

TRIBUNE



27TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION



**NATIONAL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY
VACANCY
MANAGER - (MAINTENANCE)**

Job Description: Planning, organising, and implementation of repair and maintenance programmes for the Urban Housing Schemes and buildings belonging to the National Housing Development Authority.

Qualifications: The prospective candidate should be a B.S.C. (Civil Engineering) Graduate, together with Membership of a recognised institute of Engineers with 10 years experience.

OR

Non professionally qualified (Civil) Engineer with 20 years experience in construction and maintenance work, out of which 10 years should be as N. P. Q. Engineer.

Preference will be given to those who possess experience in maintenance of Housing Schemes or Buildings and constructs management.

Salary: Negotiable, within the following scales:—
Grade III - 2,100—7x50—2,450/-
Grade IV - 1,750—10x50—2,250/-

Other allowances approved by the National Housing Development Authority will also be paid.

Other Benefits: Medical benefit scheme, annual bonus and payment for unavailed of medical leave.

Appointments on contract basis will also be considered.

NOTE: Eligible applicants are requested to apply immediately or *call over with their applications*, indicating the bio-data, at 8.30 a.m. on any working day and meet the Deputy General Manager (Administration) at the undermentioned address before 26th March, 1982.

CHAIRMAN,
National Housing Development Authority,
National Housing Secretariat,
Sir Chittampalam Gardiner Mawatha
COLOMBO 02.

15th March, 1982.



TRIBUNE

Ceylon News Review
A Journal of Ceylon and
World Affairs
Founded in 1954
Every Saturday

Editor: S. P. Amarasingam
Vol. 26 -- No. 27

March 20, 1982
43, Dawson Street,
Colombo 2.
Tel: 33172

CONTENTS

LETTER FROM EDITOR	
— <i>Inflation ?</i>	1
EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK	
— <i>Party Politics</i>	2
FILM FOCUS	
— <i>Frank Yablans</i>	3
CHINA	
— <i>US Arms</i>	5
SHED A TEAR	
— <i>"Who speaks for earth"</i>	6
POEM	
— <i>Berry Picking</i>	7
SRI LANKA CHRONICLE	
— <i>Feb. 28 - March 6</i>	9
WORLD NEWS	
— <i>Feb. 27 - March 7</i>	11
AFGHANISTAN - 13	
— <i>Oxus to Menik</i>	13
WATER METERS	
— <i>Evaluation</i>	16
LETTERS	
— <i>Films</i>	18
NORTH — SOUTH	
— <i>Time Bomb</i>	19
IRAQ — IRAN	
— <i>War</i>	20
QUESTION TIME	
— <i>Who ? Why ?</i>	20
AGRICULTURAL	
— <i>Digest</i>	22
SPORTSCOPE	
— <i>Mainly Cricket</i>	24
CONFIDENTIALLY	
— <i>Swarnabhoomi Or.....?</i>	28

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

THE PICTURE ON THE COVER is only to remind ourselves that Sri Lanka, in spite of tall talk about rapid advancement in modernity, is still at a primitive stage so far as productive technologies are concerned. Our gem industry which is now the second or third biggest foreign exchange earner (even though a sizeable portion of our gems are smuggled out of the is and without the returns therefrom directly accruing to the national wealth), is still in an antiquated state for extraction and mining. It is not only in the gem industry that this country lags behind in technology and sophistication. Our agriculture is a hundred years or more behind time and also in many other fields of economic activity. There is no doubt that this backwardness in technology and productive methods persist because of the world economic crisis which is now chronic and which affects the poor and developing countries most. This crisis manifests itself most strikingly in the fast and almost unbelievable spiralling of prices especially in recent years. The 1981 report of GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) revealed that whilst in the 60s prices had grown, on a world level at an annual average rate of only 1.3 percent, in the 70s the rise was 12 times faster, that is at a rate of 15.8 percent. Now in the 80s it is even higher. And this economic crisis cannot be contained within the frontiers of certain States. It spills over, in a larger or smaller measure, to all countries. Price rises cannot be limited to a certain geographical area. And it is noteworthy that from the end of Second World War till 1974 when the current crisis set in, international trade increased at the most amazing rate. As a result cooperation expanded, the international division of labour deepened and interdependence between national economies became tighter. But, what is indisputable is that rising prices in a country cause the same to happen in other countries too; according to UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) data, in the last decade the developed capitalist states' exportables became 18.6 percent more expensive this being a reflection of price rises in the respective countries by an annual average of 12.7 percent. The inflationary growth of prices on the world market therefore forces additional expenses on importing countries; these have to pay more for the same volume of purchased goods, which means having them bear the burden of difficulties other countries experience. But since no country is strictly an importer or an exporter, practically the whole world feels the effects. The trend on the oil market illustrates this best. The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) estimates that a bare 10 percent rise in the price of a barrel of crude automatically causes prices to leap by an average 1 percent in the Organisation's 24 developed capitalist states. But after 1973 oil prices have increased not by 10 percent but by 1,700 percent. After this the developed capitalist countries have tried to ease their oil bill by selling their own products at higher prices; in turn, the oil-exporting states pegged crude prices at very high levels, blaming the West's inflation for the losses incurred. The result is known: the storm became so mighty that no island of stability has been left on the angry sea of prices. Growing prices are the general trend and this is so even if sometime, somewhere the price of this or that product may go down. It is also a fact that the price lever transferred from one market to another includes higher production costs for all categories of products, but chiefly for agricultural and food products. Statistics of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) bear evidence that in the last decade prices for this product category rose twice faster than those for industrial goods: 3.2 times as against 2.4 times." But all this does not mean that our government should not adopt anti-inflationary measures to reduce prices. It is not enough for the government to say that the price increases were because of global inflation and hope to win the next elections. There are many areas in which prices can be brought down. Must Perakum condensed milk be sold at Rs. 10/25 a tin when the cost of production is alleged to be only Rs. 5/50 a tin ?

Party Politics

WITH THE GENERAL ELECTIONS due next year there is new ferment in the politics of the country. The seers who predict a snap election this year—the latest date suggested is in August—persist in proclaiming their beliefs from the housetops. There are others who believe that the UNP will not rush into a snap election but will wait until its term runs out and hold the elections in the second quarter of 1983 when elections are lawfully due. But whether the elections are held this August or next year in June or July, the election fever has started in real earnest. Eighteen parties have sought registration from the Elections Commissioner and every party is now busy with nomination lists for the districts they want to contest.

Among the major established parties—the UNP, SLFP, the TULF—differences are known to exist in varying degrees of sharpness and intensity. Only in the SLFP they have surfaced into an actual split, but this took place nearly a year ago. In the UNP the differences are referred to by political analysts specially in the Opposition press and they have often been blown up into proportions that do not accord with realities. There has been no split in the UNP and there is not likely to be one as far as matters stand today. But there is no doubt intense bickering and haggling over nomination lists and allied problems have arisen. The anti-UNP sniping now carried on by Upali Wijewardene and his papers will embarrass the UNP but will not cause a split.

In the TULF, the differences are also below the surface. The extremist pro-Eelam group which has always looked on the terrorism of the Tigers and the robbers who take cover behind the Tiger Movement with a kindly eye is naturally unhappy that the TULF leadership is willing to engage in limited co-operation with a Sinhala government thereby detracting from the fight for a separate Tamil Eelam state.

These elements are indignant that the TULF leadership led by Amirthalingam has turned against terrorism and the terrorists. The TULF leaders have made this clear in many speeches and statements. The *Ceylon Daily News* of March 2, reported that: "There are two types of people resorting to violence in Jaffna, opposition leader A. Amirthalingam said yesterday. One is the politically motivated group and the other hard-core criminals who cash in on the situation prevalent in the North, he said. The political group believed in achieving their objectives by violence. They have no connection with the TULF. The TULF believes in achieving its ends by peaceful means, he said. The small-time and big-time criminals of the North make good use of the prevalent situation

to indulge in acts of crime. Things in Jaffna are much better now", he said adding that police-public relationship had improved considerably recently. This was the result of appointing more Tamil-speaking policemen in greater numbers. Now about 40 percent of the police force in the North are Tamil speaking. The TULF wants 75 percent of the police in the North to be Tamil speaking and attempts to bring about this are being made. The Government is also trying to introduce Tamil-speaking police personnel in other Tamil areas. Due to a shortage of Tamil-speaking police personnel the government's aims are obstructed, he said."

But the continuing dialogue between the TULF has been welcomed by the CWC. At the recent CWC Convention in Nuwara Eliya, Mr. Thondaman had said: "I am happy that a dialogue has now begun between the government, and the leaders of the TULF. Considering the vast challenges that the country is confronted with, on many fronts, it is imperative that no opportunity is allowed to pass to solve the problems and promote national unity. . . . He further said, the need for national unity was never felt more than now. The atmosphere of unity cannot be created unless the grievances of the Tamil speaking people are looked into and remedied. The Tamils do have genuine grievances, a fact recognized even by the UNP in its election manifesto. President J. R. Jayewardene has been very receptive to the representations of the leaders of the Tamil community and there is every hope that a solution will be found before long. While the President and the TULF leaders are attempting to bridge the gulf that has been created and widened over the years, there are forces which tend to exploit the situation for their own ends. Mr. Thondaman concluding said, let us pledge to work for a united, peaceful Sri Lanka where there will be no discrimination or discord of any sort'"

As matters stand, the CWC will co-operate with the UNP in the next General Elections and this will lend substantial weightage to the UNP in many districts in the Central, Sabaragamuwa and Uva Provinces and marginal support in others. A understanding with the TULF not to clash in a number of areas—and this is not difficult to achieve—will further help the UNP. In the system of proportional representation that obtains in this country, such an electoral understanding will help the UNP, TULF and the CWC to win a maximum number of seats.

The SLFP, however, is still deep in the throes of a split. There is the SLFP (S) led by Mrs. Bandaranaike and SLFP (M) led by Maithripala Senanayake. Each group claims to be legitimate party and says that the other is a breakaway. Both parties have applied to the Elections Commissioner for registration and the Hand symbol. No decision has yet been made. A number of legal cases connected with the split are now pending in various courts. In the meantime, the Govern-

ment has announced its intention to remove all the loopholes that can be used by Mrs. Bandaranaike and others who have been deprived of civic rights from participating in the elections in anyway.

In this situation a heavy handed *Island-Divaina* campaign was launched predicting a new unity in the SLFP, but it was projected on a mother and son basis. In the best Upali style, Indira Gandhi's name was dropped as a go-between and broker and it was even proclaimed in bold headlines that Anura would dash to New Delhi to have a pow-vow with his mother at the Indian PM's residence. This story turned out to be a thundering flop and there were angry news reports from Delhi indicating that the Indian Prime Minister did not interfere in the internal affairs of political parties in other countries. Even Mrs. Bandaranaike on her return from her pilgrimage to India (during which time she had paid Mrs. Gandhi a personal visit) repudiated this story.

Anura Bandaranaike however following the *Island* line had been making noises about unity but it appeared to be solo effort to come to terms with his mother. But the statements made by the Maithripala group did not show that such unity was round the corner. He took the high and mighty attitude that it was Mrs. B group that had broken away and that it was for them to come back to the Party. The question that many ask is whether Anura will drop the Maithripala group and return to the mother's fold because of the support from Upali Wijewardene and his *Island* and *Divaina*.

In the meantime, last Sundays, *Island* announced in bold headlines that the owner of the *Island* had entered the defamation business with a claim for Rs. 1 million. DEFAMATION CASE FILED: UPALI SUES WIJESIRI FOR RS. 1 MILLION DAMAGES. This is what the report said: "Mr. Upali Wijewardene of No. 38, Thurstan Road, Colombo 3 filed plaint against Mr. R. P. Wijesiri MP for Harispattuwa, No. 32, Sir Marcus Fernando Mawatha, Colombo 7, in the District Court of Colombo claiming damages in Rs. 1,000,000 in respect of a statement alleged to have been made by Mr. Wijesiri to a newspaper called *Dinaya*. Mr. Wijewardene in his plaint alleged that Mr. Wijesiri falsely, maliciously and wrongfully with the intention of flinging him into disrepute, hatred and contempt had made a statement to the said newspaper.

"According to the statement Mr. Wijesiri had stated that he would raise a matter of privilege in Parliament in regard to an attempt made by Mr. Wijewardene and his newspaper group to prevent him from performing his duty as a member of Parliament. Mr. Wijesiri alleged that in order to compel him to withdraw certain questions he had proposed to raise in Parliament pertaining to Mr. Wijewardene and his business establishments, several public personalities

TRIBUNE, MARCH 20, 1982

had been sent to him (Mr. Wijesiri) with an offer of a bribe of Rs. 1 million or any amount asked for by Mr. Wijesiri.

"He had further claimed in the said newspaper report that Mr. Wijewardene would not be able to buy him over in order to prevent him from discharging his duties as an elected representative of the people although Mr. Wijewardene had attempted to obstruct him from acting in accordance with the rights and privileges of an MP he would fail in that endeavour. In his plaint Mr. Wijewardene states that the alleged statement is grossly defamatory of him and has injured on his good name, credit and reputation. Mr. Wijewardene has also filed a similar plaint suing the Editor, and Proprietor of *Dinaya* and Publisher Mr. H. Hemapala. The plaints have been filed on behalf of Mr. Wijewardene by his Attorney, Mr. Prosper St. L. de Costa."

Dinaya is reputedly the paper sponsored by the Anura group and has so far carried on a polemical war against the other group claiming to be the SLFP (led by Mrs. Bandaranaike) and its paper *Dinakara*. Mr. R. P. Wijesiri raised the matters which is the subject matter of the action in Parliament as a matter of privilege on March 12. And the statement made in Parliament was published in the daily papers in full and there were also lengthy news reports over the SLBC and Rupavahini.

Gossip in political circles centre round the question whether Mr. Upali Wijewardene thinks that the filing of the case will pre-empt any further exposures on the plea that everything connected with the life and activities of Upali W. would here after be *sub judice*?

With this litigation and connected polemical fire-works involving Wijesiri who is an important member of the SLFP (M), unity between the two groups under the benign patronage of Upali W seems a distant hope. SLFP Unity moves are therefore still in Square One.



FILM FOCUS

Frank Yablans

At the time of writing this column, there are two films running to packed houses in Colombo cinemas—"The Other Side of Midnight" and "The Fury" (already reviewed in *Tribune*)—and both owe their mass appeal, as much as the respective Directors to Producer-Director cum actor Frank Yablans who has discovered the know-how to stimulate audiences to a maximum pitch. This column has devoted space to Directors and Actors quite often, and today it

turns its focus to this most dynamic Producer (and colourful personality) to emerge on the Hollywood film scene in recent years. An independent Producer now, Yablans was once the President of a major Hollywood studio. Quite unlike most producers who invest the cash and leave everything else to the Director, Yablans toils hard for his returns by throwing himself right in the centre of the film sets where all the action is. He wanted to turn to directing and Yablans got his first chance when director Brian (the new Hitchcock) de Palma partnered him to film "Chicago" and so masterly was Yablans' improvisation of a train hold up at a moments notice that it came off as the best sequence in the film. It is Yablans' view that the common belief that a Director is power-oriented is not true and that at the heart of directing films is the challenge of competing against oneself and of getting the best from the people involved in the production. Of Producers he contends that their word should also be low on the set. Much of Yablans' acting debut however took place in the front passenger seat of a car, giving chase to the hero (Kirk Douglas) in the "Fury", where the emotional range required, was from sinister to the more sinister, which he accomplished to perfection. If one were to think of another personality on the local film scene, who produces, directs and acts in films, the name that emerges instantly to the knowledge of this column, is none other than the versatile Gmini Fonseka who throws himself completely with dedication to this triple aspects of film making, with excellent results. On the Tamil scene however we have Bhagyaraja of Oru Kai Osai fame, who is going great guns in this "triple" direction in South Indian films right now.

