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CONTENTS

LETTER FROM EDITOR — Horticulture	1
EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK — Inflation	2
FILM FOCUS — Exhibitors' Woes	5
LETTERS — Spectre, Tamil Films	6
SRI LANKA CHRONICLE — March 7 - 13	9
WORLD NEWS — March 7 - 12	11
AFGHANISTAN - 14 — By Day & Night	12
MEDIA — And Developing Countries	15
WATER — Of the Earth	16
INDO - PAK TALKS — In the Shadow of the Phantoms	17
AGRICULTURAL DIGEST — Citrus Cultivation	21
SPORTSCOPE — In Pakistan	24
CONFIDENTIALLY — ICs, Antiques	28

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

READERS WILL RECALL that we had in this column taken up the question on October 31, 1981 (*Tribune*, Vol. 26 No. 9) of the sorry state of horticulture in this country and about the unimaginative and unrealistic attitude of the Department of Agriculture. Our note was presumably sent on to the Director of Agriculture for his perusal by the Secretary, Ministry of Agricultural Research and Development, Mr. Ranjan Wijeyaratne, and the comments of the Deputy Director (Farms and Horticulture) was published in full in our issue of January 16, 1982 (Vol. 26 No. 18). With the new *Agricultural Digest* as a regular feature in *Tribune*, many readers want us to take up once again the question of improving our horticulture. We cannot think of a better way of reviving a discussion on this important matter than by reprinting an extract from the piece we had written on October 31, 1981: "In recent weeks there has been a great hullabaloo about planting trees especially fruit trees. But we have on many occasions pointed out that our fresh fruit industry is languishing. Our production is low and the quality poor. And the reasons for this are not far to seek. Practically all fruit trees in the island have either been infected with some virus or the quality of their produce is so poor that their value, especially for export, is low. Nothing has been done in regard to the virus or quality because no sustained or purposeful research has been done in this country either by the Department of Agriculture or Faculties of Agriculture in our Universities. It is said money was not available for such research. Countries like India, Thailand, Malaysia, Pakistan and Indonesia, in our region, have by research improved the quality of all fruits. . . . It will not be easy to get the best planting materials from other countries. Thailand, for instance, has banned the export of seeds and planting materials of certain high-export quality mangoes, oranges, grapes, apples, pineapples etc. Compared to the horticultural produce of other countries in the region, Sri Lanka does not have any first quality fruits for export. We beat the big drum about exporting fruits but our produce fetch only prices for low quality. Apart from total lack of research the State Farms and even the Department of Agriculture Experimental Stations have not maintained proper records of the fruit trees they have grown. The Department has failed to check the spread of virus disease and has made no concerted attempt to develop better quality and higher yielding fruit trees. **Unfortunately, the Department of Agriculture, which has the monopoly of importing seeds and planting materials, has jealously guarded this monopoly and prevented private farmers from importing high quality seeds and planting materials from abroad.** The seeds of nearly all varieties of fruit trees are on the totally banned list so far as the private farmer is concerned. Whilst this ban continues, there is no ban on the import of high-priced oranges, grapes apples and preserved fruits. . . . These imported fruits are far too expensive except for a small elite of the very new rich and the expatriates in our midst. The fruits for the common people can be grown only by local farmers who are now being compelled to tail behind the Department of Agriculture. And, here they face another blatant act of discrimination. The Department of Agriculture, it is learnt, has agreed to give permission to a Japanese firm that wants to grow citrus and strawberry to import planting material. Both items are in the banned list for Sri Lankans. Why Should Sri Lankans be discriminated against in this way? Why can't they import the same planting materials certified virus-free by recognized international institutions as the Japanese are allowed to do?" We will publish a summary of the memorandum by the Deputy Director of Agriculture (Farms and Horticulture) on our article together with our comments.

Inflation - Its Mystique

INFLATION is very much on everybody's mind. It is also very much on everybody's lips—mainly as an excuse for all our economic ills many of which are the result of the government's failure to have its policies properly defined and its priorities realistically scheduled. And in order to fool the people, apologists for the system in the West have made "inflation" a mysterious word. It has now acquired a mystique of its own. Inflation is one of the Western world's major issues over the last decade and has kept accelerating its pace and it has acquired a two digit status in most countries.

No government anywhere in the capitalist world has succeeded in curbing the spiralling inflation and keeping it below 10 percent by the end of any year, although trade unions showed they were willing to accept a maximal price ceiling in conditions of promotion of an economic policy that should not afflict the living standards of working people and that should provide for sustained support to the crisis-plagued sectors, in particular to the big enterprises with state profit-sharing. As regards the causes of inflation, the experts having nothing now to add to the already known ones: growth of oil prices on the world market, reduced labour productivity, as also problems related to the present-day western industrial structures, having awakened further to the existence of huge production capacities still not used especially in the iron-and steel, naval and textile industries. Further the experts at present consider that inflation has little chance of being lessened and they have even added a new word "stagflation" which is the result of the combined effects of economic stagnation and inflation.

What is inflation, in fact? A journalist humourously answered that it is a scholarly word invented by economists in order to conceal their ignorance. Acting just like the charlatans who cover their ignorance with scientific-like words aimed at impressing native people, economists try to "startle the old fogeys" by using this mysterious word. **In fact, inflation is a very simple thing: a growth of the price levels and an indication that something is wrong with the economic machinery.** Inflation can neither be sold nor bought but it is imported and exported and the loser is always the same—the one who has the lower income. It is a method of controlling the poor and economically weak. It is a clever trick that it no longer looks like a trick. It is perhaps for that reason that it bears such mysterious name: inflation.

THOUGH FEW understand what brings about inflation and fewer still attempt to explain it, the World Bank according to a report in the *Sunday*

Observer of February 7, 1982 (Prema de Mel reporting) stated under the headline **WORLD BANK WARNS: CONTAIN INFLATION:** "The World Bank has warned the government (of Sri Lanka) to contain inflation because construction costs have risen sharply and the external deficit has widened. The Bank economists state these developments reflect the rapid expansion of the economy—a result certainly to be desired—but nonetheless the rate of increase in prices is resulting in higher rates of inflation in Sri Lanka than in its trading partners and competitors. This is also reducing the real value of the incentives started in 1977. Investment studies projected to 1984 shows that the earlier scarcity of good projects had given way to a surfeit of investment proposals. This year the 'lead projects' like the Urban Development Programme and the Accelerated Mahaweli project accounted for over 76 percent of available resources..."

The *Sunday Observer* report went on: "The World Bank report states that by redesigning the entire program the government could still retain its objective of building 100,000 houses but would direct these benefits to the most needy at much lower costs. This would also have the additional benefits the report adds of reducing the foreign exchange burden of the investment program since housing and urban development programs have attracted only limited donor support. Support from donor countries for slum clearing and shanty improvement is more likely than for middle-class housing. The report adds a reduction in housing program would both allow a cut in the level of public investment and release much needed financial and real resources for the production sectors. Further cuts in the 'lead projects' and the strengthening of the direct production component of public investment should be the major objectives up to 1985. In 1982 and beyond construction prices are likely to increase no more rapidly than domestic inflation.

"From the point of view of inflation, from this year onwards is a matter for considerable anxiety. The gathering momentum of the public investment program in particular implies rapid increases in the import of cement, timber and steel. The foreign exchange costs of a typical house in Sri Lanka are likely to be more than double this year to about 35 percent even if foreign contractors are not used. The use of foreign contractors could raise the foreign exchange component of about 45 percent with labour costs also rising. The report states the deteriorating international environment has hit Sri Lanka hard and at its most vulnerable time. This has both increased Sri Lanka's aid needs as well as reduced the donor's capacity to assist. If Sri Lanka's development strategy is to succeed, however, sacrifices will have to be made. Donors will have to significantly increase their aid to Sri Lanka while the Government will have to carefully re-assess the scope and composition of its development program".

TRIBUNE, MARCH 27, 1982

This long report, obviously from the lips of some wisecracks attached to the Bank does not help anyone to understand what inflation really is and only if one understands it can a solution be found.

In the *Weekend* of February 7 there was a piece entitled **WORLD BANK AID CUTS—LANKA WON'T BE AFFECTED JUST YET** by Christine Motha: "Massive cuts in development aid to poor countries this year by the World Bank affiliate, the International Development Association, will not immediately affect Sri Lanka. IDA credits to Sri Lanka—one of the eighteen poorest countries—will be about US \$ 86 million, much less than the US\$ 167 million last year and the average of US\$ 130 million in previous years said a senior official in the Ministry of Finance and Planning. He said, 'the slash in the IDA's interest free credit will not be felt this year because the Government has decided not to begin any new development schemes till all projects in hand have been completed.' "The World Bank in 1979 warned Sri Lanka of an 'over-heated economy', if development and growth were not slowed down. However, a pruning of World Bank funds means that other donors will have to be found to finance the gaps in some development projects, particularly the Mahaweli Scheme. Ongoing Mahaweli projects with unfunded gaps include Kotmale and Maduru Oya. The Ministry spokesman said that Sri Lanka hoped to ask the World Bank to cover these. IDA's 86 million dollar credit this year will finance a credit scheme for small and medium industries (31 million) and a replanting project for tea, rubber and coconut (20 million). An eighty Megawatt thermal power plant will be partly financed with 35 million dollars. The Ministry spokesman said that Sri Lanka will have to rely on the sixteen donors in the Sri Lanka Aid Consortium which includes Japan, West Germany, the OPEC fund and USAID. Sri Lanka is confident of getting all or almost the whole US \$ 500 million the World Bank has recommended as development, food and commodity aid when the Aid group meets in Tokyo in June, he said. Last week *Reuter* quoting Bank officials said the IDA would reduce its soft-loans from US \$ 4.1 billion to US \$ 2.6 billion this year because of 'a' US decision to reduce assistance to the Bank'. Of the 2.8 billion dollars earmarked for South Asia, only 1.6 billion dollars will be given."

What does all this add up to? The mysterious word "inflation" now becomes even more mysterious.

TO MAKE MATTERS more difficult the *Sun* on February 15, had a special feature **PROGRESS REPORT OF INFLATION—INFLATIONARY SHOCKS FOR SRI LANKA**. It was an attempt by Prof. Tilak Ratnakara to explain just what "inflation" meant. "Sri Lanka is facing an amalgam of many inflationary shocks from the liberalisation of the

economy and active jolts emanating from the world economy, according to the Progress Report of the Ministry of Plan Implementation. In the report titled 'Inflation and the Sri Lankan Economy' economist Professor Tilak Ratnakara analyses the country's present inflation situation and the events which led to it. He says that the country is experiencing two types of inflation—repressed inflation and open inflation. The repressed inflation does not assert itself in the increase in prices and is not reflected much in the cost of living index or any other index. Whereas the open inflation is reflected by these indicators.

"The symptoms of repressed inflation which are not even recognised by economists however is as follows: (1) Ever widening net of price controls and rationing; (2) the emergence of not merely a black market but a black economy, where even consumers sell their rations in the black market; (3) distortion of the spending habits of people since pent up demand has no way of expressing itself excepting through the hoarding of money with no tax amnesties, substitution of new currencies for old would flush out; (4) local production in all sectors including Agriculture and Industry functioning at less than full capacity because of distortions in the price mechanism; (5) possible widening of Budget deficit leading to expansionary financing which in turn will lead to further price controls and rationing since the consumer has to be protected from rapid increases in price level. "These effects, Professor Ratnakara points out were clearly seen in our economy from about the early sixties. By the seventies the problem of repressed inflation in Sri Lanka was made worse by the shock of sharp increase in the price of oil. In fact Sri Lanka was classified as one of the Most Seriously Affected (MSA) countries by the IMF. What is patently clear is that there was suppressed inflation, a stagnant economy and an increase in money supply, pent up demand, severe balance of payments difficulties as 1977 dawned.

"The liberalisation of the economy resulting in freer imports, abandonment of exchange controls, fixing the exchange rate at a more realistic level and allowing it to float within bounds caused the suppressed inflation to turn into an open inflation. This, Professor Ratnakara says, was a necessary concomitant to the deliberate act on the part of the government to get the economy moving fast enough to clear the backlog of over one million unemployed. In addition the launching of massive projects like the accelerated Mahaweli Scheme with a gestation period of six years and increased activity in construction sphere which though not productive in a direct sense nevertheless gives rise to greater employment generation, means that more and more incomes are generated while the supply of foods and services are outpaced by the growth in the demand. Further, the repeated oil price increases during 1980 by five

fold over the year created more inflationary shocks, the effects of which are yet to come. These oil hikes not only caused inflationary surges in a direct manner but also in an indirect manner by increasing deficits in the balance of payments which in turn gives rise to depreciation of the rupee which once again in a circular fashion, increases prices. In short what we are experiencing is mainly the pains of repressed inflation changing into open inflation by a deliberate act of policy on the part of the Government a policy which is meant to foster economic growth create more employment compounded by a number of various other factors".

Prof. Tilak Ratnakara is no doubt a learned man in matters economic, but the summary and synopsis in the Sun is not of much help to anyone to understand inflation. How could suppressed inflation become open inflation through liberatisation—if the latter had the correct priorities?

It is not in Sri Lanka alone that the learned are unable to explain "inflation". The British *Guardian Weekly* of January 24, 1982 in an editorial note entitled WHAT GOES UP FAILS TO COME DOWN, stated: ".....It is high time that this supposedly anti-inflationary Government adopted a policy to reduce price rises. The latest official retail price index shows an increase over the last twelve months of 12 percent the same figure as for November but more than one point higher than the summer low and nearly two points higher than the 10.3 percent inflation rate which Mrs. Thatcher inherited in May 1979. The Government believed that an excessive growth in the money supply (notes, coin and bank accounts) alone caused inflation. It also believed that its borrowing requirement had to come down if it was not to print money or force up interest rates by selling too many state bonds. But the spending cuts and the tax rises to reduce borrowing meant increased public sector charges which boosted prices, with the ironic result that the Government pushed up prices in order to reduce inflation. About a third of the goods and services which make up the Retail Price Index are directly affected by Government policy decisions, and it was duty rates, rents, mortgage costs, nationalised industry charges and rises in excise duty on booze and baccy which contributed about half of the inflation between 1981 and 1980. Even now public sector prices are rising by 12.5 percent, compared with 6.8 percent in the private sector. The other side of the coin was that private sector costs rose steeply just when high interest rates pushed up sterling and undermined our competitiveness. The Chancellor managed to make inflation fall less than it should have done, while unemployment rose by more. "Any continuation of the present policy is unlikely to lead to a reply of the disastrous results of the past two years, but it does not, by any stretch of the imagination, guarantee either a marked fall in inflation or any substantial increase in output

and employment. The latest economic forecasts offer surprising unanimity. Inflation will continue, just into double figures even by the end of this year while output will rise an average by less than 1 percent compared with its 1981 level. Unemployment is bound to grow. Worse, it is quite conceivable that a double-digit inflation rate would not be reduced thereafter, because it will become the base for wage pressure in the winter of 1982-83.

