

TRIBUNE

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LAND REFORM HAS TRIGGERED A CATALYSTIC SOCIO-ECONOMIC REVOLUTION WHAT NEXT?

BY THE MIDDLE OF NEXT MONTH OR EARLIER, the Land Reform Commission would have vested itself with the ownership of nearly 600,000 acres of land under the Land Reform Law. The decision of the Land Reform Commission to complete the first phase of divesting owners of their excess land within two years by August 26, 1974, according to many knowledgeable sources, has the advantage of minimising the disruption that was inevitable in any land reform. This was the view also expressed by the Central Bank in its May 1974 bulletin.

It is possible to argue against this view of our Central Bank, (which has made some notorious

bloomers in its un-eventful history), and insist that a land reform more evenly spread out whilst making adequate preparations for utilisation after takeover, would have caused far less disruption in output and production than the current land reform which has been carried out at a ruthlessly vicious speed. Revolutionaries will no doubt proclaim that a land reform must be sharp and swift because counter-revolution, especially in a parliamentary democracy, would otherwise re-group its forces to undermine the land reform. There is much to be said for this, but the country and the nation must pay a big price in the form of a drop in production by these measures carried out swiftly.

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It will be academic and foolish to squabble today about what would have been the best method of implementing the land reform that was contemplated. The deed has now been done. The excess land has been taken over and vested in the Land Reform Commission. By the middle of July, according to figures supplied by the Land Reform Commission, of the 523,869 acres taken over, 1695 estates over 50 acres accounted for 434,869 acres. Land less than 50 acres had accounted for 89,000 acres. The table published on the next page gives the number of estates (over 50 acres) taken over in each district and the extent of land taken over in each district.

Whilst *Tribune* has always supported land reform as a measure of ending the economic power of the privileged class, *Tribune* has set out critical views about major shortcomings in our 1972 Land Reform Law which, in its view, militated against effective implementation—which must at all times be directed at securing better and more profitable utilisation of the land. Much of our cultivable and cultivated land had not been utilised in the best national interests, and large concentrations of lands in private hands also undermined the growth of egalitarian democracy. To remedy these evils land reform was essential but it could easily have been achieved without causing such excessive dislocation as would result in a disruption in production. It had been *Tribune's* case that in many matters our Land Reform Law had sought to put the horse (or bull) before the cart. And there is no doubt that dislocation has happened

NON-TRADITIONAL EXPORT

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on such a stupendous scale that the effort to initiate new utilisation will require Herculean strength.

The cart is now very much in front of the horse or the bull, and the Land Reform Commission and the Ministry of Agriculture and many other governmental agencies have now the unenviable task of bringing the draught animal to the front in order to make the wheels of the new system of land tenure move forward and not backwards. As at present, the cart is in front and the animal behind, and the Government today has to provide the motive power to drag not only the cart but also the animal. If the animal decides to backtrack, complications will set in.

It is pointless bemoaning that all this happened. All that one can now do is to examine what best can be done to expediate production in the midst of the inevitable chaos which is now all around us. Loud speeches that all was well, commendations from the Central Bank that enthusiasm had been generated, and been self-congratulatory back-scratching by governmental leaders and the blue-eyed officials of the present Establishment cannot alter the reality

that output and production will soon begin to suffer. It is better to accept realities and reconcile ourselves to the situation by rationalising that this is the price we have to pay for a necessary reform—and then concentrate on the job of deciding on what we can do next. Propaganda that land reform has already boosted production will only stultify the government because ordinary people know what is happening all around and there is no better index than the domestic price spiral of the drop in production of agricultural produce consumed locally.

THERE IS NO DOUBT that the Government is conscious of these new realities—although, ostrich-like, certain Ministers and others hide their heads in the sands of self-delusion that the Land Reform Law has not only abolished the landlord class we had in Sri Lanka, but that it has also achieved an automatic increase in production. Even though this awareness of declining production seems to be partly sub-conscious, there is a painful desire to do something about the utilisation of the land so taken over. This has been brought out in several articles in the daily newspapers in recent

weeks. Not so long ago the *Daily News* had frontpaged a story by Neville de Silva under the heading: LAND DISTRIBUTION—THE NEXT PHASE: DISTRICT BOARDS TO PUT EXCESS ACRES TO BEST USE WHEN TAKE-OVER ENDS. We publish this report *in extenso* to place on record the manner in which the Government was hoping to bring the horse or the bull before the cart and then make it do its job.

“With the first stage of the land reform work nearing completion the Government is planning the crucial phase of land distribution and use.

The Minister of Agriculture and Lands, Mr. Hector Kobbekaduwa told me that the Government planned to set up boards in each district to examine the available land and prepare it for its best use.

“The Prime Minister and Mr. Kobbekaduwa are due to discuss the establishment of these boards sometime this week.

Mr. Kobbekaduwa said that by late August the Land Reforms Commission would complete the first phase of the work which is the identification of excess land, surveying the land to be retained by the present owners and vesting the excess land in the commission.

“While this is an important task, what is more important is the use that this land will be put to. Therefore it has to be planned carefully so that no land is wasted.” M. Kobbekaduwa said: The Minister pointed out that in some areas where land was vested in the commission it was found that the land was neglected or lying idle. “In fact we found that in some estates large tracts of land were just lying idle. We cannot afford to treat the land like this.” Mr. Kobbekaduwa said.

“The Minister’s scheme is to set up district boards consisting of the political authority of the area, the G.A., agricultural officers and other key government officers at district level. These boards will make an overview of the excess lands available in their respective districts before making detailed plans for their use. The boards will have to study the question of village expansion and how much land will be required for it. In some instances, villages might have

By Mid-July		
EXCESS LAND TAKEN OVER		
District	Number of estates over 50 acres taken over in each district	Extent of land taken over in each district
	(in acres)	(in acres)
Kandy	204	69,584
Kegalle	136	54,216
Ratnapura	176	60,631
Kurunegala	263	37,028
Badulla	129	39,988
Puttalam	152	24,786
Batticaloa	12	2,250
Nuwara Eliya	93	25,475
Jaffna	18	1,927
Matara	81	17,379
Galle	72	17,631
Matale	114	28,518
Hambantota	25	4,873
Moneragala	32	12,577
Anuradhapura	13	1,498
Colombo	102	13,570
Amparai	6	748
Kalutara	52	20,045
Mannar	5	439
Vavuniya	4	542
Trincomalee	6	859

What Next?

to be completely uprooted and the rural population provided with a new village. This is because some of these villages are on hilltops or in other virtually inaccessible places, making development difficult.

"Once the areas required for village expansion have been demarcated, the board will consider the proper agricultural use of the land and how it should be distributed. These two matters are closely linked because the question of distribution will depend on how the land is cultivated at present. "The big task ahead is the proper utilisation of the land. We are engaged in a war to produce our own food. We want to be self-reliant. If so, we must make the maximum use of our land. We cannot afford to keep it idle in the manner we found when we took over some of the land," the Minister said. Around 450,000 acres will be vested in the Land Reforms Commission when it completes its initial task next month."

Whilst Minister Kobbekaduwa is content to think along the lines he has indicated, the Coconut Development Authority has stressed that **LARGE, WELL-DEVELOPED ESTATES MAY BE STATE-MANAGED, AND THAT IN LAND TAKEN OVER, BIGGER YIELDS SHOULD BE THE AIM.** The *Daily Mirror* had a frontpage banner-headlines splash on this subject and the report is also published for the record.

"The Coconut Development Authority has mentioned that the underlying principle of utilizing lands that are made available under the Land Reform Law should be to improve the productivity of such land not only in terms of coconut but in terms of other agricultural produce as well. The CDA in its Annual Report for 1972 published yesterday points out that under the Land Reform Law at least 100,000 acres of coconut land are expected to come within the scope of operation of the law.

Since the land reform measures contemplated did not form an integral part of an agricultural development programme, the onus of ensuring agricultural productivity of such land has become a *post-facto* measure. The CDA has suggested that several methods of ownership and management are

possible. Large well-developed estates may continue to be managed as estates owned by the State.

"Where 'landlessness' was a strongly felt need, the question of individual ownership of small units for purpose of production and centralized processing and marketing for a number of such units may be another possibility.

"A third possibility was a form of co-operative ownership of large estates on which unemployed youths could operate under proper guidance and supervision.

"Giving a survey of coconut production, the Coconut Authority points out that according to the 1962 Agricultural Survey, there were 1,152,418 acres of coconut land in Sri Lanka. The production of nuts in 1972 was 2,841,000,000. At the time the Coconut Fertilizer Subsidy Scheme was begun in 1956, the estimated production of coconuts was 2,477,000,000 nuts, while in 1971 it was 2,625,000,000. In the period 1956-71 nut production had been fluctuating between 3,000,000,000 and 2,000,000,000 per annum, the highest production being in 1964 when 2,988,000,000 were produced.

Although the use of fertilizer rose from 31,337 tons in 1957 to 62,358 tons in 1970, the production of nuts had not increased in proportion. It was however probable that the increased yield brought about by the use of fertilizer has been offset by the decreasing yield from unfertilized lands and by coconut lands going out of production."

THE COCONUT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY comes under the Ministry of Plantation Industries and it confirms the *Tribune* view that the onus of ensuring agricultural production has become a *post-facto* method. This is a euphemistic way of stating that the horse was now before the cart and that a method had to be found to get production going by getting the animal to pull the cart from the front (pushing it from behind will not produce results).

In the meantime, the Central Bank in its May 1974 Bulletin has chosen to see hidden virtues in the manner the Government has carried out Land Reform. The *Daily News* had a frontpage report

with the heading **LAND REFORM: SWIFT ACTION PRAISED—TREMENDOUS ENTHUSIASM IN CO-OP FARMS.** We publish this report also *in extenso* to show the real problem before the Government and the nation. The Central Bank seems to place pious hopes in the hopes of the Government that its paper plans will produce an economic miracle. The Central Bank, more than any other governmental institution, should know that enthusiasm alone was not enough to increase or even ensure



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agricultural production: that labour power, however enthusiastic it may, be cannot by itself secure the highest utilisation of land for the simple reason that from the beginning of history agriculture has been the most-capital-intensive economic undertaking of man: that only men who were able to accumulate capital from surplus value and re-invest the capital in continued development for intensive utilisation were able to make the grade in agricultural production. The views of the Central Bank make revealing reading:

"The decision of the Land Reforms Commission to complete the first phase of divesting owners of their excess land within two years by August 26, 1974 will go a long way to minimise the disruption that is inevitable in any land reform says the Central Bank in its most recent bulletin, (for May 1974) in a note on Land Reform. The Central Bank reference to Land Reform is one of the most comprehensive that has yet been published. The note says 'given the constraints of rather time consuming cadastral surveys (that is surveys showing ownership, value for land) and other legal pre-requisites the completion of the divesting process in such a short time (that is two years) ranks Sri Lanka's land reform among the most expeditious of its kind.'