THE OTHER SIDE OF MIDNIGHT (English): A Frank Yablans' production and 20th Century Fox Release, that has had the crowds storming the SAVOY in the past few weeks, some of who see it more than once. That hell has no fury like a woman scorned particularly in matters of the heart, is the theme the story for a good part of the way. To portray the wounded woman is the young and attractive French actress Marie Frances Pisier, who as Noelle Page roles a woman thrown to the "wolves", quite ironically by parental poverty. From a traumatic initiation to sex, at the hands of an aged lecher, she uses it as a potential weapon to run down her pilot officer Cavopier Larry lover (John Beak) who picks her up with promises, crushes her with dreams of perpetual love and leaves her in the lurch for another victim (Susan Sarendon) from whom there was no escape from the marital vows. The scene is thus set for a dramatic pursuit of love, revenge and power, between the years 1939 to 1946, with Adolf Hitler goose-stepping in glory to final destruction in the background. The search for Larry by Noelle who is left with child takes a good part of the story in its 3 hour run. Using her physical charms and "bed" experience to maximum advantage, Noelle worms her way to the top ruthlessly as an actress, to become

the influential mistress of a Greek millionaire whom she outwits momentarily in her race for revenge on the only man who woke her to love".

I will not spoil the story any further and will stop here to make a critical analysis of this rather bold film. The settings were some of the richest and most extravagant I have seen in a film for a long time. Marie Pisier with nearly 70 costume changes is pitched from a French background, to top Hollywood billing. With this her first appearance she acts with charm and sex-appeal while John Beck retains the winning charm of a Clark Gable as Rhett Butler in *Gone With The Wind*". Sex sequences however were overplayed to nauseating levels as when Noelle tries abortion in a steaming hot bath. The censors would have done well to delete this scene without harming the story and sparing a glimpse to teenagers viewing the film, of an easy way out, if ever, in a similar dilemma in these permissive times. As the story gathered momentum in the last couple of reels, a good part of the picturegoers had walked out, with sex sequences too having faded away at this point—a sad reflection on many who are queuing up for hours for the erotic appeal alone and calling it a day before curtains.

Film Focus, however places a poser to the censors at this point—whether some of these sequences would have been winked out by them in Sinhalese and Tamil films too and if not why have such double standards been adopted. I espied many prominent local film personalities viewing this film and their opinions would be welcome on this column on the relevant censor attitudes adopted. Perhaps the censors preferred to fall in with the Yablans' assessment, that although the film looks spectacular, it remains a story about people, particularly two women, who more than sex objects are protagonists, making things happen by using more than their sexuality alone. The emphasis he says should shift more towards wealth and power, and how both women manipulate them to their own advantage. This column expects the adults tag to be enforced strictly for the sake of those who are yet on this side of "Midnight" in maturity!

RE MANAMALI (Sinhalese): Yet another film that dwells on the fury of a wife scorned in her hearth and home (Veena Jayakody), by the wayward behaviour of her partner husband (Ravindra Randeniya) for a beauty he meets by the sea shore (Akushla Selliah). The versatile Gmini Fonseka directs this film with vim, vigour and a western touch of detective fiction with Cameraman Vamadan revelling in appropriate photographic effects. While the husband philanders by night, the working wife motors home at an odd hour unexpectedly to take the adulteress violently on her spending car bonnet! The covering up operation of the fatal accident by the married pair, brings in the local Police Inspector (Tony Rana-

TRIBUNE, MARCH 20, 1992

singhe) on the scene, and the story livens up as the party and thrust in a Sherlock Holmes style, unfolds the stink" behind the midnight mishap. With Tony Ranasinghe coming off best, other ran him to a neck in this fine entertainer, handles flawlessly by Gamini Fonseka. Shanti Lekha and Antony C. Perera too excelled in their brief appearances, I thought the title and misleading misnomer to an excellent entertainer that spun a web and a plot amidst lust to surface the wages of sin in high places, which small lies could not bury!

It was quite a coincidence in both films reviewed above that the alleged victims of murder" remained very much alive, although those indicted of their "killings" paid the penalty. See both films and sort this riddle" out for yourselves.

JAMES N. BENEDICT.

NEXT WEEK: Film Exhibitions woes.



THE U.S.A

Arms For China

New Delhi, March 4: New China News Agency (Xinhua) in a commentary from Beijing published have carried the strongest warning to date to the USA, China, it said it was being "forced into a corner without any option's and vowed that Sino-US relations will "retrogress" if the United States continued selling arms to Taiwan." It was the closest China has come to saying publicly that diplomatic relations might be downgraded if the arms sale issue cannot be resolved. Chinese officials have been saying privately for months, however, China would be forced to downgrade relations—meaning at least to recall its ambassador—if the problem remains. China recalled its ambassador to the Hague last year after the Netherlands sold two submarines to Taiwan. Xinhua said that if both sides work together and the United States sees the light on the Taiwan issue, "Sino-US relations will still have a bright future. The position of China is to strive for the best and prepare for the worst", it said.

Xinhua's commentary said China was able to appreciate the fact that the Taiwan issue was inherited from history. It re-interated that the Chinese Government "has been very patient and realistic in its negotiations with Washington and has put forward many reasonable and just proposals", Some Americans, it said, believed that China must depend on the United States and "will swallow any bitter pill insisted upon by the US. This reasoning is false and dangerous".

7 RIBUNE, MARCH 20, 1982

The *Press Trust of India* however, reported that China and US had reaffirmed the positions agreed to by both sides in the Shanghai communique and joint communique on establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. This reaffirmation was contained in letters exchanged between President Reagan and Chinese Premier Zhao Ziang on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Shanghai communique. Both scrupulously avoided any mention of Taiwan which still retains a separate entity even ten years after the signing of the Shanghai communique. The communique had made it clear that there was only one China and that Taiwan was part of the mainland.

In the meantime, the US Secretary of State Alexander Haig has said the United States should take more account of China's strategic importance, citing what he called Beijing's "restraint" on Vietnam. "Too frequently today.... we neglect to take full weight of the strategic importance of the American relationship with the People's Republic of China", Mr. Haig said. In an obvious reference to Taiwan, he said this was not intended as a plea to make new friends at the expense of old friends but cautioned that the United States must consider China's vital strategic role.

The United Press International (UPI) in a despatch from Shanghai had stated that China signalled on the eve of the 10th anniversary of the Shanghai communique yesterday by saying that secret Sino-American talks had not yet resolved the Taiwan arms sales dispute. Sino-US talks on the US arms sales to Taiwan were going on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in response to a reporter's query. Mr. Haig disclosed that Beijing and Washington were holding talks on the explosive Taiwan arms issue, but neither side has disclosed where the talks are taking place or at what level.

But commentators in the US and West European press have been at pains to point out that the largest US arms manufacturing concerns have been long expressing dissatisfaction over the failure of the Carter Administration to work out regulations determining the categories and types of arms and military hardware which can be sold to China. After *Instruction 81* on arms trade control was issued in March 1980 the White House repeatedly promised to ease arms sales licensing to China, but did not keep its words. Now that Reagan, was in power it was said their US-Chinese relations in the military field had entered a new phase which may make possible the practical implementation of plans of military cooperation between the USA and the People's Republic prepared way back during the Carter Administration. It is known that at present the two governments closely co-operate in the military field, which includes exchange of intelligence data on the situation in Asia and continuous two-way flow of military delegations. However, Washington does not intend to stick to protocol

contacts alone. The Reagan Administration, it is admitted, has launched concrete moves to expand military cooperation with Peking. They have been clearly set out in a recent Report released in Washington implications of US-Chinese military cooperation. The Report has been prepared by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the Congressional Research Service and is in fact a programme of military relations between the United States and China for the next few years.

The Report provides for the training and special instruction of Chinese servicemen in the USA, consultations on military planning, and calls of naval vessels at the ports of the two nations. The report also explains and justifies the need to sell arms and military equipment to China. The US refusal to sell arms to China, says the Report, may be perceived by Peking as a revision of US intentions towards China. The conclusion drawn by the Report is that despite possible negative implications—for the USA of arms sales to China, such an ally in Asia as China, equipped with latest US military hardware, is extremely important for the USA.

It is known that several leading representatives of the US military industrial complex have expressed satisfaction over the assurances given by the new Administration that the President will shortly make a decision to transfer China from the licencing group "P" to Group "J", which includes the "free world" countries. That will offer the People's Republic of China a practical access to the American arms market. Observers in the Indian capital feel that China's threat to downgrade relations with the USA if arms sales to Taiwan are not stopped within a fixed time-limit is only Peking's manner of conducting negotiations behind a propaganda smokescreen that will keep other countries guessing.—IPA.



SHED A TEAR

Who Speaks for Earth?

By G. I. O. M. Kurukulasuriya

Carl Sagan is the Director of the Laboratory for Planetary Studies and Professor of Space Sciences at Cornell University. He received the Pulitzer Prize for Literature in 1978. He is a humanist with multi-disciplinary interests. His feature article reproduced in the world press entitled WHO SPEAKS FOR EARTH" reflected on the global balance of terror (vide Daily News of 29.1.1982).

*This is the way the World ends—" —T. S. Eliot
— Not with Whimper
But in a flash.
Yes—with a Bang
And we'll all be ash!*

The global balance of terror, pioneered by the United States and the Soviet Union, holds, hostage the citizens of the Earth". Carl Sagan has said it so agonisingly. Barbara Ward has said it over a decade ago. In our age, on planet earth man has to live as a *community*—caring and sharing across the globe—or we all perish. There is no choice and time is running out. Israel's pre-emptive bombing of the Osirak nuclear plant under construction was the beginning of the final world war. Those of us who are old enough would have seen the end of the War to save Democracy' and the War to end all Wars". What exactly is the next war going to save? And, whom? Is it the American Ascendency (like the British Empire?) or is it for the establishment of the Marxist millenium? Is it for the computerised competitive exploitation of the manpower and natural resources of the Third World in a particular relationship of prices and profits so as to sustain the *consumerism* of twenty percent of the human species? Is it (with the use of micro-chips laser technology, genetic engineering etc.) to arrive at the age of Leisure dreamed of by Alvin Toffler? Today the human species is held hostage by a *very small* fragment of itself and the rest can do nothing about it—except perhaps, like Carl Sagan and many of us, writing articles on the subject? Is the present balance of Terror going to be more soul-satisfying if it is pitched at a higher level with larger and better bombs? Or are nations trying to hedge the risks and save themselves at the expense of the rest?

DIALOGUE AMONG MADMEN : To us in the Third World, struggling to have enough food and basic needs it is bad enough to see five billion human beings spend five hundred billion dollars a year on arms. Our struggle for survival is to get out of the firing line. But the contending powers wont leave us alone. The world is their battle field and we are expendable. The Indian Ocean will not be left as a peace zone. The contending powers still hope to sit on the H bombs and fight a conventional war. And the loser will peaceably give in and call it a day. This mentality showed up in Ronald Reagan's much reported Press Interview of last October sixteenth, disturbed Europe. He said: I could see where you could have the exchange of tactical weapons against troops in the field without it being either one of the major powers to pushing the button." Pushing the button indeed. The next war is not a private business between Reagan and Brezhnev. Nor could it be fought outside their territory on Continental Europe. And what can Carl Sagan do more than shed a tear?

THE TRAGEDY OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION : The Western media has made an issue of the so-called East-West crisis. There is no such thing. The crisis is a purely Western creation with roots in the aggressive and predatory expansion

TRIBUNE, MARCH 20, 1982

of Europe since the year 1500. We, in the true East, are only victims. Carl Sagan observes: "...between Aristorchus and ourselves we reluctantly noticed that we were not the centre and purpose of the Universe". Note the use of the word "We". People of the dominant civilization at any time tend to talk as if they represent the entire human species.

The people of our part of the world, of the ancient Hindu-Buddhist civilisation never had such notions of man and the universe. Their perceptions of the time frame, space-time and the relationship to plants, animals, the stuff of the mother earth (and the seabed) was one of an intricate, inter-related and interdependent lace-work with God immanent in all. Teilhard de Chardin is a faint echo of this ancient wisdom. Their main intellectual perceptions were not making of better weapons or going to the moon or forming like-mind" committees to mine the seabed. They were the perennial questions contingency and the identity in human individuation, the location of the individual in the social fabric. At the social level the focus was on Dharma (obligation) and not on individual rights". But enough of this !

The pain of Western thought today is that their faith in an indefinite and continued linear progress of this civilisation is shaken. In the wide time frame of human history, we in our part of

the world are the survivals": the Western civilisation, dominant in our time, are the new arrivals". Today, fused together in the flux of history the odds are that we either live or die together. And, so we take our options of Non-Alignment even as gesture to advert to an alternative for mankind to escape this balanced of Terror between polarised military powers. One need not believe in Oswald Spengler to wonder whether the dominant civilisation is now in the throes of a terminal illness and a compulsive drive towards self-destruction.



POEM

Berry picking

Come share in my temptation
And feel the innocence
Of my fun.
Picking berries
At a hedge
Pregnant with
Red, red, orbs,
Laughing in the sun.

Come linger by my side,
Play truant for a while.
And taste
The wine red nectar
As it spills,
And stains,
My lips,
My hands.

Forget the grease, the grind,
The myriad noises of
A busy day.
When voices call,
Phones ring,
Cars whiz,
And tumble you into
Stark reality.

Live with me awhile
A childhood fantasy
And hoard,
In luscious piles.
Those berries,
As they swing,
Enticing,
Smooth and warm.

And hide them,
In your mind,
To comfort you
On a dark and dreary day.

MAKE

TRIBUNE

A Weekly Habit

— For News Behind The News —

**SUBSCRIBE
IMMEDIATELY**

Until March 31, 1982, Subscriptions will be received at the current rates; Rs. 160 for 5 issues, Rs. 90 for 26 issues and Rs. 50 for 13 issues.

Foreign Rates on Application

TRIBUNE

43 Dawson Street
Colombo 2
Tel. 33172

PERIODICALS FROM THE USSR

A Gift of a Three Year
Wall Calendar to Each Subscriber.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

1982 — 1983 — 1984

	<i>1 Year</i>	<i>2 years</i>	<i>3 Years</i>
	<i>Rs. Cts.</i>	<i>Rs. Cts.</i>	<i>Rs. Cts.</i>
SOVIET UNION	25.00	40.00	50.00
SOVIET WOMAN	22.00	35.00	45.00
SOVIET FILM	25.00	40.00	50.00
SOVIET LITERATURE	38.00	60.00	76.00
SPUTNIK	65.00	100.00	130.00
SOVIET MILITARY REVIEW	25.00	40.00	50.00
SPORT IN THE USSR	25.00	40.00	50.00
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS	30.00	50.00	60.00
FOREIGN TRADE	165.00	250.00	330.00
NEW TIMES	30.00	50.00	60.00
MOSCOW NEWS	30.00	50.00	60.00
MOSCOW INFORMATION	30.00	50.00	60.00
SOCIAL SCIENCES	40.00	65.00	80.00
SCIENCE IN THE USSR	50.00	80.00	100.00
CULTURE AND LIFE	25.00	40.00	50.00
MUSLIMS OF THE SOVIET EAST	25.00	40.00	50.00

PEOPLE'S PUBLISHING HOUSE LTD.,

124, KUMARAN RATNAM ROAD,

COLOMBO 2.

