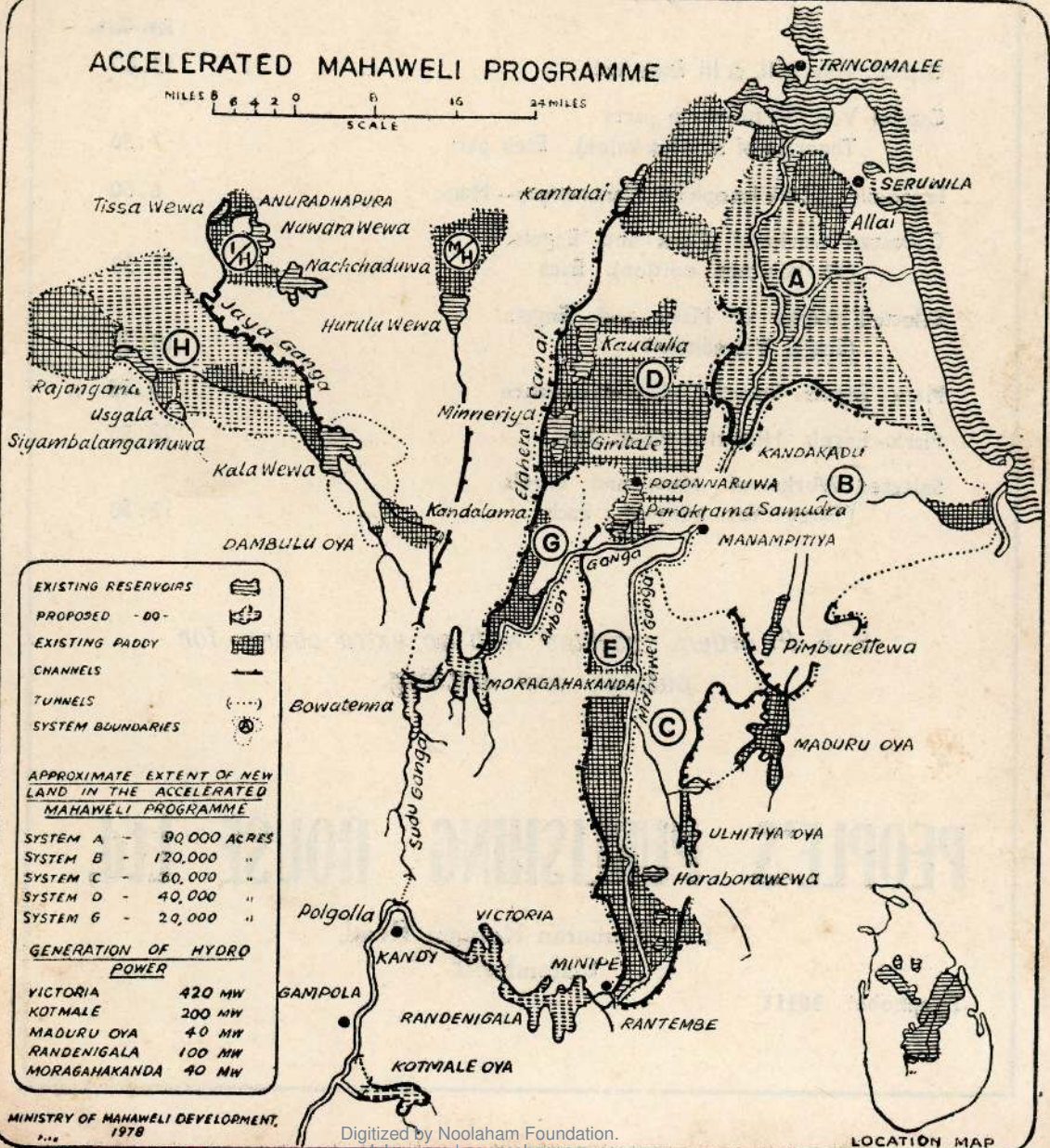


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Letter From The Editor

ON THE COVER we have Mahaweli—a sketch of the Accelerated Mahaweli Plan. We decided to use it to mark the inauguration of the construction of the Victoria Dam on March 23. Victoria is perhaps the biggest of the projects under the Accelerated Plan. *Tribune*, readers will recall, had sharply criticised some aspects of the Accelerated Plan not because we did not know the importance of the Mahaweli Scheme but because we felt that the propaganda barrage that a 30-year plan was to be telescoped into six years was a gimmick that had to be debunked before it boomeranged. There is today no more talk of the six years. And the Accelerated Plan covers only three, four or at the most five major and medium reservoirs and power plants—and not the large number envisaged in the full Mahaweli Scheme. *Tribune* was also concerned about priorities. Knowing that the real benefits of Mahaweli could not be reaped this side of at least twenty to thirty years (as the NEDECO report has now pointed out) we felt that the money available for development should, in the first instance, be utilised to secure and maintain the fullest utilisation of schemes already in existence. It is a notorious fact that major schemes like Gal Oya, Uda Walawe and the like are scandalously under-utilised. This is because of the lack of capital particularly in the case of thousands of allottees who do not possess the working capital to utilise the land fully. If the lands cultivated are fully utilised, this country will not only be self-sufficient in food but will also be in a position to export grains, vegetables, pulses, meat, eggs and fruits. Unfortunately, whilst there was a great ha-ho about the 6-year Mahaweli, agricultural production elsewhere went into reverse gear. Local production must be increased considerably if inflation is to be contained—even in the current context of global inflation. What is important is that we must stabilise domestic prices at reasonable levels and Mahaweli cannot help to do this immediately. But, international capital and foreign aid are not attracted by humdrum programmes to achieve fuller utilisation, but only by impressive and massive construction projects for which multinational manufacturers can supply equipment and engineering firms get contracts. Today, for better or worse, this country stands