"The note says that the co-operative farms already initiated on alienated lands have generated tremendous enthusiasm. The total extent of land declared to the LRC is estimated at 1.2 million acres. Of the larger extents, about 638,000 acres are under the

major crops, tea, rubber, coconut, cocoa and paddy and 204,000 acres are uncultivated, forest and patana (grassland). Coconut (220,199 acres), Tea (203,504 acres) and Rubber (149,299 acres) account for more than three fourths of the lands declared. Paddy which, is mainly grown in small holdings accounts for 56,533 acres.

"The LRC, according to the notes estimates that about 450,000 to 500,000 acres of land would finally vest in it and would be available, for alienation. The more important phase, though is the next one of rehabilitation and consolidation. In view of the apparent neglect of many of the lands coming under the land reform some gains in productivity are clearly foreseeable if the second phase is properly organised" it says.

"In this task according to the bank the government's new machinery of popular organisations under the contemplated Agricultural Productivity Law might turn out to be quite useful in this huge task.'

"By August 1974 the LRC would have effected a complete change of ownership by alienating land vested in it either permanently or temporarily to the State Plantation Corporation, the Udarata Samupakara Wathu Sanvardhana Mandalaya, the Livestock Development Board, public corporations like Coconut Cultivation Board, Rubber Research Institute, the Coconut Research Board etc. Multi-purpose Co-operative Societies, special area development authorities, individual farmers and Samuhika Janavasa (Co-operate Settlements) of the LRC. Alienation of any residual land will be made to the Land Commissioner.

"The second phase will be launched by the Minister of Agriculture and Lands after August 26, 1974 "when the progress after alienations will be reviewed and decisions will be taken on planned rehabilitation and development of vested lands. The Central Bank note then refers to the various steps being contemplated by the government in the second phase. These are the following:

"Setting up of supervisory boards in each district. This has already been accepted and the boards will overlook the various development programs, on lands vested in the

LRC. This is being financed by the LRC and the Bank of Ceylon.

"Setting up of Samuhika Janavasa or co-operative farms. The farmers own the cultivable land collectively and individual homesteads, privately. The original target was to set up 30 such farms, one each in selected electoral districts. The success of these farms and the tremendous enthusiasm shown by the youthful farmers has made the Commission expand the program by another 50 in 1974.

"Development of land on an integrated basis. This plan will be implemented in large areas vested in the LRC. One such project covers the Nilambe Atabage regions in the Gampola area.

Here says the Central Bank a large number of much neglected estates (21 estates comprising 10,000 acres) have been vested in the LRC and the whole area is to be developed on a planned and systematic basis with the assistance of the FAO-UNDP Agricultural Diversification Project.."

WHILE WE ARE ENTITLED IN A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY to continually examine the shortcomings of any Law with a view to sparking off constructive criticisms and debate in order to bring remedial measures to rectify the errors, it is also necessary to sit back and contemplate on what has been achieved. The primary purpose of our Land Reform Law was political and this objective has been amply accomplished. It has already set in motion the most significant socio-economic changes that will inevitably bring about a major revolution in class relations and in the composition of the dominant classes in the country.

The last major revolution in land tenure was in the second quarter of the last century when the British brought in the Wasteland Ordinance to vest in the Crown all lands for which the owners did not have documents (deeds similar to what obtained in Great Britain) to prove title. Thousands of people, nay lakhs of people, were dispossessed of their lands without compensation. The traditional owners of land, ranging from poor peasants, eeking out a miserable existence on a few acres, to powerful chietains, who control-

Time is Money

To stop its employees from chatting at work, one large British enterprise has arranged a special service designed to satisfy their curiosity, reports the London 'Financial Times.' Each one of the 500 employees may, from 10 a.m. on, pick up a phone and hear the latest tape-recorded company news—about the bill of fare at the snackroom, weddings, retirements, meetings, interesting purchases made by their colleagues, and so on. The "newscast" takes up only two minutes.

What Next?

led hundreds of thousands of acres, had all come within the purview of the Wastelands Ordinance. A new economic structure was built when the land, which had vested in the Crown, was distributed to owners of capital from England (for a nominal sum of about 50 cents an acre) anxious to open up plantations.

In the course of a few decades, a new economic structure had grown up, where besides the European planters, a domestic class of brown landlords and compradore rich of contractors had become the economic and political adjunct of the British overlords. When the British withdrew their personal rule, while their economic investments remained, the brown sahibs consisting of plantation owners, contractors, arrack distillers and the like, who had fattened on the crumbs from the table of imperialist exploitation, took over the reins of government in what was called an independent country. The voters enjoying adult franchise have progressively, during the last 25 years reduced the political power of this class of brown bourgeoisie, but the Land Reform Law has now swiftly ended the economic power of this class. Coupled with the Ceiling on Income Law and other Tax measures, the brown sahibs of yesteryear are now a dispossessed and toothless tribe. This is the reality that one sees in the Sri Lanka of today. Many of this tribe have fled to find asylum in other countries where they think that greener pastures exist for their kind.

Students of history and sociology should study this phenomenon and historical process with great care because it is rare that such major changes have been effected without limitless blood-letting. In this case, whatever the price in economic dislocation and loss in production, a major socio-economic revolution has been effected through democratic parliamentary process based on the ballot. The Wastelands Ordinance was also a legislative enactment and it had caused a socio-economic revolution over a hundred years ago, but it was law enacted by a single Governor with a few officials sitting in Council with him.

The believer in Karma will see the hand of retribution, but the new owners will certainly not be the descendants of these disposses-

sed by the British. It is significant, however, that the overwhelming majority of the big estates which have been taken over were on lands which had been taken over under the Wastelands Ordinance. There are still large Wastelands Ordinance estates, owned by public companies, mainly British and it will not be long before they too fall under the weight of radical reforms which have swept the country.

Whereas the Wastelands Ordinance had based its take-over on a legal fiction about the possession of a written deed, the current Land Reform Law is based on an arithmetical ceiling about what each person can own. While the Wastelands Ordinance in many instances, helped to consolidate fragmented holdings, the present Land Reform Law will fragment land which had been held and utilised as large single units.

IT IS NOT OFTEN that people are privileged to live in a period of such rapid social and economic changes, and though changes entail difficulties and hardships it is no doubt exciting to be alive to realities in such times as these. It is also difficult to be detached and objective in such periods when cataclysmic changes take place, but an effort to view matters, without being drawn into the vortex of conflict, will provide a deeper understanding of the history that is being made all around us every day.

Land Reform is already a catalyst and is bringing about major qualitative changes. The fact that matters could have been better done and better managed so that loss of production could have been avoided does not detract from the vast changes which are under way and which may politically sweep away even those who had brought this Land Reform Law into being. This is the price the sponsors of this Law will have to pay for not providing for effective utilisation of the land taken over simultaneously with the takeover. A decline in agricultural production, even if it is for a few short years, is inevitable, whatever be the hallelujahs governmental enthusiasts may shout. And, the real success of the Government will depend on minimising the period of such decline in production.

"What the new owners of the 'excess' lands—whether big public sector organisations or small individual peasants—will be able to achieve in the coming years is yet to be seen. Where all the capital needed for land utilisation and development is to come from is also yet to be seen. (it will not be long before the delusory belief that labour power and enthusiasm were enough for agricultural production will soon fade away),

Land Reform and other soak-the-rich measures have come to stay. The brown sahibs of the old era are no more. The mudalali and the contractor are fast disappearing from the scene. We have a new breed of convertible currency rich and a new rich based on public sector undertakings and trading. We will soon have a new breed of landowners (and where will the next generation of the landless get more land?)

What will they do? Will they bring prosperity and wealth to the country? Will all this mean contentment and happiness to the ordinary man?

What next?

Petro-Canada Project

The Canadian government has announced a project for the country's first state-owned oil company. To be known as Petro-Canada, it will engage in all related aspects, from prospecting to retail sales. This will also include operations on the foreign market. Petro-Canada will start with a capital of 500 million Canadian dollars; however, it is possible that later the total stock will expand to 1,500 million dollars.

Donald S. MacDonald, Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources is of the opinion that one of the first things Petro-Canada will do is acquire the government-held 45 per cent packet in the Panarctic Oil consortium, which was organized to prospect for and extract oil in Canada's vast Arctic territories and coastal shelf.

In press comment the project is seen as an attempt to protect Canadian power resources from exploitation by foreign firms.

Tribunania

✱ The Future of Education

THE PATTERN AND SCHEME OF EDUCATION in Sri Lanka has in the last four years undergone such sweeping changes that many people have not been able to comprehend its meaning or scope. *Tribune* itself has not paid the attention these educational changes merited not because we did not realise their importance but because of our own predilection to matters purely political and topics which hinged on matters of economic importance.

But now with the new scheme of examinations which becomes operative in 1975 it has become necessary to begin a dialogue about the educational changes which have been implemented in the last four years. These changes have undoubtedly introduced far-reaching changes tantamount to a socio-cultural revolution, but the question is whether they are for the better or the worse. Not all revolutions are for the better of mankind because some bring disaster. But all revolutions have to be taken note of. It must be also remembered that in a single country during a specified period, several simultaneous revolutions could be effected in respect of various spheres of activity, but whilst some may be for the better, others may be for the worse, in respect of the community at large.

In Sri Lanka, today, several revolutions are simultaneously taking place in different spheres, and it is as yet difficult to say which of these many revolutions will mean betterment and which will bring difficulties. There is an unevenness in these matters of social change that it is difficult either to envisage the scope of some or anticipate the validity of others.

In the educational field, *Tribune* has as yet an open mind, but there is no doubt that the changes which have been introduced have fundamentally altered the pattern of

education which the British had laid down over a hundred years. The system of education which was introduced and implemented in Ceylon, and in India, grew out of Lord Macaulay's dicta on the purpose and scope of education in the Indian colonial empire of the Britain. This system, however, had the seeds of that liberalism which gave rise to intellectuals in India as well as Sri Lanka who have wrought such changes that has ultimately ended the British Empire.