Phone : 36111

February 28 - March 6

DIARY OF EVENTS IN SRI LANKA COMPILED FROM DAILY NEWS- PAPERS PUBLISHED IN COLOMBO

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28: The report of the Select Committee appointed by the Speaker, Mr. M. A. Bakeer Markar, on whether the four members of Parliament in the Maithri-Anura Group of the SLFP should cease to be parliamentarians will be ready by May, political circles believe. From tomorrow only persons entitled to purchase goods from the duty-free shopping complex will be admitted and all purchases will have to be made with travellers' cheques or on credit cards; this on-the-spot decision was made by the Minister of Trade and Shipping Lalith Athulathmudali, when his Ministry Secretary Lakshman de Mel and other officials, visited the complex which is crowded by persons claiming to be relations but a majority of whom were "brokers" who snapped up the goods; it has also been found that some of the foreign currency given to shops have been forged—*SO*. Energy experts will meet in Colombo from March 2—8 to determine the kind of international assistance needed to help accelerate the development of new and renewable sources of energy in developing countries of Asia and the Pacific. The Government has decided to alter the original Mahaweli plan for environmental reasons; large areas of forest land will not be cleared for human settlement; under the altered plan an extent of 300,000 acres of forest will not be touched; in addition to this the government has also decided not to clear the Wasgomuwa reserve and half of the Somawathiya reserve which were to have been cleared for human settlement in the original Mahaweli plan. The Kandy Municipal Council at its monthly meeting held on Friday unanimously resolved to request the Maha Nayake theras and Diyawadana Nimalas to take remedial steps to prevent foreign tourists who come as mere tourists and not as pilgrims to Sri Dalada Maligawa from entering the hallowed premises—*ST*. A bitter battle appears to be brewing between the Eelam separatist groups in London and New York and the Tamil United Liberation Front. Sri Lanka is now caught up in the grip of the worst drought

of the century. Government has cancelled the agreement between the Mahaweli Development Board and the Malaysian Guthrie Corporation to establish an Oil Palm Project in System B of the accelerated Mahaweli Programme; this cancellation comes in the wake of several protests both scientific and political, that were made to the Government regarding the leasing out of 12,000 acres of prime agricultural land in System B for Oil Palm cultivation—*WK*. Twelve hardcore terrorists suspected of being members of the group headed by Uma Maheswaran are now under detention in the North while Uma Maheswaran himself has absconded and is evading arrest; the Inspector General of Police, Mr. Ana Seneviratne, in the gazette issued on Friday, has proclaimed 16 more persons including Uma Maheswaran and Prabakaran as suspects wanted by police in connection with crimes in the North last year. Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike and son Anura, who are on opposite camps of the SLFP, the *Island* has reported will unite next month; the dramatic development came when Mrs. Bandaranaike, who is now in India, offered Anura the post of Campaign and Party leader of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party; Mrs. Bandaranaike will be the patron of the party, which will ensure that there are no legal impediments for the SLFP at the next general elections.—*IS*.

MONDAY, MARCH 1: A senior South Korean trade and investment mission will be here next April to negotiate more rubber and other agricultural produce purchases and explore investment opportunities, South Korean Ambassador Mr. Min Gil Chung said. An Investment Protection Agreement between Sri Lanka and Japan will be signed today at the President's Office. The Ministry of Agriculture had decided to lease a one million rupee prefabricated warehouse to the Neervely Cooperative Society in a bid to prevent onion prices crashing to uneconomic levels in the next two months; onions are now selling at Rs. 6 a kilo in Colombo and at Rs. 4 in Jaffna the main producing area—*CDN*. Sri Lanka's balance of trade with the oil-rich West Asian countries has now begun tilting in our favour, with Saudi Arabia being the only exception. Kuwait leads with the most favourable balance amounting to nearly Rs. 300 million while Oman, Dubai and Abu Dhabi have also bought more than they have sold to Sri Lanka. The hydrel region is experiencing a severe drought since last January, the Mousakelle reservoir with an impounding capacity of 3,300 acres of water is rapidly drying up. It is 37 feet below spill level.—*CDM*. Security forces in the north yesterday raided one of the command centres of the Liberation Tiger Organisation killing a group leader and recovering a large part of the terrorist arsenal after a gun battle; the raid on the hideout situated close to the Vavuniya Airport runway came after the Navy had arrested four members of the group in a boat near Kachchativu.

The rate of economic growth in 1981 was just under six percent an improvement over the previous year's growth rate of 5.5 percent; the Plan Implementation Ministry's Performance Report for 1981 attributed this increase in growth to better performances in the tea, coconut and industrial sectors and more restraints in the construction and service sectors—*SU*. Building Materials Corporation Chairman Ajantha Wijesena says that the BMC is facing very serious liquidity problems and that the financial position leaves one wondering whether this organisation would survive for long; he says this in a letter to the Treasury, which is asking for Rs. 3.93 million dividend payable to the Treasury; the BMC has not paid this despite a Cabinet directive and numerous letters from the Treasury. The Home Guards scheme which will go into operation throughout the country from May 1st this year will come under the direct purview of the President Mr. J. R. Jayewardene. The Agricultural Minister's experiment in wheat cultivation has proved successful not only in the wet zone districts of Badulla and Nuwara Eliya but even in the arid Jaffna Peninsula, according to the Minister of Agricultural Development and Research Mr. E. L. Senanayake—*IS*.

TUESDAY, MARCH 2: There are two types of people resorting to violence in Jaffna, Opposition leader A. Amirthalingam said yesterday; one is the politically motivated group and the other hard-core criminals who cash in on the situation prevalent in the North he said; the political group believed in achieving their objectives by violence; they have no connection with the TULF; the TULF believes in achieving its ends by peaceful means, he said. Eleven vehicles were waylaid and looted by a heavily armed gang which had set up a road block at the Haldemulla-Walhapatane mile post on the Haputale-Balangoda road on Sunday night; according to reports reaching Colombo, the robbers had removed over 36,000 rupees worth of goods, mostly personal belongings including wrist watches and jewellery from the occupants of the vehicles. Plans by the Liberation Tiger Organisation to attack the Murunkan Police Station and also possibly assassinate a high-ranking officer of the northern security forces has now been uncovered in the wake of Sunday's raid on a terrorist command centre in Vavuniya. The bicycle gang struck again in Jaffna yesterday; this time their victim was a cooperative cashier who was carrying 60,000 rupees in cash and 24,000 in cheques to be banked—*SU*. The Paddy Marketing Board has brought down the price of country rice from Rs. 6.15 per kilo to Rs. 5.75 per kilo and raw rice from Rs. 5.90 per kilo to Rs. 5.40 per kilo. Polonnaruwa, Minneriya and Hingurakgoda districts have good harvest this season; and the price of rice has come down to Rs. 4 per kilo in these areas—*DV*. The doctors of all government hospitals will work to rule from today; the doctors union will meet today to discuss matters on the salaries of the

doctors. The President, Mr. J. R. Jayewardene has investigated into all malpractices in the State Fertiliser Corporation; all promotions and transfers have been stopped; a committee has been appointed by the President to investigate all dealings of the Corporation. —*ATH*.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3: The Guthrie Corporation's oil palm project in Sri Lanka is still on, the French news agency *AFP* reported from Kuala Lumpur yesterday quoting business sources there; these sources discounted some Colombo reports that the agreement with the Sri Lanka Government had been cancelled, *AFP* said. President J. R. Jayewardene yesterday appointed a committee with Mr. S. M. L. Marikkar, Additional Secretary to the President as Convenor, to go into a variety of problems facing plantation workers—*CDN*. Foreign Minister A. C. S. Hameed yesterday cautioned energy experts against being lulled into complacency over the present glut in oil supplies, stressing that the overall picture remained as critical as it ever was. Sri Lanka's largest construction project, the Victoria Dam and tunnel is faced with a variety of physical and organisational setbacks and may not be completed on schedule. A level investigation by the Police and the Prisons is under way in respect of five prisoners who gained their freedom using forged documents, Prisons Chief Priya Delgoda said yesterday—*SU*. Sri Lanka's attempt to find employment for 100,000 persons in the Middle East might be stymied by plans now being made in some Gulf States to curb foreign employment; according to a report in the *Gulf Times* plans are well underway to cut down foreign employment in the Gulf Region"—*IS*. A part of the Jewellery stolen from the Kilinochchi Bank last October was found buried under a lime tree in an abandoned farm at Vavuniya; the person who found the jewellery and three others have been taken into custody; the finder has informed the police that certain youth armed with guns had threatened him and taken the jewellery away—*DP*. The Petroleum Corporation has asked the government to consider increasing the price of petrol and diesel; at present the corporation is running at a loss of about 60 million rupees yearly and if the prices are not revised shortly the corporation will have to close down it is stated.—*DI*. More than seven lakhs of citizens have not received their National Identity Cards as yet. due to this most of the work in the government departments are delayed—*LD*. It is alleged that Rs. 350,000 received from the sale of rice by workers in the Paddy Marketing Board at Welimada have been misappropriated. —*ATH*.

TUESDAY, MARCH 4: A unique Buddhist event will take place on Poson Poya day (June 6) at Mihintale when 300 monks commence chanting of the Tripitaka—*CDN*. The Cabinet yesterday decided that persons directly involved in acts of terrorism will not be allowed bail in any Court of Law. President J. R. Jayewardene has informed all Cabinet Ministers

to be cautious of corruption prevailing in most government departments and corporations. Public officers found guilty on the grounds of drunkenness are liable to immediate dismissal; this decision was taken at the weekly Cabinet meeting yesterday. Uruwarige Tissahamy 85-years old veteran Veddha Leader from Dambana on Mahiyangana is in town with a party of veddhas vehemently protesting over the decision of the Department of Wild Life to shift them from their present abodes at Dambana; the party led by Tissahamy will meet the President and Prime Minister to personally lodge their protest over taking over their village for the proposed Wild Life Sanctuary at Maduru Oya—*CDN*. Any person whose civic rights have been taken away and canvasses or acts as an agent at an election will be guilty of a corrupt practice under an amendment to be introduced to the Election Act, government decided yesterday. President J. R. Jayewardene will inaugurate the Swaranabhumi programme for the award of land grants to farmers on March 7 in Polonnaruwa; about 430,000 land grants will be awarded to farmers under this programme by mid 1983. Four terrorist suspects, including a youth said to be a recruiting agent in the Jaffna area were arrested yesterday by Police—*SU*. A surprise visit to two of the State Distilleries Corporation outlets in Anuradhapura by a team of Corporation officials headed by the Chairman. Mr. A. Pilapitiya, revealed that arrack sold there was adulterated.—*IS*. The Minister of Cultural Affairs E. L. B. Hurulle has informed the President that private businessmen are trying to put up two hotels in the Tissa wewa, areas in Anuradhapura; these businessmen have not got permission from the Department of Irrigation or the G. A. of Anuradhapura to construct these hotels—*DIV*. The Fertilizer Corporation has imported a fertilizer called "Zink Plate" for over Rs. 20 lakhs; this type of Fertilizer cannot be used in Sri Lanka; now this Fertilizer is lying in the Hunupitiya Stores being unfit for use—*ATH*.

FRIDAY, MARCH 5: Trade and Shipping Minister Lalith Athulathmudali announced on Wednesday that certain changes would be made in the proportional representation (PR) system of election which would enable the people rather than the parties to determine who enters Parliament. France has broken new ground and agreed to assist an agriculture irrigation project with a funding of Rs. 350 million for the Nilwala Ganga Scheme which will be launched in the Matara district this year.—*CDN*. The Secretary to the Ministry of Finance and Planning has informed the Governor of the Central Bank and the Chairmen of the three state banks—People's Bank, Bank of Ceylon and the National Savings Bank that no vacancy in their institution should be filled without specific authorisation from the Ministry. Prince Philip was very much delighted yesterday when Minister of State Mr. Anandatissa de Alwis presented him a frolicking 18-month-old baby jumbo; accepting the gift on behalf of the Children of Britain he

said that "Geetha" will find a home in the London Zoo.—*IS*.

SATURDAY, MARCH 6: The army patrolling the streets of Jaffna opened fire last night injuring a twenty year old youth identified as Chelliah; the injured person has been admitted to the Jaffna hospital. A number of estates in this quality tea-producing district are in a financial bind; millions of rupees are due from these estates to the Ceylon Electricity Board for power supplied over a long period; unpaid transport bills have also mounted—*CDN*. The Ceylon Electricity Board is claiming Rs. 100,000 from the Department of Telecommunication following extensive damage caused to the Board's high tension cable at Ratmalana. Prince Philip the Duke of Edinburgh left the Island yesterday after a four-day visit in his capacity as President of the World Wild Life Fund—*CDM*. Compulsory auctions for several export cash crops will be introduced by government shortly with a view to boosting the falling trade; according to government sources these compulsory auctions which at present are only held for the traditional export and for cardamoms will be extended to include all spices, cocoa, coffee, cotton, tobacco and oil crops. The committee appointed to report on the salary scales of doctors and other grades of officers under the Health Ministry, is expected to submit its report to the Cabinet sub-committee, before the next Cabinet meeting; Sri Lanka will seek an enhanced coffee export quota of two million kilograms from the International Coffee Organisation (ICO)—*SU*. A Rs. 2.86 million rupee contract for the construction of a Regional Warehouse Complex at Weligama has been awarded by the Ceylon Fertilizer Corporation to a private contractor without the sanction of the Cabinet. Redd Barna, the Norwegian Save the Children Fund will commence sinking 20 tube wells from March 3 in different parts of the drought-stricken Anuradhapura District.—*IS*.



WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

February 27 - March 5

ASIA

INDIA: Premier Indira Gandhi said that Pakistan was suffering from an obsession: and that she had already made it clear that whether there was any pact or not, India would not attack Pakistan. Visiting President of Greece Karamanlis and the Indian Premier expressed concern over the proliferation of sophisticated military weapons. Indian government was hopeful that the incident involving a senior Indian diplomat, who is alleged to have hit a Bangladesh Security official, will not stand in the way of negotiations to improve relations.