committed to the Accelerated Mahaweli Plan. We have to raise one-third of the money from local resources and for this we have to tighten our belts by foregoing all subsidies. A duty is therefore cast upon each one of us to see that the Accelerated Mahaweli Scheme is implemented as expeditiously as possible with the minimum of waste and corruption. Fortunately, we have a young dynamic Minister, Gamini Dissanayake, in charge of the work who is anxious to do things and has shown a capacity to get things done. He has also grown out of his early impetuosity and polemical irritability and he deserves the fullest support in his determination to build what he calls a new Mahaweli Civilisation.

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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

ONLY QUESTIONS—

● *Times* Comedy?

● Milk & Water

I. WILL IT NOT BE CORRECT to describe some recent happenings in the *Times of Ceylon* (TOC) as the biggest joke of the year? That some call it the biggest tragic-comedy of the decade and one that will taint the image of any government, however dharmista, in no uncertain way? That it will be useful to recount the facts? That on Friday, March 14, there was an announcement in the *Ceylon Daily Mirror* and *Lankadipa* of some big changes in the TOC? That it was said that a person called Everard G. B. Perera was now the Competent Authority of the TOC? That J. D. Kuruppu had been made General Manager, D. J. Mo'drich, Editor, *Daily Mirror* and K. C. S. Kularatne, Editor, *Lankadipa*? That this announcement also appeared in the *Ceylon Daily News*? That there was shock and consternation in the Fourth Estate in Sri Lanka—for a number of reasons? That it was a matter of complete surprise that Mr. Chandy Wijesekera, the Competent Authority, had presumably been kicked out unceremoniously to be replaced by a Kegalle attorney Everard (Everest) Perera? That Chandy Wijesekera was known to be not only a brilliant management consultant and administrator but he was known to be one of the President's closest aides for many years? That there was also no known reason to through out Felician Fernando and Elmo Gunaratne as Editors of the the CDM and LD? That in addition it is learnt that the services of Rita Sebastian, Editorial Assistant, *Daily Mirror*, too had been terminated? That the common denominator between the three journalists is alleged that they were loyalists of Chandy Wijesekere?