"Mrs. Thatcher seems to realise as much as anyone else that this conventional scenario—with its attendant risks—promises bleak electoral reward. She will also be looking for some concessions to the "wet" backbenchers who urge a £ 3 billion reflation. The most convenient way of maximising popularity and buying off the dissidents would be to reduce the standard rate of income tax by one or two points. This would certainly help to bolster consumption. It would tally nicely with the Conservatives promise of lower direct taxes without yet carrying the stigma of a pre-election sweetener. But a cut in income taxes would only indirectly help to reduce inflation if pay demands next year were lower as a result. Even without the incomes policy which will eventually be required, there are several changes that the Chancellor could make to combine a once-and-for-all cut in prices with a demand stimulus (because lower prices increase real incomes and spending power). He could cut VAT, but this may be too obvious a U-turn in its first budget. It would anyway create as few jobs as a cut in income tax. The coward's VAT cut would be a failure to raise excise duties on drink and tobacco in line with the past year's inflation, which would also do little for jobs while entailing obnoxious social side-effects. The best method, in the political corner into which the Government has painted itself, would still be the abolition of the employers' National Insurance surcharge. A given increase in State borrowing channeled into a cut in this 'tax on jobs' might not have the same initial effect on inflation at a VAT reduction, but it would be twice as job-creative as either lower VAT or lower income tax—thanks to our greater international competitiveness. With rising output there would also be more chance of a sustained increase in productivity which in turn would be passed on in part through lower price increases. The British economy does not often offer even this glimmer of a virtuous circle. Mrs. Thatcher, surely, should take her anti-inflationary chance".

The *Guardian Weekly* writer leader has not been able to explain just what caused inflation in the UK or what can be done to eliminate it. We have cited all these reports from prestigious journals local and foreign to show that the newspaper reader is none the wiser after reading everything published.

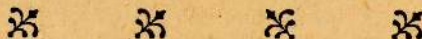
In these circumstances, can anyone blame some people for stating that inflation was inherent in capitalism and that by ending capita-

TRIBUNE, MARCH 27, 1982

lism alone it would be possible to end the evils of inflation. The alternatives to capitalism and free enterprise have problems of their own, and it is a difficult choice for people to decide whether it was better to learn to live with inflation in a "free" capitalist society or in a circumscribed centrally planned "regimented" socialist society which is able to contain inflation.

ON THE COVER we have an unsophisticated young lady from our rural countryside. She is worried about rain, crops and prices. She hears the word "inflation" in English and the Sinhala translation. Two digit inflation blocks her power to understand any price. A yard of printed chintz now costs nearly fifteen times what it cost two decades ago. And she does not know why. The word "inflation" has no meaning for her. Over the radio she hears that a price of a tank, a bomber or submarine has kept soaring but she is not able to comprehend the millions each is said to cost. Not so long ago she gasped when over the radio she heard the amount the US was spending on her military budget for 1982-1983. It was 230 billion dollars. She is not able to understand whether the average American is convinced that all this money should be spent while social programmes were being cut in order to bridge the budget deficit of 100 billion dollars.

What she has not heard over our media is that protests have been launched through the length and breadth of the United States against the magnitude of the military budget. Prestigious economists have voiced serious doubts whether the United States has the necessary money to finance Reagan's armament programme. This doubt was also echoed by John Stennins, a Democrat Senator for Missisipi, Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee. There has been serious opposition to this military budget and Senator Edward Kennedy and 100 other Senators have tabled a resolution that the US and USSR should freeze all nuclear weapons and thereafter reduce them. The Reagan Administration is very much on the defensive in the Congress and there is little doubt that the proposed military budget will be cut. In the meantime, inflation keeps mounting just as much as the interest rates, and the *malaise* that is eating into the economy of the USA, the riches of the rich capitalist countries, has been spilling over the rest of the world.



FILM FOCUS

Exhibitors' Woes

Is it the sole aim of any Corporation to make profits only, regardless of the plight of the Exhibitor, is the
TRIBUNE, MARCH 27 1982

poser, this column would like to place before the National Film Corporation and *Tribune* readers today. When the NFC took life in an earlier regime, the spiral of inflation had not hit the roof as it has done today due to international economic fluctuations. It was in these beginnings, the percentage taking of the NFC on the exhibition of films was fixed, and it has remained static over the years, while the unfortunate or unlucky exhibitor has had to face the travails of the everchanging costs that are prevalent today. If a big exhibitor like Ceylon Theatres Ltd. finds itself in the red, and we have the word of its Managing Director for it, how more so would be the plight of the smaller fry in the business, who having taken the NFC at its word, have invested heavily in the cinematic field are witnessing their bank balance being eroded steadily, a void which the percentages permitted to them cannot bridge. This column consequently has been at pains to "speak" to a few exhibitors, and would spotlight their immediate grievance with more looming on the horizon.

While the percentage dues of the NFC remain constant, the salaries of the cineme cadre has kept in galloping with every increase of wages the Government has rightfully granted, from time to time. While the electricity bills have doubled and trebled, the cost of carbon rods have increased a 100% the media advertisement rates by 50% the water rates by 250%, the telephone bills by 100% the printing of posters, ticket books etc., by well over 100%, the transport of film boxes by a 100%, the colour washing of cinemas—on NFC requirement every two years—by 50%, the BTT by a 100%, the servicing of projectors and purchasing of spareparts by a 100%, the performance licence fee to the local authority by a cool 100%, the postage and stationary charges by a 100%, with the costs of advertising films at prominent spots in the vicinity mounting up the same extent. This list could be lengthened further, but space does not permit it, and this column is satisfied that the point has been made sufficiently. And where does all this leave the exhibitor is what this column asks of the NFC today. It would be superfluous to mention here that Exhibitors are essential cogs and contributory partners, together with the NFC for the healthy growth of the film industry. It is in fact a business relationship, for one just cannot exist without the other.

And those in the NFC are no Shylocks to the knowledge of this column, but may not be sufficiently alive to the situation where the small exhibitors face slow and sure extinction, for their strangulation is imminent. How hollow like sounding brass and tinkling symbols, comes the request of the NFC for more cinemas and more exhibitors. While many small time producers are striking it rich with loans from the NFC, some exhibitors appear to be getting their shutters ready to close their cinemas for more

paying business ventures like tourism etc. The only remedy that this column can propound for this impending crisis, is that the NFC rescues its percentage takings and becomes more realistic to the crisis right now. This figure has remained constant too long and its rigidity must be relaxed for a beginning. In the above context, therefore, the idle boast that the NFC has been ever, a profit making body loses meaning. That donations should be given to other funds, however, deserving, from the NFC coffers would be skin to rubbing Peter at the expense of the Exhibitor—to pay Paul, when charity should actually begin at home. The Chairman NFC is an astute, tried and successful businessman and it seems unnecessary that the should receive enlightenment from this column to place the Film Industry in order from every conceivable angle. He should act now and act fast, before the aims and aspirations of the NFC become stultified and counterproductive. If keeping the masses entertained is the motto of the NFC, then regardless of the credit balances, the exhibitor too should be given his slice of cake, and not sacrificed as a scapegoat instead.

THAKARA (Malayalam): Thanks to the NFC, this film set in the classic mould of "Sankara Paranam" to (Telengu) and "Ankur" (Hindi) has reached our shores. This aim of the NFC is acceptedly not sponsor money making films only, but also provide classic fare too for the consumption of local picturegoers. This is a firm contention of Chairman Anton Wickremasinghe with which this column wholeheartedly agrees. Directed brilliantly by Malayalee Director Parathan and adorned by the camera artistry of Balu Mahendra, a Sri Lankan, this film is worth going a long way to see, with the language not proving a barrier to its complete enjoyment. The story centres around a village idiot, who is awakened by the contours—in stages—of an attractive belle whom he meets daily, falls a victim to the ways of all flesh, and is left betrayed by her at the end, to a tragic demise. The furtive cravings of the farmer and the curiosity of the latter to taste a slice of the forbidden fruit is required innocently, but the village wags its tongue, to sentence the retarded to the vengeance and the wrath of an angry father. This in short is the crux of the story, but the beautiful build up, with casual incidents thrown in was a treat to watch. Let not the language put you off this film for its artistic, photographic and histrionic strength where a very high water mark was reached. This column has always held that when the tongue of a film is alien to local picturegoers, its story should be brought home to them in advance by handbills etc. If this is done, the NFC, would be surprised by the returns at the box office, by a film of this class. Thakara is for adults only. Do not miss it when down your way.

JAMES N. BENEDICT.

LETTERS

The Spectre

Sir

I congratulate you on your article on this subject published in your journal in the *Editor's Notebook* dated 27.3.82. I have no doubts that you meant it as an eye-opener for the UNP. Many would like to see them returned to power at the next election. You cannot deny the fact that the UNP ably led by the President Mr. J. R. Jayewardene has done a lot for the country. They have done more good than bad. "To err is human and to forgive is divine" and so the bad must be forgiven. Ever since the UNP came into power there is freedom in the country and most of all freedom of the press. We must appreciate the work done by this Party up to now and give them time to complete the work unfinished and therefore the country must return them to power in the forthcoming elections. This is not a time to teach them a lesson, but to point out the mistakes done by them as the President is ever ready to listen to criticism and put the house into order.

When I visited Sri Lanka recently after an absence of nine years I visited almost all the areas in the various Provinces that I served as a Police Officer and met several people of all walks of life and particularly the villagers. They were all happy and contented specially the village folk although they all complained about the high cost of living, but they were also aware that this could not be helped due to the prevailing conditions in the world. The main thing to remember is to be self-supporting and to achieve this the people have to make sacrifices, as long as they do not starve. This would be possible after the projects started by the UNP are completed. This cannot be done overnight. We have to depend on foreign aid to complete most of these projects and the only party that can get this aid is the UNP. Most of the foreign countries have confidence in our President and the UNP.

The new-rich must also assist the Government to achieve this without trying to import horses and what not. They must be taxed to the maximum and they must appreciate the fact that this is being done for the sake of the country. There is one other problem and that is the Sinhala-Tamil problem. Reading through the lines I strongly suspect that the TULF now realises that "EELAM" is out and whatever they can get could be got only from JR and UNP and not any other Party. I have no doubts that JR and they will very soon solve this problem. The UNP leaders must not depend too much on the President. They must toe the line with him and not put him into any embarrassing position but to co-operate with him

TRIBUNE, MARCH 27, 1982

to the maximum to enable him and the UNP to be returned at the forthcoming elections.

18, Ridgewood Street,
Underwood,
Queensland 4119,
Australia.
6th March 1982.

Jack Van Sanden.

Films

Sir,

Please permit me some space in your valuable journal to endorse the views of Mr. A. R. A. Azeez on Tamil films which appeared in the *Tribune* of the 27th February 1982, where he refers to the National Film Corporation importing pictures which have failed at the box-office like "Avan Aval Athu" "Poonthalir" and "Thani Maram". It is really very surprising that the Corporation should be importing such films when it enjoys the sole monopoly of importing films to Sri Lanka. One of the reasons for which the Film Corporation was created was to provide better entertainment to the cinema-going public in Sri Lanka but judging from the pictures which has so far been screened by the Corporation, one cannot say that it has fulfilled this purpose. On the other hand the private sector gave the public a much better variety of Tamil and Hindi film fare. For the last several years the Film Corporation has not screened a single Hindi film of entertainment value, although there is a very great demand for these films.

Whilst it is nice to know that the Film Corporation is insisting that cinema owners must provide better facilities to the public including filtered water, it is distressing to note that the Corporation has failed in its primary duty to provide the public with good pictures. After all a person goes to the cinema not to invade the toilet or sip filtered water, but to see a good and entertaining film. Comfortable chairs, clean toilets and filtered water in a cinema would be purposeless if it does not screen entertaining films. If the Film Corporation as it says is genuinely concerned about the cinema-going public, it must at least now awaken itself to reality and make a genuine effort to import a reasonable number of the best Tamil and Hindi films. If for certain reasons it cannot do so, it must allow the private sector also to import these films, as it has done in the case of English films. If on the other hand the Film Corporation is determined to remain indifferent to public opinion, the time may not be far off when many cinemas may be compelled to close down, or to switch on to other forms of entertainment like the screening of video cassette Films. Isn't it funny that whilst the film Corporation has slammed the door on pictures which

are box office draws. These very pictures are flowing in freely to Sri Lanka in the form of uncensored video cassette films.

Batticaloa,
3rd. March, 1982.

J. E. Osiris

Small Cinema Owner

Sir,

One of the recent issues of the *Tribune* carried as its front cover picture the photograph of a sun-baked tank in a drought stricken area somewhere in Sri Lanka. This picture told the pathetic story of the sorry plight of the small farmer who depended on the village tank for his existence and livelihood. It related the tragic tale that his anticipation of a plentiful harvest had become a shattered dream. But veiled beneath that picture was also the hopeful story that he waits in patient expectation for the flood gates of Heaven to open one day in the not too distant future, and fill the empty tank with an abundance of precious water.

Indeed Sir, I see a very close analogy between that tragic picture and the painful plight of the small cinema owner in the predominantly Tamil-speaking areas in Sri Lanka, who is often in spasms of stress and disappointment because the National Film Corporation which does not seem to recognise the basic business principle of supply and demand is scarcely concerned about providing his cinema with a supply of suitable films. On the contrary he has hardly any discretion in the selection of films for his cinema, and is bound to screen whatever is doled out to him by the National Film Corporation. My open letters to the Chairman of the National Film Corporation which had been published in the *Tribune* of the 30th January and the 13th March 1982, expostulates in details the precarious position of the small cinema owner having to cater to a preponderance of Tamil-speaking audience, who under trying conditions had also to compete with a very strong rival in the video-cassette film. And now with the debut of T. V. in Sri Lanka his predicament has become the more aggravated not only because of the paucity of films, but also because of the type and quality of films imported by the National Film Corporation. Films like ORU KAI OSAL, TISSAI MARIYA PARAVIGAL, ANNAI PARAVI, POONTHALIR and THANI MARAM have certainly not been appreciated by the vast majority of the Tamil-speaking audience Sri Lanka.

And what is more surprising is that even in its latest selection of Tamil films, the National Film Corporation has left out the block busters like THIRI-SULAM, BILLA, PRIYA SIVAPPU ROJAKKEL, KANNI

PARUVATHIE, ROJAPPU RAVIKAIKARI, PATHINARU VAITHINILE, ORU THALAI RAGAM, MURATU KALAI, ATTUKARA ALAMELU and THAI MIDU SATHIYAM. Most of the films contracted for by the National Film Corporation are these which had failed to prove their mettle at the Indian box-office. Film critic James Benedict has referred to this tragedy in the Film Focus columns in your journal of the 6th March 1982, and posed the question whether the National Film Corporation's Indian Films Purchasing Team had been taken for a ride by the South Indian combines! Such a disastrous situation would not have arisen had the team studied their subject seriously, and known what they were about. Judging from its performances, the National Film Corporation seems to be incapable of striking at the best Tamil films, and in this setting one fails to understand why the Chairman of the National Film Corporation is not using his powers under section 57 (1) of Act No. 47 of 1971 and allowing those Sri Lankans who, could import the best Tamil Films to do so. Section 57 (1) gives him the absolute power and discretion to give his written authority to any person to import any films into Sri Lanka.

