports say that Goheen had chosen to preach a lesson in protocol and good sense to the Saudi Ambassador because he had the temerity to invite Indira Gandhi to the reception. Goheen, it is said, had told the Saudi Ambassador that he was guilty of an unforgivable sin by inviting Indira Gandhi whom Goheen had characterised as an "ambitious dictator", "a suppressor of democracy" and one who "had sold the country to the Russians." Goheen had unburdened himself of this "dressing down" in the most undiplomatic language in the presence (and hearing) of a number of other Ambassadors (including some representing Arab countries). The Saudi Ambassador however had pointed out to Goheen that he was abusing hospitality by indulging in such remarks. But Goheen had maintained to the end of this remarkable dialogue that the Saudi Ambassador had no business to invite "such a personality as Mrs. Gandhi". After this extraordinary confrontation, there were whispers among Arab diplomats that the Saudi Ambassador had been put under the surveillance of the local CIA station. But this may be only be apocryphal.

However, much to Mr. Goheen's surprise, Mrs. Gandhi was victorious in the elections. This has apparently cooled the Goheen temper. But when the next outbreak of Cartermania will take place is hard to say.

—Tribune Correspondent

AFGHANISTAN

• US Official View

Washington, Feb. 12,

Recent Soviet statements blaming the United States for the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan are a "complete fabrication" designed to "blatantly international criticism" of the Soviet Union, U.S. officials say. The Soviet claim is that "outside interference" by the United States and others in some way justified the Soviet invasion. U.S. officials describe the Soviet "disinformation campaign" as "replete with false justifications for Soviet aggression and the resultant crisis in East-west relations." The campaign was instituted, the officials say, in response to the international condemnation that greeted the invasion of Afghanistan.

One example of the Soviet campaign is an editorial that appeared in the January 29 issue of the newspaper *Pravda* and was placed as a paid advertisement by the Soviet Novosti Press Agency in the *Washington Post* and other foreign newspapers. The editorial claims, among other things, that the "assistance" provided by the Soviet Union was "in response to a request from the legitimate leadership of Afghanistan" and was aimed at protecting the country from an "external threat." U.S. officials question the Soviet's claim that they responded to a request for assistance from a legitimate Afghan "leadership". President Taraki, the officials note, "was overthrown in a violent coup in mid-September. His successor, Amin, could have invited Soviet aid but, if he did, he clearly did not do so to precipitate his own execution."

The officials note that President Babrak Karmal did not arrive in Afghanistan until after the coup had occurred and the invasion was in progress. "The first announcements that Babrak had replaced Amin came from transmitters using frequencies purporting to be Radio Kabul but located in the Soviet Union. Although under attack by Soviet forces, the real Radio Kabul continued normal transmission until at least one and one-half hours after these announcements were first heard," the officials point out.

Elaborating on a charge in the *Pravda* editorial that Afghanistan faces an "external threat" from base camps in nearby countries where foreign advisors are providing military training to Afghan refugees, US officials point out that well over 500,000 Afghans, many of them women and children, have fled their homes and taken refuge in Pakistan as a result of political oppression and religious persecution. "While it cannot be denied that refugees from these camps may have returned to fight in Afghanistan," the officials say, "their camps in no sense constitute military training bases and present no threat to Afghanistan or to the security of the Soviet Union." The Soviets also have charged that the United States is building up its forces in the Persian Gulf regions as part of an effort to "achieve American military superiority". U.S. officials point out that the Soviets are aware, from U.S. public and private comments, that the U.S. forces in the Indian Ocean were not and are not directed against the Soviet Union, and that the United States was never had any intention of interfering in Afghanistan's

Notice under Section 7 of the Land Acquisition Act. (Chap. 460) as amended by the Land Acquisition (amendment) Act. No. 28 of 1964.

Reference No. ATH/15/1

It is intended to acquire the land described in the schedule below. For further particulars please see the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka (No. 79 (Part III) of 07.03.1980.

Schedule

D.R.O.'s Division : Kolonnawa
situation : Udumulla Kolonnawa
Village : Udumulla
Name of Land : Abiyagekotuwa -
Delgahawatte
Lot No. : 1 - 3
Plan No. P.P. Co. : 4383

H. C. Gunawardena
District Land Officer,
Colombo District.

The Kachcheri,
Colombo.

Date: — 80-02-08

internal affairs. "Instead", our decisions to establish a quick reaction military force and to seek access to military facilities in the Middle East for use in emergencies were made in response to the threat which the Soviet Union poses to the highly vulnerable states of the area. Rather than threatening the Soviet Union, these actions have been taken so that we may be in a position to defend our interests, those of our allies and our friends from Soviet expansionism."