That before going on to examine the tragic aspects of this grand *Times* melodrama, some of the basics must be scrutinised? That Everard (Everest) G. B. Perera is one of the many UNP organisers of the 1977 elections—this one in the Kegalle area? That in the years after the great victory of 1977 Everard (Everest) had not been able to persuade any UNP minister to take him on to a

ministerial bandwagon or as a Chairman of Corporation? That he had then, it is said, laid selge to the palace and as a way out had recently been appointed *Joint Competent Authority* (CA) of the TOC? That the newspaper announcement had made everyone believe that E. G. P. Perera was the sole and only C.A.? That the story thereafter takes a dramatic turn? That within a short time of his being made (Joint) CA he had issued letters sacking Felician Fernando, Elmo Gunaratne and Rita Sebastian? That these letters were sent out either late on Wednesday the 12th or early in the morning of Thursday the 13th—before the newspaper announcements? That the popular belief is that the two TOC editorial consultants—in English and Sinhala—and who have not been consulted on any matter, for a long, long time, were the prime movers in persuading the new joint CA to act in this way? That, as we said, this is the popular belief but we are prepared to publish what others (including the consultants) say about this incident? That if the Consultants say that they had nothing to do with this sordid affair, *Tribune* will publish their version of the story?

That to continue with the story, within 48 hours of the signing of the letters by the "new management" to sack the journalists and appoint a new General Manager (a person with a record that cries to high heavens), there was a reversal of everything done by the new joint CA? That the old CA (presumably on presidential instructions) had written letters to the three journalists asking them to ignore the letters of the new CA and to get back to work as usual? That on their return, however, the new "General Manager" had tried to obtain Police help to eject the three journalists from the building? That the Police wisely chose not to interfere in the matter? That everything returned to normal thereafter—except that the joint CA, Everard Perera, who had been summoned by the President had vanished from the scene? That up to the time of writing (18/2/80) it is not known whether the joint CA (Everest (Everard) Perera) has reported to the Presidential summons

That all's well that ends well. That in this case a number of serious questions arise: (1) What was the need to appoint a *joint CA* and to select a person least qualified to direct

the work of a big newspaper group—especially one who hasn't the faintest notion of the functions of a Joint Competent Authority? (2) What is the need to waste tax-payer's money by appointing Editorial Consultants (one for Sinhala and one for English) How many times and how often have these Consultants been consulted by the respective editorial departments in the last six months? (3) Did the new Joint CA not know that all decisions pertaining to the TOC had to be initiated, debated and formally approved at a Board Meeting? (4) That the castles in the air built by the Joint CA and his collaborators fell like a flimsy pack of cards—at the first touch of reality? (5) Who caused the announcement of the changes in the papers? (6) Whether these incidents can be justifiably described as an attempt at a mini-coup that flopped?

2. IS IT NOT IN THE FITNESS OF THINGS that a reader from Galaha who has good reasons to hide his identity under the pseudonym *Dairyman* has written to the Editor informing him that another case of water in the milk was detected in a National Milk Board (NMB) bowser recently? That, last time, the miscreants, it is known, were pardoned in the hope they would reform? That this time too the milk (and water) were from the Galaha area? That the strangest part, according to our informant, is that the water was put into the bowser before the collected milk was put in? That in the past the water was added after the milk—quarter to half a gallon at a time—at suitable intervals as the bowser filled up? That this time there was a quarter or more tankful of water in the bowser before any milk was put in? That explanations are being trotted out about some leaking water taps but this cannot explain how the milk in another Galaha bowser enroute to Ambawela contained a sizeable percentage of water? *That our reader-informant is anxious to challenge the Editor to a bet that even this time the miscreants will get off scot free?*

That the Editor does not accept bets or place bets? That the days of knightly chivalry are over? That the days are past when Sir Francis Drake and Sir Walter Raleigh served their country and their Queen? That Raleigh used to bend low and even spread his cloak for the Queen? And that in those days there was no milky mess because there were no

taps to overflow (with excuses—and no bowers to overflow into)? But then, the Editor cannot accept this challenge because the reader refuses to make public his name “but though verily he speaketh well about the truth?” That this story of the milky way is being held down tight to prevent leaks? That in this country nothing can be kept a secret for long? That the continued mess in the NMB milky way awaits Minister Thondaman's return from abroad for some decisive action? Will Thondaman continue to drift from one excuse to another on the advice of bureaucrats who seem to have an axe to grind? That before the milky bubble bursts, something must be done to save the situation?