Even a leading cinema organisation like Ceylon Theatres Ltd have stated in their 52nd Annual Report for 1981 that their cinemas had been run at a loss. They have stated that they have incurred a loss of Rs. 1,085,647/- on cinema exhibition. Thus it would appear that in spite of their earnings from the screenings of their English films, Ceylon Theatres Ltd have nevertheless incurred a very big loss on the exhibition of films. This being the case, one could imagine the predicament of the small cinema owner in the predominantly Tamil speaking areas of this country who is invariably in a dilemma not knowing what he is to screen! With his meagre income he has to pay the National Film Corporation his film hire dues which is usually calculated at 55% or 45% of his earnings, and at the same time he has to meet a pyramid of spiralling expenses every month like enhanced electricity dues, carbons, printed posters, advertisement costs, rates and taxes, printing of tickets, postage and stationery, telephone bills, rail freight, salaries and wages, projector spares and repaired and maintenance! In addition when circumstances compel him to screen an "amputated" print or an insipid film the crowd in his cinema go on a rampage of hooting and jeering, and in the process sometimes damage his furniture and equipment too. The angry mood of the crowd may be justifiable because they have bought their tickets neither to see an "amputated" print nor an insipid film, but then the unfortunate cinema owner is made the victim of their rancour for absolutely no fault of his! Thus the small cinema owner, who has to cater to a preponderance of Tamil speaking audiences, has to face a multitude of recurring problems with hardly any sympathy or assistance from the National Film Corporation. In this predicament, even as much as the small farmer caught in the grip

of a drought looks up to Heaven for those merciful showers of silver water, the small cinema owner caught in the grip of the National Film Corporation looks up to a benevolent President for relief and redress. His Excellency The President is his only hope.

13th March 1982.
Asoka Cinema,
Puttalam.

Asoka David.

Govt.



Notice

The Land Acquisition Act. (Cap 460) as Amended by the Land Acquisition (Amendment) Act No. 28 of 1964. Notice under section 7 (1)

Reference No. VA/015/2196

It is intended to acquire the Land described in the schedule below for a public purposes. For further particulars please see the Gazette Extraordinary of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka No. 183/11 dated 12.03.1982.

SCHEDULE

<i>Situation</i>	:- Alutwela Ihalagammedda and Alutwela Pahalagammedda villages, Paljispattu East Korale Minor Division Meda Dumbara D.R.O's Division, Kandy District.
<i>Name of Land</i>	:- Lands required for the Victoria Project.
<i>Plan and Lot No.</i>	:- Lots 186 - 349 in P.P. Maha 2196.

W. G. T. Gamanayake
Assistant Government Agent
Kandy District.

Victoria Project Office
No. 66 Sangarajah Mawatha,
Kandy.
1982. 11. 03

TRIBUNE MARCH 27, 1982

March 7 - 13

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, MARCH 7: Hong Kong property developers have decided to go ahead to construct the country's biggest single commercial complex, that will cost Rs. 1.5 billion on prime city land. With the severe drought in the North Central Province continuing more persons will come into the governments' special drought relief program; a total of 370,000 from 20 districts have sought drought relief; the largest number is in Anuradhapura with 7,000. The Swaranaboomi program which will make 300,000 peasant families owners of over one million acres of agricultural land will be inaugurated by president J. R. Jayewardene in Polonnaruwa today—*SO*. Singapore Airlines, managing partner of Airlanka, which enjoyed unrestricted traffic rights from the West to Colombo and unlimited frequencies from Colombo to all points in Europe the Middle East and Africa will have its flights withdrawn or restricted from next month—*ST*. Cabinet last week decided that relief should be made available immediately to the 25,500 families in the Mahaveli Systems H and C settlements schemes who have been critically affected by the prevailing drought—*WK*. The Deputy leader of the SLFP Mr. Anura Bandaranakike said said at an anti-UNP meeting yesterday at Ambalangoda that he would do everything to unite the two sections of the SLFP that has now split—*IS*.

MONDAY, MARCH 8: The Chairman, Jaffna DDC Mr. S. Nadarajah, on Saturday commended the Government for its efforts to dispel the dark clouds hovering over Sinhala-Tamil unity and to bring all communities together for the national development effort. Urban property values are now falling and sellers are having little luck concluding transactions in a market where buyers anticipate further price declines, Valuation Department sources said. A master plan for the development and preservation of the country's forest reserves has been drawn up by the Ministry of Lands and Land Development together with a team foreign consultants—*CDN*. The Central Bank has once again revised its medium

and long term refinancing scheme and will now back up to 100 percent loans given by commercial banks for exports. The tourist arrivals to the island, totalled 370,742 in 1981; this has exceeded the 1981 projected target of 348,000 and showing a substantial increase of 22,742 or 15 percent over the figure of 321,780 recorded in 1980—*CDM*. A Police anti-terrorist squad is to be set up shortly under an urgent programme being drawn up to provide heightened security to Colombo's diplomatic community. Investigations have been launched by Customs into the Lankan connection in a new racket in which Indian nationals are being recruited and brought into the country for the explicit purpose of exploiting the duty free purchasing facilities—*SU*. Negotiations between the Coastal Corporation of America and the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation of the leasing of 99 oil tanks has been stalled because of a clause put forward by the US company that the oil in some of the Tanks be reserved for the US Navy—*IS*. All those suspected of being involved in the Valaichenai Railway Station robber have been rounded up and arrested; a large amount of the money (about Rs. 27,085) money and a ring have been recovered—*DP*. In addition to a part of the jewellery robbed from, the Kilinochchi People's Bank that was recovered the Vavuniya police have recovered 127 sovereigns of jewellery from two jewellery marts in Point Pedro and Chavakachcheri—*VK*. The lunch bill of a certain Corporation Chairman had amounted to Rs. 11,189/60; and this bill has been settled by the Corporation money; the bill had been handed over to the Corporation accountant by the chairman for settlement—*DV*. After the duty-free shopping complex was established at Kollupitiya in November 1981 the income from Customs for the government has come down during the last three months—*ATH*.

TUESDAY, MARCH 9: About two million US dollars (Rs. 40 million) worth of business has been done at the new Kollupitiya duty free complex, Trade and Shipping Minister Lalith Athulathmudali said yesterday—*CDN*. Sri Lanka's trade deficit in 1981—the cost of imports as against the value of exports—recorded a significant change since trade liberalisation in 1977 when imports declined by four percent while exports increased by ten percent—*CDM*. The popular Kachchativu festival, which draws hundreds of Sri Lankans and Indians to that little island, has been called off due to an outbreak of cholera in the South Indian city of Rameswaram, Defence Ministry official said today—*SU*. The Jaffna Municipal Council is to be compensated shortly for damages to Jaffna Public Library during the incidents between May 30 and June 2 1981; this decision has been taken primarily as a gesture of goodwill by the Government to the public of Jaffna—*IS*. A special Department will operate under the president that will be empowered to confiscate property belonging to those involved in bribery and corruption—*DP*. Thirty one thousand students have qualified themselves

for admission to Universities this year but only 5,245 students have been selected by Computer—VK. Air force Vice Marshall D. C. Perera has asked the Secretary to the Ministry of Defence to take back all employees in the civil unit who went on strike in July 1980—ATH.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10: The Cabinet is expected to consider a scheme today to increase the remuneration of government doctors. The Sri Lanka Minister for Hindu Religion and Culture, Mr. C. Rajadurai said yesterday that a five-day world Hindu conference would be held in Colombo from April 21. Transport Minister M. H. Mohamed back home from a three week tour of the Middle East has told the government that it should control recruitment for jobs in the Middle East by formulating a new system immediately—CDN. The Government has banned the use of school playgrounds for political meetings. Five suspects wanted in the Kilinochchi Bank robbery were arrested on Monday night; the men were found in Periyamulla, ten miles from Jaffna town; the were in hiding in some huts—CDM. The Republic of Maldives is opening out the former British military base in the island of Gan for tourism and industrial development in a big way—an exercise which will undoubtedly pose fresh challenges for Sri Lanka's tourist industry and free trade zone. The ceremonial opening of the new parliament at Sri Jayewardenapura is scheduled for April 29. Two foreign funding organisations have agreed to provide 24 million rupees, for the Village Tank Rehabilitation Programme—SU. Most government schools have not received their quota of text books which are issued free to schoolchildren by the Ministry of Educational Services. Minority Tamils in a memorandum submitted to President J. R. Jayawardene this week have asked for practical steps to be taken to promote educational and socio-economic upliftment of their community—IS. There are ten thousand vacancies in the Ministry of Transport of Saudi Arabia; the Minister of Transport of that country has expressed his willingness to employ Sri Lanka to fill up immediate vacancies—D. The Department of Education will appoint 5000 Advanced Level qualified teachers; these appointments will be given on district basis—D.

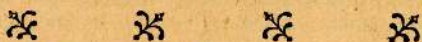
THURSDAY, MARCH 11: Half the cash prizes offered by the CTB in its January bus ticket lottery have not been claimed, Dr. Gamini C. Wijesekera the CTB chief said yesterday; he said that there was Rs. 2 million worth of unclaimed prizes from the January draw and attributed two main reasons for prize winners not knowing they had hit the jackpot. Several Middle Eastern countries have pledged approximately US dollars 1.5 million for a modern Islamic Centre to be built at Maligawatte, Transport Minister M. H. Mohamed said. Cabinet accepted several proposals regarding working journalists presented by Mr. Anandatissa de Alwis, Minister of State; it was decided that the government would help financially and in other ways to set up a Press

Centre; it was also decided that Wages Boards for working journalists be set up and that the Minister should examine the question of legislation for the improvement of journalists' working conditions. A cache of nearly Rs. 3 lakhs worth of melted gold, believed to be part of the loot of the October bank robbery at Kili-nochchi was found by Vavuniya police in a jungle there last Sunday—CDN. The Ceylon Petroleum Corporation is to renegotiate its contracts with foreign oil suppliers in a bid to offset a possible loss of revenue due to the government's reluctance to increase fuel prices. Gampaha MP S. D. Bandaranayake raised a series of questions in Parliament yesterday on the drought situation which he called was the worst in our history—SU. Ninety six Sri Lankan youth who had left home in the hope of finding lucrative jobs in Malaysia returned to Colombo on Tuesday after being stranded for three days in that country; the group which consisted on 69 Tamils 24 Sinhalese and 3 Muslims was deported by the Malaysian Immigration authorities because they did not have valid work permits—IS. The Minister of Agricultural Development and Research E. L. Senanayake has decided to increase the price of paddy from Rs. 57/50 to Rs. 62/70 per bushel; although this price increase has been made the Paddy Marketing Board has not been able to purchase any paddy as yet—ATH.

FRIDAY, MARCH 12: The Bank of Ceylon's pension and endowment schemes have mobilised a total of over Rs. 100 million by the end of last year; the pensions scheme netted Rs. 30 million and the endowment scheme, Rs. 75 million; they were launched in 1981. Parliament yesterday passed the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) (Amendment) Bill through all its stages, despite opposition protests that the Bill should not be rushed through—CDN. Members of Parliament will receive fifty gallons of fuel free; party leaders decided on Wednesday that there should be a special free fuel quota for MPs; at present they are not entitled to a quota and have to pay for their fuel—SU. The President of the CWC and Minister of Rural Industrial Development S. Thondaman said yesterday that steps will be taken to reach finality in regard to citizenship rights for people of Indian origin living in this country which had been a problem for such people to live in peace and amity in this country and enjoy the freedoms enjoyed by other communities in the country—VK. D. I. G. Mr. Edward Gunawardene will inspect homes where they have employed children under twelve years as domestic servants; the Ministry of Social Services said that very shortly the government will take steps to see that child-employment will be prohibited—DV.

SATURDAY, MARCH 13: Trade Minister Lalith Athulathmudali has turned down a request by duty free shop-owners at the Kollupitiya complex that he review the Rs. 20 gate and the requirements

that Lankans pay for their purchases with travellers cheques—*CDN*. A shocked Parliament listened in pin drop silence when SLFP Parliamentarian for Harispattuwa, Mr. R. P. Wijesiri, claimed that the controversial businessman, Mr. Upali Wijewardene, tried to bribe him to make a statement in Parliament against the Prime Minister Mr. R. Premadasa and Finance Minister, Mr. Ronnie de Mel—*CDN*. The feuding factions of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) have reached accord to unite; joint appeals will be made officially on Sunday by the two factions calling on their followers to join hands. Haphazard accounting procedures in the Revenue Branch of the Ceylon Electricity Board in Colombo are contributing to growing losses in revenue to government—*IS*.



WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

March 6-12

ASIA

CHINA: The Chinese communist party *People's Daily* attacked foreign journalists for fabricating news about Chinese leaders. *People's Daily* reacted to rumours that were spread about vice-Chairman Den Xioping that either he was losing ground or an attempt was made on his life. **SAUDI ARABIA:** An Islamic Peace Mission was reported to have made a breakthrough in its effort to bring the Iranian-Iraqi war to a halt. But Teheran radio insisted that it should be on the basis of condemnation of Iraq, war reparations and withdrawal of the aggressor from Iranian territories. **ISRAEL:** Israel expressed its dissatisfaction over President Reagan's special envoy to Middle East. They said that through Habib's immediate concern was to maintain the ceasefire yet without studying the influence of Palestinian terrorists in Lebanon and Syrian's control over Lebanon no permanent solution could be reached. Arab Druze residents of the Syrian Golan Heights, now forcefully occupied by Israel have refused to accept the identify cards issued by the Israeli Government, they still feel they are Syrians and would prefer to remain so—**SYRIA** Syria accused Iraq of sending to Iraqis explosives to blow them up outside government buildings. **DENMARK:** A French activist group launched a novel propaganda in favour of suspended free trade union in Poland. They sent Helium-filled balloons carrying messages for Polish people. **POLAND:** Poland has officially protested against the balloon invasion with Western propaganda materials launched by the French and Danes. It had little impact on the Polish people but if the helium-filled balloons were to cause any obstructions to air traffic and caused accidents then Poland would claim damages. **PORTUGAL:** The Portuguese Government Party staged a large demonstration of strength to oust the rightist government in Portugal. Their main attack was government failure to certain inflation and the ceiling on wages. **UNITED KINGDOM:** The announcement

made in the US that President Reagan would stay in Windsor Castle and address a joint session of Parliament caught Premier Thatcher napping. The premature announcement made Labour Party angry and Premier Thatcher had tried to sooth opposition leader Foot who was opposed to Reagan addressing both Houses of Parliament at Westminster Hall. Foot who was opposed to Reagan's policy in El Salvador feels that it was too much of an honour to invite Reagan to address in the prestigious Hall; instead he would prefer the royal gallery of the House of Lords to be used for the purpose. Britain has decided to replace its ageing Polaris force with the US submarine-based D-5 Trident. But the Labour and newly formed Social Democrats were opposed to the purchase of this costly Trident. **SOVIET UNION:** Soviet Union was disappointed that the right wingers around Iranian Patriarch Khomeini have been preventing the development of good relations between Soviet Union and Iran. Moscow wants Teheran to reciprocate in fitting manner for the role it played immediately after the fall of Shah in Iran. The Soviet officials are worried that US does not recognize Moscow as an equal world power and consult her on major problems. They also feel that it is dangerous for the world if US was allowed to act as if it was the only power in the world. **FRANCE:** Members of the European community have taken exception to the Iranian call to its embassies to gather information about Iranian Bahais and anti-revolutionaries. This amounts to espionage and brings to Europe the political and religious persecutions held in Iran. **WEST GERMANY:** Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Gensher made a fresh call to Soviet Union to withdraw from Afghanistan. He said that all efforts to win world recognition for the Soviet backed Kabul government had failed. **EAST GERMANY:** After a talk with PLO leader Arafat East German Government has decided to raise the status of PLO mission in that country to that of an embassy.