TRIBUNE, MARCH 20, 1982

11

the way of negotiations to improve relations. **UNITED ARB EMIRATES:** South Yemen President Ali Nasser Mohammed said that the US was trying to create instability in the Gulf region and the presence of AWACS in Saudi Arabia was an evidence of such attempts. **LEBANON:** French President's speech in Israeli Parliament was criticised by the Palestinian leaders. PLO leaders said that President Mitterand has tried 'to equate the aggressor and the victim'. **ISRAEL:** Israeli chief of staff Rafael Eitan appears to be in hot waters over his remark that he sympathised with those who were opposed to the hand over of Israeli occupied Sinai. President Mitterand of France in his address to the Israeli Parliament appealed to Israelis to accept to rights of the Palestinians to have their own State. But Israeli Premier rejected the call as a "horrendous design" which would eventually destroy Israel. Reports from Tel Aviv indicated that President Mitterand of France left the country with deepened differences between the two countries. **PAKISTAN:** President Zia has rejected suggestions that Pakistan has insisted on special conditions to enter into a no-war pact with India. The military government of Pakistan has arrested nearly 10,000 political workers charged Noorani, President of religio-political JUP Party. The wife of the executed premier Bhutto has called President Zia to "hold elections and quit" from the scene. **CHINA:** Chinese and US leaders, in an exchange of letters to mark the 10th anniversary of the Shanghai communique, reaffirmed their intention to develop Sino-American relations. But a Xinhua commentary issued a stern warning to the USA that the sale of arms to Taiwan without a time limit would harm Sino-US relations. **THAILAND:** Thailand's National Security Council chief has warned Thailand against direct involvement in Kampuchean war. **KAMPUCHEA:** Former Premier of Kampuchea Son Sann expressed his willingness to join the talks with Prince Sihanouk and Khmer Rouge but was not prepared to surrender his identity. He was always suspicious of the Marxist-orientated Khmer Rouge. He will not lose his identity in any coalition. He further emphasised that other two groups need him more than his need of them.

EUROPE

SOVIET UNION: The warm welcome given by Soviet leaders to Polish leader Gen. Jaruzelski at Moscow airport was the scene of a demonstration of Kremlin's appreciation of his role in current crisis. Soviet Union has proposed to sign an agreement pleading never to use nuclear weapons against Japan in return for Japan's assurance not to keep atomic warheads on her territory. A Soviet spacecraft landed on the Venus and began taking samples of the planet's crust. The US spy satellites have taken pictures of a Soviet bomber similar to US B-1 which would reach US easily. **POLAND:**

Polish mass media praised the Soviet Union for its economic support to overcome the crisis caused by the economic sanctions by some Western countries. Polish authorities have permitted all those who were interned to emigrate with their families. **ITALY:** The NATO commanders were surprised that an unidentified submarine has made a dent into its system in Toranto, a vital military post for Italy as well as for NATO's warships. Italian defence ministry said that it was a Soviet spy submarine. The Soviet Ambassador to Italy has denied that it was a Soviet submarine. **WEST GERMANY:** The State Premier of West Germany has planned to introduce a legislation offering immigrants financial inducements to return to their homelands. Germany now fears an outburst of anti-foreigner backlash in the country.

AFRICA

EGYPT: Israel wants President Mubarak Hosni to include Jerusalem in his itinerary when he visits Israel. But the Egyptian leader was not very happy to visit that city as Egypt was opposed to the annexation of East Jerusalem captured from Jordan in the 1967 war. **LIBYA:** CIA has made it known that Col. Gaddafi survived an attempt on his life made in mid December 1981. The attempt was made by Libyan army and no outside country was involved. **TUNISIA:** Tunisia and Libya signed an agreement covering all fields at the end of the visit of Libyan leader Col. Gaddafi. It is reported that final agreement was signed only after a copy of the merger agreement of 1974 was returned to Tunisia. **SOUTH AFRICA:** The Transvaal branch of the ruling National Party has expressed its confidence on Premier P. W. Botha. This meeting was called by the rebel minister and Transvaal Party Leader Andries Treurnicht. Two rebel ministers, Andries Treurnicht and Ferdie Hortzenberg resigned from the Government and another 16 members were expelled from the party. These rightwing conservatives were opposed to sharing power with non-whites. **UGANDA:** Uganda's Roman Catholic Archbishop called for apology from Dr. Obote for the inhuman Army attack on Kampala's main Cathedral forcing 1,500 worshippers to the street. **ZAMBIA:** There were exchange of fire between border troops of Zambia and Zaire and bus loads of Zambian passengers were taken into custody by Zairean troops.

AMERICA

UNITED STATES: In order to increase the number of nuclear warheads to 42,000 the present US administration has decided to increase the production of plutonium. President Reagan's Budget for 1983 was all but dead in Congress and both republicans and Democrats were in a dilemma over an alternative budget. Secretary of State defended administration plans not to sell advanced planes to Taiwan. He emphasised the strategic importance

of China. China was a restraining factor on Vietnam. The Independent Overseas Development Council (ODC) had advised the US to make use of trade and economics, instead of brute force, in Third World countries to ensure its position. It should not give the Third World countries the impression that it was more concerned with the prevention of Soviet advance than in constructive work. In an article in the *New York Times* Secretary of State has said that it would be the height of folly to try to save Taiwan and lose China. If China slipped back into the Soviet orbit, the balance of power in the world would be overwhelmingly shifted against the USA. Secretary of State told the Foreign Affairs Committee that guerillas in El Salvador were led by foreign countries; that the US has no intention of sending combat troops to El Salvador. Defence Secretary Weinberger argued against any defence cutting before the Senate Budget Committee. It was essential to keep the Soviet Union warned of the possible consequences; contrary to the fear that it will add to inflation, it would create more jobs, encourage business investments and strengthen US industrial base. US Defence on the units feel that Soviet Union would be in a position to destroy US space satellites next year. US has now decided to suspend its opposition to the construction of a Soviet natural gas pipeline to Western Europe. **CUBA:** The Communist Party daily *Granma* described US President Reagan's Caribbean economic aid program as a cruel joke. The social problems of the area had not been touched upon by the aid programme. **EL SALVADOR:** Government forces claimed complete victory over the guerillas in the Cerro hills. In US, some 100 Congress members have urged President Regan to persuade El Salvadorean Government to negotiate with leftists insurgents. **COLOMBIA:** The Government of Columbia and Honduras have been surprised that US government has planned to expand the airfields of the respective countries. They denied that they had any prior discussion on the matter with the US Government.



JOURNEY TO AFGHANISTAN—13

Oxus to Menik Ganga

By S. P. Amarasingam

As I have mentioned before, with all the horror stories about the continuing war at the very doorsteps of Kabul itself, life appears to be normal in the City. The bazaars are crowded and there is little evidence of any military presence except at key points. I was certainly not prepared for this normality. To a first-time visitor like myself the most striking thing about Kabul was the total lack of tension. Even the sound of the rumbling tanks, usually in pairs, during the curfew hours from

11 p.m. to 4 a.m., when the streets were empty of pedestrian and motor traffic, brings only momentary feelings of eeriness, the flash of a reminder that we were in the midst of war. But this is only a fleeting thought. The Afghan crisis, which is a bogey in the world outside, is not felt in Kabul itself.

The Babrak Karmal regime tries hard to give the impression that but for a small group supported by outside powers total normalcy could be restored quickly. The government makes persistent efforts to impress upon visitors that contrary to reports circulated by the Western media large parts of Afghanistan were relatively unaffected by the troubles in the border areas. This claim appears to be true. This is exactly what I and visiting journalists in our group felt. The rhythm of life appeared to be regular and undisturbed except perhaps for a continuous flow of gossip of the evil achieved and the dangers apprehended. But gossip and rumour do not seem to bother anyone. A shrug of the shoulder, or the raising of an eyebrow, or an outpouring of well-intoned rhetoric was all that accompanied even the most horrendous story of the undeclared war. Perhaps it was no different in the bazaars of Kabul when Alexander or Tamerlane or Ghengis Khan went through to India or came back again to return to the plains of Central Asia.

I went round many of the bazaars at different times with different escorts some of them foreigners who had lived in Kabul for periods ranging from three months to three years. The shops were full of goods. Hi-fi sets, transistors, tape-recorders, television sets and other electronic gadgetry from Japan were available even in small shops. There was toilet paper from Finland and shoes from the UK and USA. There were textiles from India and a large variety of consumer goods from China, Taiwan and Hongkong. Hawkers on the streets had all brands of cigarettes manufactured and marketed by the multinationals. The hotels served excellent Czech pilsner. The shop keepers were polite and were not averse to discussing the current situation. The prices of imported articles were extremely "reasonable" in terms of Sri Lanka currency.

In all conversations I had in Kabul, even when no officials were present, there was no cursing of the Babrak Kamal regime or the Russians. But, among the intellectuals and some of the others I met, one heard the constant refrain that all nations should be free to choose their own way of life. With this general formulation, every Afghan, who was not a fanatic supporter of the Babrak Karmal regime, felt satisfied that he had conveyed all he wanted to a foreigner about his feelings on the current situation in Afghanistan. There was no evidence—even in bazaar gossip—of the reports in the Western press that Russians were confined to their barracks because they were stabbed the moment they stepped out of their quarters. I found them shopping frequently, including women, and they went about in a relaxed

TRIBUNE, MARCH 20, 1982

13

manner. They were willing to gossip with anyone who talked Russian.

There is no doubt that there is a universal desire among the Russians as well as the Afghans that foreign troops must go home. Every intellectual, including the officials, repeat this proposition. It is almost a slogan. It reflects a general nationalist hostility to anything foreign that appears to be an imposition, but except for a few nobody took an over-simplistic view of the situation. All realised the complexity of the problem. The approach of most people is more pragmatic and realistic, and differs fundamentally from the Western position about the Soviet presence in Afghanistan. Talking to a large number of persons it seemed to me (and this was confirmed by foreign personnel in Kabul) that the Soviet Union was not in a weak position with the Afghan people. Wishful thinking in the West cannot change the situation.

A person, not an Afghan, whose knowledge of Afghanistan I learnt to respect, told me that one must have a knowledge of the history and culture of Afghanistan and its peoples to understand their thinking. The Soviet intervention, he told me, was no doubt unpopular but surprisingly it had enhanced Russian credibility. The Pushtuns, who are nearly 45 percent of the population, lay great store, he told me, on loyalty among friends regardless of price. The Soviet willingness to sacrifice their lives for their friends in Kabul has deeply impressed the Afghan people. Even the "rebels", I was told, honour (in their thinking) Russian soldiers they kill, because they say that he was a *bar* (a stout-hearted man of honour in Persian). This is the highest compliment an Afghan can pay to another person. In conversation reference was often made to the Pushtun code of honour *Pushtunwali*. Many told me repeatedly that when the Russians are gone, they will be respected for the display of loyalty to their friends and also because that by and large Soviet troops had behaved extremely well, had kept a low profile and had tried to impose as little as possible on the local population. Comparisons are sometimes unfair and often odious, but most Afghans I met do not rate the stock of the Western countries very high. They say they make a great deal of noise as the self-appointed champions of the Afghans, but that they were not willing to fight side by side with the rebels they have trained in Pakistan territory. The average Afghan, I was told, would have been impressed if the Chinese, Americans and even Pakistanis had fought together with the rebels and risked their lives with them.

Before I examine the position of the "rebels" and the reactions of ordinary persons in Kabul to them, I was reminded of a piece by (Sri Lankan) Denzil Pieris in the London-based Third World Foundation monthly *South* (June 1981) in which he discussed the question *How The West Lost Afghanistan*. "Who allowed Afghanistan to slide

into the Soviet Camp? The evidence suggests contributory negligence by the United States. Shortly after the revolution which overthrew Sardar Mohammad Daoud Khan in April 1978, the first president of the newly proclaimed Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, Noor Mohammad Taraki, was being interviewed by a corps of Soviet newspapermen. These journalists were persistently trying to push Taraki into the Kremlin's corner by getting him to declare that Afghanistan regards the Soviet Union as its most trusted and reliable ally. But Taraki deftly side-stepped these tactics and equally insistently said that the new regime would like to be friends with all countries. Indeed, it would measure friendship by the extent to which the several nations helped Afghanistan build its economy. Taraki emphasised that Afghanistan was 'non-aligned'.

"This was more than rhetoric. On several occasions Taraki's government appealed to the United States embassy to provide aid to develop Afghan agriculture. This as well as requests for other forms of help for economic reconstruction had hardly more than a perfunctory response from the US. Taraki, like several other leaders of the military coup which ousted Daoud, was not a doctrinaire marxist as his successor Hafizullah Amin was. Taraki's political ideology was a mish-mash of Gandhian thought and socialist notions. As a clerk in an Afghan bank in Bombay, in the latter phases of the Indian struggle for independence, Taraki had translated some of the writings of Mahatma Gandhi on non-violence as a means of political struggle, and had them circulated in his own country.

"In their first public statements the leaders of the new republic insisted they were not communists. Their policies were to be based on Afghan nationalism, respect for Islam, social and economic justice non-alignment and a determination to honour all agreements signed by previous governments. Louis Dupree who had lived in Afghanistan for extensive periods as visiting professor, American Universities Field Staff journalist, archaeologist, industrial consultant and US government adviser—credentials which suggest a pro—US bias rather than a leftist tilt—wrote in 1980: of at least ten of the civilians named to the first Cabinet, none ever expressed loyalty to any other country other than Afghanistan. None, to the best of my knowledge, attended or was invited to attend, international communist meetings.'

"It would seem, from the conduct of the first cabinet and its supplications for western aid, that the regime was a 'brand that could have been saved from burning,' if the US had been sensitive to the nuances of Afghanistan politics. The slow slide of the Afghan revolution from Taraki to Hafizullah Amin and then through a beleaguered Babrak Karmal to an increased Soviet military presence could have been averted if the western powers had not put Afghanistan

into quarantine. Western nations have only a knee-jerk reaction to any coup against a repressive right-wing ruler as Daoud had become. That they could be rebels with a just cause is missed...."

Denzil Pieris briefly traces the history of Afghanistan in the modern period and discusses the failure of "modernisers" like Amanullah to effect socio-cultural changes. Then he said: "All of the mistakes of Amanullah have been repeated by the new rulers of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. Indeed, during the coalition before the coup, Daoud exploited the over-zealousness of the modernisers who did not assess accurately how they would be frustrated by the very backwardness of the people they hoped to redeem from obscurantism. Daoud would send to the remote areas those who were politically embarrassing to him. There they would be chopped down by tribals who were shocked by their advanced ideas. "Whatever the current failures of the Afghan leaders the trend to modernising which has survived a century of frustration, will not wither away in Afghanistan, and, through most of the Third World. Collisions between the modernisers and elites profiting from a backward status quo will recur. The US and the Western powers will have to come to terms with the modernisers without being put off by their seemingly extremist slogans. As one Third World innovator has remarked, 'Rivers do not flow backwards'.

He concluded: "There is an implicit arrogance of intellectual superiority in the presumption of the US and other western powers that Third World countries which enter into friendly relations with the Soviet Union end up as stooges of the Kremlin. Third World nations are seen as babes in their wood who will be trapped by the Soviet bear. This is reminiscent of the argument the British used to make when India was demanding independence that 'India is not fit for self-government'. A rejoinder to this was given by an Indian journalist. He thought up a scenario in which India had conquered Britain. The British had sent to New Delhi a mission led by Lord Curzon—a 'very superior person'—to solicit independence. But was Britain 'fit for self-government'? Mahatma Gandhi thought he would put the mission to a simple general knowledge test. He asked Lord Curzon: 'Who was Asoka?'. 'Asoka?', 'Asoka?', the baffled Lord Curzon asked. And then he hazarded a guess 'A racehorse?' he blurted out. Gandhi asked the mission to come back when Britain was fit for self-government'.