SRI LANKA CHRONICLE

March. 4 — 9

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

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 4: There is an increasing overseas demand for trained Sri Lanka hotel staff, a Ministry of State spokesman said yesterday; the Ministry had recently received a request for staff to fill 40 vacancies in the Saudi Arabian Oberoi Hotel due to open in September this year; vacancies ranged from front office, restaurant and kitchen staff to security guards, pool attendants and telephone operators; salaries offered were between Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 6,000 with board and lodging. President J.R. Jayewardene has agreed to the GMOA request to interview him; but the president has made it clear that the grant of that interview is on the under-

standing that no threat of direct action is associated in the event of their request not being granted—CDN. The President, Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, has directed the Universities Grants Commission to ensure that university admissions are completed within three months of the results being released. The Minister of Fisheries, Mr. Festus Perera, on an official tour of the fishing centres in the Hambantota district last week end gave a boost to the development of the fishing industry there. Milk and meat production will be increased under the Swiss-Sri Lanka Farming Projects in the Dry Zone by over fifty per cent—CDM. The Government will conduct a full probe into the Bell helicopter pay-offs scandal to ascertain whether the Lankans involved violated any laws of the country, authoritative sources said yesterday. All senior Police officers have been alerted by Inspector General Ana Seneviratne to maintain strict vigilance against attempts by certain groups to collect arms and ammunition—SU. Labour Minister, Capt. C. P. J. Seneviratne is to table in Parliament shortly a Bill to compel employment agencies which send people abroad to bring them back if they are facing harassment—CO. The P.M. speaking at the opening of an exhibition stated that the pipe borne water system was very ancient and was being replaced; he also stated that about 1 lakh of gallons of water was wasted daily—VK. The Government will take steps to hand over the administration of private plantations that have been abandoned by the owners for various reasons to workers trade union societies—LD. President J. R. Jayewardene hopes to open a joint tourist programme with Nepal by which tourists coming to Nepal will be asked to Sri Lanka and vice versa—DM. A survey will be carried out shortly to find out the statistics on over staffing in govt. dept. corporations and other institutions and on unqualified persons entrusted with work they are notable handle; those people will be transferred to other suitable jobs—DV. The government has rejected the proposal of the Police Wages Commission to increase the salary of policemen in all grades by Rs. 60/—DK. It is reliably understood that the President has been informed of suspected corruption behind purchase of 2 Lockheed well bodied Air crafts on a 12 year lease basis by Airlanka for Rs. 3,071 million approximately Tenus Pirt Co. of London,

Air Lanka's advisor had recommended that the Lockheed is inferior in quality compared to other aircrafts and also other similar aircrafts of superior quality can be bought for lesser prices; the Lockheed Aircraft Corporation has a history of giving bribes to local heads of nations, ministers and top officials to sell their aircrafts—ATH.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5: The prevailing drought which has hit large areas of the country is the worst the country has suffered this century a Meteorology Department spokesman said yesterday. President J. R. Jayewardene and Prime Minister R. Premadasa yesterday announced a scheme by which each member of parliament would prepare a program of development work and execute it with funds allotted under the decentralised Budget; work should be planned and carried out on a priority basis according to the scheme announced at the Government Parliamentary Group meeting—CDN. 3-month National Service will be made compulsory for University students and the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Higher Education are studying the implications of the scheme. A high-powered CID team left for New York on Monday morning to investigate certain allegations about a Sri Lankan diplomat; the team left on a directive made by the Minister of Defence. Over Rs. one billion was earned from tourism last year, a milestone in the history of the tourist industry—CDM. Newspapers are to be debarred from publishing the proceedings of any court in Sri Lanka, where the offender or witness is a child or young person and if the case is one of indecency and immorality; this is one of the far-reaching provisions included in the Children's Charter of Sri Lanka which will be presented in Parliament by Social Services Minister Asoka Karunaratne. Television as a development oriented mass media will be one of the cornerstones of the drive towards a better Lanka, President J. R. Jayewardene declared yesterday; speaking after he laid the foundation stone for a new television broadcasting complex at Torrington Square, President Jayewardene classed the spreading of TV with the Mahaweli development programme, the housing programme and the free trade zones. Government is to make lump-sum allocation of Rs. 1,600 million for the four years from 1980 to 1983, for its development activities in the 160 electorates