It is not our purpose to examine the dynamics of the system of British education which had lingered on in this country after its usefulness and purposefulness had ended. The British system was subject to a great deal of tinkering ever since education became one of the subjects on which the colonial rulers did not exercise any veto after the introduction of the Donoughmore Constitution. Between 1944/45 and 1970, there has been a whole series of educational reforms which had brought confusion and dislocation. Every sector of education, from the primary to the university, was tampered with through a series of *ad hoc* reforms which did not take the country forward. It only succeeded in extending the scope of the white-collar orientated education to wider and wider sections of the people, in the rural and urban areas, in the mother tongue as well as in English. This led to a deadweight of educated (or literate) unemployable youth, vocationless, and unsuited to the economic activities possible or necessary in the Sri Lanka of today.

The new educational changes, which have been introduced, are claimed to have found a way of ending all these anomalies and also bringing into being a new system appropriate for the needs of our times. Whether these claims are justified we are not yet in a position to say, but in the coming months we will initiate a discussion in our columns which will throw light on the educational reforms which have now been introduced.

For a beginning, we are publishing in four instalments a memorandum in full sent by the All-Ceylon Educational Federation to the Minister of Education on the New Education Scheme's *National*

Certificate of General Education (N.C.G.E.). We publish this memorandum without any comments of our own and invite comment from our readers. We are also not aware what the All-Ceylon Educational Federation is, but we were duly impressed by what was said in the memorandum and we think that its contents merit consideration and discussion.

The Secretary of the Federation, Mr. M. P. F. R. Cooray, had sent us the following letter together with the Memorandum. Similar letters have probably been sent to the other newspapers together with the memorandum, but we think it useful to publish it in full because it will give our readers an insight into the reasons which had prompted the Federation to send the Memorandum.

Dear Sir,

The people of this country are quite unaware of the many dangerous aspects of the New Examination Scheme that is to be introduced in 1975. This is not surprising because the bureaucracy in the Department of Education is going ahead with this ill-conceived hastily formulated scheme without placing before the public the schemes, syllabuses, rules and regulations for critical evaluation by those who are in a position to offer advice and counsel in these matters.

We have set down in a memorandum to the Minister of Education all the major shortcomings of the Scheme and herewith we are forwarding a copy of it for your perusal which we are certain will convince you beyond any shadow of doubt of the very serious nature of the manifold implications of the New Scheme.

We ourselves have been clamouring for reforms in Education —i.e. reforms that would make our system of education more socialist, more democratic and more oriented towards the economic, social and cultural development of the country.

What is now being introduced by the bureaucracy of the Department of Education is a scheme anti-national and anti-social in character and anti-democratic in implementation.

We sincerely hope that you will give this document the publicity it deserves in the valuable columns of your esteemed journal.

The first instalment of the Memorandum appears elsewhere in this issue, and once we have completed publishing the series we may have some comments of our own to offer. In the meantime, we would welcome the views of our readers on this subject.

INTERNATIONAL-AFFAIRS

BY ARIEL

* CYPRUS

PAKISTAN

ARGENTINE

ICELAND

THE MOST UNEXPECTED PIECE OF NEWS, last week, was the coup in Cyprus against Makarios on July 15. It was staged by the Greek-officered National Guards. The putschists had succeeded in capturing the Nicosia Broadcasting station and the Presidential Palace and had proclaimed that they had succeeded in taking over the government after deposing Archbishop Makarios who has ruled the little island ever since it had become independent in 1960. The first radio broadcast had also claimed that the Archbishop had been killed.

Later that evening, news had filtered through from Paphos that the Archbishop was alive and well. He had, the next day, made a live broadcast and had accused the Greek Junta in Athens of having engineered the coup. The Archbishop had subsequently found asylum in a British naval vessel and at that the time of writing was urging the United Nations Security Council to take steps to end the Junta's interference in the affairs of the island. Already a civil war was in progress and the outcome was still undecided. He is now in London.

There has been a great deal of trouble in Cyprus in recent weeks. The diehard Greek officers

in the National Guard, who had wanted *enosis* (union) with Greece had been indulging in anti-government activities and President Makarios had demanded their removal because they were Greek and not Cypriot nationals. The Greek Junta as part of its chauvinist jingoistic line, had been demanding that Cyprus should become part of Greece and had contested the granting of any rights to the Turkish minority in the island.

Whether the United Nations Security Council will be able to do anything to end the civil war in Cyprus by forcing the Greek Junta to end its interference in the island is problematic. The Permanent Members of the Security Council will find it difficult to support the putschists or the Greek Junta, but some may be more lukewarm than the others. The Soviet Union had come down heavily on the side of the Archbishop and the Republic. The British have given asylum to him and continue to recognise him as the President of Cyprus. The Chinese cannot but support Makarios. The Junta is not popular either in the USA or France. But there is no doubt that the NATO powers did not like the non-aligned pro-socialist foreign policy of President Makarios, but whether the USA, Britain and France will ultimately support the Greek Junta and the putschists on this score is difficult to say.

WHILE INDIA has started a new dialogue with Sheikh Abdullah to end the crisis in Kashmir, Prime Minister Bhutto has indulged in a series of statements and actions which indicate that a new tension might develop between Pakistan and India. News agency reports indicate that Bhutto has moved his troops up to the Indian border along Kashmir, Punjab and Rajasthan after accusing India of having moved troops to these borders. Bhutto has sought to justify his actions by alleging that there was a conspiracy against his country on the part of India and Afghanistan. In fact Bhutto in several press interviews has called for an immediate resumption of American arms supplies to his country on the ground that surrounding nations like India, Afghanistan and Iran were engaged in re-armament. He had also said that India had moved troops to Kashmir, but had

said that Pakistan would not follow suit. He had also referred to India's underground nuclear explosion and to the political moves being made in Kashmir by Sheikh Abdullah and others (after settling affairs with New Delhi the Sheikh had indicated that it was essential to bring the parts now occupied by Pakistan into the State of Kashmir to enjoy a special position within the Indian Union).

Sheikh Abdullah has made it clear that his plans for an autonomous Kashmir would include the Pakistan-occupied sector and this has caused many apprehensions in Pakistan. Islamabad has already announced a new political frame work for that area, but whether this will evoke enthusiasm in any quarter is doubtful. The London-based son of Sheikh Abdullah, Dr. Farooq Abdullah had recently paid a visit to Pak-held "Azad Kashmir before he came to India and he had said that there was striking contrast between the backwardness of the Pakistan-held area and the rest of Kashmir.

Bhutto also many confrontations in the Northwest Frontier Province and in Baluchistan. Both areas want a greater degree of autonomy which he has refused to grant despite the election results. Prime Minister Daud of Afghanistan has expressed his sympathy for the aspirations of the Baluchis and Pathahans. Additionally the Baluchi areas in Iran are being developed rapidly while the Baluchi areas in Pakistan are extremely backward and this is another source of restiveness among the Baluchis. Unless Bhutto is able to show that the Pakistan part of the Baluchi area will be able to go forward as rapidly as the Iranian part, the discontent among Pak Baluchis is bound to increase sharply.

Bhutto's attempts in recent months to win world support for his plans has not met with great success. His trip to Peking it now transpires, was not very productive, while his trip to Dacca was a definite failure. The USA has not relaxed its ban on the export of arms to Pakistan, and he himself has postponed his visit to Moscow. No. did he score any major success at the Islamic Foreign Minister's Conference in Kuala Lumpur.

But there is no doubt that the biggest let-down for Bhutto was in

Dacca, and one of the most illuminating reports about this debacle appeared in *The Economist*. It summed up the situation thus: "The flop of the week was pretty clearly the trip by Pakistan's prime minister to Bangladesh. Mr. Bhutto went there expecting to get something for nothing. The something he wanted was a demonstration for the folks back home that Pakistan had been forgiven for its army's behaviour during what Mr. Bhutto himself calls the "savage adventure" of 1971, the war in which Bangladesh broke away from Pakistan. He was confident of success because he had outwitted Bangladesh before; or so he thought when he got the 92,000 Pakistani prisoners-of-war released in return for nothing at all. The trouble was that India and Bangladesh do not see things that way: Pakistan's victory was their deferred-payment plan. The payment came due in Dacca last week, and Mr. Bhutto defaulted.

"At first it looked as if Pakistan's prime minister might have won his gamble. Thousands of wildly welcoming Bengalis greeted him at the airport on June 27th with cries of "long live Pakistan". This was just the response he had counted on. But Sheikh Mujib of

Bangladesh was not about to let things get out of control. The mass rally Mr. Bhutto had been promised turned into a select reception for officials and diplomats: a wreath-laying ceremony turned into an angry confrontation with hostile demonstrators. Mr. Bhutto plainly underestimated Sheikh Mujib's determination to extract some tangible rewards for his earlier concessions. The two things Bangladesh wants more than anything else are a share of the financial assets of the old undivided Pakistan, and Pakistan's agreement to take more of the 300,000 non-Bengali Biharis who still remain in Bangladesh.

"The Bengalis had no illusions that everything could be settled during the three-day visit. Their proposal on asset-sharing was that the idea should be accepted in principle and that in two month's time the Pakistanis should make a "token" payment of some easily quantifiable assets such as planes, ships or gold while a committee of experts tried to negotiate the gap between what Bangladesh is demanding (£ 3,000m worth of assets) and what Pakistan thinks it owes (nothing). But Mr. Bhutto refused even to accept the principle.

"He did not, it seems, go to Dacca to sort out the Bihari problem either. Mr. Bhutto gave the would-be immigrants the worst of both worlds—neither a final no, which might have impelled them to start readjusting to life in Bangladesh, nor any promise of an eventual welcome in Pakistan. He argued that ambassadors should be exchanged as a surety of goodwill before awkward problems like money and Biharis are tackled. A reasonable approach—if it did not make the other side suspect that this was another way of trying to get something for nothing."

IN THE SOUTH of the American continent, in the Argentine a period of major uncertainty has been ushered in with the death of Juan Peron. The hopes that the return of Peron would bring stability and prosperity had disappeared long before he died. But his death is likely to make matters worse. With Peron's death, another period of chaos, and possibly civil war, is likely to descend on Argentina.

The three principal factions in the country, which Gen. Peron had

managed to bend to his will in an uneasy alliance, are the conservative trade unions, the left-wing Peronists, led by rebellious youths and the Army, which is always waiting in the wings in all Latin American countries. The powerful labour movement, which is the backbone of Gen. Peron's political base, had given its unequalled support to the General's choice of his wife as his hand-picked temporary stand-in and it will probably continue to support a Government led by her.