Non-official Afghans and nearly all foreigners in Kabul talk a great deal about the infighting in the Government between the Khalq (People) and Pacham (Flag) factions of the ruling party. I will deal with the Khalq-Pacham problem separately, but at the moment I am concerned with the attitude of the Afghans to the Russians. Babrak Karmal, whatever his assets as national leader, is at a disadvan-

tage because he is said to have been installed in power by the Soviet army. For full acceptance by the Afghan people a leader should emerge in his own right and through his own efforts rather than be accused of being a puppet. Whether Karmal will be able to find such acceptance now or after the withdrawal of Soviet troops is yet to be seen. Or has a new leader to be found without any ostensible Soviet initiative? In the meantime, Babrak Karmal, no doubt sensing the mood of the people, has endeavoured to broaden the government's base by bringing in people from outside the party and who command respect and acceptance in the country at large. This he tried to achieve through the establishment of a National Fatherland Front. Babrak Karmal, I was told, had succeeded in this, and the measure of his success was seen in the determination of the rebels to assassinate all the reputed persons who had lent their support to the Fatherland Front. In Kabul itself, three such highly respected non-party personalities were assassinated early in August (1980).

To me and the other foreign journalists it seemed that after what is called the first phase of the Revolution, with its dogmatic extremism and which culminated with the overthrow of the Amin regime and the Soviet intervention, had come the second phase with the increased rebel activity from Pakistani, Chinese and Iranian bases and that in this period political life in Afghanistan slowly gained a momentum of its own. This fury and range of the propaganda that emanated from London, Washington, Bonn and other Western capitals do not regard such normalisation inside Afghanistan as even a remote possibility. But when one views the scene from Kabul Western propaganda and postures seem totally meaningless. They are far removed from Afghan reality.

I was also told by foreigners in Kabul that the position of the Russian troops was still difficult, but it was much better than it was six months earlier. It was also generally accepted that if the Soviets acted with tact and circumspection, their position could improve still further. It was difficult to predict when the Soviet Union would withdraw its troops. As long as Pakistan continued to play ball with the powers that want to instal a regime of their own in Kabul, the West will continue to arm and pay the rebels. Many now have a vested interest in keeping this fighting the Soviet Union in Afghanistan going. But opinion in Kabul is that the Babrak Karmal government and the Soviets were in a position to cope with it easily.

During the day, we were usually engrossed in talk, among many other matters, about the undeclared war, the continuing struggle with the rebels and the persistent propaganda barrage from the West. But in the evenings, after dinner, even as the heavy tanks go past the bedroom window, the sound of bells and music from the Hindu temple not far from the

hotel file their air for an hour or two. To say that I was put to sleep with music from a Hindu temple in an Islamic country may seem paradoxical, but it is true.

An Afghan academic connected with the University told me that long ago god *Skanda* was worshipped in the North for centuries among the Aryans, Scythians, Mongolians, Huns and other invaders who succeeded the Dravidians who were pushed southwards. The new conquerors had intermingled and become the ancestors of the present inhabitants. In an Upanishad of the 9th century before Christ (Chandogaya Upanishad, VIII, 262), *Skanda* is described as giving spiritual instructions to Rishi Narada. *Skanda* is also identified with the great sage Sanatkumara Skanda. The image of God *Skanda* appeared in the crown of King Huvikaska who in the beginning of the second century of the Christian era, ruled over an empire extending in the South from the Central Himalayas and the river Jamuna to Bactria north of the Hindu Kush.

Skanda is the lord of Kataragama. It is a long way from Bactria on the northern plains of Afghanistan to Ruhuna in the south of Sri Lanka from the Oxus to the Menik Ganga. But there was a link I could not understand.

To be continued....



NEED FOR WATER METERS

Must be Re - considered

The following is a statement released by the Public Interest Committee about Sale of Water in Colombo and other Towns by the National Water Supply and Drainage Board.

REPORTS HAVE APPEARED recently in the newspapers that the National Water Supply and Drainage Board would be installing water meters in several parts of Colombo including Cinnamon Gardens, Colombo East, Borella, Colombo North, Colombo Central and in other towns. In Kotte water meters have been already installed and the ratepayers are now faced with a situation where an ordinary household has to pay Rs. 400 to Rs. 500 per month for water. The metering of water is not new to Sri Lanka because the Board has stated that several smaller towns have had water meters installed in those areas for quite some time.

The proposal for the metering of water in Colombo has not been welcomed by the public and has been queried by the M. P. for Colombo West and there are

good reasons for this. Unlike in other towns where meters have been installed such as Ratnapura, Tangalle, Kandy, Galle, Balangoda, Mavanella Kataragama and Anuradhapura, the problem in Colombo is quite different. Colombo and the suburbs today receive its supply of water from two sources. A part of it comes from the Labugama/Kalatuwawa reservoir complex where the water requires minimum treatment usually chlorination. The rest of it has to be obtained from the Kelani Ganga where the raw water has to be extensively treated going through a process of filtration, aeration and chlorination before it is fed into distribution mains. The cost of water from Labugama/Kalatuwawa is much less than the treated water from Kelani Ganga which goes through the treatment works at Ambatale. *The Public Interest Committee* is aware that when the capacity at the Ambatale works becomes inadequate, raw Kelani water has been directly pumped into the mains that bring water to Colombo to Mulleriyawa.

THE ARGUMENT of the National Water Supply and Drainage Board is that water is no longer a cheap commodity because it has to be treated to make it absolutely pure and safe for human consumption. **But the question is whether the water we are now getting is safe and very pure. If this is not so, there is a danger that the populace of Colombo will continue to suffer from bowel and other diseases even after having to pay for the water. Can the National Water Supply and Drainage Board categorically say that the water it supplies to Colombo can be drunk off the tap?** In large cities like London and Paris tap water is absolutely safe for drinking purposes. We would welcome regular bacteriological reports on the quality of the water supplied to all parts of Colombo and to other towns where water meters have been installed. In several articles that have appeared in the press, written by officials of the Board they have stated that in a country which has been long used to subsidise and free goods the thought of a levy for water which is found in abundance would be quite objectionable to members of the public.

The position taken by the *Public Interest Committee* is that the whole question of making the public pay for water particularly in the City of Colombo must be looked at in a much wider and broader context and not merely from the point of view of curtailing welfare. Colombo and the suburbs not only have a more plentiful supply of water than most of other areas water meters have been installed, but it also has the potential for further increasing supplies because the Kelani river is an inexhaustible source because it maintains a fairly steady flow in the most severe drought. The residents of Colombo unlike those in other towns are subject to a wide variety of taxes and levies and must bear the full brunt of inflation. The bulk of the country's income tax paying population is in the city of Colombo or in the suburbs. Furthermore,

TRIBUNE, MARCH 20, 1892

the residents are all subject to a wide variety of taxes which are more specific and proportionately higher than those that are being paid by residents in other parts of the country. The highest municipal rates are levied in Colombo. These rates are levied mainly to provide amenities to the people in the city and to meet the costs of municipal administration. More recently, in several residential areas of Colombo, the Colombo Municipal Council has increased the quarterly rates by as much as 100 per cent. In towns where municipal rates are very low or not levied at all, the question of making people pay for water is legitimate. Residents in Colombo have to pay high quarterly rates on property are in fact paying for public services which includes street lighting, maintenance of roads and sewers, water, preventive health services, fire, drainage and sanitary services. **The imposition of a special tax on water therefore would amount to a double tax on the residents of Colombo who are in fact making a single payment for a variety of services. It is not understood why the National Water Supply and Drainage Board should duplicate this levy for its own advantage.**

Furthermore, residents in Colombo particularly have complained of the poor quality of water. Not only is there rust and suspended matter in the water but the supply to most places is erratic and not continuous. Furthermore, those who live in upstairs houses and have overhead tanks find that the pressure in the mains is insufficient to take the water up to the tank. These citizens have to instal sumps and pumps and to pay heavy electricity bills to get the water to the upper floors. For the nation, this means the wasteful use of electricity and an additional cost to the consumer.

THE PROPOSAL TO METER the supply of water to Colombo is stated to have emerged with the creation of a new body the National Water Supply and Drainage Board which presumably today has taken over a rightful function of the Colombo Municipality. *The Public Interest Committee* would request the National Water Supply and Drainage Board to disclose in detail its total overhead and recurrent expenses in keeping its Board going as distinguished from the cost of purifying water as its Mulleriyawa Plant. In the statements published by officials of the National Water Supply and Drainage Board they have argued that water like electricity is no longer free goods. The system of water metering is being introduced at a time when welfare services have been curtailed where the public has to bear heavier tax burdens and also when the cost of living has had the highest rate of increase. In the last three years the price increases have been so sharp and devastating that effective real incomes have fallen tremendously. The imposition of further taxation on basic essential services such as water would impose even greater strains on the people.

TRIBUNE, MARCH 20, 1982

It has been argued that services such as electricity have been charged for while water has been available free. This comparison is not relevant because it is only a very small fraction of the Island's population that the electricity. The total number of electricity consumers in the country would not even amount to 75,000. While people could do without electricity yet people cannot do without water, because it is a basic essential item for life. **Another argument put forward by the Board is that metering will help to prevent waste. Before officials jump to this conclusion, it is important that they should first try to find out how and where waste occurs. Apparently a lot of this waste is not taking place in the business and residential premises because most of these residents and business concerns have to pay a fairly high charge for taps located outside their houses where water is used for watering gardens, washing cars and for other purposes. So to that extent, water that is not strictly used for direct human consumption is not supplied free. The Committee's investigations have shown that the bulk of the waste occurs in tenement garden's taps and taps which are fixed adjacent to the main road for the use of the public.**

THOSE TAPS are not going to be metered and only those that belong to individual residents and business houses would be covered. The only way of preventing waste is to ensure that all leaks in the distribution mains and retail points are well looked after and are brought sufficiently under control of the authorities. Furthermore, how are meters going to be installed to buildings and apartment blocks with a large number of consumers but with a single main connection? In this respect, the distribution of water on meter is not the same as the metering of electricity for different consumers in a single building. While the present government is committed to a policy of substantially removing subsidies and other welfare benefits to consumers it does not follow that a basic essential like water should also be put into this general category. After all, the various taxes which the people pay on income, on their residences, on the goods and services that they purchase, should entitle them to some free basic amenities at least. The withdrawal of subsidies and curtailment of welfare does not mean that even the facility of having free water should accordingly be withdrawn. While it is known that the thinking of international agencies like the IMF and World Bank is to curtail subsidies welfare arrangements and to make people pay for everything this is largely applicable to the affluent countries where the people have the capacity to pay. In a country like Sri Lanka, where more than half of the population still survive at or below a given subsistence level, a levy on the use of water would only help to make it even more difficult for people to survive at the current levels of income.

Merely because the National Water Supply and Drainage Board has been established and because the World Bank on largely theoretical grounds have decided that all their investments should yield a return of at least 8 percent, it does not follow that the government should necessarily follow their dictates. The loan from the World Bank for the rehabilitation of the city's Water Distribution System has no doubt to be paid back but this applies to all loans which the government has taken and all these investments do not always yield economic returns, the social returns should be equally valued. *The Public Interest Committee* therefore suggests that the government should evaluate the whole question of metering water carefully and it should not be guided by stipulations which have been incorporated in loan agreements which have been done without reference to the public interest. If the Water Supply and Drainage Board has to charge for the water they supply consumers let them bill the local authorities who can collectively pay these bills from the rates and taxes imposed on residents. This would be a more equitable and convenient method of raising money from the sale of water.

17, Alfred Place,
Colombo 3.
March 3, 1982.

P.I.C.



LETTERS

Indian Films

Sir,

The cinema has been known as the common man's cheapest medium of entertainment, and even today despite an increase in the ticket rates, it still continues to be so. In the days gone by the people of this country had a choice of the best English, Tamil and Hindi movies. The Sinhala films too though they were fewer in number attracted appreciative audiences. The Queen of the Sinhala screen, the late Rukmani Devi, thrilled audiences both with her superb acting and with the richness of her golden voice. Her husband the late Eddie Jayamanne acclaimed as Sri Lanka's comedy King kept crowds roaring with laughter with his inimitable antics and slap-stick comedy. From the nostalgic days of "Chandraleka" Sri Lankan audiences were afforded the opportunity of seeing the best of both Tamil and Hindi films like "Dil Deke Dekho", "Aradhana", "Janwar", "Sangam", "Love in Tokyo" and "Hathi Mere Sathi". During the early days of the Film Corporation the tradition was maintained, and the film-going public in Sri Lanka were able to see Hindi movies like "Geeth", "Rampur Ka Lakshman", "Apha Desh", "Abhiman", and "Gora Aur Kala", but thereafter the Corporation has been missing the bus, and year after year it has

been serving the public with Indian films which cannot be termed as rich and glamorous entertainment.

Today there are no Hindi films at all, and most of the oriental cinemas in Colombo are screening old Tamil films. Even the film Corporation's latest Tamil release "Thani Maram" is indeed a dull film as box-office records should indicate. According to a news item in one of the Tamil papers, the Film Corporation does not have a single Tamil film in stock. If this is the correct position, it only reflects the lack of planning and business acumen of the Chairman and Board of Directors of the Film Corporation, because even the small trader usually carries a buffer stock of his goods. Although cinema owners have all along been criticised for various reasons, now the cannon of criticism has to be manouevred at the Film Corporation for its inertia of and inefficiency. Today the film-going public in this country have to depend only on the Film Corporation for their cinema entertainment, and if the Corporation does not realise the seriousness of its obligations and provide the film-going public with films of the best entertainment value it would be allowing the TV to over-power, and perhaps even strangle the cinema in this country, thus depriving the common man of his cheapest medium of entertainment.

145/13, Bogahawatte,
Hekitta Road,
Hendala, Wattala.
26.2.1982.

C. S. de Silva.

Tamil Films

Sir,

This letter seeks to express through the columns of your valuable journal, my disappointment and dissatisfaction at the type of Tamil films which have been imported by the National Film Corporation. This feeling of disappointment prompted me to inquire how the Film Corporation does the selection of films, and I was told that it sends a team of retired officials from the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation the Government Film Unit and the Education Department periodically to India for this purpose. Naturally such persons would select films to suit their whims and fancies when the large majority of Sri Lanka filmgoers are from the teenage and middle age groups. According to Mr. R. R. Sivalingam's enlightening and interesting letter on the Film Corporation which was published in your journal of the 27th February, the Corporation has now appointed a South Indian Producer by name R. S. Somanathan to select films on its behalf! Thus the Film Corporation seems to be incapable of selecting the best films, despite it being the sole importer of films, and is relying on retired bureaucrats and foreign nationals to select films for Sri Lankan audiences.

I would therefore venture to suggest that the Film Corporation adopts a more democratic procedure in

the selection of films in the following manner: Having decided on the number of films the Corporation intends importing, it should publish a comprehensive list of all the box-office draws in India in the daily papers, and invite the public to select a specified number of films from the published list of films in an order of preference within a specified period of time. If for instance the Corporation intends purchasing 30 films, the public should be invited to indicate their choice of 30 films from the published list of films in a numerical order of preference. Thereafter the Corporation should publish the names of the 30 films selected by the public and simultaneously negotiate for the purchase of these films. In the past practically every cinema advertised its next attraction, but not even the big cinemas which screen Tamil films do not do so because I am told that they do not know what their next film would be. This is an unsatisfactory state of affairs which should be looked into and rectified by the Film Corporation.