under the decentralised budget to ensure that development is not affected by financial issues—**SU**. Talks are soon to be held between the governments of India and Sri Lanka regarding the problems of people of Indian origin who are living as stateless citizens in Sri Lanka. a special committee headed by Rural Industrial Development Minister, Thondaman leaves for India next month to begin preliminary discussions. The P.M. speaking in Parliament said that they had stated even before the General elections that they could not bring down world prices and that they had not come to power by making false promises saying they would reduce prices—**DP**. The Govt. has decided to stop the filling of existing vacancies in government departments, corporations and statutory bodies so that the government faced with acute financial difficulties can save extra expenses—**ATH**. The CID is about to file a case framed in the CID headquarters against Mrs. Bandaranaike leader of the SLFP. The government is expected to file a case against the MP for Tangalle (UNP) Mr. Jinadasa Wærasinghe for alleged assault of an employee at the Sravasti. Multi-billion Rupee businessman, Mr. Upali Wijeyewardene who owns the only private helicopter in the country has bought a 5-seater Jet aircraft; he is expected to fly back in the aircraft from America where he is on a GCEC promotional campaign—**JD**.

THURSDAY, MARCH 6: The Ministry of Labour has decided to call upon the government to introduce legislation to enable women to work night shifts; Labour Minister, Captain C. P. J. Seneviratne, yesterday said that once the government made a decision to allow women to be employed at night his Ministry would inform the International Labour Organization about it. The three-member delegation from the Australian Wheat Board now in Sri Lanka gave reasons why the price of grains will be high in the immediate future. Government yesterday accepted the request made by clergy of all religions to withdraw the free transport offered to them by government from last week; State Minister, Anandattissa de Alwis told a Cabinet Press briefing yesterday—**CDN**. The Cabinet yesterday approved a proposal by the Minister of Finance and Planning that legislation be set up to establish a Security Council to organise the

revitalisation of the Colombo Share Market to bring it into line with London, New York and other world capital share markets. The World Bank loan of 129 million dollars given for the development of 120,000 acres in the Mahaweli area could be repaid within two years with four croppings although the repayment would be in 50 years, said Mr. Gamini Dissanayake, Minister of Lands, Land Development and Mahaweli Development in Parliament yesterday—**CDM**. Public servants and employees of state corporations and statutory bodies are to get a salary increase from next



Govt.

Notice

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

Reference No. LD/F 590

It is intended to acquire the land described in the Schedule below for a public purpose. For further particulars please see the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka No. 81 of 21-03-1980 (Part III).

K. B. Wijekoon

Assistant Government Agent
Kandy District.

The Kachcheri,
Kandy. 29 Feb. 1980

Schedule

Situation: Ippiladena village, Kandupalata Korale (Yatinuwara) Minor Division, Yatinuwara D.R.O.'s Division, Kandy District.