The left-wing guerilla movement, which has been engaged in a series of bloody feuds with the right-wing factions in the Peronist movement, has, for the moment, accepted Mrs. Peron, but since it is known to dislike her conservative leanings, it is not likely to accept her as a Permanent fixture. After mismanaging the country from 1966 to 1973, the Army (which was responsible for driving Gen. Peron into exile in 1955) is now not a very popular element in Argentina, but it will certainly try to step in once again if a bloody civil war breaks out between the right and left-wing factions.

The country has had a foretaste of this even during the last one year under Gen. Peron—there have been a series of political assassinations, bombings and kidnappings—the latter have netted the ultra-radical guerilla movement over \$ 20 millions in ransom from the American companies based in Argentina. These large funds are obviously meant for financing the revolution that the left-wing is preparing for. The present alliance among labour, the armed forces and the left-wing political parties, which Gen. Peron was able to forge with his personal popularity and charisma, will not now survive.

The problem which Senora Peron, who has succeeded the husband, is whether she can succeed where her husband had failed in uniting a fragmented country. Peron had some control over the factions within his own movement. His widow, who is hated by the Left because it blames her for swinging its leader to the right in his old age, has none.

According to *The Economist*, "if the coming power struggle reveals

Lost Love's Toll

Lagos, July 10,

Fifteen men and two women have died in a love contest in Nigeria's North-Eastern State. The contest is an annual festival in which eligible bachelors engage in physical combat to show their prowess. To win a bride of his choice, each contestant must engage four rivals in physical combat in turns. Any bachelor, who floors a minimum of three rivals, wins the coveted bride. Rioting broke out in this year's love contest after a relatively unknown young man defeated the village chief's eldest son, robbing him of his dream partner on whom he had reportedly spent a fortune! The chief, son and supporters seized the victor and lynched him. Pandemonium and looting ensued. Police and Army restored order.

that Senora Peron is unable to control the situation, the army will insist on her resignation. The president of the Senate, Jose Antonio, Allende would assume office and call new elections. The armed forces, after seven years of ineffective power, want at all costs to keep their noses clean. The new President will not be short of advisers. The army will be talking hard into her ear. Then there is Jose Lopez Rega, the astrologer and former police corporal, who became Peron's powerful private secretary as well as his social welfare minister. But his power may have died with his master. The others are Jose Ger Gelbard, a self-made millionaire who was Peron's personal choice as economics minister and who controls the CGE, and Richardo Otero, the labour minister, who represents the CGT. Sr. Otero is not himself a very subtle man but his trade union organisation will have a decisive say in what happens. And into this must be fitted Sir, Hector Campora, who was briefly president before Peron took over, and may now again emerge as leader of the moderate left. In the short term, the armed forces and the trade unions are expected to form an alliance to support Senora Peron and the constitution. But hammering on the walls of this precarious edifice will be the guerilla organisations, particularly the People's Revolutionary Army which now claims it can take on the Argentine army in open combat (although it has yet to prove this), and the leftwing Peronist Montoneros—who will undoubtedly evoke Peron's name, and their revolutionary image of him, to attack his wife."

How the situation in the Argentine will resolve itself in the immediate future is hard to say, but it is safe to predict that the country is faced with a period of serious unrest before a ruling party or group can emerge.

AT THE NORTHERN TIP of the Americas lies the island of Iceland. The general elections held on Sunday, June 30, produced a dead heat. The Prime Minister, Olafur Johannesson, leader of the ruling centre-left coalition which had won only 30 of the sixty seats, had tendered his resignation. Whether the ruling coalition can form and sustain a government

with the support of some Independent is yet to be seen, but such a further extension of the coalition seems to be most problematic.

According to *The Economist*, 6/7/74, a "majority of Icelanders may be said to have voted against the expulsion of the Americans from their air base at Keflavik. The Communist People's Alliance, which had been the most eager of the coalition partners to get the Americans out, increased its seats from 10 to 11, but its Liberal-Left allies lost three of their five seats, and Mr. Johannesson's own Progressives, who held on to their 17 seats, have since acknowledged that the (conservative) Independence Party won its increased backing because it had campaigned strongly against the Government's plans to evict the Americans from the base. So the Americans now look like being able to continue their essential surveillance from Iceland of Soviet missile submarines and aircraft in to the Atlantic. On this matter, at any rate, the election result is a setback for the Russians...."

The Economist also went on to confirm: "that Iceland will soon extend its fishing limits to 200 miles instead of the 50 miles that produced such a fracas with Britain when applied in 1972. The Independence party leader, Mr. Geir Hallgrimsson, promised during the campaign that if he came to power he would extend the limit before the end of the year. The Icelanders expect that a resolution in favour of a 200-mile "economic zone" will emerge from the United Nations conference on the law of the sea in that began on June 20th Caracas, and they hope this will open the way for fresh negotiations with Britain and other north European fishing nations."

The Economist had further explained that "The fisheries are the unstable main source of the Icelanders, remarkably high standard of living. The fluctuations in fish stocks, catches and prices keep them on a switchback course from boom to depression, from one devaluation to another. A drop in fish prices has been one main cause of the current economic crisis, which split the Johannesson coalition in May and precipitated the election, but this time the crisis was compounded by a

155 per cent rise in the cost of imported Soviet oil and by an import-spending spree.

"The restrictions on wages, prices and credit introduced by Mr. Johannesson in May were only a first instalment of the action that is needed to save the country from rapidly accelerating inflation. The crisis this time goes so deep that a lot of Icelanders hope that Mr. Johannesson and Mr. Hallgrimsson can break with tradition and form a grand coalition between Iceland's two biggest parties, which would be strong enough to get some unpalatable but urgently necessary corrective measures through parliament. If inflation does bring a national coalition to Iceland, this will have been an election that will interest a lot of other people."

"The other people" meant the NATO and the Americans. As long as the Atlantic community had a base to enable NATO to keep a watchful eye on the Russians little Iceland would be entitled to many concessions from the West.

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July 14—July 20

A DIARY OF EVENTS IN SRI LANKA AND THE WORLD
 COMPILED FROM ENGLISH-LANGUAGE DAILIES
 PUBLISHED IN COLOMBO.

SUNDAY, JULY 14: According to the Sunday Observer, the publisher of the U.N.P. journal *Siyarata*, B. F. Perera, made a public announcement yesterday that he was fed up with the U.N.P. as it had nothing to offer the people and that he was leaving the U.N.P. and was supporting the policies of the United Front Government: he is said to have made this statement at a meeting held in the Kotte electorate at which Mr. Stanley Tillekeratne, Speaker of the National State Assembly, presided. The President, Mr. William Gopallawa, granted a remission of the balance period of six months simple imprisonment imposed on Mr. Fredrick Lionel David de Silva, Deputy Editor of the *Ceylon Daily News* for contempt of the Criminal Justice Commission (Exchange Frauds) upon an appeal made by him: he was released yesterday. Mr. Anura Bandaranaike, Chief Organiser of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party Youth League, is scheduled to return home today after his week-long visit to Pakistan. According to the *Sunday Times* a scheme under which a representative Auditor General would be stationed in Europe to examine and report on the accounts of all Sri Lanka diplomatic centres in Europe and America has been suggested to the Auditor General by Mr. Tissa Wijeyaratne, Additional Secretary to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike, at a meeting at Nittambuwa yesterday said that the Government had realised that by allowing the farmers—backbone of the country's economy—to take a hand in the administration of the country, its economic progress could be expedited. Mr. T. B. Illangaratne, Minister of Foreign and Internal Trade, at a United Front rally held at Moratuwa yesterday said that the Government was happy that the UNP leaders had now realised their folly and were ready to hold meetings to explain to the people their policies as against those of the UF Government: he also said that the Government had not deprived the UNP of the right to hold peaceful public meetings but that did not mean that the Government could allow them to perform Satyagraha and conduct civil disobedience campaign to disrupt the peace. President Nixon's former aide, John E. Richman, was found guilty of authorising an illegal burglary by a team of White House plumbers.

MONDAY, JULY 15: According to the *Daily Mirror* an increased quantum of foreign exchange under the convertible Rupee Account to industrialists for the import of raw materials and vital spares to feed their industries, may be allowed shortly: at present industrialists who export non-traditional goods are given 3 per cent of their total earnings as C. R. A. Mr. Stanley Tillekeratne, Speaker of the National State Assembly announced over the weekend that he had decided to break away with the parliamentary convention that

the Speaker should steer clear of party politics: this, Mr. Tillekeratne said was to change the old traditions of his office to suit the new constitution. According to the *Daily News* radical changes in the system of selection of undergraduates for the university, and students for the secondary institutes and middle level employment will be effected soon following the recommendations of the high-powered committee of educationists, chaired by the Secretary to the Ministry of Education, Dr. Premadasa Udagama. Dr. Darrel Weinman, the well-known neuro surgeon emigrates to Australia today: Dr. Weinman has stated his willingness to visit Sri Lanka for two months every year and offer his free services to the country. According to the *Daily News*, Mr. Felix Dias Bandaranaike, Minister of Public Administration, Local Government, Home Affairs and Justice, will visit Kuwait early next month. Impeachment pressure on President Nixon has been strengthened with the Senate Watergate Committee's publication of a 2,216 page report on its investigations of the Watergate scandals: the report contains sweeping recommendations for reform and tightening of laws relating to federal elections and seeks to curb the power of the *White House* to set up investigative units such as the plumbers. A 53-year old engineer Colonel Vasco Dos Santos Goncalves has been named as the new Prime Minister of Portugal by the President Antonio De Spínola. China accused India of concocting a constitution as a pretext to annexing the Himalayan Kingdom of Sikkim: China said that the Soviet Union is aiding India in this move.