Explaining the U.S. position, President Carter said, the United States, as "the other superpower on earth," has a "responsibility" the determination and will of the American people....."

—USICA, Colombo 15/2/80

On Pak Border

".....In Moscow, *Pravda* said the reports that Afghan refugees were flooding camps in Pakistan were an artificial and malicious myth created by imperialist propaganda. *Pravda* said that the refugees were in fact Afghan nomads who traditionally cross into Pakistan during the winter. The newspaper also claimed that the Pakistanis were refusing to let the nomads return to Afghanistan....."

"President Mohammed Zia ul Haq of Pakistan, meanwhile told a group of U.S. Congressmen that he has given weapons to the Afghan rebels, U.S. Rep. Matthew McHugh, D.N.Y. said today in New Delhi. Rep. McHugh quoted Gen. Zia as saying that the aid consisted of light weapons. The Congressman did not know when the aid was given, whether it was continuing or how many weapons were involved....."

—*International Herald Tribune*, 8/2/80

BREZHNEV

".....We Will Withdraw If....."

Moscow, Feb. 23,

Mr. Carter and the people around him excellently know that there has been no and is no "Russian intervention" in Afghanistan. The USSR acted on the basis of the Soviet-Afghan treaty of friendship. Three consecutive Afghan governments pressingly asked

us for assistance in defending the country from the invasion from outside by forces of counter-revolution.

This was stated by President Leonid Brezhnev yesterday during a meeting in the Bauman electorate in the capital which he is contesting in the elections to the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation. He told the voters that Washington knew very well everything about the intervention against Afghanistan from Pakistani territory. For it is the Americans together with the Chinese and others who direct this intervention that has created a serious threat to the Afghan revolution, and also to the security of our southern border.

The White House also knows that the U.S.S.R. will withdraw its military contingents from Afghanistan as soon as the reasons that caused their presence there disappear and the Afghan government decides that their presence is no longer necessary. The United States loudly demands the withdrawal of Soviet troops but in fact is doing everything to put off this possibility; it is continuing and building up its interference in the affairs of Afghanistan, he said.

I want to state very definitely: we will be ready to commence the withdrawal of our troops as soon as all forms of outside interference directed against the government and people of Afghanistan are fully terminated, he assured. Let the United States together with the neighbours of Afghanistan guarantee this. And then the need of Soviet military assistance will cease to exist. On its part, as is known, the government of Afghanistan has clearly stated its intention to maintain relations of peace and friendship with its neighbours, in particular, with Iran and Pakistan. Naturally, we welcome this position of Afghanistan.

The United States leaders also know that the government of Afghanistan shows full respect for the population's religious beliefs, has freed the clergy who were thrown into prison by Amin, and officially placed Islam under the protection of law. The attempts by the patrons of the Israeli aggressor and organisers of repressions against Iran to pose as "protectors of Islam," look quite clumsy he charged. He added: So why then is Washington going off into hysterics on a

global scale? What are the aims of circulating the lie about "the war of the Russians against the Afghan people," about "the Soviet threat to Pakistan and Iran," and the like? The answer is clear: Washington simply needs a pretext to broaden its expansion in Asia, and it creates this pretext by any means.

The anti-Soviet hysteria was needed not only for somebody riding the crest of this wave to win the presidential elections in autumn. The main thing is that the United States has decided to create a network of its military bases in the Indian Ocean, in countries of the Near and Middle East, in countries of Africa. The United States would like to subordinate those countries to its hegemony, to pump out, unimpeded, their natural wealth, and in the process to use their territories in its strategic plans against the world of socialism and the popular-liberation forces. This is the crux of the matter.

But the present-day colonialists stand the risk of miscalculating. Today we are not in the pre-war times and not even in the 1950s. Dozens of previously dependent countries have gained experience of independent life and policy. The peoples now have a better insight into the game played by the imperialists and know where their friends are and where their enemies are. As to such areas of the world as, say, Western Europe and Japan, people have learned from their experience the advantages of a tranquil, peaceful life and advantageous trade. They will not so easily renounce detente for the sake of the American plans of world domination. On our part we continue to stand for the development of peaceful co-operation with those countries along all lines, including, incidentally, with the United States as well.

The people in Washington like to speak about the need to ensure the safety of the routes along which oil is delivered to the United States. This can be understood to some extent. But can this really be achieved by turning the area of communications into a powder keg? It is clear that the result will be reverse. The adventurist "doctrine" of the new preachers of the "from positions of strength policy" are dangerous not only to some individual country or group of countries. They carry a threat to the peace and security of all states and peoples. And to rebuff these

sinister plans in a cause of all who need and treasure peace.