Padua,
Pandaterruppu,
March 4, 1982.

J. Anthonypillai



NORTH-SOUTH

Delayed Action Bomb

One of the items discussed at the conference of developing countries in Delhi, was the prospects for a North-South dialogue, or talks between the industrialized capitalist countries and developing states to restructure the world current economic order. The dialogue had been in progress for many years and today it is, probably further away from any concrete results than ever. The stagnation is caused by the West which follows the motto—"What's mine is mine, and we can talk about the rest". The status quo, artificially upheld by the West, provides obstacles to the developing countries when they tried to leave the evil circle of poverty, backwardness and dependence. It enables the rich "North" to grow fat at the expense of the poor "South". The colonial empires have collapsed but the system of economic relations characteristic of them has remained roughly the same. It was always unjust but today it has also ceased to correspond to the balance of forces in the international arena.

A quarter of all direct US private capital investments abroad are in developing countries, and American monopolies derive more than a third of their profits from these countries. The existing system of economic relations yields 100,000 million dollars every year in additional profits to the industrialized capitalist states and the same amount in losses to the develop-

TRIBUNE, MARCH 20, 1982

ing countries. The catastrophic situation in which the majority of the Third World countries now find themselves is also a direct threat to the West's long-term interests. How can anyone expect stability in countries where 570,000,000 people go hungry, three out of every 10 adults are illiterate and 100,000,000 children may die from malnutrition?

The increasing gap between the wealth of the west and the poverty of the developing countries is correctly termed a "delayed action bomb". A continuation in the North-South dialogue is inevitable. The only question remaining is how long can Washington and its allies manage to substitute promise, and impose pressure for a really constructive dialogue? Also how long can the developing countries, which constitute more than two-thirds of the UN, tolerate this dragging out of the talks?

Govt.



Notice

Notice Under Section 7 of The Land Acquisition Act (Chapter 460) as Amended by Land Acquisition (Amendment ACT No: 28 Of 1964

Reference No: 3/2/4/8/816

It is intended to acquire the land described in the Schedule below. For further particulars, please see the Gazette Extraordinary of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. No. 183/6 of 10.03.1982

SCHEDULE

<i>A.G.A's Division</i>	: Minuwangoda
<i>Village</i>	: Burullapitiya
<i>Situation</i>	: —
<i>Name Of Land</i>	: Kahatagahawatta
<i>Lot No.</i>	: 1
<i>Plan No. P.P. Gam.</i>	: 69

A. L. S. Malwenna
District Land Officer of
Gampaha District.

The Kachcheri,
GAMPAHA.
Date 02.03.1982

Iraq-Iran War

By Boris Rachkov

The war that has already lasted 18 months between the Tigris and Euphrates was at first regarded as something of a misunderstanding. The war not only kills and maims but it also inflicts tremendous damage to the economies of Iraq and Iran, which can be seen particularly in the figures for oil production in the two countries last year. Both countries taken together produced 100,000,000 tons or half of their oil production in 1980 and 20 percent of their oil output in one of their record years of the last decade. Iran and Iraq now produce approximately as much oil as they did in 1960. And it was, by the way, precisely in 1960 that the first effective economic alliance of oil-producing countries—the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)—was set up. Iran and Iraq were among the five founders of OPEC. OPEC's achievements in confronting the American-British diktat in oil prices are well known. The belligerents can go out of their way trying to prove in the media the existence of the military edge of one of them over the other in this or that section of the front, but in their main economic area—in the oil industry—they are now back in the position of 20 years ago.

The fall in oil production is accompanied, naturally, by the fall in their oil exports and revenues. Simple estimates show that shortages in oil deliveries to external markets caused by the hostilities have already cost Iran and Iraq the colossal sum of 30,000 millions dollars. How can this enormous total of losses be grasped? If it were distributed equally per capita among all the people in Iraq and Iran, each one would get about 600 dollars. A few more months of the war and it will have stolen from the Iranian people as much money as Shah Reza Pahlevi did when he fled to his US patrons.

The war mercilessly reshapes the state budgets in both countries: less and less money is being allocated for peaceful construction. According to experts, each of the sides has spent about the same amount of money on the war—some 15,000 million dollars each. This money would have been sufficient to purchase as much food, or agricultural machinery, fertilizers and equipment for food industry, as would be needed to cope with the food problem for the 50,000,000 people in Iran and Iraq for more than 10 years minimum. The war also inflicts tremendous material damage to many other Third World countries. Many of them are rendering military and economic aid—some to Iraq and others to Iran. It has been estimated that they have already spent more than 20,000 million dollars on this. Any kind of war is terrible. But the

Iraqi-Iranian war is all the more terrible for its senselessness for its colossal economic damage to countries with a low standard of living—APN



QUESTION TIME

Who ? Why ?

The *Sunday Observer* of February 28, 1982 had a frontage box with the headlines BUSINESSMAN'S DEALINGS PROBED which read: "A high-powered team from the departments of Inland Revenue and Exchange Control are currently in Malaysia on the specific assignment of looking into the business transactions of a leading Sri Lankan businessmen. The team of officials comprise Mr. Chelvathurai Inthiran of the Finance Ministry, Exchange Controller A. T. W. Jehorathnam Dr. L. E. N. Fernando, and from the Department of Inland Revenue Commissioner (Investigations) Mr. H. A. Mithrasena and Senior Assessor C. Kathirgamar."

WHO is the Sri Lankan businessman being investigated? The answer is known. It can be easily found out by anyone sufficiently interested in such matters. But the question for which no answer is forthcoming is whether anything will come of it—even if there have been serious violations of Sri Lanka's monetary and fiscal laws and regulations. This fear persists in political and other circles because some businessmen in Sri Lanka openly (and in print) boast that every man has a price and that if the correct quantum of "masurangs" are paid everything will be hanky-dory.

If this is true WHY has it not been possible for businessmen, who make their money in ways that cry aloud for investigation, to bring nirvanic quiet and peace in Raja Rata (without travels on a diplomatic passport) or eternal silence in Ruhuna (with or without diaries to maintain)? Can such businessmen not outbid other wheeler-dealers in paying everybody's price with "masurangs"? Or are innuendos and insinuations only used to black mail, intimidate and character assassinate those who refuse to be silent. That to assure silence of a touch of neo-McCarthyism is also thrown for good measure.

Sherlock Holme

22 CARAT JEWELLERY

WHATEVER YOUR REQUIREMENTS VISIT US.
WE CARRY THE FINEST SELECTION
OF GENUINE, ELEGANT AND
EXQUISITE JEWELLERY

SWARNA MAHAL

147, Sea Street, Colombo 11.

Phone: 24350

Once you visit us, we try never to forget you.

Another E. A. P. Organisation.

"... It is to the credit of the people of Ceylon that during two thousand years and more they obeyed this decree and continued to pay their homage to one who was a brave man and just and humane ruler".
—G. P. Malalasekera in The Pali Literature of Ceylon Colombo, 1928 p. 25.

THE TOMB OF ELARA

at

Anuradhapura

with Appendices and Notes

by

Dr. James T. Rutnam

Price: Local - Rs. 25 a copy (including postage)
Foreign - US \$ 5.00 a copy (including air freight)

SINHALA TRANSLATION AVAILABLE - Rs. 25 Per Copy

Available from: Jaffna Archaeological Society,
Evelyn Rutnam Institute Building,
University Lane,
Jaffna.

or from

Tribune Publications,
43, Dawson Street, Colombo 2
Tel: 33172

TRIBUNE

Agricultural Digest

In response to the demands of many old readers Tribune will from this week have a regular feature on matters agricultural. We have at all times published articles on agriculture especially as practised in Sri Lanka but after we started Sportscope readers have been at pains to point out that we should have a regular Agricultural Digest This week we publish a note on the efforts of the Janatha Estate Development Board (JEDB) to reactivate and revitalise citrus cultivation in the Island together with a piece on current trends in the world rice production.

J E D B's

Citrus Project

In 1979, at the request of JEDB a leading Citrus authority visited Uva Region with the intention of reviving the Citrus industry. At the end of his visit he made certain recommendations in a comprehensive report. Basically the projects aim is to revive the orange groves of lower Uva which over the years have been neglected and diseased. The project intends to carry out trials on imported rootstocks and seedlings with a view to the eventual distribution of better varieties to local growers.

In early 1980 Citrus seed was imported from California and distributed amongst 4 nurseries—Bibile, Moneragala, Kumarawatte and Adawatte. The seeds were of the rootstock viz : Rough lemon, Rang pur lime, Mexican lime, Ponkan Mandarin and Pinnepple Sweet Orange. Until late 1980 the project had no immediate leader and the nurseries were supervised by estate Managers. In November 1980, a VSO volunteer arrived and selected suitable sites for trail plots in and around Badulla Region. Though it had been hoped that the plants could be distributed to growers (garden cultivators) in Lower Uva, quarantine precautions prevented this and consequently the plants of imported origin were kept within the JEDB. Nevertheless, over 30,000 local lime seedlings were grown and distributed free amongst the model villages. This programme of local seed raising and distribution continues with a nominal charge to cover free fertilizer issue. Five plants per villager were distributed together with the appropriate amount of JEDB Fertilizer Division citrus moisture.

As the rootstock growth was satisfactory, application was made to import healthy budwood from California, as recommended by Dr. Pratt. The agriculture Depart-

ment (CARI) however have refused this permit citing their dissatisfaction with U.S.A.D. phyto-sanitary regulations. This has and continues to delay the planned project. The key varieties distributed to esthes is P.S.O. and is growing well depending on elevation and soil type. Most trial sites are 1 1/2-1 hectare. In Bibile there is a 6 ha P.S.O. orchard plus a recently planted further 4 ha of Rough Lemon and Ranpur Lime. It is hoped that these latter will be budded shortly. Also in Bible we have built a nursery which eventually will become a central point for growing and distribution. Consequently, we have closed down the former nurseries. At the moment we have approximately 12,000 orange trees ready for budding and seedling beds are being planted with further batches of local varieties for distribution in late 1982. Trials are being carried out on herbicides, pesticides, fungicides, fertiliser etc., and records are kept of the plant growth, disease damage, pruning trauma and intercrop effect. It is envisaged that Bibile will become a model planting to which growers can be invited for demonstrations etc.

The Horticulturist and his Counterpart carry out extension work in the District advising grower on pruning, fertiliser application and other aspects of orchard care. There is a good deal of local interest in the developments at Bibile. The local industry is a very poor state and unless a sustained effort is made in the next five years, Sri Lanka may be forced to import oranges. There is certainly consumer resistance to the sour and immature fruits available and consequently growers are discouraged. New varieties of a sweeter and more appealing appearance are required. A contributing factor to the picking of immature fruit has been the marketing monopoly of the local mudalalies who encourage growers to harvest when prices are high regardless of the crops maturity. The returns to the grower are low in comparison to retail prices especially during the main season. The setting up of a grower controlled co-operative for purchase and retailing is being investigated. As there seems to be no national coordination of citrus growing and research the JEDB citrus trials, carried out as part of JEDB's social development programme, are in a position to have a major impact on the industry both locally and eventually nationally. The citrus trials are overseen by a V.S.O. Horticulturist and his Lankan Counterpart who are guided by the Citrus Committee chaired by Mr. S. V. de Mel, Director JEDB III.

RICE

World Glut?

Bangkok: Bumper world paddy production last year in both importing and traditional exporting countries suggests a much smaller world rice trade this year with record carry-over stocks. Prices have fallen substantially since the middle of 1981—and are expected to continue falling until at least the end of the first quarter of this year—as a result of intense

TRIBUNE, MARCH 20, 1982

competition in international markets. The United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has estimated global paddy production last year at 406 million tonnes, an increase of 10 million tonnes. FAO has projected that 1981 export crops will exceed the anticipated import demand. The lower rice trade estimate considered by some independent rice experts here to be conservative, should result in an increase in world rice stocks this year to about 45 million tonnes from the 42 million tonnes carried over at the end of last year. This would be the highest level in the past decade during which world rice stocks ranged from 24 million tonnes in the 1973 international rice crisis to a high of 43.7 million tonnes in 1979.

Last year's increase in global production in general, and the low levels of import demand in Indonesia and South Korea in particular led to a reversal of market trends in mid 1981. After 30 months of increases, international rice prices declined sharply from last July; the price of high grade Thai white rice 5% fob Bangkok, for instance, had fallen from US\$ 540 per tonne to around US\$ 340 in mid-January.

WORLD MILLED RICE PRODUCTION

(Million tonnes)	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
Production	240	234	247	258	251	265	
Stocks	37	37	39	44	42	43	

THE BUYERS AND THE SELLERS

Major Exporters

(Million tonnes)	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
Thailand	1.9	3.0	1.6	2.8	2.8	3.1
U.S.	2.0	2.3	2.3	2.3	3.0	2.8
China	1.4	1.2	1.8	1.5	1.3	n.a.
Pakistan	0.9	0.9	0.7	1.4	1.0	1.1
Burma	0.6	0.7	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.8
World Total	8.4	10.2	9.1	11.6	11.7	12.3

Major Importers

Indonesia	1.3	2.0	1.8	1.9	2.1	0.9
S. Korea	0.2	nil	nil	0.4	0.8	2.1
Iran	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.5
Nigeria	n.a.	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.5
World Total	8.4	9.3	9.0	11.7	11.7	12.3

—With acknowledgement to the Far Eastern Economic Review.

COCO-DIESEL

To Reduce Oil Imports

Sunflower oil and soybean oil can be used to reduce the amount of expensive diesel needed to run truck or tractor. Now Filipino inventor, Adrian Dela Paz'

TRIBUNE, MARCH 20, 1982

has come up with a third alternative—coconut oil. Dela Paz reckons that the coconut-diesel mixture—he calls it 'coco-diesel'—gives better engine performance than achieved with diesel mixed with other substitutes.

More power and greater mileage is produced, he says, with atmospheric pollution being reduced as a result of a cleaner combustion—only a white odourless smoke is produced. Some bullish projections have been made about the impact coco-diesel will have on the Philippines economy. There is expected to be a significant reduction in the bill for oil imports with a corresponding increase in demand for coconut oil. Dela Paz also has some ideas for reducing the cost of producing coconut oil. He suggests using the coconut husk and shell for boiler fuel and selling pressed coconut meal for human or animal consumption.

—International Agricultural Development, January 1982

WORMS

New Diet for Livestock

EARTHWORMS breed faster in cattle manure, and it now seems that animals grow fat on earthworms. Conclusion? That earthworms should be bred in cattle manure to provide a high-protein feed for livestock, particularly pigs and poultry and even fish. This neat approach to recycling has been developed by Britain's Agricultural Research Council. The results are so encouraging that several firms are said to be considering producing earthworms commercially. So it may not be long before the earthworm is providing a protein supplement for livestock. It is certainly full of protein, containing levels between 60% and 70%, plus a full complement of all the essential amino acids. And as luck would have it, the earthworm is also highly nutritious in other respects, containing a good range of fatty acids, minerals and vitamins.