AMERICA

UNITED STATES: US will not involve itself in another Vietnam type war in Central America. US will limit its support to El Salvador to military and economic aid and would not send combat troops. US has launched yet another spy satellite into space which could spot objects the size of a golf ball from a distance of 20,000 miles President Reagan will address both Houses of British Parliament in Westminster Hall during a three day visit in June. The Reagan administration has decided to ban the import of oil from Libya and the export of gas technology and equipments to Libya. It had urged its allies also to do so. This decision was made partly as a gesture of goodwill to please US allies in the region such as Sudan, North, Yemen, Somalia and Oman and partly as a stricture against Libyan policy of international terrorism subversion. US Secretary of State Alexander Haig said the US cannot stop the proposed gas pipeline between Soviet Union and west Europe

and it would be futile to think that delay may bring any substantial change in western unity. Former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger stated in his memoirs the Soviet President Brezhev was more concerned with the rise of China and even thought of a pre-emptive attack but US never acquiesced to the idea. Secretary of State Haig has advised the US Congress not to cut off the military aid program to El Salvador as it would strike a fatal blow to the US backed military-civilian government in its efforts to fight the leftists guerrillas. Congress had decided to delay the vote until after the March 28 elections in El Salvador. **UNITED NATIONS:** A former High Commissioner for refugees Prince Agha Khan told the UN Human rights commission that refugee flow has reached haemorrhage proportions in certain areas and it is difficult for UN to support them. US has proposed 230 amendments to the UN Law of the Sea Treaty. These amendments were to the provisions that would enable private companies and international sea-bed authority to share the modules containing nickel, a cooper, cobalt and manganese **CANADA:** The Candian seal pups hunt began amidst controversy with animal protection societies. The representatives of the animal societies of London and Boston were in Magdalen Island as observers of the hunt. West Europeans have called for a ban on the import of seal skins from Canada. **EL SALVADOR:** The military junta has reimposed a state of seige in the guerilla infected country in preparation for the March 28 elections for a 60 member consituent assembly. **MEXICO:** Mexican foreign minister was not concerned of US argument that Nicaragua and Cuba sent big shipments of arms to EL Salvador leftist guerillas. **GUATEMALA—**Guatemala will continue to be ruled by a government backed by military. General Anibala Guevera of the Democratic front who would be the President said he would rid the country of the economic difficulties. The communist guerillas were still a force to reckon with as the neighburing country El Salvador. **CUBA:** According to newspaper reports from Washington Jose Morales a trusted associated of President Castro was killed by anti-Castro commandos. **SURINAM:** Two rightists in the Surinam army, Hawker and Rambocou attempted a coup on Thursday to capture power from the left leaning military command. But the Government has rounded them up and the situation was restpred to normal.



JOURNEY TO AFGHANISTAN—14

By Day and By Night

By S. P. Amarasingam

Before I write about the meetings I had with the heads of different Afghan organisations in Kabul, there is one story that has been repeated so often in the

press that even pro-West enthusiasts have begun to think of it as a propaganda canard necessary as a morale booster to those who wishfully hope that the US will ultimately win in Afghanistan. This story which had been used by the wire agencies once every two or three months claims that important towns outside Kabul were under Mujahideen control by night and under government troops only by day. Press reports about this sate of affairs in Afghanistan are reported to come from reliable sources" in Islamabad or New Delhi which claim to have grapevine contacts inside Afghanistan. This is one story that has appeared in Pakistan, India and papers in other countrres with unfailing regularity. The heading is always the same—MUJAHIDEEN CONTROL KANDAHAR AND HERAT BY NIGHT and the details are not varied very much when the story is repeated.

I have with me clippings from January 1980 right up to date—on this recurring theme. Below is a typical report, this one with a New Delhi dateline—October 23, 1980. Several more such reports have followed since. This is how it goes; "Afghan freedom fighters currently bold away in two Afghan provincial capitals—Kandahar in the South and Herat in the West during the hours of darkness, a Western diplomatic source said here on October 21, reports APA. Government officials enter Kandahar each day but withdraw to the safety of Soviet barracks outside the city near the airport by late afternoon, said the diplomat, who cannot be identified under rules governing the briefing of reporters. Kandhar is about 460 kilometers (285 miles) south west of Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan. A similar situation existed in Herat, about 640 kilometers (400 miles) to the west near the border with Iran, the source said. Herat can be said to be under Mujahideens (Afghan freedom fighters) control during the hours of darkness', the report said. The Soviet news agency Tass reported last week from Kabul that more than 600 Afghan guerillas had been killed and a vast number of weapons seized during fighting in Herat province and the diplomatic source said on October 21 that this added weight to other reports of extensive fighting recently in the western province. The Press report did not say if the guerillas had engaged Karmal Government forces or elements of the estimated 85,000 Soviet troops stationed in Afghanistan. According to another report, the Afghan Muhajideen captured a Soviet technical adviser in Kabul early this month in a dramatic manner, Mujahideen sources said in New Delhi". It will be noticed that Tass reports are cited to give an air of verisimilitude to the story.

If such was the situation, Kandahar and Herat should have fallen into rebel hands a long time ago and the Babrak Karmal ousted once and for all. How a city can be ruled by government forces by day and "rebels" by night is an operation that is difficult to imagine in practical and concrete terms. Why do

TRIBUNE, MARCH 27, 1982

the Mujahideen hand over control peaceful to the government forces early morning? It is a tale that would not have been even included in the famous Arabian Nights fantasies.

I questioned many people who had been in Kandahar as well as Herat and they only laughed when I asked them about this night and day story. The people I questioned were not only Afghans but foreigners, including a Japanese, who had been to these two areas. I was invited to extend my stay and visit these areas, but I did not have the time to wait in Afghanistan for this purpose. It was, on the face of it, a silly story. Several foreign journalists, including some from the western countries even opposed to the Babrak Karmak government, have been to these towns during their stay in Afghanistan and all of them tell a different story. They contradict themselves on many points. They are also not willing to accept the reality that the DRA government under Babrak Karmal was in power and that it would not be easy to oust it. They fail to realize that the days of Mosadegh are gone. It does not seem difficult for some people to convince themselves that the Babrak Karmal government was only a mirage.

But from time to time, to explain how these towns, especially Kandahar are still in government hands, stories are put out about massive Soviet-cum-Afghan government air bombing attacks on these towns. In one such recent story it was alleged that the famous Ahmed-Shah Mosque had been completely destroyed. A journalist from an Arab country, after visiting the town said, "Instead of smouldering ruins we saw the blue cupola of the Ahmad-Shah mosque, which stands high over the city, and peaceful streets of that second largest city of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan were full of life. Dukans were open, buses were on the line, children were engaged in their favourite games—they were flying paper kit. As usual, all schools of the city are functioning, the number of pupils is steadily increasing. Workers and employees invariably report for work, institutions and dukans are functioning normally. The malicious stories of Western mass media were fabricated by the special Services of the United States and Pakistan." He also said that at night as well as during the days he was there everything was peaceful and that the mujahideens were not in control. They were said to be in hills around. These mujahideens occasionally staged hit and run attacks but that was all.

One has only to read all that was written in the Western press, say in August 1981, to realise how far off the mark they were. And when one reads what the same papers publish now, it is clear that bias and double standards taint their logic. The *New York Times* on August 7, 1981 published an article by Drew Middleton entitled *Afghanistan: New Outlook*. It had come

into my hands just before I left Colombo for Kabul. An extract will suffice to reveal a trend in American thinking. American intelligence analysts, modifying earlier public assessments, now say they believe the Soviet military force in Afghanistan was in serious trouble and that their predicament will worsen over the next six months. The American views are to some extent in conflict with assessments by analysts interviewed recently in London and at North Atlantic alliance headquarters in Brussels. With a few exceptions, the Russians have excluded Western reporters from Afghanistan. Western diplomats have no opportunity to travel around the rugged and violent country. As a result, very little verifiable information has emerged. Despite all that the analysts say enough had been learned to affect some former assessments. Soviet casualties since the start of the occupation are in dispute. The American estimate provided in Washington is that total losses, killed and wounded, since December 1979 are 8,000 to 12,000.... The Soviet troops, according to an American analyst, are 'making no headway at all' in the warfare. American and European analysts agree that the heaviest fighting has been in the eastern part of the country issuing 12 provinces. French sources reported that the combat level is highest in Kunar and Paktia provinces. British analysts report that the fighting has been centered on areas north and north-west of Kabul. Two of the country's major cities, Kandahar and Herat, all analysts agree, have been raided repeatedly by guerilla bands. From the outset, the guerilla movement lacked operational unity in the field and political unity among the various groups that seek aid from the outside and they claim funnel arms and ammunition to the guerillas. Analysts report that six major guerilla groups are carrying out operations in the country, which the Russians have divided into seven military districts with 10,000 troops in each. Three guerilla groups are made up mainly of Moslem fundamentalists, akin in their outlook to the Islamic rulers of Iran. The largest of these guerilla groups is Hizmi-i-Islam which claims to have 7,000 men in the field. It is, led by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar. This group draws most of its support from the Pathans in the eastern part of the country. Most of the members of the second major group, a rather shadowy force led by Yunis Khalia, come from the same region. The third group is Jammal-i-Islam, made up of Tajiks and Uzbeks from the north. Three secular movements are also in the field: Mr. Gailani's National Islamic Front, the National Liberation Front of Sighatullah Mojadedi and a group headed by Mohammed Naabi... one of the Soviet Union's gravest mistakes, according to the experts, was to use troops from the Moslem Central Asia republics in the initial phase of the intervention. An American source claimed there was evidence that on one occasion Central Asian troops refused a command to attack Afghans, looking upon them as fellow Moslems. The guerillas' chief weakness

continues to be a lack of modern arms, particularly anti-tank and anti-aircraft missiles. They have captured light anti-tank weapons from the Russians and the regular Afghan army.

Looking back, nine months have gone by the Russian predicament does not seem to have grown any worse. Even Western assessments now are that there is no change—only that the guerilla groups are in greater disarray. But what they find difficult to swallow is that the political situation inside Pakistan has steadily worsened. And without Pakistan, the western organised fighting inside Afghanistan will begin, to falter. Drew Middleton made no predictions but his article revealed sharp differences among western analysts but was sustained by the supreme faith that the Babrak Karmal government could be toppled even if the Russian troops were still around. The Americans no doubt want the disaster that overtook the US in Vietnam to happen to the Russians in Afghanistan. This is not an unexpected wish in any cold war, but Afghanistan is certainly not Vietnam. The USA was five to seven thousand miles away from Vietnam but the USSR is just next door to Afghanistan. Important strategic implications stem from geography and this is a factor that must be taken into consideration in evaluating the situation.

During my stay in Kabul, the French paper *Le Monde* published an article by Micheal Simmons entitled *Long Standing Links*. The translation as published in the *Guardian Weekly* reads: "Even if every Red Army soldier now stationed in Afghanistan eventually withdraws, the Soviet presence and influence in the country will remain substantial for many years to come. One way or another, the Moscow influence—first Russian then Soviet—has been there for a very long time, and the presence has been measurable since it became, in 1954, the first non-Communist country to receive Soviet aid. According to the OECD figures on aid source and resources published in Paris last week, Afghanistan was the main beneficiary of the increase in Soviet aid disbursements last year. Together with Kampuchea, it received unusually large grants—by Soviet aid standards—running to hundreds of millions of dollars. But Soviet aid takes many forms, and was flowing in the form of hardware and expertise, as well as sophisticated trade arrangements, well before the troops went in December 1979. More than a year before, relations between the two were such that Afghanistan was holding an exhibitions of its wares in Moscow's Sokolniki Park—not a major crowds puller, perhaps, but an important gesture for both governments. By mid-1978 it was reported by the Russians that they were taking 3,000 million cubic metres of Afghan natural gas a year through a direct pipeline, and that Soviet engineers were engaged in major road and railway building projects. A gas refinery built with Soviet aid' was operating in northern Afghanistan and Soviet foodstuffs, building materials and mining

machinery were being traded for Afghanistan's cotton.

"In addition, the Russians have always taken Afghan citrus and other fruits in great quantities, much of it grown on farms which were set up with Soviet help. More recently, the two countries have stepped up their exchanges of industrial goods—the first few coming from Kabul being produced, again with Soviet expertise, in line with the Soviet philosophy which favours Third World countries building a solid industrial base. Straight trade exchanges between the two reached about \$ 250 million last year, nearly 25 percent up on the previous year. The Russians take about 40 percent of Afghanistan's exports, and Czechoslovakia and the GDR also have agreements. The Russians consistently underline that their trade is conducted on the basis of what they call 'equality of mutual advantage'.

"But Soviet assistance has also taken on specifically political as well as economic and military overtones. Indian journalists have reported that every Afghan minister has at least two close Soviet advisers, and that these advisers are closely involved in decision-making. The People's Democratic Party is run along Communist Party lines, and has a policy-making Politbureau and a Central Committee. Mr. Babrak Karmal who is a party leader and President of the country said recently that Soviet Leninist criteria were used to assess the work of every party member and every Government official. Often this assessment work is carried on by further Soviet advisers. Three training schools for skilled workers are being established by the Russians in Afghanistan, and scholarships for Afghans to study in the Soviet Union are also readily available. Cultural and educational agreements have been signed. In other words, Afghanistan, as one of the world's poorest countries, has much to be grateful to the Russians for. The nature and the scope of their gratitude, with or without progress from Lord Carrington, could become manifest before the end of the year, when an Afghan-Soviet friendship week' is to be held in Kabul."

Micheal Simmons had anticipated correctly. Before the end of 1981, the refugee outflow from Afghanistan had virtually ceased according to official Islamabad reports. In November 1981, it was a "trickle" of a hundred or two, and it was less in December. Now in Pakistan nobody talks about the inflow from Afghanistan but about the outflow the other way. Several thousands have returned and it is said several hundred thousand would return if allowed to do so, but Pakistan and the West have a vested interest in keeping as many refugees as possible in Pakistan. How long can Islamabad hold back the refugees who want to go is difficult to say!

To be continued...

TRIBUNE, MARCH 27, 1982

**NATIONAL FILM CORPORATION OF
SRI LANKA**

**PATRON FACILITIES IN
CINEMA HOUSES**

The Island wide survey of Cinema Houses recently concluded indicates the existence of a number of substandard, badly maintained and unsatisfactorily managed cinemas.