<i>Name of land</i>	<i>Plan and Lot Nos.</i>
Andi Ange	Lot 1 in P.P. Maha 1904
Wewa-angewatte	Lot 2 & 3 in P.P. Maha 1904
Arambegodahene	Lot 4 do
Egodawiyannewatte	Lot 5 do
Aruk-ange Kumbura	Lot 6 do
Wewa-ange Kumbura	Lots 7 & 8
Mulmediyehene	Lot 9 do
Pissekotuwa	Lot 10 do
Udagedarawatte	Lot 11 do

month, top Government sources said yesterday. A Rs. 2,640 million Colombo Port modernisation master plan has been finalised and is expected to get under way later this year with aid from the Japanese Government. Police Chief Ana Sereviratne yesterday ordered a full probe into the circumstances under which a series of "anti-Iran" posters with slogans in Arabic, Persian and English believed to be printed abroad sprang up in several central parts of Colombo—SU. Ministers gave due consideration to the fact brought to their notice that work started under the decentralized budget in most areas were at a standstill—VK. A survey conducted by the prisons department has revealed that youth under 30 years of age are responsible for 90% of crimes and murders; illiteracy, and economic problems are the main causes for youth to take to crime. The President has ordered that the state should not politically interfere in the administration of estate workers—LD. The Food Stamp system is to be abolished in about three months' time; the World Bank has refused to recommend aid to Sri Lanka in the forth-coming Aid Consortium meeting unless the food stamp system is abolished; about Rs. 1,400 million can be saved by the abolishing of this scheme—DK.

FRIDAY, MARCH 7: Commodity goods such as coconut or rubber products, textiles and a host of other export items are under consideration for export credit cover, Sri Lanka Export Credit Insurance Corporation (SLECIC) said yesterday. President J. R. Jayewardene will inaugurate a trishaw taxi service sponsored by the Jathika Sevaka Sangamaya and the Sri Lanka Tobacco Industries Corporation under a self-employment scheme planned by them at Sri Kotha UNP headquarters, Kollupitiya at 8 a.m. today. The Railway has begun a campaign to prevent tickless travel and misuse of season tickets. The newest electronic telex exchange with 100 lines, will commence work in early May. M. A. C. S. Hameed, Minister of Foreign Affairs left for New York yesterday to attend the Ministerial meeting of the Group of 77 which is scheduled to meet at the UN Headquarters from March 11 to 14. Trade and Shipping Minister Laith Athulathmudali yesterday decided to launch an intensive program to prevent waste in all

Departments and Corporations under his Ministry's purview; the program will be called the Waste Prevention Program—CDN. Sri Lanka will purchase 107,000 metric tons of wheat grain this year from the United States under PL 480; America will grant Sri Lanka a loan of 18.2 million US dollars (Rs 290 million) for the purchase. The Minister of state Mr. Anandatissa de Alwis has directed the Government Printer Mr. L. W. P. Peiris to explore the possibility of setting up a printing press at Valaichenai to relieve the Government Press of its increasing work load—CDM. The purchase price of seed paddy has been raised by the Government from Rs. 47 a bushel to Rs. 52, the Ministry of Agricultural Development and Research announced yesterday. A major reorganisation of the Police Department is to be effected shortly with a view to streamlining and improving the efficiency of the force. The purpose behind the "anti-Iran" poster campaign is obviously to mar the excellent relations that prevail between Iran and Sri Lanka, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said yesterday. Appointments of several doctors to the state's medical service during the tenure of the former government have been irregular and had contravened the Compulsory Services Act, an official investigation has revealed; this had come to light during a study carried out by the Attorney-General's Department to determine whether prosecutions can be brought against fifteen doctors who had vacated their posts before the completion of their compulsory period of service—SU. Minister of Industries, Cyril Mathew has appointed a special six-member committee to fix controlled prices for locally produced goods which will not adversely affect both the consumer and producer—DP. 68,000 workers in the CTB will get a salary increase from April; the additional cost to the CTB because of this salary increase is around Rs. 703 million a month—DV.