Fortunately the earthworm breeds well in organic wastes, producing very large numbers with the minimum of effort on the part of the livestock farmer. Another advantage is that it leaves behind casts which are a useful fertiliser and have the beneficial effect of removing the traditional unpleasant smells of animal waste, by absorbing odours and gas. The ARC research team, based at the Rothamsted Experimental Station, estimate that workable waste to earthworm conversion ratios were between 5% and 20%. Feeding trials using the worm diet were particularly successful with pigs, poultry and fish, in the latter producing better growth than presently available commercial diets. As well as providing a valuable source of protein, the recycling system also produces plentiful earthworm casts which can be used as a substitute for peat in horticulture.

—International Agricultural Development, January 1982.

TRIBUNE SPORTSCOPE

SPOTLIGHT

Sri Lanka in Pakistan

At the time of writing, Sri Lanka cricket team has fared very badly in Pakistan. It lost the first five-day match in Karachi and also the first one-day match. The performance of the team shows that Sri Lanka has a long way to go. The euphoria and adulatory self-glory indulged in this country after Sri Lanka was given ICC status and the performance in the one-day matches has all but disappeared. Sri Lanka's performance in the Test Match against England in Colombo revealed weaknesses that should not be overlooked. They could not be put right before the team took off for the tour of Pakistan.

It is also surprising that of all the newspapers in Sri Lanka only the *Times* group has sent a correspondent to cover this series. With all the hullabaloo made about the country getting Test Status why did *Lake House*, the Sun/Dawasa group or the SLBC not think of sending special correspondents out to Pakistan? It is not enough to highlight parts of *Reuter's* copy and say *Special Report*". Only a Sri Lanka sports correspondent can evaluate the performance of the team in the correct perspective. We have therefore no alternative but to reproduce extracts from Elmo Rodrigo pulle's despatches to the *Sunday Times* and the *Ceylon Daily Mirror*. His first despatch appeared in the *Sunday Times* of March 7 and we highlight the extracts in this despatch which reveal the weaknesses displayed by our team: After a very indifferent display of fielding and conceding 396 runs to Pakistan, Sri Lanka replied spiritedly with 155 for the loss of three wickets on the second day of the First Cricket Test at the Karachi National Stadium yesterday'....

After setting out some of the prosaic details he went on: Every young cricketer is launched into a career with the axiom that catches win matches. But this Sri Lankan team seemed to have forgotten this fundamental aspect of the game and the only way they can make amends for this poor fielding display is to give a determined and concentrated display with the bat. The Sri Lankans will certainly want to forget this pathetic effort on the field. Many catches were grassed and the man who profited most was

right hander Haroon Rashid who went on to make 153 before being out in the only way possible—run out. Rashid who completed his century midway in the morning was making his reappearance in the Pakistan team after absence of three years and when he passed 122 he had made this career best score against England in Lahore in 1972. Rashid gave as many as four takes in this innings, the most vital being when he was on thirty-eight and the Pakistan score on 168 for six."

Commenting on the first day's play Rodrigo pulle had said: Pakistan winning the toss on a batting surface down in the dump at the stage 131 for 6 made a remarkable recovery through a seventh wicket paid off Haroon Rashid and Naqqash to get 240 for 8 at close on the first day. Sri Lanka could have dismissed Pakistan for well under 200 runs had young Arjuna Ranatunge fielding on the boundary at square leg held on to a pull by Haroon Rashid. But it was not to be and Rashid making good use of this life' tore into the bowling and with Naqqash, too throwing caution to the winds added 99 runs and the first 50 of their stand coming in 33 minutes. When Arjuna dropped the catch the score was 168 and Rashid had scored only 38". So much for that.

About the third day's play Rodrigo pulle said: 'Despite losing eight of their stars to what some newspapers here call it an immoral rebellion, Pakistan did well to gain a lead of sixty eight runs at the end of the third day in the first cricket Test at the Karachi National Stadium. After dismissing Sri Lanka for three hundred and forty four in reply to their score of three hundred and ninety six, they added sixteen runs for the loss of one wicket in their second innings.'

In his final despatch on the Test (*CDM* 11/3/82)—he had reported the developments on the fourth day briefly—he commented acidly: 'An indisciplined approach to batting cost Sri Lanka the first cricket Test and they lost to Pakistan by 204 runs at the Karachi National Stadium yesterday. Sri Lanka's approach to the game in the second innings was so much out of character that their innings lasted only 174 minutes. Chasing 354 runs for victory they were all out for just 149 runs. With no chance of victory the Sri Lankan batsmen had only to stay at the wicket. Instead the way they batted made one wonder whether they were keen on losing this game as quickly as possible. Sri Lanka will have to improve their fielding one hundred per cent if they hope to curb the Pakistanis in the future games. A good showing in the first limited over game on Friday could help to redeem some of the lost prestige. Sri Lanka's hurry for runs can be gauged by the fact that the fifty came up in 67 minutes, the 100 in one hundred and twenty six minutes and they were dismissed for 149 in one hundred and seventy four minutes. When Sri Lanka chased 354 for victory in 266 minutes and the twenty mandatory overs, what was required was concentration and application with a view to survive. But survival was not

TRIBUNE, MARCH 20, 1982

in the minds of our batsmen as they went for their strokes in the manner of a limited over game and paid the penalty. Sri Lanka had done well to take this Test into the final day. When a game cannot be won, it must not be lost. But this was beyond the reasoning of our batsmen as they tried to sail into a Pakistan attack that was tight and well handled by Javed Miandad and fell victims to their own rashness. Sri Lanka going in seemed to be in a almighty hurry to get the runs when survival was most required and no excuses could be adduced for their dismal performance".

No further comment is called for.

Allrounder.



SPORTS CHRONICLE

March 5 - 11

FRIDAY, MARCH 5: In *Club Cricket* the Top Of the Table clash between SSC and Moratuwa SC at Maitland Place today will probably decide which way the Sara Trophy will go this season. Both clubs are unbeaten in the Final Round each with a similar record of three outright wins and one first innings win out of four matches, SSC head the Table by having more bonus points. Another close match is between defending champions Bloomfield and Air Force at Reid Avenue. Other matches starting today are CCC v Nomads at Vihara Maha Devi Park NCC v. Saracens at Maitland Place and Tamil Union v Police at Police Park. In *School Cricket* St. Peters A beat Aluthgama MV on the first innings in a one-day match played at Bambalapitiya on Sunday. St. Peters A 257 for 5 dec. Aluthgama MV 112. In *Pakistan* Sri Lanka plays the first match of their maiden Test series against Pakistan at Karachi today. A senior Australia Sports Official has said that English batsman Geoff Boycott should be banned from First Class Cricket for life because of his participation in a *Tour of South Africa* by 12 rebel players. Two *Rugby teams* from Wales and Northern Ireland have accepted invitations to tour South Africa with all expenses paid, club officials said tonight.

SATURDAY, MARCH 6: In *School Cricket* Nalanda blasted their way to 117 for 1 in 80 minutes off only 19 overs in reply to the St. Joseph's 191 all out at Darley Road yesterday. Ananda's batsmen went on a run spree before declaring at 269 for 5 against St. Benedicts at Kotahena yesterday. The Bens replied with 37 for no loss in 65 minutes at the close. Ananda 269 for 5 declared; St. Benedicts 37 for no loss at the close. S. Thomas made 177 in 313 minutes on the opening day of the Mini Battle of the Blues against Royal A at Reid Avenue yesterday. S. Thomas A 177, Royal A 31 for no loss at close. Set a victory target of 150 in 60 minutes plus the 20 mandatory overs, Vidyarthi reached 125 for 8 to draw their match against Carey on the Police grounds at Kandy yesterday. Carey 78 and 196. Vidyarthi 119 for

9 cont. The Thomians helped by Ken de Alwis (78 with 9 fours and 2 sixes) and Ranil Pieris (59 with 8 fours and 2 sixes) hit 211 for 9 declared in 226 minutes off 49 overs in their match against St. Peters at Mount Lavinia yesterday. S. Thomas 211 for 9 dec. St. Peters 103 for 4 at close. Mahinda's batsmen found no terrors in the Dharmaraja attack and declared at 262 for 9 at Lake View yesterday. At close of play Dharmaraja were 72 for 2. A solid 105-run stand for the seventh wicket between Haroon Rashid (66 not out) and Thair Naqqash (57) saved Pakistan from a dramatic collapse on the opening day of the *First Test against Sri Lanka* at Karachi today.

SUNDAY, MARCH 7: In *Club Cricket* Moratuwa Sports Club went into the lead of the final round of the Saravanamuthu Trophy cricket tournament, when they clinched first innings points in their key encounter against table leaders SSC at Maitland Place yesterday. Moratuwa SC 261 and 7 for no wkt. at close. SSC (overnight 3 for no loss) all out 231. The NCC made 241 on Friday, while the Saracens made 264 with former Sri Lanka Cap. Tony Opatha top-scoring with 70. Bloomfield took first innings points in their game against Air Force at Reid Avenue yesterday and are favourably placed to challenge Moratuwa SC for the title. Air Force 133 and 105 for 3 wickets at close. Bloomfield (overnight 86 for 4 wickets) 198. In a high scoring game Colombo Cricket Club took first innings points against Nomads, CCC 444 for 8 dec. and 10 for 1 wicket at close. Nomads 368: Tamil Union were poised for a first innings victory in their game against Police at Police Park. Tamil Union 456 for 8 declared and Police 201 for 8 at close. In *School Cricket* big Match fever hits the city this week and to start the ball rolling, as if to say, the 103rd Royal-Thomian encounter, will be the first of the big encounters. *Sri Lanka athletes* cornered the glory, picking up four more golds and shattering two meet records, on the penultimate day of the three day-Al Ameen invitation meet at the Sri Kanteevara Stadium at *Bangalore* today. Haroon Rashid hit *Pakistan* to a position of strength when he made 153 and helped them to a total of 396 on the second day of the *First Test* against Sri Lanka at Karachi yesterday. But the visitors made a sound reply and were 156 for 3 wickets at close of play.

MONDAY, MARCH 8: In *Club Cricket* Moratuwa SC went to the Top of the Sara Trophy Final Round table with their first innings victory over SSC yesterday at Maitland Place. SSC dropped to second place and Bloomfield is in third place. CCC pulled off a 124 run victory over Nomads at Vihara Maha Devi Park. CCC 444 for 8 dec. Nomads 368 and 176 Saracens fell short by 34 runs to beat NCC outright at Maitland Place. NCC 241 and 10 for no less contd. 191 for 4 dec. Saracens 264 and 135 for 2 at stumps. Tamil Union had to be content with only

TRIBUNE, MARCH 20, 1982

25

a first innings win when Police held out in their second innings at Police Park. Tamil Union 156 for 2 dec. Police 201 for 8 contd. In *School Cricket* Kingswood crushed Zahira by an innings and 34 runs in their cricket match on Police grounds yesterday. Kingswood 305 for 8 dec. and Zahira 51 for 4 cont. 150. A bright 103 with 14 fours and a six by Josephian skipper Terrence Fernando highlighted the Mini Battle between St. Josephs A and St. Peters A at Darley Road, yesterday which ended in a draw. Sri Lanka made a spirited reply to *Pakistan's* first innings total of 396 by scoring 344 on the third day of the *First Cricket Test* in Karachi yesterday.

TUESDAY, MARCH 9: In *School Cricket* Royal College go to the 103rd Battle of the Blues encounter against S. Thomas on Thursday at the SSC grounds with only one victory for the season in nine matches— despite fielding a more experienced side than last year. Prince of Wales declared at 208 for 6 scored in 215 minutes and Isipatana were 51 for 1 wicket at the close in the match on the Colts grounds yesterday. St. Sebastians were 174 for 5 at the close of the first day in the match against Richmond at the Tyrone Fernando Stadium yesterday. St. Sebastians 174 for 6. Moratu Vidyalaya got 134 and Lumbini 36 for 2 wickets at the close in the match at the BRC grounds yesterday. Australia qualified for the Final Place in the Quarter-Finals of the *Davis Cup Championship* Section when Mark Edmondson swept aside Mexico's Raul Ramiers 6-1, 6-4, 6-2- tonight in the last match of their Tie in Mexico City. Sri Lanka won the Team Championship in both men's and women's section securing 54 and 83 points respectively on the final day of the three day second *Al Ameen Invitation Athletic meet* in Bangalore yesterday. Sri Lanka annexed the Triangular Team Trophy beating Karnataka (4-0) and New Delhi (3-1) and YMCA won the Overall Championship in the *7th Japanese Ambassador's Trophy Judo Tournament* at the Sugathadasa Stadium on Saturday *Pakistan's* Chief Cricket Selector Ejaz-Butt resigned today over the crisis caused by the refusal of eight top cricketers to play under captain Javed Miandad. England completed a clean sweep of victories in the *Badminton* series against Japan when they triumphed 5-1 in the fifth and final match on Saturday night.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10: In *School Cricket* S. Thomas College are confronted with the same problems as Royal whom they meet tomorrow in the 103rd Battle of the Blues cricket encounter at the SSC grounds. Like Royal they are without a partner for their opening bowler Kapila Wijegunawardene; the spinners bear the brunt of the attack; the batting runs down to number eleven; and there are nine Coloursmen. A whirlwind unbeaten century by Cambrian skipper Saman Silva was the feature of the drawn match between Prince of Wales and Isipatana at the Colts grounds yesterday. Prince of Wales 206 for 6 dec. Isipatana 51 for 1 cont. St. Sebastians crushed Richmond by an innings

in their cricket match at the Tyrone Fernando Stadium at Moratuwa yesterday. St. Sebastians 174 for 6 cont. 213 for 8 dec. Richmond 94. The match between Moratu Vidyalaya and Lumbini MV petered out to a tame draw at Havelock Park yesterday. Moratu Vidyalaya 134 and 174 for 8 wkts. Lumbini MV 32 for 2 overnight and 102. Janaka Gunawardena (92) and Sisira Ratnayake (29) shared an opening stand of 82 to help Holy Cross make 208 for 9 declared against S. Thomas Matarain their match yesterday at the Kalutara Esplanade. Holy Cross 208 for 8 dec. S. Thomas 107 for 3 at close. Jamaica declared their second innings closed at 435 for six wickets, setting Guyana a winning target of 362 runs, 45 minutes before the close on the third day of their *Shell Shield Cricket Match* at Sabina Park, yesterday Sri Lankans were frustrated by an unbroken fourth wicket stand of 161 runs by Pakistan captain Javed Miandad and Test newcomer Salim Malik in the *First Cricket test* yesterday. Pakistan 1st Innings 396, Sri Lanka 1st Innings 344. In Hongkong the Manager of a visiting *South African Hockey team* was today quoted as saying that they no longer wanted any matches against local clubs because of the adverse publicity surrounding the visit. *New Zealand's* Central Districts beat the touring Australian cricket team by one wicket in a 45-over match at New Plymouth. None of the rebel English cricketers now on a controversial tour of racially divided *South Africa* will not be allowed to play in Antigua and Barbuda a government statement said yesterday.