The Corporation, on many occasions, has drawn the attention of the owners of such cinemas, of the need for improvement in service, patron facilities and general cleanliness; the response has unfortunately been poor. Since sufficient time has now been given to the cinema owners/managers, the Corporation will be compelled to withhold film supply temporarily or acquire cinemas which do not conform to the minimum conditions required by the Corporation. We have had many complaints regarding malpractices in cinemas and if these too, proved, will be severely dealt with. Our Investigating team is at the service of any person who has a complaint.

Any complaint from the Public should be made to the undersigned.

Anton Wickremasinghe
Chairman

National Film Corporation of Sri Lanka
224, Bauddhaloka Mawatha
Colombo 7.

And Developing Countries

By **R. Sivaganeshan**

TO THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, information is a commodity essential for development in the same way as it is important to the developed nations which are dependent on communications politically, industrially and culturally. The developing nations admittedly cannot progress without the basics of information media like newspapers, radio, telecommunications etc. That money buys information and information creates power is something that is borne out in the UNESCO Report "Many Voices, One World". That power and information go in a vicious circle should be of significance to developing countries so far as their political economic and cultural independence are concerned is also something that one cannot deny. The transnational information conglomerates from which many of the developing countries buy information are owned by the concentration of capital in the hands of a few. The implication in the UNESCO Report is that the needs of capital and of the governments of those countries in which these information agencies exist are the same, and that by a restricted media access, the developing countries only serve the interests of the developed nations better.

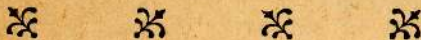
AT A TIME of world recession occasioned by economic booms running out of steam when capital investment cannot produce adequate profits, and when capitalism manoeuvres desperately to get out of the impasse without the stimulus of war, it is those developing countries saddled with right-wing regimes which suffer most, especially when the aid of the aid consortium is used by the recipient regimes to buy fuel at high prices in the world market. The situations in such countries where the regimes follow liberalised import policies after making inroads into welfare amenities, become worse for the majority of the people, with the trade unions and the ethnic minorities bearing the brunt of the situations, but the privileged rich get richer. The media such regimes control and rely on for support helps as a psychological image building weapon by presuming the guillibility of the public to situations and events in other countries of the world which have governments following socialist policies.

As the Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir is reported to have said at a Press Club Dinner last year at Kuala Lumpur only hours after a journalist was taken into custody that the freedom of the press is a myth invented by the so-called liberal West to suit own purposes and that the loss of freedom of an individual is of little consequence as compared to the well-being of a nation, it all boils down to

what and whose interests are at stake. **The Hollywood TV extravaganza on Poland inspired by the present incumbent of the White House and starring Frank Sinatra and others which was described by an NBC correspondent as "the first time when American foreign policy has been turned into a TV buffoonery" is a typical example of the TV being used for crude propaganda, through it is a different matter that hardly any TV company in the US had taken the free show alive. Show business is US foreign policy nowadays.**

CONSUMER ADVERTISING through the media and hoardings which create false needs and values causing an artificial demand for the trivial and superficial is another aspect of media abuse for profit. When some of the multinational companies which produce infant milk foods and companies which produce cigarettes dominate the media without any accountability to the physical health of the infants who are fed on their products or to those who make their cigarettes, it is high time some sort of code of conduct for them is devised and applied. Some of these companies to promote their products sponsor bonny baby contests, sports festivals and pop music fiestas on occasions like a New Year's day or some such day of religious significance, consequences of which ensure profits for the sponsor by introducing a commercial element and infecting media values into cultural traditions.

A recent development in the growth of the satellite system which is going to push the balance further against the third world countries since it is now possible for a country which has the technology for a spy in the sky, to know more about the natural resources of a developing country without its knowledge than that country itself. The consequences of this latest technology is far reaching for in the future when more communications satellites are launched and the once separate areas of newspaper publishing, radio, TV and computers become merged, the possibilities for improving the quality of the people exist, as it does for the denial of the right to that quality.



WATER

Of the Earth

By Ivetta Useinova

How much moisture is involved in the giant cyclical process of ocean - atmosphere - land - ocean? For the first time this question has been answered, with mathematical precision, by Soviet scientists who have written the monograph *World Water Balance and the Water Resources of the Earth*, a unique work

which has earned them a State Prize of the USSR. what is the mechanism of this conveyor thanks to which moisture gets from the ocean to the land and back? It has been estimated that a total of 577,000 cu km of water annually evaporates on our planet, chiefly from the surface of the ocean. This is a process of tremendous energy. It would take 400 million electric power stations, each with a capacity of 1,000 million KG to artificially produce the amount of energy involved in the evaporation process. Soviet hydrologists made several interesting discoveries. For instance, they established for the first time that there is another important link in the external rotation of moisture—the flow moisture from the mainlands to the ocean through the atmosphere. Prior to this it was believed that all moisture coming from the ocean falls to the ground as rain or snow and then is carried back to the ocean by the rivers. It turns out that the sky is literally furrowed by powerful and deep rivers. Every year, for example, 4,000 cu km of water flows above the Volga area—this is tantamount to twenty rivers such as the Volga.

The date on the transfer of steam in the atmosphere can be used for calculating the water balance of the mainlands, large river basins and in the long run, for analysing how water conditions are shaped over large territories. This was how, in particular, the aggregate flow of all the rivers of the Soviet Union was determined. According to the new calculations, the reserves of water on the planet total 1,386 million cu km of which only 2.5 per cent is freshwater. The most sizable part of it is conserved in the ice covers of the Antarctic and the Arctic. Only 0.25 per cent of the reserves is to be found in lakes and only 0.006 per cent in rivers. Soviet scientists maintain that the bulk of water resources are within the secular category, that is, they replenish their reserves at an extremely slow rate and cannot therefore be used without running the risk of upsetting the balance of nature.

"Until recently water reserves on the planet were considered to be unlimited", says Valentin Korzun, Vice-Chairman of the USSR State Committee for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Control, a well known hydrologist and one of the authors of the monograph. But this notion has undergone a radical change during the lifetime of practically one generation. From what seemed to be an inexhaustible gift of nature, water has become a factor limiting the development of vast areas of the globe. And more often than not it is not nature but man is to blame. Indeed, mankind now uses about 2,600 cu km—roughly 6 per cent of the annually renewable reserves of freshwater. The forecasts of the Soviet scientists indicate that by the year 2,000, taking into account the population growth and the development of industry and agriculture, there will be a need for 6,000 cu km of water or less than 20 per cent of the reserves. It would seem that the reserves of water supply are

TRIBUNE, MARCH 27, 1982

great. Unfortunately this is not so. The threat of the water crisis is becoming obvious. The reason lies not only in the uneven distribution of water resources, but also in the growing pollution of surface waters. "The most realistic way to the solution of the water problem," Valentin Korzun says, "is through rationalising the use of nature; this approach underlines our research. All the signs point to the conclusion that the water of the planet can and must remain pure."

—Moscow News



INDO-PAK TALKS

In the Shadow of the Phantoms

By Yevgeny Rummyantsev

INDIA AND PAKISTAN have held talks in Delhi on concluding a non-aggression pact between the two countries. In noting the usefulness of the started dialogue, the Indian press emphasized that the talks could not eliminate tensions in relations between the two states and in the region as a whole. As pointed out by the *Indian Express* newspaper, the chief obstacle to the normalisation of the situation on the Indian sub-continent is Pakistan's obedient trailing in the wake of US strategy. Indeed, the Reagan administration has allocated an important role to Pakistan in the pursuit of US policy in South and South-West Asia and in the Persian Gulf. The biggest military agreement concluded by the USA in Asia last year was the deal with Pakistan. It was to the tune 3,200 million dollars because of which Islamabad will be able to get 40 Phantom-16 aircraft and other sophisticated weapons starting from 1982. Moreover, the USA has actually secured from Pakistan access to military bases in its territories. Along with the use by the US armed forces of bases in Kenya, Oman, Somalia, Egypt and other countries, and islands in the Indian Ocean, and the accelerated construction of the US multi-purpose base on Diego Garcia, the armament of Pakistan and access to its military bases are part of the imperial-line followed by the USA. As seen by the Washington strategists Pakistan must take the place of the Shah's Iran, i.e. become their servant in the region.

It is pointed out with justification in Delhi that in the past, American weapons supplied to Pakistan were used against India on three occasions. Beginning with 1949, India has repeatedly suggested concluding a non-aggression pact with Pakistan, but it never received a positive answer. Recalling these historical facts and also that the Simla agreement concluded in 1972 provided for the settlement of disputes on a

strictly bilateral basis, the Indian press suggests another idea, namely, that Pakistan's proposal of a non-aggression pact should be regarded first and foremost within the framework of US strategy in the region. The initiative of the Pakistan government, commented the *Hindustan Times* is part and parcel of Washington's plan for the establishment of a "strategic consensus" for confrontation with the Soviet Union and has been prompted to Pakistan by Washington. Enlarging upon this idea, the newspaper *Tribune* commented that the non-aggression pact with Pakistan is intended to smooth over the disputes between India, on the one hand, and Pakistan and China on the other and subsequently also with the USA, while, at the same time, weakening India's relations with the Soviet Union.

It is noteworthy that Peking responded to the talks in Delhi with an anti-Soviet commentary in *Renmin Ribao*, in which it tried to not only lay responsibility for tensions in South Asia on the USSR, but also to accuse the Soviet Union of hampering the improvement of relations between the two countries" (India and Pakistan). However, it is Peking that is not only trying to introduce a split in relations between Delhi and Islamabad, but has actually been doing this with success for a long time. Having seized 38,000 sq. km. of Indian territory, having concentrated many divisions on the borders with India, deployed missiles in Tibet capable of hitting Indian cities, and supporting the anti-Indian separatist movements, it is also intensively rearming Pakistan. Peking supplied it with weapons to the tune of more than 2,000 million dollars, built munitions factories and the strategic Karakoram highway, and is prepared to let its own territory be used for testing the Pakistani atomic bomb, work on which as recently reported by the CIA, has entered the concluding stage. Before the start of the Indian-Pakistani talks, Peking had considerably extended its military presence in the Pakistan-occupied part of the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir by transferring a number of army units and large quantity of combat equipment there. Earlier it was reported that Chinese military installations had been deployed in this border state, and that China was engaged in a programme of building six air bases in the north of Pakistan.

WHILE ARMING General Zia-ul-Haq's regime to the teeth, both Washington and Peking speak profusely about the need for "defending" Pakistan. But what kind of "defence" is in question. Speaking in Parliament Indira Gandhi said that the "defence" of Pakistan is once again becoming a component part of a larger strategic axis, created by Washington, from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean. It is this axis that poses a real threat to peace and security. The Indian-Pakistan talks will be continued. It can only be hoped that they will write a new page, one of confidence and cooperation, into the history of relations between the two countries already replete with the

TRIBUNE, MARCH 27, 1982

17

bitter chapters of hostility and suspicion. But for this, it is essential that both Washington and Peking realize that these talks are the purely domestic affair of the two countries, and that the sinister shadow of the Phantoms that hovers over the talks does not contribute either to their success or to the relaxation of tensions in the region. —APN



ANNAIKODDAI

Rescue Excavations

By S. K. Sitrapalam—University of Jaffna

This is a summary of a talk delivered at a seminar held at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute sponsored by West German Embassy. We are publishing it in two parts.

THE ANAIKODDAI archaeological site (790.59.5 minutes east longitude, 90.41.2 minutes north latitude) lies about a quarter mile from the coastal Jaffna-Vaddukoddai road towards its south and its about 3 miles from the Jaffna Town. The mound that has been excavated lies closer to the Kakaitivu Bay, where even today the fishermen congregate daily to dispose off their catch. Navanturai, which means a harbour where ships are anchored is also situated about a quarter mile from this bay; the name Navanturai itself bespeaks the age old customs of the sea traffic of this area. Surprisingly enough the sand from this mound is today used to fill the Navanturai lagoon for housing purposes. While this activity was in progress a team from the Jaffna University led by Mr. P. Ragupathy reported the megalithic potentiality of the site. Following this the other members of the rescue excavation team namely, Prof. K. Indrapala and the author visited the site and confirmed the findings of the team.

As observed earlier, the site is one of the Anaikoddaï mounds. Though the mound is uneven, the point at which the rescue excavation was done is about 4'. 6" above sea level. Although many of the mounds are without any cultural debris at least a few have shown evidence of cultural deposits. Since it was a rescue operation, while the sand diggers removed the top layer, a trench was cut in the form of an inverted L. The length of the trench on its western and the eastern sites was 18'.4" and 9'. 6", 5' and 11'.9" respectively. The southern and the northern sites measured 9'.9" and 13" only. The stratigraphy of the mound shows the accumulation of three layers namely

1, 2, 3A and 3B. The top most layer which is of marine formation had the thickness of 1'.10". The layer 2 which followed this only to a point had the thickness of 8" and this was composed of yellowish sand only. The layer 3 was mainly clay sand and the thickness of the layer was 1'.8". This layer on the basis of cultural deposit was again subdivided into implementiferous and non-implementiferous and named as 3A and 3B respectively. The layer 4 in the Virgin layer and consisted mainly of lime stone formations. The most important layers which deserve our attention is the topmost marine layer, that is layer 1 and the layer 3. Although a present nothing can be said definitely about the layer formation, at least the top-layer seems to be a man made layer formed during the reclamation of the surrounding lands while converting them into paddy fields as they are today and the sandy layers namely 3A and 3B seem to have been formed by wind action. However, more details will be available after a deeper study.

THE MOST IMPORTANT object of discovery is the evidence for inhumation. At least 2 extended burials were encountered at the depth of 4' and named as burial A and B. The burial A lay at the north-western corner of the trench and B was about 10' away from it but lay along the South-eastern corner of the trench. Both the skeletons measured roughly 5' and were west to east in orientation. Both were found on the layer of sea shells. In both, conchshells were planted on both sides of the skeletons. Both had the offering of pots probably filled with food as evident from the bones of animals especially cattle and shark bones. In the case of the burial A the hands lay folded across the lower chest and in the burial B the hands were extended to the Pelvis. While the Pelvis and the lower portion of the body were rescued only in pieces, in burial A, in burial B the complete skeleton was rescued. Moreover, in burial B the head had rolled over to the right side with the Pelvis also similarly tilted. Of the other offerings the notable discovery in the bronze seal with a ring deposited in the black and red ware dish along the head of the burial A. This seal looks like a biscriptorial one. And Prof. K. Indrapala is working on this seal. On Palaeographical grounds this is datable to not later than 2nd century B.C.

Now, coming to the ceramic assemblage, the dominant pottery type seems to be black and red ware. As we all know it is one of the main traits of the megalithic culture. Almost all the specimens were collected in pieces. They are mainly bowls, dishes and pots. Both the bowls and the dishes are of varying sizes, thickness and shape and offer a close parallel to those similar specimens from Pomparippu and Anuradhapura. These are mostly wheel turn and made of well lavigated clay. The clay seems to be of medium to coarse grained. A notable feature of this pottery is the absence of a glossy surface, which characterises

the pottery of South India. It may not be out of place to state here that the black and red ware pottery with the glossy surface is also rare in other megalithic pottery types in Island. The red ware pots with varying sizes used for daily life were also found here. While some had designs other were merely plain. Most of them are coarse grained. A buff ware is also another variety which deserves our notice. Finally comes the rouletted ware sherds with and without rouletting and their presence here, though in small number deserves special attention. Another significant aspect of the pottery is the graffiti symbols which though less in number shows relationship to the graffiti symbols found in the megalithic pottery of Sri Lanka. Of the other artifacts, a Lashmi plague a single carnelian head, iron nails, slags and bone beads made of animal vertebrae are the notable finds from the trench. Outside this trench but on the same layer was collected iron nails, arrow heads, spear, dagger and a kohl stick of bronze.