TUESDAY, JULY 16: Jaffna College, the leading educational institution in the Northern Province, is to be taken over for the proposed university campus in the North: according to the *Daily News* two ministers have been assigned by the Government to negotiate with the Jaffna College authorities the details of the take-over of the school's premises for the campus: the two Ministers are Dr. Badiuddin Mahmud, Minister of Education and Mr. Pieter Keuneman, Minister of Housing and Construction. According to the *Daily News*, the Minister of Foreign and Internal Trade, Mr. T. B. Illangaratne, has asked the Government to set up a special police unit to deal with allegations of malpractice in co-operatives, food stores and other departments in his ministry. According to the *Daily Mirror*, top level talks in connection with expanding trade with the Maldives will be held when the Prime Minister of the Republic of Maldives, Mr. Ahmed Zaki, and an official entourage arrives in Colombo next month on a state visit. A Colombo hotelier, Mr. Mohamed Farook Saly, pleaded not guilty to 27 charges framed against him before the Criminal Justice Commission (Exchange Frauds) yesterday in the fifth case before the Commission: the first suspect is Mr. Farook Saly's brother, Mr. Mohamed Razeen Saly, who was not present yesterday. According to the *Daily News*, Government Departments and State Corporations now spend Rs. 111/2 million every year on rent for private buildings that they occupy. The ruling D.M.K. of Tamil Nadu on Sunday held public meetings at over 40 places to protest against concession of sovereignty over Kachchativu to Sri Lanka under the recent agreement between the two countries. President Makarios was reported dead yesterday as the Greek officered National Guard staged a coup and seized power in Cyprus: the

British High Commission in Nicosia reported that fighting was going on in the Cypriot capital and that the Presidential palace in the capital had been attacked and had fallen: a radio station identifying itself as the Voice of Free Cyprus and claiming to be broadcasting from Paphos said that Archbishop Makarios was alive: Cypriot publisher Nicholas Sampson was sworn in as the new President of Cyprus. President Nixon in a letter to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee said that his Secretary of State, Dr. Henry Kissinger, was not responsible for the wiretapping of reporters and officials between 1969 and 1971. The House of Representatives Judiciary Committee goes into public session this week to debate whether it should recommend the impeachment of President Nixon over Watergate and related scandals.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 17: According to the *Daily News*, the Department of Inland Revenue registered a record collection in the first six months of this year: it exceeded the estimated tax collections by Rs. 11.98 million: 301 large scale tax evaders were nabbed and Rs. 34.1 million undisclosed income smoked out. According to the *Daily Mirror*, the Sri Lanka Medical Association has requested the Minister of Health to postpone the Kataragama festival in view of the cholera outbreak: the Health Ministry yesterday again warned the public against visiting Kataragama and Madhu during the festival season due to the prevalence of cholera in these two areas. According to the *Daily News*, the West German Government has agreed to grant Sri Lanka commodity assistance in the form of fertiliser provided it can find this commodity at reasonable prices. The Minister of Foreign and Internal Trade, Mr. T. B. Ilangaratne, has called for maximum punishment under Emergency Regulations on bakers who continue to violate the order that wheat flour should not be used to bake anything other than bread. The Government Clerical Service Union in its 53rd annual report to be tabled at the delegates conference states that state corporations are rife with corruption, irregularities, waste, maladministration etc; mainly due to the fact that a reactionary bureaucratic element has effectively infiltrated or crept into these institutions by dubious means. Deposed Cyprus President Makarios yesterday issued an emotional appeal to his followers to rally round his leadership and fight back against the forces which ousted him in Monday's coup: the deposed President proclaimed to the Cyprus people that he lives and fights at the ramparts of the struggle, against Greek military dictatorship: the United Nations Security Council was scheduled to meet yesterday to consider the situation developing in Cyprus: the Soviet Union accused the Greek Government of gross interference in the Internal affairs of Cyprus and warned of grave responsibility for the consequences Congressional impeachment investigators said former White House aide Charles Colson testified that John Elrichman told him President Nixon approved in advance of the Ellsberg operation.

THURSDAY, JULY 18: The member of Parliament for Padiruppu, Mr. S. Thambirajah, has resigned from the United National Party and has written to the Prime Minister seeking membership in the Sri Lanka Party: Mr. Thambirajah is the Second Eastern Province M.P. to resign from the United National Party in the last two weeks: the other was Mr. M. M.

Mustapha, M.P. for Nintavur. According to the *Daily News*, the Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike, will officially announce the recent agreement with India at a special session of the National State Assembly on August 23. At a high powered conference held yesterday presided by the Prime Minister with senior Cabinet Ministers in attendance, representatives of the Joint Council of Trade Union Organisations received a sympathetic ear to the problems of their membership and were assured almost immediate relief: at the conference it was decided to set up a national pension scheme and a regular age and work structure for estate labour. According to the *Daily News* Sri Lanka teas are fetching good prices in the world market: earnings from tea in the first half of this year have been Rs. 137 million more than in the same six months last year. Twenty six cases of cholera were reported yesterday and three of them were fatal according to the Ministry of Health. According to the *Daily Mirror* the authorities are investigating yet another multi million rupee racket in foreign exchange. Deposed Cyprus President Archbishop Makarios flew to Britain yesterday and within three hours of his arrival met Prime Minister Harold Wilson and had one hour's discussion with him: two British warships in the Mediterranean, the commando carrier *Hermes* and the guided missile destroyer *Devonshire* were yesterday believed heading towards Cyprus after a sudden change in their movement plans: Egyptian President Anwar Sadat sent a message to Makarios extending the country's solidarity with the Cypriot people. An outraged President Nixon has called Watergate the thinnest scandal in American history, and suggested that liberals, especially newsmen, are trying to frame him for crimes he did not commit: in an interview with one of his ardent supporters the President made the above remarks which was released to the press yesterday.

FRIDAY, JULY 19: Mr. M. M. Mustapha, M.P. for Nintavur and Mr. S. Thambirajah, M.P. for Padiruppu, yesterday made lengthy speeches in the National State Assembly in which they explained as to why they crossed over to the Sri Lanka Freedom Party from the United National Party: Mr. Mustapha said that it will not be long when more MPs would follow him. According to the *Daily News*, North Korea had agreed to the immediate repayment in hard cash of about Rs. 5.5 million due to Sri Lanka under a previous trade agreement: this follows discussions Trade Ministry officials had with the North Korean trade mission led by Deputy Minister of Trade, Mr. Lok Jin Kim. Mr. T. B. Ilangaratne, Minister of Foreign and Internal Trade, yesterday received a gift of 100 tractors worth Rs. 2 million from China. According to the *Daily Mirror*, the National Certificate of General Education examination which will be held for the first time in 1975 was suitable for the purpose of general education but appeared to have many weaknesses as a basis for selection for higher education: the paper had made the above comment on the report submitted to the Minister of Education, Dr. Al Haj Badiuddin Mahmud, by the sectoral committee on Social Overheads, Mass Media and Transport, which examined the proposals forwarded by the Education Minister, regarding the scheme of regulations for the NCGE. The Minister of Finance Dr. N. M. Perera, told the National State Assembly yesterday that the monetary Law would be amended

to prevent commercial banks from opening any more branches. According to the *Daily Mirror*, the LSSP and the Communist Party have agreed that there should be unanimity reached in the election of office-bearers to the Government Clerical Service Union at the annual conference of the Union to be held today: in pursuance of this, the C. P. has withdrawn the candidates put forward to contest the key posts. Turkey pressed on with preparations for possible military intervention in Cyprus as international moves continued to prevent an armed conflict between Greece and Turkey; the Soviet Government called for the removal from Cyprus of all Greek military personnel. Congressional lawyers, after an intensive six months inquiry, are ready to recommend that President Nixon be impeached for his role in the Watergate affairs.

SATURDAY JULY 20: According to the *Daily News*, a top level probe of mass media will begin shortly: the Government has asked the National Planning Council's sectoral committee on social overheads, mass media, housing and transport to undertake a comprehensive review of the work of mass media in Sri Lanka and recommend such changes and improvements as it considers necessary. According to the *Daily Mirror*, the police have blown the lid off a massive racket in tea meant for export to the tune of Rs. 500,000 a month: a leading state organisation that handles the export of tea had found over the last several months, that there was a shortage amounting to almost hundred

pounds of tea per lorry load per day. According to the *Daily News*, Mr. A. Thiagarajah, Tamil Congress M.P. for Vaddukoddai has joined the Sri Lanka Freedom Party: According to the *Daily Mirror*, the M.P. for Vaddukoddai, Mr. A. Thiagarajah, and the M.P. for Nallur, Mr. C. Arulampalam have sought membership of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party: the two MPs and the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications Mr. C. Kumarasuriar are expected to visit Jaffna today and a rousing welcome has been organised for them by their voters. Dr. K. Kailasapathy, former editor of the Tamil daily *Thinakaran* and senior lecturer and head of the Department of Tamil and Hindu Studies of the Vidyarlankara Campus has been appointed President of the Jaffna Campus of the University of Sri Lanka. Turkish assault landing craft headed in the general direction of Cyprus yesterday in the midst of diplomatic activity to avert Turkish intervention on the island over 1000 left wing and pro-Makarios politicians were arrested in Cyprus by Greek Cypriot troops. President Nixon, furious, at leaks to the Press of sensitive information in 1971, ordered lie detector tests on 400 or 500 government officials "to scare the bastards", according to a new transcript released by congressional impeachment investigators. About 70,000 people have been left homeless and a further 700,000 affected by floods in Assamin north eastern India. Egypt and Jordan agreed that the Palestine Liberation organisation (PLO) should attend the Geneva middle East peace conference at the appropriate stage as an independent body.

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A TRIBUTE

CHARLES RICHARD ARNDT

— Retd. Dy. Inspector General of Police —

by

R. C. Thavarajah

Superintendent of Police, Vavuniya Division.

"The evil that men do lives after them, The Good"—there's the snag—for, sometimes the good is interred EVEN before a man's death. C. R. ARNDT, who at the early age of fifty, retired from the Police Service as Deputy Inspector-General of Police, three years ago may have been officially a forgotten factor, but, to those of us who knew him well, the rude shock of his passing away was so agonising that we were able to understand DEATH for the first time when he put his cruel and unrelenting hand upon one whom we love.

Thirty-two years ago, Ratnapura, the City of gems had another gem of "purest ray serene" added to its galaxy when the slim, athletic and debonair Probationary Assistant Superintendent of Police was posted fresh from the Training school. His sharp intelligence and perspicacity enabled him to acquire an efficiency and maturity superior even to the seasoned and experienced Policemen. I recollect vividly with what perfection and devotion to duty he organised rescue operations during the great flood disaster in 1942 which took a heavy toll of human life. Athletic prowess to some may have meant the winning of medals, but, to the true sportsman and Policeman that he was, saving the lives of those in distress was a responsibility which he discharged with such distinction. Shunning cheap publicity and self applause, he made a succinct report to his superintendent commending the good work done by his subordinates omitting the part played by him risking his own life.

"MODESTY" according to Goldsmith "seldom resides in a breast that is not enriched with noble virtues."