—Prada (APN)

AFGHANISTAN

CIA Planned Coup In December With Amin's Backing

by Tomas A. Granados

Kabul, January 21,

It was reported here today that the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency was planning to stage a coup in Afghanistan on December 29, in complicity with the deposed President Hafizullah Amin. According to information made public by Minister of the Interior, Seyed Mohammad Gulapzol, Amin, under orders of the CIA, made contact with counter-revolutionary groups in Pakistan in order to work out an agreement and foil the revolution in Afghanistan.

Minister Gulapzol held a press conference in the course of which he reported that one of Amin's envoys went to Peshawar, Pakistan, at the end of September to meet with Gulbekdin Hiktmart, leader of the reactionary Islamic Party of Afghanistan. This took place after the overthrow of President Nur Mohammed Taraki, who was killed on October 8 by order of Amin. After the murder of Taraki, Amin began co-operating openly with counter-revolutionaries and, in a meeting held in October 1979 in Kabul, it was decided to prepare a charge of government on December 29 by means of a self-coup. According to Minister Gulapzol, this meant Amin agreed to allow the counterrevolutionary forces to take over the country and pave the way for the murder of the leaders of the Popular Democratic Party (PDP).

Amin's brother, Abdullah, from his top-ranking post in the Party and government began ordering the murder and repression of all honest Party cadres. Additional reports indicate that more than 600 members of the PDP of Afghanistan were murdered in less than three months after the overthrow of President Taraki.

Gulapzoi explained that one of Amin's agents travelled to Rome, Paris and Karachi on December 22-24 to report to U.S. agents there on the latest in the plot to change the government. According to CIA plans, the new government to be set up after December 29 would serve the interests of the United States in the region and the possibility of receiving U.S. military aid for the operation was not ruled out, said Gulapzoi. Documents seized from the group of conspirators indicate that posts in the new government were to be divided up as follows: Hafizullah Amin, president; the reactionary leader Gulbekdin Hekmatyari, prime minister; Mohammed Yakub, former chief of the general staff of the army under Amin, as defence minister. Other members of the Cabinet would be the former minister of higher education, P.M. Sunmá; former minister of agriculture; A. R. Lalili; former minister of information and culture, Kamal Mohammad Katawazi; and Frontier Minister, S. D. Saharal. —Prensa Latina

x x x

TOPICAL

The Dilemma Of Youth

by Devaratnam Danforth

THE MEASURE OF GOVERNMENT'S INTEREST over this subject found expression in the setting up of the National Youth Service Council and the Youth Service Authority. Thus, there are institutions clothed with power to undertake youth programmes over a wide field. By the end of 1979, 20 districts and nearly 120 electorates had on-going NYSC Projects. The intensity of the dedication of Charita Ratwatte, Chairman and Director General of the NYSC and his genuinely charming personal qualities have helped him, no doubt, to have built up in a very short period of time an equally dedicated staff. For them, their work has become a way of life. The NYSC projects bear ample testimony to this.

Society cannot be at perpetual war with the young. It cannot be indifferent either to what happens to them. They need help to develop in a manner that would be rewarding not only to themselves but also to the

society at large. Youth is a crucial adolescent phase in growing. The adult does not seem to understand the youth and holds notions about them that cannot be substantiated. Programmes for the young are an urgent priority and must guard against unprovable presumptions. By and large there is an almost pathological fear of youth. This fear cannot entirely be due to any inherent shortcomings in the young; rather, I believe it is partly due also to our own inadequacies as adults. No one is born good or bad. People are the products of the lives they lead from birth. The adult world must provide for the growth of the young, not only physically but emotionally as well. Where youth is deprived from early life, it becomes fearful, hostile, secretive and even aggressive. Poverty cannot ennoble character. Suffering for the most part makes men petty and vindictive. As the young grow older the intense vulnerability of youth remains.

The NYSC and other non government voluntary agencies have only to look around for their target groups. When a social worker complained that he was finding it difficult to discover areas for work, he was shown a beggar right in front of him. He did not wait. The un-employed crying out for work, the school drop-outs call for the society's urgent and sensitive response. Even school goers have not remained unaffected by the tyranny of poverty. The natural development of this sector of our people is hampered by the inadequacy of organised programmes. In this situation, idleness becomes the unwilling vocation of the young. Despair follows and they take to the streets in order to find relief from boredom. Then we sit back in the comfort of our homes and blame them. This is the commencement of youth becoming the 'lost-generation'. We must recognise that the only real value in the world, ultimately, is the human being. It is he who gives value and meaning to any other resource. Any human being lost represents an irreplaceable loss.