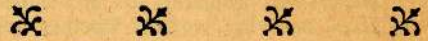
THE DISCOVERY of black and red ware sherds which have a pointed resemblance to other megalithic pottery types of the Island as well as the iron objects clearly shows that although chronologically this site could be datable to the beginning of the historical period, culturally it is part of the megalithic complex of Sri Lanka. This mound seems to be the burial ground of the megalithic folk, whose habitation site is yet to be discovered. However, for some the term megalithic for these burials may be confusing. For although usually it is defined as a tomb built of big stones, but burials without any lithic appendages by virtue of their possession of certain other complex traits especially pottery found in other types of megalithic these burial sites are also called as megaliths.

In the Tamil Sangam literature the megalithic burial grounds are mentioned as *Idukadu* and the people who practised inhumation mode of burial are referred to as *todu kulippaduppor*. Inhumation of the complete skeleton in an extended position seems to have been a development of the neolithic custom which continued right up to the megalithic times as well. However, the absence of any lithic appendages to mark the burials at Anaikoddai is significant. The occurrence of cattle bones suggest that the people were pastoralist cum agriculturist as in the case of other parts of Sri Lanka where evidence for rice cultivation has been found. The sharp cutting marks of the animal bones suggest that cattle did form part of the dietary as at Anuradhapura. Fishing as an occupation is suggested by the presence of shark bones. Oysters also seem to have consumed by the people. For, the natural bay probably would have afforded a good opportunity for this type of activities. The finding of iron slags and iron objects shows that the people knew the art of smelting and also made use of this metal. A singular find of a kohl stick is again suggestive of bronze metallurgy. Kohl sticks also have been reported from Kantarodai.

The carnelian bead is again an evidence for sophistication. The evidence at our disposal suggest some form of funeral feast at the burial ground itself unlike in the house at present.

However this is not the only site in Northern Sri Lanka. The author and Mr. P. Ragupathy discovered another megalithic burial site at Kalabhumi in Karainagar, one of the Islands in Northern Sri Lanka. The burial ground seems to have the same megalithic potentiality as the Anaikoddai mound. The megalithic potentiality of Kantarodai, another well known proto-historic site is well known. Here the early historic pottery was found associated with the rouletted ware and proceeded by the megalithic pottery types. While discussing the black and red ware of this site, Vimala Begley (1973) observed that "certain ceramic types especially in the black and red ware, parallel to those of the iron Age of South India and possibilities are greater that settlers in both areas were of common origin, or at least, in very close contact". She goes on to point out that the beginning of the settled life during the Proto-historic period is associated with the megalithic folk in this region which she assigns to 4th cent. B. C.

To be continued



BOOK REVIEW

Pio Campa

A VOICE CRYING FROM THE PLANTATIONS: A COLLECTION OF LETTERS By Pio Ciampa S. J. (Published by the Estate People's Services, Kahawatte, Balangoda). "Goodwill is necessary, but by itself it is not enough" writes Father Ciampa in one of his letters, part of a collection published as a souvenir for his Silver Jubilee. Many have highlighted the plight of the plantation workers, many have wished them well, many would even give finance to help bail them out of their predicament. But few are those who are prepared to give their lives for them—give their lives in dedicated service. If you search your Bible from cover to cover you may find an occasional reference to the lazy but one will not come across the word underdeveloped to describe the situation of the poor. On the contrary scripture is emphatic that oppression and injustice have something fundamental to do with poverty. Fr. Pio Ciampa who has spent over twenty years in the tea country of the Sabaragamuwa has no illusions about the root causes of the poverty and neglect that has been the perennial lot of tea workers and their families. He has opted to side with the oppressed but more, he has opted to live amongst them, share their lives, their sorrows and hopelessness, join hands with them to plan their rehabilitation and together with them build a better future. This collection of

letters, covering a decade of newspaper clippings, spans the gamut of plantation issues. Among them are citizenship, housing, health, education and conditions of work.

FROM HIS WRITINGS one can see that Fr. Ciampa is able to visualise the suffering Christ in the face of the plantation workers, that he is able to see the nail pierced hands in the hands that are born to labour, that he can see the shame of the crucified criminal in the image of the stateless, despised and forgotten workers. It is this personalised faith that has kept him going. And yet we must not become distracted by suffering, however acute or painful it may be. To do so would be to limit out response to sentimental band-aid application. If society is a festering sore than we must understand and respond to it as such. The tea plantations provides the classic stage on which injustice and oppression plays itself out. We have an industry whose control lies not at the focus of production but at the distribution end. Unfair terms of trade, manipulated markets and price fixing keeps the industry in a constant state of crisis. An elite-bureaucracy, the progeny of white owners and superintendents maintain the most disparate differentials in living standards between management and labour. Successive generation of politicians have kept the Tamil speaking workers isolated from the

Sinhala speaking villagers to facilitate the domination of both groups. And now with the system in crisis the ruling groups have a convenient scapegoat in the plantation worker, a defenceless minority on whom the majority can vent their rage, whilst not endangering the privileges of the real culprits.

AS THE PLANTATIONS become increasingly the scenes of violence and hatred, the storm centres of social, political and communal unrest, the commitment of Fr. Ciampa both to the cause of the oppressed and to the doctrine of non-violence becomes crystallised. Recognition of Fr. Ciampa's brave stand and tireless work during the recent race riots when he provided refuge and shelter for thousands of up-country Tamils has appeared in foreign journals. The trade union bureaucracy hasn't taken kindly to that—but they are hardly likely to when it exposes their own impotence and opportunism. Their hostility to Fr. Ciampa can only be a source of encouragement to him, assuring him that he is in fact on the right path. So, since they persecuted Me, naturally they will persecute you. And if they had listened to Me, they would listen to you! Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows; but cheer up, for I have overcome the World."

Jayantha Scmasundaram.

When in Hatton.....

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TRIBUNE

Agricultural Digest

Last week we published a note on a **Citrus Project** promoted by the JEDB. Readers will recall that Tribune had raised important questions about seeds and planting materials needed to improve the quality of horticulture including citrus. We had also published the Director of Agriculture's comments on our article. Our reply will be published shortly and the departmental apologia will be shown up for the hypocrisy the statement betrayed and also the refusal to meet the challenge of the times. The frog-in-the-well attitude of the Department cannot promote the development of horticulture.

Before we deal with the departmental excuse for inaction and inactivity we have come across an excellent report entitled **NOTES ON CITRUS CULTIVATION IN THE BIBILE AND MONERAGALA DISTRICTS** by Dr. M. Pratt in COLLABORATION WITH THE JANATA ESTATES DEVELOPMENT BOARD COLOMBO. Whatever the criticisms that lay be levelled at the JEDB in the matter of the plantations it manages, there is no doubt that it should be congratulated for promoting the development of horticulture, in this instance, citrus. We propose to publish it in full in instalments. It provides a wealth of information helpful to all interested in citrus cultivation in all parts of the country. Dr. Pratt is from the International Executive Service Corps (IESC) and this project was No. 9950. The report had been finalised on 22nd November 1970; and though it had been made available to the public little notice had been taken of it.

CITRUS CULTIVATION—1

Preliminary

By Dr. M. Pratt

Purpose and scope of the assignment : The purpose of the project was to determine why the citrus trees in the lower Uva had declined, to devise a program to restore the existing trees, and to make recommendations for the establishment of a citrus nursery program, for growing healthy orange and lime trees, to establish plantation orchards and to distribute to village gardens. Specific goals included recommen-

TRIBUNE, MARCH 27, 1982

ding the best soils identifying diseases and insects, recommending fertiliser practices, selection varieties, rootstocks and planting distances.

Review of the work performed : I examined citrus trees in village gardens in the Bibile, Moneragala and Amparai areas, also in estate gardens near Badulla. I visited Department of Agriculture orchards in Bibile, Padagoda, Bandarawela; Boralande and Angunukolapelleessa. Citrus trees have been observed wherever found to determine causes of decline. I visited the Department of Agriculture Central Agricultural Research Institute at Peradeniya, the Tea Research Institute and the Rubber Research Institute discussed citrus problems with their personnel and arranged for the chemical analysis of citrus leaves at T. R. I. and arranged for Mr. Percy Silva of R. R. I. to examine and analyse soils in selected fields in Bible and Moneragala. I discussed the causes of decline with citrus growers, J. E. D. B. and Department of Agriculture personnel and others knowledgeable on citrus production and reviewed reports.

Of particular importance is the Report of Dr. Temile Kiely of Australia who was here in 1957. I was unable to obtain a copy of this report so I only know what others said that he said. He attributed decline of limes and budded trees to the *tristeza* virus. An even more important report was that of Dr. Kurt Mendel, in 1962. He pointed out that the surviving orange trees are nearly all seedlings and thus not damaged by *tristeza* although the virus is wide spread in the island. He also noted, as had Kiely, that the limes of Moneragala are tolerant of the virus and are not damaged, even though symptoms are present. He attributed the decline to **lack of water, unsuitable soils, and neglect, especially the lack of fertilizer.** Tea and Rubber nurseries were visited to determine if the same technology can be used in citrus nurseries. Possible estate orchard sites were visited and the soils examined. Arrangements were made with two growers near Bible to clear and prune their trees. J. E. D. B. will provide fertiliser and nutritional spray.

Possible *nematode* problems of citrus were discussed with Dr. P. Lamberti, an Italian Nematologist, who had sampled citrus roots in 40 to 45 plantings on a previous visit. He did not find important nematodes in damaging numbers on citrus. The citrus nematode *Tylenchulus Semipencurans*, was found only near Eraminigala, on the Kandy-Colombo road. He reports that citrus in this country is a poor host for nematodes. The nematodes that were found were more numerous on other kinds of plants nearby. He has not sampled citrus roots in the lower Uva. He said he would do so on his next visit in January. Recommendation for sources of seed and budwood were prepared.

A beginning has been made towards establishing citrus nurseries on 4 estates, Bible, Adawatte, Kumara-

watte and Moneragalla. Sufficient progress has not been made for me to assess results in the nurseries and demonstration plots. I have discussed nursery practice with the Superintendents of the above estates and various other J.E.D.B. Superintendents. I gave a talk on citrus to the Superintendents' Meeting of the Badulla Region. I have given further training to John Gnanaratnam, Crop Diversification Manager, Badulla Regional Manager Kumar Gunatilleke, Regional Crop Diversification Officer Gamin Rajapakse and especially Lansantha Ranasinghe, who was assigned as my Assistant and understudy. Arrangements have been made for fertilizers and nutritional sprays.

I have prepared a series of "Citrus Notes" as follows: 1. Recommendations for Nursery practice; 2. Rejuvenating existing trees; 3. Budded trees, Seedlings and Cuttings; 4. Planting distance for citrus trees; 5. Planting and Care for the Orchard. These are made part of this report for reference. It is recommended that they be reproduced and distributed as needed. It would be useful to translate No. 2 and 5 into Sinhala. I have deposited in the Badulla Regional Office the following publications: (1) The Citrus Industry, in 4 volumes, Walter Reuther, Ed; (2) Florida Guide to Citrus Insects Diseases and Nutritional Disorders, in Colour by Robert M. Pratt; (3) University of California publications as follows: Citrus Growing; Propagation of Citrus; Virus and Viruslike Diseases of Citrus; Gum diseases of Citrus in California; Treatment Guide for California Citrus Crops; Soils, Soil Mixes and Fertilisers suitable for growing Citrus and Avacado; Nursery trees in Containers. **A Cost and Return estimate has been prepared.**

To be continued, ...

COMPUTERS

Can Help Farmers

A farmer in Indiana might know more about computers and might use them more often to manage his business than some executives in New York City who use computers to determine inventories, profits with respect to unit sales and many other things. In fact, the farmer might have a small hand calculator stuffed in a pocket instead of the usual notebook and pencil. In the farmhouse, the chances are a prosperous farmer might have a small desk-sized computer terminal where he can store information pertinent to previous year's crop results—seed, fertilizer, number of hectares planted to various crops, weather impact and the amount of fuel used in tractors. He can telephone or make a trip to the country extension office to tap programmed information from Purdue University's computer based on his individual data if he wants, he can get a printout.

Today's farmer has to make quite a few technical decisions—and quickly. For example, what crops to

plant when? The optimum amount of fertilizer? What about changing weather? And once a crop is harvested there is a marketing decision. Is it better to sell at current future prices or use a government loan? Recently the Kiplinger Letter acknowledged the farmer-computer alliance this way; Farmers are cautious. Not all farmers are in bad shape. Most are well established, can, weather the storm despite a drop in income and uncertain prospects in 1982. They're run by sharp operators, many of whom use computer technology in production, marketing and record keeping and run ahead of the crowds". Mr. Robert C. Kramer, Agricultural programme director for the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, said recently: "Farmers are increasingly using computer networks which are operated by the University of Nebraska, Michigan State University and Virginia Polytechnic Institute. Many farmers are using terminals to access large computers owned by universities, networks or private computing firms. Farmers are buying their own Radio Shack, Apple or other small computers."

Purdue's computer system for farmers, called FACTS the acronym for Fast Agricultural Communications Terminal System, was bought about five years ago with financial help from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation. Kellogg funding has run out, but each Indiana county government owns a terminal in the extension agent's office to give farmers answers from the main computer at Purdue. There is a growing need for computer companies to provide programmes for farmers and a need for people to sell farmers the programmes and services. Also there will be job opportunities for people to repair the equipment. Obviously, there must be agricultural experts who know what programmes farmers want. All these jobs represent opportunities not only for young people who like country living, but also for middle-aged and even retired people who want new careers along with country living. In addition to FACTS, Purdue offers CHARLIE which stands for Computer Help to Aid Reserach Locally in Education. Any high school student can take a free 10 minute test at the county agent's office, using a computer terminal to help determine career alternatives. Tapping away at the terminal keyboard, he answers half a dozen questions: is he interested social science, or plant, land of animal sciences? Does he like to work outdoors or indoors, in the city or in the country? After he answers he receives a list of career suggestions from the computer.—NYT.

NATURAL RUBBER

End of a Dream

The present state of the rubber market has been called "a transient dilemma" by Dr. Sekhar, chairman of the Malaysian Rubber Reserach and Development Board. True, and it is proving an exceedingly painful dilemma for rubber producers, who had been encourag

TRIBUNE, MARCH 27, 1982

ed to believe that the 1980s would be the beginning of a golden era for prices with buyers begging producers for supplies. The steep rise in the oil prices, so the argument went, would make synthetic rubber increasingly less competitive triggering a surge in demand for natural rubber. That scenario, painted with relish by the World Bank amongst others, caused growers to make their deployments to increase output in anticipation of the boom ahead. There may still be a boom, but for the moment, those growers are finding it more and more difficult to sell their output to reluctant buyers even though prices have dropped to rock bottom levels—well below the average cost of production. The impact of the oil price rise has been to depress demand for natural rubber—despite the shift away from synthetics, as the world motor industry in particular, especially the US motor industry, moved into a squall of problems—while at the same time forcing up production costs. The net result is that what no one had thought possible at the time of the 1978 International Rubber Agreement has happened: international rubber stocks have had to be used to support buying three years later. The price range negotiated in 1978 was considered somewhat rational. It was regarded as something to be adjusted later since it was far below the ruling market price and would need a disaster for the range to be reached.