OFFICER AND GENTLEMAN. "Elegance comes of no breeding but of BIRTH" said Emerson. Born Gentleman that he was, he always displayed that rare quality of inspiring the affection and devotion of his subordinates. The misleading rough exterior concealed a heart of gold. Quick to discover a fault but his final decisions did not

savour of sadistic severity. The force of Administrative justice, he always maintained, was meant to serve as a deterrent—not calculated for a man's ruin. I have often marvelled at the wisdom of his decisions which were quick but yet characterised by sober judgement. No subordinate had his self-respect injured because the leader 'par excellence' did not inflict his official position on those who had no power to retaliate.

Being cast of a unique mould of independent thinking, he detested the obsequious fawning stooge in any walk of life. As Superintendent of Police in Charge of Northern Province, for five years he discharged his functions without fear or favour. At the height of a certain campaign by a Political party, he silenced an interfering busy body with the terse remark "You do your job. I'll do mine."

RICHARD—indubitably of the genre of Richard, the Lion Heart is no more. The members of his Club who awarded him the most deserved honour of Presidentship will miss his infallible advice and genial company. His friends will remember his charming simplicity, sincerity and truth—"the trait of true and noble MANHOOD". The members of his family will cherish the memory of a firm but kind and considerate father, a devoted husband who always appreciated that a good wife was "Heaven's last best gift to Man", a man who held his head high in spite of the vicissitudes of life and a true Christian who lived a clean life unmarried by hatred or bitterness whose

pilgrim soul treated Death as only "a wing to bear a good man to Heaven".

His vigorous self and the brave swimmer that he was, longed for the sea for relaxation. He realised the futility of swimming against the current but, at the same time, spurned the servility of floating with the tide with the fetid "flotsam and jetsam", of opportunists. He detested the mush of sentimentality and I am certain that he would not like lamentations or mournful chants. It was Plutarch who said "for in ceasing to be numbered with the mortals, he enters upon the heritage of a DIVINER life". He would have wished us to muse with the Poet who wrote:-

*"Sun-set and Evening Star,
And one clear Call for me;
Let there be no mourning at the bar
when I Put out to sea".*

ALAS!

Church, too, faces brain drain

The brain drain from Sri Lanka has hit the Catholic's Church too. The Messenger official organ of the church, states in its latest issue, that there has been a migration of some of the best Catholic priests, brainwise, from our island. "Most of them got free education in Sri Lanka. They were trained with the help of the money donated by the poor Catholic laymen", states the Messenger.

The paper analyses the reasons for this exodus and asks: Did they leave because of personal misunderstandings with their superiors? Or is it because their superiors did not understand these enthusiasts who were in the mission field toiling day in and day out to spread the Kingdom of God? Or is it because of their disagreements—as one of them put it "with satellites who really run the show rendezvousing around our superiors?" The newspaper then asks! "Or are they dissatisfied with themselves and their vocation? Is it the corrosion inside them due to an inordinate craving for money, luxury and affluence? If so, were they not trained in the seminaries for a life sacrifice, mortification and poverty?" It also mentions the fact that some priests have left the country "in order to leave the priesthood."

THE NEW EXAMINATION SCHEME-I

The National Certificate of General Education

— N. C. G. E. —

A NOTE FROM THE FEDERATION

To

All Educationists, Heads of Schools and Educational Institutes, Parents, Teachers and all those who are interested in Education in this Country.

Herewith we forward a copy of a memorandum submitted to Dr. Al Haj Badiuddin Mahmud, the Minister of Education and to Dr. Premadasa Udagama, the Secretary to the Ministry of Education.

We invite all those interested in Education in this country to read the memorandum very carefully and to let us know of any other shortcomings of the New Scheme, to be placed before the Minister and the Secretary.

We will also gratefully welcome any suggestions in regard to the Changes that should be introduced in order to make the system of education and the scheme of examinations more socialist and more oriented towards the national, cultural and economic development of the country.

General Secretary.
All-Ceylon Educational Federation.
215 G 5/2,
Park Road, Colombo 5.

Dear Sir,

As you are aware, in 1975 a new examination termed the National Certificate of General Education (N.C.G.E.) is scheduled to replace the General Certificate of Education/Ordinary Level (G.C.E./O.L.) Examination currently in effect the Republic of Sri Lanka. Judging on the basis of usually reliable Government Press releases on this subject, the change clearly threatens to be considerably more than merely one of terminology since the hastily formulated new scheme contains several obvious, fundamental flaws which could very well precipitate a massive educational crisis in this country if this plan is not stayed forthwith and modified.

We believe it is time for you to take a decisive action in this direction if this impending crisis is to be averted. Extensive structural change in any system requires that the designers of such change reveal their blueprints to public scrutiny prior to execution, and in regrettable violation of this principle the syllabuses of the new examination has not yet been released for publication and mass distribution, thereby conveniently avoiding intelligent social criticism so essential at the inception of major governmental innovations and projects which will mould our national future.

WE ENUMERATE below the most glaring defects in the New Examination Scheme for your kind perusal:

- I. venturing to tutor pupils in an unprecedented encyclopaedic array of subjects in an inadequate period of time.
- II. proposing to examine successfully this vast expanse of knowledge on the basis of only 10 question Papers.

III. introducing a random selection of widely varied pre-vocational subjects without the necessarily meticulous preparation of syllabi or curricula.

IV. discriminating against high school drop-outs and late developers, making it impossible for them to continue their interrupted education from where they left off, as they are able to do now.

V. pointlessly lowering the much-vaunted standard of education in the Republic of Sri Lanka.

VI. introducing the scheme in piecemeal fashion without revealing the exact nature of the sweeping changes in their entirety (and thereby evading the responsible, professional and lay critical debate so necessary at the inception of any large institutional creation) blithely ignoring standard procedure well established in the recent past.

VII. the shutting-out of private candidates.

VIII. the practicable delay in getting the textbooks for the new scheme written, printed and distributed by 1st January 1975.

(All these 8 points have been elaborately dealt with in Appendix I of our Memorandum).

In short the New Examination Scheme is—

(a) Anti-socialist in that it debars late developers; adults and others from continuing their interrupted education.

it is (b) Anti-national in that it lowers the quality and standard of education in the whole country.

it is (c) Anti-educational in that its syllabuses have not been planned according to accepted principles of educational psychology.

it is (d) Anti-democratic in that it is being introduced without inviting critical debate and dialogue among those who are in a position to offer advice and counsel.

HAVING SUBJECTED the N.C.G.E. scheme to a detailed analysis, we believe that as a remedial measure, the new examination scheme could only serve to exacerbate the existing educational problems, and we write this report to convey to you our sober appraisal of the hypothetically disastrous aftermath of the scheme if these projected radical changes are implemented.

In the appendices attached, we have searchingly examined the new examination scheme for the flaws with which it is riddled, and are certain that even the most cursory of these unprejudiced criticisms would convince you of the predictably chaotic results the scheme

will produce. We have long supported the view that the Colonial system of education which we inherited from our imperial masters urgently needs to be remedied along more progressive lines to meet the demands of our economy.

However, the N.C.G.E. scheme ominously promises to be a Pandora's Box full of catastrophic side-effects which, if unleashed, would devastate our entire society, and as such it can hardly be anticipated as a suitable replacement for the old system.

IN VIEW of the grave shortcomings of the proposed New Examination Scheme, we earnestly appeal to you to—

- I. immediately scrap the N.C.G.E. Examination Scheme and
- II. continue with the present G.C.E Examination, and
- III. appoint a fully representative Commission comprising of educationists, scholars, and others concerned with education along with a representative of this Federation to fully investigate the question of creating a better examination scheme which shall
 - (a) be more job-oriented.
 - (b) prevent over-specialization.
 - (c) enable drop-outs and late developers to continue their interrupted education unhampered.
 - (d) maintain the present high standard of knowledge at this level so that there will be no lowering of educational standards in the higher grades either.
 - (e) enable those who cannot reach the required standard in 2 years in schools to sit for the examination at a latter date as private candidates, and
 - (f) enable those who desire to qualify in individual subjects like English Language, Sinhalese, Shorthand and/or Typewriting etc. to sit for these subjects at their convenience.

WE FORSEE no difficulty in staying the new scheme at Grade 8 level since this can easily be done at the end of this year so that students presently in Grade 8 could start work on the 2 year present G.C.E./O.L. syllabus in January 1975. We respectfully suggest that the

G.C.E./O.L. Examination be ministerially sanctioned to continue uninterrupted as before until a viable alternative educational scheme is formulated by public consensus after an appropriate period of gestation.

Those pre-vocational subjects which could be taught on an island-wide basis without geographical bias (for the teaching of which there already exists experienced staff and teaching facilities) may be allowed to continue to be taught even upto the Grade 9 and 10 level. However, no pre-vocational subjects should be made G.C.E./O.L. (or any other) Examination subjects until a thoroughly researched theoretical and practical syllabus has been carefully formulated for each individual pre-vocational subject.

A careful perusal of our memorandum (Appendices I & II) will confine you beyond any doubt of the urgent need for your personal intervention in order to prevent a major catastrophe in the field of education in Sri Lanka.

(To be Continued)

PROLIFERATION!

Boom in demand for Nuclear Power Units

The rise in crude oil prices has led to an increase of orders for nuclear power plants in almost all major industrial countries.

* *

according to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The IAEA Director-General has said that France, for instance, is expected to order 13 new nuclear plants in the next two years compared with eight that that country had planned before the energy crisis. In a report to the U.N. Economic and Social Council's 57th session to be held in Geneva this week, he said that the situation for the developing countries has been changed "even more radically." The number of developing countries for which nuclear power is a practical economic prospect has increased very substantially, he said.

Because of the expected growth in nuclear power plants, the search for uranium be stepped up to avoid shortage in the next decade, the IAEA Chief has warned. Meanwhile the IAEA is making preparations for the 1975 conference in Geneva to review the working of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The IAEA is establishing three high-level groups to draw up an energy programme for the next few years to, prepare international standards for sitting and safe operation of nuclear plants and to study problems of dealing with nuclear wastes.

A POST SCRIPT

(The withdrawal of Recognition of the M.B.B.S.)

The British Medical Council has just announced its withdrawal of recognition of the M.B.B.S. degree of the University of Sri Lanka. In this case what should worry us is not the question of recognition as such for, in a way, it should help reduce the "brain drain" from our country.

What should worry us is whether there has actually been a decline in the quality and standard of education at the Medical College. If this has happened immediate remedial measures are called for as to restore the quality and standard of education at this premier seat of Medical Studies in Sri Lanka.