TUESDAY, MARCH 11: In *Club Cricket*, Moratuwa Sports Club who have never won the Sara Trophy took a step closer towards achieving that goal, when they went to the top of the final round table. Their defeat of SSC last weekend gave them a clear seven points lead over defending champions Bloomfield who are lying second and third placed SSC. Only a fraction of a point separates Bloomfield and SSC who each have one defeat against four victories in five matches. SSC had a clean sheet from the start of the first round till last weekend when it was marred by Moratuwa SC. In *School Cricket*, it is all in the hands of the two captains to break the series of twelve interminably drawn games when the 103rd Battle of the Blues between Royal and S. Thomas begins today at the SSC grounds at 10.20 a.m. There has been no decision since 1970. Factors attributing to this sad state of affairs are the fear of losing, the pitch in favour of the batsmen and the batsmen's desire to go for records. The *Pakistan Cricket Control* Board facing a rebellion from eight of its top players today named a new chief selector who promised merit would be his criterion for selection. *Pakistan* beat Sri Lanka by 204 runs in the first-ever Cricket Test between the two countries in a dramatic fifth and final day today. Sri Lanka, making their first tour since being granted Test Status by the International Cricket Conference last year needed 354 to win and were toppled for 149 in 210 minutes. *Britain* today refused demands from an anti-apartheid group for trade or

travel reprisals against Pretoria over an unofficial tour of South Africa by rebel English cricketers. The British government while opposed to the tour said it did not favour using sanctions or restricting travel to South Africa to change the policy of racial segregation of the white-minority government in Pretoria. The *Test and Country Cricket Board* today deferred any decision on a proposal to ban the 14 rebel English cricketers now playing in South Africa from all first class cricket. A full Board meeting discussed country club Northamptonshire's call to sack the rebels from their countries but did not reach a conclusion.



DON'T JUST BOYCOTT

Ban Them By Law

By Donald Woods

The author is the former editor of the *East London Daily Dispatch* in Durban. He fled to Britain in 1977 after being put under house arrest. Donald Woods, an outspoken opponent of apartheid, condemns the controversial cricket tour of South Africa. This article appeared in the *London Times* of March 3, 1982.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN government regards sport as so crucial to the morale of the country's whites that increasingly large amounts of government and semi-government money are being made available to lure international sports stars. South African corporations which do the same are approved for their patriotism. It was therefore inevitable that English cricketers would receive an offer too large for many to refuse especially those in the twilight of their careers or clearly not in the highest international class. In this respect Graham Gooch is the only cricketer among the 12 now in South Africa whose loss to England's Test side is significant in purely cricketing terms. But the issue, alas, is not solely one of cricket. Important moral and political considerations are also involved. One is the question of whether a citizen of a democratic country should have the right to play sport wherever and against whoever he chooses, and of course the answer should be yes. By the same token, sportsmen of other countries have the right to refuse to play against him if they find his choice of venue and opponents offensive to them. These rights are appropriate to all citizens of countries with normal political inter-relationships. But when such relationships are abnormal, other considerations come into play. To pose an extreme case, many Englishmen now vociferously defending the right of Boycott and his colleagues to play in South Africa would be the first to deny an equivalent right to an English sportsman who wished, say, at the height of the blitz on London during the Second World War to play sport in Nazi Germany on the grounds

TRIBUNE, MARCH 20, 1982

that sport should be above politics. It is a question of degree. The principle is the same. The most innocent activities can take on political significance according to circumstance. An East German who swims to freedom across a frontier river would hardly agree that swimming is always a non-political activity.

WHAT HAS TO BE DECIDED by the British people is the extent to which they regard themselves as being at war against apartheid, and to decide, depending on what degree of warfare seems appropriate, what measures to impose democratically in line with that decision. These are not always matters of orthodox policy on civil rights, and usually the most crucial determinant is sensitivity. All Americans would insist on their democratic right to invite foreigners to the USA, but no Chicago mayor at this time would risk offending Polish-Americans by being host to General Jaruzelski. Nor would a New York mayor allow a Palestinian basketball team into a Bronx stadium soon after a PLO attack on a kibbutz. Nor would a Boston mayor welcome Princess Margaret during a Maze prison hunger strike. In each case the mayor's hospitality would be within his democratic rights, but sensitivity sometimes overrides such rights, and the sensitivity required in all three cases cited above is related to the large numbers of Polish-Americans in Chicago; Jewish-Americans in New York and Irish-Americans in Boston. **But where apartheid is concerned there is a much larger ethnic group requiring even more sensitivity. The reason why most of humanity is sensitive about apartheid is that most of humanity is black. Two thirds of the human race, with a deeply personal sense of affront over apartheid cannot easily stomach the sight of Englishmen playing cricket in South Africa as if South Africa had the kind of amiable society where the batting and bowling of a ball seemed a logical extension of other national amiabilities. Thus what seems to many white Britons to be the most harmless of activities, the simple playing of cricket is an outrage to the back man everywhere—a dancing on the grave of apartheid's victims.**

To EXPERIENCE this sense of outrage fully, you have to have a black skin, and know what it feels like to have your very skin colour equated with statutory crime punishable through a system of 317 racial laws covering every aspect of life from cradle to grave. And if you have a white skin, as I have, you can only approach such an understanding as a cricket addict, which I am, if you cannot forget, as I cannot, three good friends who died violently because they were black men who wouldn't knuckle under to apartheid. Steve Biko, Mapetla Mohapi and Griffiths Mxenge—one beaten to death, one strangled to death and one stabbed to death—were three of the sanest, most decent people I have had the privilege to know.

27

CONFIDENTIALLY

Swarna Bhoomi....OR?

HAS IT NOT DAWNED ON THE HIGHER ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UNP that if it does not want the Party to suffer major setbacks in the next Elections it should examine the activities of the multinational called NESTLES' with a critical in-depth eye? That this multinational has now firmly entrenched itself in Polonnaruwa and other districts radiating from the condensary? That one result of the presence of Nestles' in Polonnaruwa area was seen at the much-publicised Swarnabhocmi tamasha on March 7? That it is true that many of the UNP MPs in the province, including those who have attained District Minister standing, have not only become far removed from ordinary people but also unpopular because of many acts of commission and omission? That it was therefore not difficult for dissidents to organise a demonstration of protest to make it clear to the President that all was not well with the nation? That apart from the estrangement of the MPs, the Establishment and the Bureaucracy from the common people, government leaders do not seem to be aware of the fact that a major talking in point in Polonnaruwa among grassroots folk is about the sellout of national interests to Nestles'? That it is true that this line of propaganda has been put out by the JVP (which is now a force to be reckoned on in the area) but there are enough factual realities to lend weight to the JVP allegations? That Nestles', as we have often pointed out, has a 60/40 agreement in its favour—a unique clause for a joint venture of this kind? That it is also widely talked about that whilst the cost of production of a tin of *Perakum* is below Rs. 5/50 even now, Nestles' sells each tin for Rs. 10/25? That whilst all this talk goes round and round UNP stalwarts in the area have not thought of meeting the JVP allegations or charges against Nestles' and those in the government playing ball with them? That it may well be true that the UNP Establishment is so much out of touch with the grassroots that it may not be aware of what ordinary people are talking or thinking about current trends in this country? That if the UNP does not want the N. W. P. to go the way of N.C.P. it should immediately stop all plans to permit Nestles' to take over the Coconut Triangle to make more powdered milk and this end the era of cheaper liquid milk? That reports reaching *Tribune* indicate that, in six of seven seats in the N.C.P., UNP's position is not what it was even a year ago and that the popularity rating of the MPs and the Party was daily going down? That it would be in the interest of the UNP to know that one of the charges that is going home is that the country was being sold to foreigners who were bleeding the country white? That the UNP should realise, before it is too late, that if a multinational like Nestles is let loose in our agricultural areas, the UNP will have only itself to blame for the electoral

disasters that will overtake the Party? That it is also common talk that some of the big boys in Nestles now freely drop names (of important people)—Upali style—and boast that they are consulted on high matters of state policy especially about dairy and livestock development? That if the Government and the UNP do not take serious note of the groundswell of animosity against this multinational (allowed to stalk freely in our rural countryside) and take corrective measures, they will find themselves enveloped in an atmosphere of indignant hostility? That if such mood of resentment is allowed to build up among ordinary voters, the UNP will be faced with the serious problem of re-establishing rapport, credibility and confidence? **That in Polonnaruwa the whisper that has already gained momentum is that Swarnabhoomi is only to persuade people to work harder to swell the profits of Nestles? Is it Swarnabhoomi or is it Nestlesbhoomi? That this has already begun to weigh down on the Government although many top UNPers seem to be blissfully ignorant of it?**

WAS IT NOT ENCOURAGING TO READ in the *Sun* of March 6 that the M.O.H. WILL DESTROY ALL BAD SALT? The Medical Officer of Health in the Hambantota district has been instructed by the National Salt Corporation to have all self-framed salt which does not come under the Corporation's sanction and purview to be destroyed with immediate effect. This follows last week's crackdown by Police which resulted in over 60,000 kilos of unpurified salt being detected in the Hambantota area while it was being packeted for sale by unscrupulous gangs, hired by mudalalis of the area. National Salt Corporation chairman, S. B. Werapitiya told *Sun* yesterday that he was aware of the situation but the Corporation was powerless to completely overcome it. We are alive to the situation and my Corporation is doing its best to control this illicit trend', Mr. Werapitiya said. He has directed the regional manager of the area to seek Police assistance to arrest these acts. Health authorities warned that this salt which contained a high level of magnesium sulphate could be fatal if consumed in large quantities. That the public must be thankful for the small mercies the bureaucracy bestows on the people? That the decision to destroy bad salt reminds us of the bad infant milk food found unfit for human consumption? That in this column we had wanted to know whether a shipload of infant milk food found bad" was destroyed or whether a fresh label with fresh-expiry date was pasted over the old and then sold to unsuspecting parents? That questions like these are never answered? **That every government seems to wake up and curse the bureaucrats they had depended on only after its ministers and MPs are routed in Sri Lanka many times, but politicians of every hue do not seem capable of learning a lesson?**

THE SRI LANKA INSTITUTE OF TRADITIONAL STUDIES

BOOK LIST

A BUDDHIST SPECTRUM

by **Marco Pallis**

Rs. 375.00

The outstanding new collection of essays
on aspects of the Buddhist tradition

An Anthology of SINHALESE LITERATURE

Edited by **Christopher Reynolds**

Rs. 275.00

Translations from Classical Sinhalese Literature.
An UNESCO publication now out of print. Few
copies available without dust jackets

THE RHINE FLOWS INTO THE TIBER

by **Ralph M. Wiltgans S. V. D.**

Rs. 175.00

A faithful and revealing account of Vatican 2,
bearing the Nihil obstat and Imprimatur, this
book presents a clear picture of the predominant
influence exerted on the Council by the
"progressive" German bishops.

S/c

"A masterly coverage of what went on behind the scenes"

The Catholic Weekly (Australia)

POPE JOHN'S COUNCIL

by **Michael Davies**

Rs. 175.00

This book presents in dramatic fashion the
true facts about Vatican 2, which will seem
incredible to Catholics who know nothing
of the Council, or who have been misled
into accepting a false picture of it.

S/c

POPE PAUL'S NEW MASS

by **Michael Davies**

Rs. 200.00

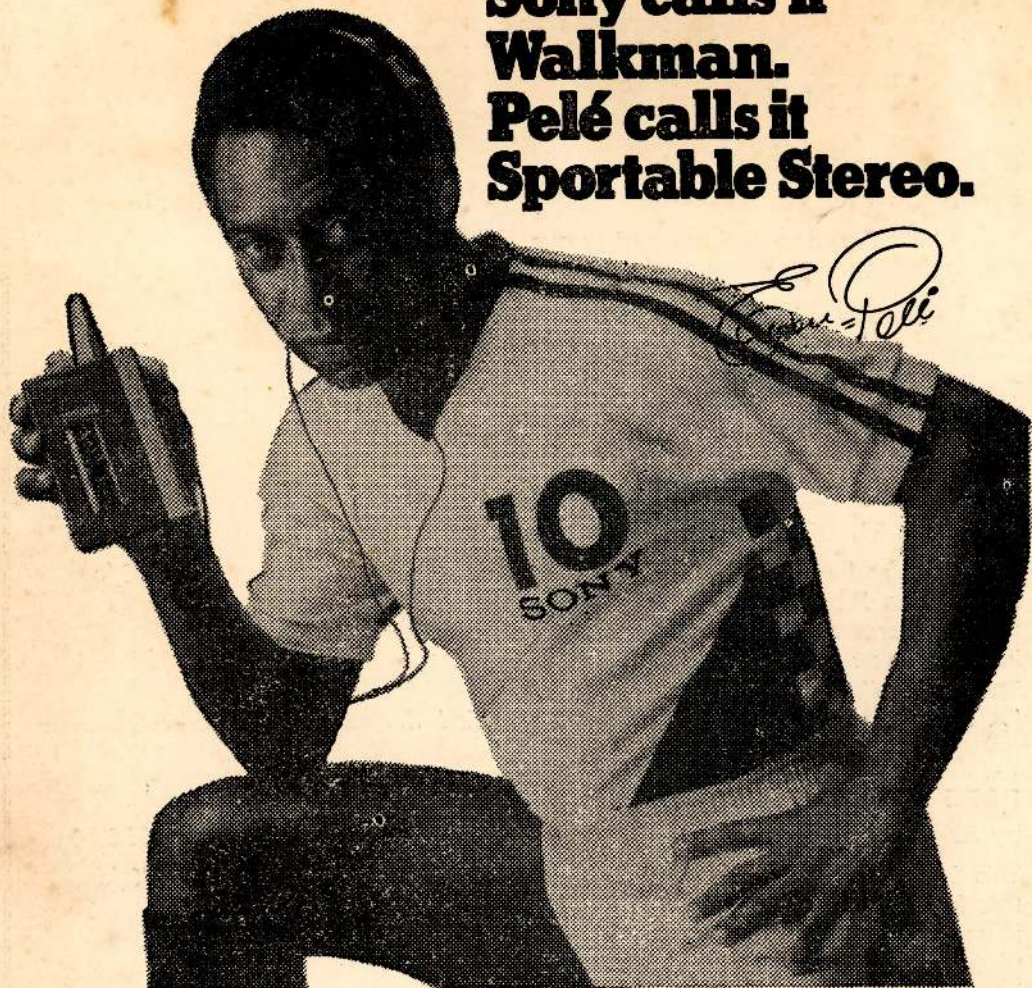
The third work in an important trilogy.
A thorough and objective assessment of the New Mass.

These books can be purchased by

MAIL ORDER

after inquiry from
P.O. Box 1204
Colombo.

Sony calls it Walkman. Pelé calls it Sportable Stereo.



Sony who gave you Trinitron and Betamax now brings you Walkman — the new sportable stereo cassette player for two. Walkman opens up an entirely new world of music and entertainment.

THE "HOT LINE" CIRCUIT enables you to walk with another who is listening to same tape with headphones. While listening, press "Hot Line" button and the tape volume drops and your voices are picked up.

Specially designed lightweight headphones.

Compact, lightweight Stereo cassette player for listening to stereo tapes through headphones.

Headphone jacket for two.

WALKMAN

Siedles Cineradio.

9-10 FRONT STREET COLOMBO 11.
TELE: 27311.

SONY®

Digitized by Noolaham Foundation.
noolaham.org | aavanaham.org



Prices range from
Rs. 2,600/- Rs. 4,650/-
Also available at the
Duty Free Shop