Nevertheless, the Malaysian government is anxious to maintain its dominant position in the natural rubber

market, for which long-term prospects remain good. In line with World Bank recommendations, it is seeking to expand production to avoid shortages in the years ahead. It sees the International Natural Rubber Agreement as a key ingredient in this expansion programme. As Dr. Sekhar puts it, "an insurance against the unexpected". In other words, giving growers the certainty of minimum prices whatever the state of the market. Unfortunately, the demand recession has proved deeper and more prolonged than expected, with prices sagging below production costs. Thus, the protection is itself minimal. At the most recent session of the International Natural Rubber Organisation the producers, led by Malaysia, argued for a higher price range. But the US pointed out that under the terms of the Agreement no prices is possible until March at the earliest. The US is worried that any price rise would encourage even more over-production than there is at present. The producers, however, argue that the current price range is out touch with reality and is insufficient to sustain output at anything like the level required to feed and upturn in the industrial economics later on. Meanwhile, output may be squeezed by a serious internal trend in Malaysia; the drift of the population to be towns, and the growing dislike of traditional agricultural jobs. There is a labour shortage on the plantations already with many workers preferring to earn lower wages in the towns rather than stay on the "green ghetto" plantations.

—*Far Eastern Economic Review*

AGRICULTURE

WORLD AND REGIONAL FOOD PRODUCTION, 1975 to 1980

Source UN Food and Agricultural Organisation

(1969—71=100)

Region	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	Change 1979 to 1980	Annual rate of change 1971-80
Food Production								
Developing market economies 2	115	118	122	127	127	132	+ 5	3.3
Africa	118	111	108	113	114	118	+ 4	1.7
Far East	115	115	124	128	125	132	+ 7	3.5
Latin America	116	123	127	133	136	141	+ 5	3.9
Near East	121	128	125	131	132	136	+ 4	3.4
Asian centrally planned economies	118	122	122	129	137	137	0	3.4
Total Developing Countries	116	119	122	128	130	134	+ 4	3.3
Developed market economies 2	112	112	116	119	122	120	- 2	2.20
North America	114	117	122	123	127	124	- 2	2.4
Oceania	119	128	124	142	136	122	-14	2.9
Western Europe	110	108	111	116	120	123	+ 3	1.9
Eastern Europe and the USSR	112	115	117	125	119	118	- 1	1.6
Total Developed Countries	112	113	116	121	121	120	- 1	1.9
World	114	116	119	124	125	126	+ 1	2.5

Note: Food production covers crops and livestock only, (1) Preliminary, (2) Including countries in other regions not specified.

TRIBUNE SPORTSCOPE

SPOTLIGHT

In Pakistan & S. Africa

Whilst the performance of the Sri Lanka Cricket Team in the Second Test in Pakistan is being chronicled elsewhere in this issue, it is necessary for the record to have an evaluation of the debacle that overtook our team in the first One-Day International at Karachi on March 11. We cannot do better than quote in extenso from a despatch from Karachi to the *Ceylon Daily Mirror* by Elmo Rodrigopulle, the one Sri Lankan sports writer who has covered the matches in Pakistan. This is how he opened his report: "Sri Lanka's proud reputation as forceful exponents of limited-over cricket took a nose dive when Pakistan scored an easy eight wicket victory in the first One-day International at the Karachi National Stadium yesterday. This game played before a packed house had its moments of thrills but was spoiled by a stupid firing of tear gas on the poor spectators. Sri Lanka could well have made a match of it had Rohan Jayasekera who stood behind the wickets not given skipper Miandad a life before he reached double figures. As he did in the first One-day International against England on the SSC Grounds, Jayasekera was not quick enough to stump Miandad when he stepped out to Roger Wijesuriya and with it went Sri Lanka's chances as Miandad and opening batsman Moshin Khan took control from this point to be involved in a 105 run partnership and pilot their team to victory in 29.2 overs."

Describing Sri Lanka's innings he said, "Sri Lanka put into bat managed 171 in their 33 overs. After losing Wettimuny with the total on five, Roy Dias joined skipper Warnapura and maintained a rate of well over five runs per over. There was no stopping them as they took command of the situation and made the bowlers dance to their tune, it was nice to see Warnapura in the runs at last. He was very confident of himself and broke out into some intelligent stroke play which put Sri Lanka into a position of strength. Warnapura must also make it a point to make runs in the Tests because runs are more important in Tests. Dias as usual was his stylish self as he supported his captain and made runs with some very attractive strokeplay. Both Warnapura and Dias passed the half

century mark with Warnapura getting seventy seven and Dias fifty seven. Warnapura and Dias went with the score at 151 and Mendis and Ranatunge hit out lustily to take the score to 171 when their quota of overs were exhausted."

About Pakistan's winning effort he said. "Mansoor Akhtar and Mohsin Khan gave Pakistan the sound start they required putting on fifty two before Akhtar left. Miandad then walked in to a resounding cheer from the near 40,000 crowd and immediately began to show his penchant for the limited over game by stroking the ball effortlessly to all corners of the field. Miandad and Mohsin maintained the rate required for victory with some elegant strokeplay and clever running between the wickets. Both Miandad and Mohsin are hard runners between the wickets and they gave the Sri Lanka batsmen a lesson in this aspect of the game. The Sri Lanka bowlers began to wilt under this onslaught and as victory drew near Miandad slammed two classic sixes, one over the long boundary and the next over midwicket much to the enjoyment of his home crowd. When victory was achieved Miandad was given a deafening cheer as he ran into the pavilion after glancing Ratanayake for four to fine leg. Earlier Mohsin went after making an attractive 85. Miandad remained unbeaten on 56".

About the rather distressing episode in which the police used tear gas he wrote: "a brutal assault by the police on some of the spectators in a crowd numbering well over 40 thousand, led to a riot and the firing of tear gas shells which held up the game for forty minutes and put the whole exercise of this limited over game into chaos. The firing tear gas shells was unwarranted and the crowd went berserk and invaded the field and refused to leave the playing area. Pandemonium reigned at this stage with everyone on the ground trying to protect themselves from the dreaded tear gas and even the pressmen included were put into great discomfort. The spectators running for cover also uprooted the stumps and began wielding them in defence and destroyed all the boardings surrounding the ground. It all started when spectators rushed to garland Roy Dias on reaching his fifty. The security men on the ground were too harsh on the spectators who were only doing some hero worshipping. The spectators were needling the security men when the police walked in and began assaulting the spectators. This led to the spectators retaliating and from that moment onwards it was panic all round the ground. Batsmen Roy Dias and Duleep Mendis who were taking the Pakistani attack apart at this stage had no option but to seek refuge in the pavilion. "After a near 35 minutes stoppage, Miandad led his team out with an idea of restarting the game, but his fans mobbed him and chaired him back to the pavilion. It was when everything seemed lost that the most popular and knowledgeable sports writer here Sella-huddin Haider took it on himself to speak to

TRIBUNE, MARCH 27, 1982

some of the spectators and instil on them the importance of allowing the game to go on. From this stage onwards the crowd took control of the game and they surrounded the boundary line and began to be a constant worry to the batsmen to both teams by running across the sightscreens which was a great distraction to the batsmen. The consensus here is that there would be riots in Lahore, where the final test between the two countries is to be played as the majority of the rebels hail from Lahore. There is the possibility that the final Test will be staged in Hyderabad. But at the time of writing nothing is known. This sudden stoppage put the brakes on the terrific scoring rate of the Sri Lankans and their calculations all went haywire as the game had to be reduced to 33 overs and not 40 as was earlier agreed upon". As a clinical study of crowd behaviour in Pakistan it was an excellent piece of writing.

BUT INTERNATIONAL CRICKET is still deeply perturbed about the tour of the English cricketers in South Africa. In Britain, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has not added to her dwindling prestige by her reactions to this tour of "rebel cricketers". Her adamant refusal to say one word of personal condemnation of these English cricketers, commentators say, reveals her true sympathies. She insisted that Britain was a free country and whilst the British Government supported the Gleneagles Agreement discouraging sporting links with South Africa, "we do not have the power to prevent over sportsmen and women from visiting that country or anywhere else, if we had, we would no longer be a free nation. . . ." It was reported that repeatedly Opposition MPs tried in vain to elicit her personal views, but Mrs. Thatcher confined herself to defending individual freedom of action and travel. Her stand has become as controversial as it is divisive and she has risked considerable political disapproval from all except the Tory Party's own right wing, which consists of some 40 MPs. She even refused to reaffirm the comments of her own Sports Minister, Mr. Neil MacFarlane, who on the previous day condemned the tour in no uncertain terms. For South Africa the tour is a big event. It is a dent in anti-apartheid curtain. But this tour is likely to have major repercussions in international and non-racial cricket.

Allrounder.

SPORTS CHRONICLE

March 12-18

FRIDAY, MARCH 12: In *School Cricket* Royal off-spinner Rohana Jayawardena made the best use of a slow turning pitch to take five Thomian wickets in a superb post-lunch spell on the opening day of the three-day 103rd "Battle of the Blues" cricket encounter at the SSC grounds yesterday. In 16.1 overs Jayawardene captured the wickets of Franz

Molamure, Ranil Pieris, Stefan Anthonisz, Kapila Wijegunawardena and Sidat Samarakody to have S. Thomas all out by tea for 172. He finished with 5 for 37 off 21.1 overs. In the remaining 110 minutes, Royal scored 95 for 2 with skipper Sumithra Warnakulasuriya on 34 and Shivaharan Nithiananda on three. Trinity were 48 for one at the close in reply to St. Josephs' 248 for 8 declared in their cricket match at Peradeniya Campus grounds yesterday. St. Aloysius, Galle drew their cricket match against Mahinda on the Galle Esplanade yesterday. Mahinda 159 and St. Aloysius 204. Keerthi Ranasinghe of Nalanda hammered his sixth century for the season—108 not out with 11 fours and 2 sixers in 160 minutes in the match against D. S. Senanayake MV at the Health grounds yesterday. At the close Nalanda were on 155 for 2 wickets in reply to the DSS score of 128. The *rebel English cricketers* will be without John Emburey one of the world's best off-spinners for the remainder of their South African tour. Emburey hurt his thumb trying to take a return catch from Peter Kirsten in the drawn match against Western province yesterday. Western Province 263 for 8 dec. England XI 219 and 225 for 8 at stumps. The inaugural *Asian Cup Hockey tournament* begins at Karachi today. Due to heavy rains at Lahore forced the organisers to change the venue. Sri Lanka plays World Champion Pakistan today. The seven countries taking part in the tournament are Pakistan, India, China, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Bangladesh and Singapore. World Boxing Council Light-heavy weight Champion Dwight Braxton will defend his title at Las Vegas for first time on March 21 against fellow American Jerry Martins, a spokesman for the Showboat Hotel Venue said.

SATURDAY, MARCH 13: In *Club Cricket* Moratuwa SC's batsmen crumbled against Bloomfields pace trio of Susantha Karunaratne, Vinodhan John and S. Illangaratnam and folded up for a paltry 72 from 31.5 overs in their Sara Trophy Final Round match at Reid Avenue yesterday. When rain and bad light stopped play at 2.25 p.m. Bloomfield were 28 without loss. Bloomfield 28 for no loss at the close: Moratuwa SC 72. NCC vs Air Force at Maitland Place: Air Force 148 for 8 at the close. Saracens vs SSC at Rifle Green: Saracens 159 for 9 at the close. Police vs Nomads at Police Park: Nomads 200 for at the close. Tamil Union were 155 for 5 when bad light stopped play at 2.25 p.m. in their Sara Trophy final round match against CCC at the P. Sara Stadium yesterday. In *School Cricket* Royal capitalised on poor fielding and catching by S. Thomas to gain a valuable 35-run lead on the first innings in the "Battle of the Blues" cricket encounter at the SSC grounds yesterday. Royal made 207 in the first innings and by the close on the second day S. Thomas were 66 for one in their second innings. Wesley skipper Navin de Silva had Richmond struggling with a fine "double" in their match at Campbell Park yesterday He took 5 of 39 as Richmond were all out for 126 and followed up with a chanceless unbeaten 107 in 180 minutes with 15

fours to see Wesley on 210 for 3 at the close. Richmond 126: Wesley 210 for 3 at the close. An unbeaten 44 from opener Marlon Von Haght saw the Antonians reach 70 for 2 at the close in reply to St. Peter's 203 for 7 declared at Katugastota yesterday. Carey declared at 271 for 5 and Mal.yadeva 59 for 1 wicket at the close at Kurunegila People's Park yesterday. The match will be continued today at 9 a.m. Carey 271 for 5 dec. and Mal'yadewa 59 for 1 at close. Prince of Wales were dismissed for 128 and the Benedictines one run for one wicket when bad light stopped play at 5.25 p.m. at Kotahena yesterday: Prince of Wales 128: St. Benedicts 1, for 1 wicket at the close. Holy Cross had scored 136 and St. Antony's 43 for no loss when rain stopped play at 3.30 in the match at the Kalutara Esplanade yesterday. In an incident-packed day of cricket where 35 minutes were lost due to a crowd riot, Pakistan beat Sri Lanka by eight wicket in the First of three one-day Limited Over Internationals at Karachi yesterday. Pakistan required only 29.2 of the 33 overs to knock off the runs with Mohsin Khan and skipper Javed Miandad sharing a second wicket stand of 105 runs. Mohsin made 85 and Miandad was unbeaten 56. Sri Lanka scored 171 for 3 wickets in 33 overs. World Champions Pakistan demolished Sri Lanka 14-0 in the Asia Cup Hockey Tournament at Karachi yesterday. Pakistan led 10-0 at half time.