What this Federation fears most, however, is that with the introduction of the New Examination Scheme a decline in the standards of education in the whole country at all levels will set in and the withdrawal of recognition of our G.C.E. is inevitable for, no educational authority will recognize a Grade 9 Examination (N.C.G.E.) as being equivalent to the present G.C.E./O.L. which is recognized all over the world as a basic qualification for all higher courses of studies in any country.

— From the Memorandum of All-Ceylon Educational Federation.

Inania of this, that and
the other

STRAHM. DON'T STRUM

by INNA

A GUITAR-STRUMMING, tune-humming group of youngmen and women with full-throated sentiments of song invited me in three places now to tell something to youth. Well and good. But let's get beyond the meaning of strumming and creating harmony and the mellow melody. It is a long-lost nostalgia now stirring within many people. World harmony has been lost by selfishness. So, my young men and young women of church-choir and youth club, of YFC and what-have-you, don't turn your back to the Bible. Nor even delve deep into it to find out which comma has been inspired and why only one pair of mosquitoes was taken in by neighbour Noah.

Instead read Rudolf Strahm and I'll give you some facts from his book: "Industrialized countries and underdeveloped countries" (French, Baconniere 1973):

Inequalities

Whites: 19% of population have 73% national revenue;

Blacks: 68% of population have 19% of national revenue; (S. Africa), p. 35 UNO.

Brazil: 6% of owners have 94% of land

.96% of owners in Venezuela have 74.5% of land (Griffin Camara) p. 33.

In industrialised countries, 10 men have ten loaves;

In underdeveloped countries, 20 men have five loaves. (Deutscher Wish) p. 21.

World revenue: Industrialised countries (Europe, USSR, USA, Japan, Australia): have 34% of world population. They use 7/8 of world revenue.

Underdeveloped countries (Latin America, Africa, Asia) with 66% of world population use only 1/8 of world revenue.

RECENTLY a naive pensioner interested in a general global way in people (but not enough to commit purse and property to the cause!) said: "the only solution to Sri Lanka's problems is to shed laziness and go down and dig, if

not your own, then somebody else's garden". Not for him even a look at the vicious circle of poverty.

unemployment produces poverty; poverty produces weak purchasing power, w.p.p. produces insufficient food, undernourishment produces unemployment as O. Matzke has shown in FAO studies. (Strahm, p. 67)

The Indian school of Political Economy once produced a chart: India 1960—1968 (Dandekar/Raht; Strahm 55) which showed that in 1960, consumption of goods was a 100%, and it had arisen to 104.5% amidst the 40% of this richest, while at the same time, among the 10% poorest, it had gone down from 100 to 84% in eight years.

WHAT'S THE USE of charts, maps, diagrams, you'd ask me. Quite simple, my dear Watson, elementary. When you leave aside the strumming, take them up and put them on display to galvanise opinion and awareness for the cause of socialization. You'll be on the road to producing greater harmony.

Youth and poetry go together. Listen then to the poet-dramatist of all time: "If music be the food of love, play on. Give me excess of it..."

Is your love so strong that you can take in all men, the lame, the blind, the deaf, the dumb, the down-and-out, the racial minorities, the

estate workers, the atheists, the unbelievers, everyone, and work very hard to prevent any more trouble for them, not merely to cure their ills by hand-outs? If so, play on and on. I don't mind it at all.

Strum away.

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SHAMBA

Wandering in the Rural Countryside

by Anatory Bukoba

July 5,

Non-plussed am I as to what I should write. There was some encroachment some time back, readers will remember. Passing along the road by the culvert which forms the corner of the land, which was handed over to me for cultivation, I could hear what turned out to be marmoties being used, and presently I could see the people themselves. They were on the encroached land all right. So I went along to see them, and I used their own foot path. These two encroachers are brothers, and friends of mine. I remarked on what they were doing. They said they were getting the land ready for another spell of cultivation. I said it was my land, and I meant by that land given over to me for my use, and I said that they could look after it for me and be sure not to extend it; and that I would claim nothing on the crops they grew. They accepted that the land was mine to use. In saying what I did I was following a precedent in tact set me by the Roman Catholic Chaplain at Oxford in my time, when I met him in Christchurch Meadows I think it was. He was Mgr. Valentine Elwes, a christchurch man himself. He asked me what I was going to do. I told him I intended to cross by the ferry. He politely put me wise to my position by promptly giving me permission to use it, which I did not know I needed, belonging as I did to another college and the ferry to the house. The ferry was attached to a circular rope, and you pulled yourself across on it. In just the same way you could send the ferry back to where it was, while remaining on land this time.

Just done a six-hour journey, have I by bus, or rather two buses, and it took me three hours to catch the first bus. So I have been nine hours on the road altogether. If I remember my past experiences correctly, when the bus service

gets as bad as this, there is a general election on line, or in view, but why, I am still not clear. I must watch the development, if there is a connection, more closely this time.

July 8,

Different felt I coming back to the Shamba today, light-hearted, almost gay, did I feel. Weighed down with packages almost three times as much as usual, was I. There was another *mulla* or bag to add to the one, heavy, that I always carry on my shoulder. I had a basket. With all these three I was lucky to get a seat. The bus was terribly crowded, more than usual. Arrived here, did I, in good time, at a good hour. The family was in, a light in the house heralded that fact. The rain came down just as I got here. The family was ready for bed, in bed, in fact; but I was treated to *roti*, which had to be cooked, and tea. We have a new mat, the family's. We have also a china plate, our first, I think, and a glass, a tumbler, all the family's.

As I got off the bus, a young friend of mine was all ready with a letter, to post it. It was halfpast eight. The mail bus had not yet come. It was nearly two hours late, and ones was not the mail.

Friends from the village were on the bus. The mother of one of them is very ill. She had an operation and is still not out of danger. They had been to see her. The operation was not altogether successful, it was that kind of disease. I thought of Madhu' but I remembered that relief can be effected here without going to Madhu. As I started writing the last sentences, I remembered the statue at Madhu used to be called Our Lady of Good Health, as I learnt yesterday; one of Mary's lesser known titles, although that is precisely what she seems to be doing all the time at Lourdes, Mugana in Africa and so many other places, and through the Lourdes water that has been carried all over the world. It seems to have pulied me through my illness three years ago, thanks to my mother using it liberally; it was that kind of illness, tough and go, and little known about it.

July 9,

Fill these pages I shall have to. Let me say, just of all, that two

of the plantain trees I put in a year ago seem all but dead; perhaps they are dead; certain it is they never grew. That leaves two trees planted by me; bigger ones they are. We may have some farmers here tomorrow, and they might be able to tell me what went wrong. The plantain trees put in by my colleague seem in better shape. My friends, tomorrow, may be able to tell me why the murunga has not grown, when it promised so well.

That fourteen mile walk it was I did today again. I left my pack behind here in the village, but it is a long while since I have been so tired. Swollen ankle had I when, set out, let one stage of the return journey I began to wonder if I would be able to go on using it. After dinner and another walk I feel better now. The paddy fields were in all stages of cultivation. Some fields were being got ready for cultivation always with the aid of buffaloes never tractors. Others looked two weeks off reaping, while still others had tender plants that had not long grown from the germinated seed. Some fields had just been sown, it looked and the various fields of paddy together were in all stages from that to being reaped, in all stages of growth and preparation. There were fields, I think which had only just been reaped. In two miles I saw a real medley of paddy fields.

There was *mana* grass which was at least seven feet tall or more. The flower was a long golden one without petals. I was told that cattle will eat it only when it is young. In a previous article I mentioned that paper is being made out of illuk, our other major wild grass, *Illuk* and *mana* between them clothe many a hill and glae, and they do not mix. In England a farmer can get grass seed for his hayfields made up in any mixture he likes; cloves and a number of other kinds of grass.

There was a place which looked as if it had enough pang or reed to equip a whole army with mats; perhaps I should say a battalion or brigade, so as not to exaggerate.

Although, it is the dry season there were farm with fields of green vegetables, but these farms were not many and they were scattered.

Buffaloes I saw, and cattle to a lesser extent. I cannot remember seeing one tractor in all that fourteen mile walk; nor did I hear the sound of one. I did not see even one of the Landmaster size, a mini-tractor. In retrospect, I am glad I neither saw a tractor or heard one, for I think it is far better that we learn to do without them. My own feeling is that a tractor should be treated as a luxury, not a necessity; like a car, in fact.

As in France in the countryside, I did not see many people. Nearly all I saw were in their fields. The few *boutiques* were almost empty. Right at the end of the evening on my way back, there were a few people in the last *kadday* I passed.

The seven miles I traversed were just a small section or two of a major irrigation schemes. Travelling along main roads or any roads at all, except footpaths, one would have no conception, from what one saw, as to how big these schemes really are. They date back many years.

The major contribution this government has made this country has been to give our farmer a great respect for himself. Our farmers can throw their chest out, like soldiers, and they do. The very inadequacies of the government have given our farmers this respect for themselves.

20th Century Slaveowners

A real slave camp has been discovered in an inaccessible jungle in Madrae de Dios Province in the southeastern part of Peru. The owners of gold mines there lured people with promises of high wages and good living conditions. The police found more than 100 persons in this particular camp, working as gold washers and living in inhuman conditions. These men were deprived of any possibility of getting out of the jungle and had been virtually turned into slaves, while their bosses were making millions. The Police believe that there are other similar Camps in the jungles.

BACKGROUND

BIRTH CONTROL

— from ancient times —

By

Nimal Sarathchandra

THE PROBLEM of a higher birth rate is not peculiar only to Sri Lanka or other developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, but it is a problem viewed, discussed and tackled even by the more developed countries in Europe, United States and the U.S.S.R.

Mr. Crosland, former Secretary of State for Local Government and Regional Planning, in his evidence before the Select Committee on Science & Technology, has said that there are four fields in which concern about the present rate of increase might be justified. He mentions four possibilities—(1) A threat to local supplies, (2) Excessive pressure on resources, (3) Adverse effects on economic growth, and (4) Intolerable pollution. These possibilities hold good in respect of our country too.

We have yet to depend on foreign sources for our food supplies and however much we direct our efforts—skill and resources to the production of rice and other subsidiary foodstuffs, the problem remains the same or becomes more acute unless decisive steps are taken to restrict the birth rate, which is quite alarming when compared with many of the Asian countries.

"Birth control is more difficult than Death Control"—Dr. Malcolm Potts, Medical Director of the International Planned Parenthood Federation, has said at a press conference held at the inauguration of the Birth Control Campaign in U.K.