THE INCREASING URBAN MIGRATION poses another problem. In the primate City of Colombo, nearly 50% live under slum and shanty conditions where opportunities for creative activity are practically non-existent.

and where on the other hand opportunities for mischief abound. I have seen some slums and found raw sewage floating past the humble homes. Why should these under-privileged people constantly be paddling in the muddy waters of squalor and live most of their lives in the sludge and slime of poverty? Is it any wonder that some youth lapse into crime and violence while others venture to change society through violent means if need be. The lesson of April 1971 cannot be forgotten. In human costs alone, it is not possible to measure what was lost in terms of productive activity which the lost youth could otherwise have contributed to the State.

When the youth leave their quiet rural homes in their quest for the better things in life which they assume wait for them in the City, they are literally torn up by their roots. They need transplanting in a wholesome and accommodating environment that will nourish them. Invariably they find an uncompromising urban situation. The NYSC and the Voluntary Organisations can come in here and provide organised programmes to meet this pressing need. These youth find themselves in a gigantic whirlpool where none has time for another

Society should not be indifferent to this situation. Suitable programmes are needed for these urban youth. Programmes must be prepared on a comprehensive national scale both for urban and rural communities. The dilemma of youth is a matter of national importance. Programmes prepared for them should be a fountain of hope that will not dry up. They may have been born deprived, but they are entitled to their share of the good things of life.

Poverty, hunger, disease and squalor cripples anyone, not only physically but psychologically as well. Where youth finds itself rejected, it rebels. When personality is crippled the damage does not end with the individual, the spinoff is too depressing to even contemplate. Howard Lane wrote that "no child ever became a serious delinquent who had a genuine adult friend he could really trust."

It has been said that society is very short-sighted as yet in its attitude towards the development of its human resources, training

its horses better than men. It spends unlimited sums of money to perfect inanimate machinery of production but pays very little attention to the business of perfecting human machinery though it is by far the most important in production. We should recognise that when youth has been damaged beyond repair, the debt society owes is beyond computation.

I suggest that every programme designed for the youth has as its objective "Education for Citizenship", which really means teaching "young persons his relationships to those around him and to the society of which he is supposed to be a part." If he sees himself as important to the whole, as valued, many competences will come to him and as he gets the chance to live as though he is valued, the more valuable he will become to himself and to others.

Notice under Section 7 of the Land Acquisition Act. (Cap. 46) amended by the Land Acquisition (amendment) Act.

No. 28 of 1964.

Reference No. ATH 1/263

It is intended to acquire the land described in the schedule below. For further particulars please see the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka No. 79 (Part III) of 07.03.1980.

D.R.O.'s Division : Colombo
 Situation : Alutkade West Ward
 No. 17 within Colombo
 M.C. Limits.
 Village : San Sebastian
 Name of Land : Assessment No. 88
 (Part) San Sebastian
 Street
 Lot No. : 1
 Plan No. P.P. CO. : 5221

H. C. Gunawardena

District Land Officer of Colombo District.
 The Kachcheri,
 Colombo.

Date: — 15/2/1980

Confidentially

MARKETING DEPARTMENT

IS IT NOT A HAPPY SIGN that Minister Lalith Achulathmudali has at last discovered that the Marketing Department (MD) over which he presides is not the organisation he thought it was? That until recently he had taken up the position that only in an instance of corruption or mal-practice was brought to his notice and the charge is proved (as in a court of law) he would take stern action? That this is a legalistically correct position one cannot quarrel about, but it provided at the same time a blanket cover for the miscreants in the MD? That even members of the public who are still patriotic enough to want to root out corruption have become "fed up" by the way that officials treat complaints? That all those who make complaints are treated as disgruntled elements and subversives—and are sent from pillar to post until they withdraw in disgust? That this paper had in the past (even after 1977) spotlighted various kinds of corrupt malpractices indulged in by officials of the MD (especially in the outstations) with no response from official quarters? That more recently, however, *Tribune* has drawn attention to the scandal about MD (and Co-op) officials selling hard-to-get imported onions and essentials to bogus and fictitious purchasers in order to feed the blackmarket? That this series of "complaints", fortunately, was accorded sympathetic consideration at Ministerial level and directives were issued (with stern warnings) to eliminate or minimise such evil practices? That more important than issuing directives to MD employees to be of good behaviour, the interdiction of seventy five (75) branch managers in mid-February for alleged dishonesty is the first sign that "something is being done?"