SUNDAY, MARCH 14: In *Club Cricket* Bloomfield avenged their first round defeat to be in an unbeatable position at the close of play against Moratuwa SC in their final round P. Sara match at Reid Avenue yesterday. Bloomfield 28 for loss overnight 340 for 7 at close: Moratuwa SC 72. Saracens 154 and 95 for 2 at stumps: SSC 185. Tamil Union 252 all out: SSC 170 all out. At Maitland Place Air Force 192 and NCC 212 for 3 at close. In *School Cricket* a chanceless unbeaten 151 studded with 21 fours and six by Navin de Silva and good bowling by S. Kanagasabapathy who claimed 5 wickets for 62 runs highlighted Wesley's 9 wicket victory over Richmond at Campbell Park yesterday. St. Anthony's Wattala beat Holy Cross Kalutara by an innings and 32 runs at the Kalutara Esplanade yesterday. St. Anthony's 186 for 8 and Holy Cross 136 in their first innings. When bad light brought play to a halt at 5.17 p.m. Dharmaraja were 21 for 2 wickets in reply to Anandas first innings total of 231 for 7 dec. Ananda 231 for 7 dec. Dharmaraja 21 for 2 at close. The match between S. Thomas College Matale and Vidyarta College, Kandy played at the Kandy Police Park ended in a draw. S. Thomas 126 all out and 185: Vidyatra 69 for 7 at stumps. St. Thomas Matara scored 44 for one at close of play in reply to Rahula Maha Vidyalaya's 200 for 6 declared at Uyanwatte Stadium yesterday. The Inter School cricket match between Sri Sumanagala College and St. John's College ended in a draw at Panadura yesterday. Sr. Sumangala 123 and 76 for 6: St. John's 131. St. Peter's drew their match

against St. Anthony's Katugastota at Katugastota yesterday. Pakistan's cricket crisis, which appeared to have been resolved late yesterday, resurfaced again today when seven rebel superstar players said they would not play under the captaincy of Javed Miandad. Bangladesh beat Sri Lanka 4-0 in the second match on the second day of the first Asia Hockey Cup tournament at Karachi on March 12. Jerry Anderson of Canada today shot a four-under-par 68 with a two-stroke lead in the third round of the 100,000 dollars Thailand open golf championship.

MONDAY, MARCH 15: In *Club Cricket* SSC regained the Top Spot in the race for the Sara Trophy when they collected 11,810 points from their first innings victory over Saracens at Rifle Green yesterday. All five Sara matches completed yesterday ended in first innings victories for SSC, Bloomfield, NCC, Tamil Union and Police. For the second successive weekend Bloomfield missed the chance of an outright win. Moratuwa SC 72 and 158 for 9 at stumps: Bloomfield 340 for 7 declared. SSC failed short by 33 runs to beat Saracens outright at Rifle Green. Saracens 154 and 95 for 2 contd. SSC 185 and 177 for 3 at stumps. Left-hander Jayantha Paranathala hit the fastest century of the season in 110 minutes to give Police a first innings win over Nomads at Police Park. Nomads 332: Police 91 for 2 contd. Centuries by Upul Sumathipala and Tim Boon highlighted the final day's play at the Sara Stadium where Tamil Union took first innings points from CCC. Tamil Union 272 and 1 for no loss contd 246 for 8 decl. CCC ended the day on 178 for 3. NCC completed a first innings win over Air Force at Maitland Place. Air Force 192 and 141 for 3 at stumps: NCC 212 for 3 contd. The Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka on a directive issued by its President Gamini Dissanayake contributed Rs. 5,000 towards the funeral expenses of Sri Lanka cricketer Anura Ranasinghe's father who passed away on Thursday. Ranasinghe is currently playing for Sri Lanka in the Second Test against Pakistan at Faisalabad. Sidath Wettimuny today scored the First Test Hundred by a Sri Lankan cricketer, providing further torment for a Pakistan side still divided by a player dispute. Left hand opening batsman Bruce Edgar New Zealand completed his highest ever first class score as his side established a healthy first innings lead over Australia on the third day of the Second Cricket Test at Eden Park on Sunday.

TUESDAY, MARCH 16: Sri Lanka playing in only their Third Cricket Test piled up 454 all out in their first innings at tea on the second day of the Second Test against Pakistan at Faisalabad yesterday. Pakistan replied with 47 for one at the close. The Sri Lanka Athletic Club team which took part in the three-day Second Al-Ameen All-India athletic meet at Shri Kanteerava Stadium, Bangalore made a clean sweep of both the Men's and Women's championships. They set up nine new meet

TRIBUNE, MARCH 27, 1982

Records 7 in the Women's and 2 in the Men's and bagged 16 Gold 10 Silver and 6 Bronze medals. The men collected 14 medals in their winning score of 65 points which was 26 more than runners-up Vijaya Bank. The women were even more impressive with 18 medals and 83 points. Air India, New Delhi were second with 38 points. Sri Lanka national spring champion and Women's team captain T. G. Ramani Mangalika took the best performance award for Women with record breaking performance in the five events in which she participated—100 meters, 200 meters, 4 x 100 meters and 4 x 400 metres relays. Karnataka qualified to meet Delhi in the Final of the Ranji Trophy Cricket Championship by dethroning Holders Bombay on first innings on the final day of the four-day Semi-Final at Bangalore yesterday. New Zealand maintained hopes of forcing a victory in the Second Cricket test against Australia despite a century from Graeme Wood at Eden Park here today. At the close Australia were 241 for four when their first innings deficit is taken into account. St. Peters are out to make it six-in-a-row when they meet traditional rivals, St. Joseph's in their Annual Basketball encounter at Bambalapitiya at 4.30 p.m. tomorrow with the Aloy Jayawardene Challenge Cup at stake. University of Jaffna emerged unbeaten champions in the Inter Universities Men's Basketball Tournament beating Colombo, Kelaniya, Moratuwa and Sri Jayawardenapura. In the Final Jaffna beat Colombo 44-31 and in the Loser's Final: Peradeniya beat Sri Jayawardenapura 41-17.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17: St. Joseph's are hoping that fast bowler Hiran Cabraal will be fully fit for the 48th Battle of the Saints with St. Peters starting at the Saravanamuttu Stadium on Friday. Cabraal who excelled in last year's Big Match developed tendon trouble after the Benedictine game last month. He has been bowling at half pace since then. If fully fit he Nirmalal Perera and Sanath Jayanetti will form a formidable three-pronged pace attack. Coach and Master in Charge Fairlie Dalpathado said: "St. Joseph's will certainly look forward to this pace trio to break through the Peterites batting like up". Kantha Jayasinghe 101 with 13 fours Mahesh Peiris 60 and Lalithamana Fernando 40 helped Mahanama declared at 286 for 6 wickets at tea. Lumbini were 46 for no loss at close of play in their match at Vihara Maha Devi Park yesterday. Sri Lanka spinners Somachandra de Silva and Ajith de Silva had Pakistan struggling to avert a follow on a pitch described as the easiest in the world on the third day of second test at Faisalabad yesterday. New Zealand won the Second Cricket Test against Australia at Eden Park here today after the Australian second innings fell to pieces before lunch. The last six Australian wickets fell for 39 four of them to the irrepressible Richard Hadlee and left New Zealand a target of 104 runs for victory.

TRIBUNE, MARCH 27, 1982

THURSDAY, MARCH 18: The Peterites have proved an unpredictable lot this season and will have to click if they hope to beat St. Joseph's in the Big Match at the Sara Stadium tomorrow. As their coach, Lt. Col. H. I. K. Fernando said, "I never had problems in selecting a team over the years. But this year I am confronted with several which still have not been solved and added: "The team for the 'big un' should contain a fair bowling squad which will not weaken the batting and fielding in any way". Kantha Jayasinghe fine batting double—101 and 63 not out—featured Mahanama's drawn cricket match against Lumbini at Vihara Maha Devi Park yesterday. Mahanama 286 for 8 dec. and 167 for 5 at stumps and Lumbini MV 47 for no loss 220. Nine Stars SC Otumbe Demodera for the fourth year in succession won the championship at the Inter Club Volley Ball Tournament of Hali Ela AGA's Division conducted by the Ministry of Sports. World Champion Jehangir Khan beat fellow Pakistani Hiddy Jahan 9—5, 10—8, 9—2 in the final of an International Squash Tournament at Stockton last night. It was his second success in five days.



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• Identity Card • Antiques

IS IT STRANGE that a reader should send us a clipping from the *Weekend* of March 7 of an item headlined 800,000 HAVE NO NICs: with a comment of his own? That the *Weekend* report read: "The National Identity Card is a necessity for any type of transaction, business or otherwise in Sri Lanka. The laws says that everyone over 16 should have an Identity Card but over eight lakhs do not. "It is simple to get an identity card," said Mr. G. P. S. U. de Silva, Commissioner, Registration of Persons. One living in Colombo or its suburbs can apply to the Head Office at Keppetipola Mawatha, with one's birth certificate. If one has no birth certificate, a baptismal certificate or some similar certificate, de Silva said. Out-of-Colombo applicants can get their forms from the Grama Sevaka's office. These forms ones filled should be handed to the Grama Sevaka who sends them to the Assistant Government Agent who post them to the Head Office, The Identity Card is then sent to the applicant via the same channels. The department has six offices in Kandy, Jaffna, Galle, Matara, Kalutara and Kurunegala and plans to open offices in Gampaha, Kegalle, Badulla and Ratnapura. The department fines Rs. 10 for anyone over 17 applying for an indetity card. During the last two years there have been about 400,000 defaulters applying for identity cards. The department has a scheme to issue ICs through schools, but this scheme has failed because some school principals did not respond. About 50,000 cards are issued monthly and 8 million have been issued so far?" That the *Tribune* reader—let us call him Silva also like the Commissioner—has raised the following questions? Can the Commissioner please give some approximate idea how long after obtaining a receipt from the Grama Sevaka the Identity Card will be issued? That a very rough idea should suffice? That he went on to write: "I am sending you a photostat copy of such a receipt. Please note the date. The applicant made seven calls at Keppetipola Mawatha without any success? That last week, I as the employer of the applicant sent a telegram on his behalf. Much to my surprise there was a response in which reference was made quite frankly (I appreciated it) to delays in Kachcheris. I was also told to phone Mr. X at telephone who was said to be in charge of the segment dealing with Kurunegala. I have so far made seven phone calls and the invariable answer by some other functionary was that the person concerned was 'not in'. What do I do next? **That we have no answer to this question? That we will ask the Commissioner to tell the press how many applicants are still pending, that is of the 800,000 how many have applied for NICs but which have not been processed serviced and issued?**

IS IT NOT A FACT that a large number of valuable objects and antiques have been stolen from temples and other places in this country and have thereafter been spirited out of the island? That so far not one of these stolen articles has been traced? That in this connection a news item in the *Madras Hindu* of February 25 will interest readers in this country? That under the heading **STOLEN IDOL IN TEXAS** the report read: "Tamil Nadu police have traced four precious idols valued at Rs. 2 crores stolen from temples in Thanjavur nearly two years ago. The idols sold through various agents were finally located in the UK and the US. One of them had been bought by a private museum. Efforts are on to bring them back. Mr. K. Rajasekharan Nair, DIG, CID (crime), told newsmen here today that they were a tenth century Nataraja idol and three panchaloha idols of Valli and Deivayanai. The Nataraja idol, he said, was stolen from the Easwaran temple at Thiruvilakkudy, Thanjavur district in August 1979 by an 11-member gang which sold it to an agent in Madras. The idol was finally purchased for \$ 600,000 (Rs. 54 lakhs) by a private museum in Texas, its present value is estimated at over Rs. 1 crore. The Tamil Nadu government sent Mr. Rajasekharan Nair and a DSP, Mr. J. Ramakrishnan of the Crime Branch CID, in December, last year to the US to liaise with Interpol in tracing the idol. American police are taking action against some persons. (The State police arrested the members of the gang between December 1980 and January 1981). Simultaneously, police managed to trace three of the eight panchaloha idols stolen from Nalthunai temple in Purjai village, Thanjavur district in May 1979. Thieves had broken open the lock and made away with the idols which police traced to a handicraft store in London. Scotland Yard arrested Hitendra Raval and recovered 240 idols and artefacts including three bronze idols of Valli and Deivayanai. The idols were valued at over \$ 1 million. At the request of Scotland Yard, the Tamil Nadu government arranged to send Muthiah Gurukul, the priest of Nathunai temple, to identify the idols. A London court is hearing a case against Hitendra Raval, and once it is over, the State Government will try to bring back the idols". **That this report throws revealing light on this trade of stealing antiques, valuable statues and other objects of interest to collectors? That it is time people in this country realised that unless greater vigilance than is now exercised, our temples will be raided by internationally organised gangs for genuine gold, brass, panchaloka and other idols and also temple jewellery made according to traditional patterns? That such jewellery and ornaments have much more than the melted down value of the gold?**

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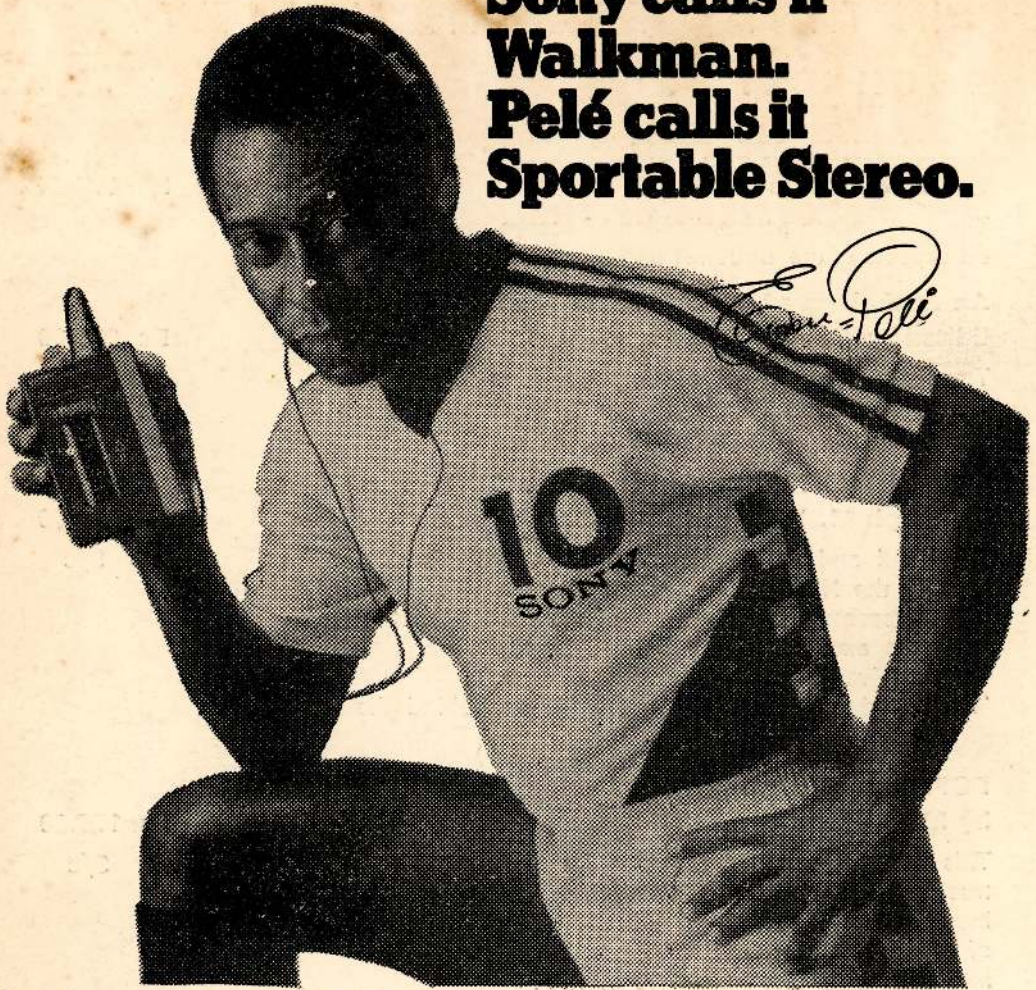
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