Lord Snow commenting on the population crisis says, "the main reason for this extraordinary flood of the population is the effect of medical technology. Technology is a queer thing; it brings you great gifts with one hand and stabs you in the back with the other. No one in his human senses wants

the use of medical technology restrained and children allowed to die, but we have to take the results and its consequences."

IN SRI LANKA the death rate, especially the infant mortality rate has remarkably declined during the last few decades much due to the expansion of medical services to the remoter parts of the Island and the well planned Health Education programmes. Unless necessary checks are placed, the problem of population will tend to aggravate and hinder the economic growth of the country.

In our country where the weekly quota of rice is supplied free by the Government and where medical, educational and other welfare amenities are provided free to almost all individuals, the burden which the government has to bear the increase in expenditure annually with the addition of nearly ten lakhs of babies every year.

There are three methods of checking a higher birth rate in any society—abortion, contraception and sterilization. There was a time when moral restraint was advocated as a means of population control.

Coitus Interruptus which is now regarded as a harmful and an unreliable method of preventing pregnancy has been in practice even in Biblical times. This form of birth control is mentioned in the Old Testament (Genesis 38) and reported from anthropologists from many parts of the world.

Sponges and tampons of various kinds placed in the vagina for purpose of contraception are mentioned in the Tosephta, a Hebrew document edited about 230 A.D. Douches with plain water, vinegar and various products were used in the limitation of families.

Condoms were introduced in the 16th. Century more for the purpose of preventing V.D. than of preventing birth. The first condom recommended by an Italian anatomist (Fallopio) was made of linen and condoms made of intestine of sheep and other animals were used during the 18th. Century. This was supposed to have been invented by an Englishman named Cundum.

The skin condoms were gradually replaced by rubber sheaths made possible by the invention of the vulcanization of rubber by Good-year & Hancock in 1840. The vaginal diaphragm which prevents the entry of sperms to the uterus was invented by Wilhelm P. J. Mensinga, a German Physician sometime before 1882.

Various other chemicals, creams, jellies, foams with highly spermicidal action have been used during the last several years.

THE SAFE PERIOD. The rhythm method, one of the oldest forms of contraception was based on the notion that the female cannot conceive during part of the menstrual cycle. The Greek Gynaecologist Soranos 98—130 A.D. recommended abstaining from coitus during the days directly before and after menstruation. The same advice was given by Aetios of Amida in the sixth century and by Capellmann in the year 1883, which is quite opposite of what we interpret as the safe period today.

Other than moral restraint—the Catholic Church currently sanctions the Rhythm Method as a means of preventing conception.

The use of oral contraceptions has been attractive and an easy way of preventing pregnancy. The pioneers in this field was the American Gregory Pincus & John Rock. The oral tablet is also named the 'pink' pill most probably after Pincus.

The IUCD or the Intra Uterine Contraception Device which is now being used in this country, was the furtherance of an idea originated by a German Physician in 1907. R. Rochter recommended the insertion of 2 or 3 strands of silkworm guts in the uterine cavity.

In 1928, Ernest Grafenberg of Berlin mentioned his new experiment with cat gut rolled into rings. The IUCD as used presently are development or modifications of these forms and they take the shape of rings or spirals.

TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY. Abortions or termination of pregnancy though not yet legalised in this country, has been the most effective practical way of controlling births in many countries. In

Japan, where abortion is legalised, there has been more than 1,200,000 abortions annually and this has contributed towards lowering the birth rate considerably.

Sterilization of males and females has been employed successfully in several countries in checking the rising birth rate. In Sri Lanka, females are sterilized soon after the fourth child birth, if the wife and husband consent to do so. However, the sterilization of males should be done on a more wider scale as the sterilization of males does not require much time and post-operative care.

In Kerala one of our neighbouring Indian States the accent is on male sterilization (Vasectomy). A Family Planning Festival was held at Ernakulam. During the festival which lasted for 31 days as much as 62,000 operations were performed on males. The response was due to a well-planned publicity and educational campaign and of course the inducements which made them walk in hundreds to the operating cubicles. Each person operated was given cash and gifts worth Rs. 100/- The gifts included sarees, dhoties or an umbrella or angavastram, three kegs of rice and a plastic bag or bucket. In addition, the Government gave a week's ration worth Rs. 14/- and a ticket for a special lottery which had a first prize of Rs. 100,000/- and 100 other prizes.

The sterilization of males is not done on a wider scale in Sri Lanka due to the dearth of medical personnel trained in this particular field.

The Family Health Bureau of the Ministry of Health and the Family Planning Association is no doubt doing a very useful service in checking the high birth rate, but it requires further planning, co-ordination and implementation of family planning programmes, so that men and women of all classes of the society will willingly co-operate with the government in solving the population problem and unless immediate and effective steps are taken—in checking the rising birth rate, the efforts of the Production War will be nullified by the addition of over ten lakhs of babies each year.

AGRICULTURE

Crop Strategy for Rain-fed Lands

NEARLY THREE-FOURTHS of the cultivated area in the country depends solely on the monsoon rain and any deviation in the normal course of the seasons interferes very much with the growth and harvest of the crops in these lands. While intensive research has been carried out in this direction in a number of centres representative of the different agro-climatic conditions, the impact of these would depend much on the manner in which the findings from these investigations are conveyed to the farmers. Guidelines for such a purposeful communication of information have been drawn up in a special publication brought out by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research on crop production strategy in rain-fed areas under different weather conditions during 1974-75.

The paper has laid stress on utilising the research findings for achieving improvement in crop yields and stabilising them in the face of weather hazards and uncertainties. Detailed plans of action are drawn up for 21 different regions in the country. In these schedules, measures that could ensure the best results from a good normal monsoon are listed and steps needed for an abnormal season are discussed more fully with specific recommendations. In order to fully overcome the vagaries of the monsoon the dry farming system has to be flexible to allow changes that may be dictated by the shifts in the behaviour of the monsoon as the season progresses. This factor has been given special attention in the dry-farming research projects undertaken by agricultural universities and other research centres in the country.

Dry land forms the bulk of the cultivated area and students of agricultural universities must have a working knowledge of dry farming problems. This is sought to be achieved by enlisting the participation of the students in pilot projects.

IS IT TRUE?

Sherlock Holmes

* Our Overseas Service

IS IT NOT TRUE that the more one writes about our Foreign Office the more there is to write? That this is because the Foreign Office in a sovereign and independent Republic, however small in size, is an important institution which connects the country with the world abroad? That apart from our FO being the eyes and ears of Sri Lanka in the world at large it has also the important function of projecting Sri Lanka in international affairs, in trade, in commerce, in culture, in tourism and in every activity which the world community is now involved in? That if one examines very carefully the list of sixty one (61) officers who were appointed to our Overseas Service from 1.10.49 right up to 1.3.70 and classify them according to class, religion, sex, caste, race, language and the like, it would be possible to understand the stratification in our FO? That the five officers who were appointed in 1971 and 1973 and four of the five are now being trained in a special crash programme with two other new recruits? That about them it would not be necessary to say anything just at this stage? But the history of Sri Lanka in the contemporary period can be written in the manner our career Overseas officers were selected at different periods from 1949 to 1970? That the first lot of five officers were appointed in 1.10.49? That two were appointed on 4.1.50? And another on 1.6.50? That a batch of three was recruited as from 7.5.51? That three others were recruited on 1.7.53 and one on 19.10.53? That one officer's appointment dates from 9.6.54?

That the appointments of three, probably selected earlier, were announced on 9.6.56? Four were recruited in 1957, two on 10/6, one on 21/6 and the other on 25/7? That three were recruited in 1958, one on 1/4/58 and two on 9/6/58?

That three were recruited on 15.2.60? That seven officers were recruited in 1961, four on 2/5/61 and three on 1/11/61? That six officers were selected in 1965, all on 2/8/65? That only two were selected in 1967, both on 2/12/67? That two others were recruited on 2/8/68? That the final lot of 11 officers were recruited on 1.3.70 a few weeks before the UNP went out of power? That the number so recruited totalled up to 61? That the appointments have been set out in chronological date of appointment in the list which has been made available to the Press? That the order of sericrity i., the Service is somewhat different in a few cases? That this may be so because some of them, who were already in Government Service, were first seconded and later appointed to the Overseas Service? That this does not make any difference in the classification which would reveal the class character and outlook of the officers concerned? *That this does not mean that it is not possible to effect a radical transformation in the outlook and conduct of the officers? That with adequate training and education these officers could very well have been fashioned to serve the needs of the newly independent nation?*

That what the Tribune has always been gambling about was that these officers were either left to their devices or were encouraged to persist covertly (or even overtly) in the antidiluvian attitudes which they had acquired before and after they had entered service?

IS IT NOT STRANGE that only two of the sixty one are women? That they too belonged to the same class groups as the men who had been selected? That it is necessary to mention that the selection, in the best traditions of British Civil Service, was on weightage given to the viva voce? That the marks

obtained in this oral interview usually determined the final selections? That this was the lever through which selections were manipulated in the old days? That there are similar devices today which enable an Administration and a Government to select persons it wants for particular jobs? That to cover all this jugglery it was made out that selections were made on merit? That this is not to say that qualifying standards were not insisted upon? That minimum standards were basic and these were established through the written examinations? That Confucius was the first to devise the most elaborate system of examinations to choose men to arm the administrative system of the Chinese Emperors and the provincial Governors? That next to Confucius it was the British who devised a system of examination, coupled with a viva voce, to choose administrators for the British Empire? That in Sri Lanka vestiges of this system still prevail—though in the transition through which we are going today political patronage, nepotism and corrupt practices often tend to supercede merit (and merit itself is now illusory having lost the imperatives of the British era?)

That the selections to the Overseas Service fall into four main periods? That the first could well be termed the Vaithianathan period when that faithful servant and friend of Senanayake's UNP and British paramouncy reigned supreme over the Foreign Service? That the traditions he established dominated the selections and conduct of the Overseas Service for well over a decade in spite of changes in Government and Permanent Secretaries? That though Vaithianathan did not preside over the FO for long (he moved into ethereal ministerial regions) his successors, cut out in the same CCs mould, carried on his traditions? That after the Bandaranaike revolution there was an uneasy unbalance until N.Q. Dias became supreme? That there-after selections to the Overseas Service were on a different footing? Though the appointees bore the stamp of NQ Dias, the same old techniques of administration and the same old diehard attitudes continued? That though N. Q. Dias went out of the picture in 1965 the impact of his methodology continued into the UNP period? That even after the UF came to power in 1970 there was no change?