THAT FOR THE RECORD it would be useful to reproduce the *Ceylon Daily News* of 16/2/80 report entitled FOODSTUFFS WORTH RS. 1 MILLION DISAPPEAR? It read: "..... About a million rupees worth of dry provi-

sions, vegetables and fruits has been spirited away from the Marketing Department's retail outlets by the department's branch managers. Seventy-five managers who were interdicted early this week could not account for stocks of a variety of goods in their retail shops whose values ranged from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 40,000, the Department's Commissioner N. V. Madewan said. He also said that the unaccounted stocks consisted of flour, sugar, dried fish, jams, cordals, tinned food, vegetables and fruits. The interdictions were ordered when audit checks revealed these shortages in branch outlets spread throughout the country. In the case of pilferage or the illegal sale of the department's goods to the private trade, officers were sacked on the spot. A number of such dismissals were taking place daily and many useful tip-offs come from members of the public he said. The department was tightening up its regulations about stock shortages and unlike in the past when managers were given time to explain or make good such shortages, action was not taken immediately when shortages occurred." **That it is to be hoped that the process of cleaning up the MD is not stopped half way? That what has to be achieved is the total elimination of the tie-up between MD officials at all levels and the hoarding-blackmarket-eering syndicates in the private sector?** That the Minister, if he gets a real down-to-earth investigation carried out, will find that the bulk of the sales as well as the purchases (local) are directed through these underground mafias? That auditors and investigators must not be fooled by the way the sales and purchases are "receipted" in small quantities through a vast number of names, most of them fictitious and others who are "professionals" (queue standing) agents of the underworld syndicates. That *Tribune* is aware that recently when *bandakkas* was selling at Rs. 3/50 to Rs. 4/- a lb. in Colombo (in the Mahajana Pola and other markets) an important MD centre purchasing vegetables outstation refused to buy a fairly large quantity of *bandakkas* direct from a producer but wanted him to sell the stuff to a local trader (part of the MD underworld mafia in the district) and from whom the MD would have purchased later if the merchant could not get a better price from wholesalers in Colombo?

To Find Out What's Really Going On
In Sri Lanka And The World—
READ THE *TRIBUNE* EVERY WEEK

Tribune was founded in 1954 to provoke and promote intelligent thinking on all matters of topical interest as well as provide information not usually available in other papers.

Tribune has remained a radical journal of opinion with a reverence for facts, embracing the whole of public life, especially politics, economics, and international affairs. It expresses opinions strongly when necessary, but aims to maintain as few prejudices as possible and certainly no party political prejudices.

Although *Tribune* is published weekly, it is concerned with news as well as with views.

Though *Tribune* has provided and continues to provide a forum for a wide variety of views and conflicting opinion, the paper has always maintained its own point of view thus ensuring a continuity of tradition and consistency of view which few other news papers and magazines in this country have equalled.

TO ENSURE YOUR COPY
EVERY WEEK

Enrol As A Postal Subscriber

Rs. 130/- a year — postfree in Sri Lanka

TRIBUNE

43, DAWSON STREET, COLOMBO 2.

Tel: 33172

"... EVERY AXE BLOW ON A TREE IS A BLOW ON THE NATION'S HEART..."

Land Minister Gamini Dissanayake declared yesterday that all the Armed Forces would be deployed if necessary to protect the country's forest resources. Addressing the 31st annual general meeting of the Forest Officers Union yesterday, he warned that if Sri Lanka's forests continued to decrease at the current rate, the last tree would be lost before the end of this century. "Every axe blow on the trunk of a tree is a blow against the heart of the nation", he said.

Criminals who continued to destroy forests would be dealt with severely, he warned. The Minister said there were powerful people behind some of these rackets. During a certain era politicians too had been directly involved in the felling of trees. "This Government is facing the paradox of policies geared towards forest conservation on one hand and exploitation of forest resources for construction purposes on the other. Wood is an essential item for construction projects. After exploiting a quota of local wood, the balance will be imported from abroad", he explained.

The Minister promised to look into the requests of the Forest Department officers and to provide them with essential facilities such as transport and firearms, as soon as possible. "I am not happy with the progress in forest conservation"; he added.

—Sun, February 3, 1980.

**IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO PROTECT THE TREES
IN OUR JUNGLES AND OUTSIDE.**

**IT'S ALSO NECESSARY TO LOOK AFTER
EVERY SEEDLING PLANTED SO THAT
EVERY ONE GROWS UP TO BE
BIG, TALL AND STRONG.**

Space Donated