SATURDAY, MARCH 8: Any person who was prepared to do four hours of solid work a day in agriculture, could earn Rs. 1,500 a month, Deputy Food Minister, Sarachandra Rajakaruna said yesterday. Three pounds of Masoor Dhal to each household from next week, plenty of Bombay onions and potatoes, tinned and dried fish and dressed chicken; this is the fare the CWE hopes to

provide the people during the Sinhala and Hindu New Year season. Over 150,000 acres of prime tea in the Uva, Kegalle, Avissawella, Kandy, Badulla and Nuwara Eliya districts lie virtually dehydrated under scorching drought conditions, a spokesman for the Janatha Estates Development Board said yesterday—CDN. The Ceylon Leather Products Corporation will import modern machinery costing over Rs. 300,000 to increase production to over 82,000 pairs of boots and shoes per annum. Mr. Ronnie de Mel, Minister of Finance and Planning arrived in Sweden yesterday as the special envoy of President J. R. Jayewardene—CDM. Resource Centres for learning and Development are to be established in all electorates in the island; this move by the new Education Minister, Ranil Wickremasinghe is to provide facilities for school children to develop their knowledge on the processes of democracy, and creating in them an awareness of social patterns and structures of the country's development programmes. The country's power supplies would last only another five weeks if the prevailing drought continued in the catchment areas, Electricity Board Chairman J. X. L. Phillips warned yesterday. President J. R. Jayewardene accompanied by Industries and Scientific Affairs Minister Cyril Mathew travelled in a auto trishaw from Sri Kotha to the President's office in Fort after the former inaugurated a trishaw service yesterday. Government has approved the setting up of a 150 million rupee rice flour milling complex at Mattakkuliya; this giant mill will be the biggest in the country with a milling capacity of 500 tons per day—SU. Minister of Fisheries Festus Perera speaking at Trincomalee said that 50% of the allocation for the Northern and Eastern provinces will be spent for developing the fishing industry—VK. The Minister of Finance has decided not to approve any supplementary estimates of any ministry; supplementary estimates will be approved only in a national crisis such as a cyclone etc. A National Trade Union congress will be held today to discuss ways and means for a joint effort to launch a protest against the rising prices—DK. Large stocks of imported rice has got spoiled in government warehouses—DV.

SUNDAY, MARCH 9: The possibility of linking public service salaries to a scheme

related to the cost of living index as is operative in the mercantile sector is actively under government consideration; in recent weeks there have been indications both in Parliament and outside that government is considering some kind of wage increase to compensate for increase in the cost of living; however, no firm statement on any hard decision on this subject has yet been authoritatively made—SO. A transport boat with 30 passengers and four crewmen is reported missing in Northern waters; the boat left the Talaimannar Pier at 11 a.m. on Friday for Kachchaltivu but a message received from the Army Signals stationed on the island yesterday indicated that it had not reached the island. A powerful ring of local narcotic dealers are believed to be smuggling ganja out of the country with the aid of international smugglers; Ganja is one of the biggest money-spinners in the

LETTER

Sir,

TOBACCO & TRISHAWS

I read daily the National Newspapers which as the Opposition say "the Government Newspapers". Hence to get a more balanced view, I have bought without a break every issue of the *Tribune* since this Government came to power. I read this journal to get a more balanced view of what is happening around us. You state in this article—"but it is difficult to understand why a Government Corporation connected with the Tobacco Industry (really Beedi) should get in the transport business."

May I in turn ask you as to why a private Organisation like the Ceylon Tobacco Co Ltd (really Cigarettes) get involved in the H 9 project area, a Government project, to help people to cultivate paddy, vegetables and other subsidiary food crops and not Tobacco. Both parties are attempting to help the U.N.P. dream of a self-employed society. Lets hope other Organisations both private and Government follow the good example.

D. Percy Pedris

197, Ward Place,
Colombo 8.
16.3.80

International narcotic market; a kilo of ganja which could be purchased in Sri Lanka for Rs. 80 fetches as much as 1000 dollars abroad. The colourful ceremony to mark the completion of an undergraduate's career in the university was revived after 13 years on Friday evening at Peradeniya; the Chancellor, Mr. Victor Tennekoon retired Chief Justice presided at the Convocation—ST. Sri Lanka has lodged a strong protest with India against the recurring problem of Indian trawlers fishing in Lanka territorial waters; the protest was sparked off by a recent incident in which Naval personnel rounded sixty Indian trawlers fishing in the North Western waters of Sri Lanka; naval personnel have reported that on board these trawlers they found three

Indian Coast Guard officers. South Korea's Foreign Minister Tong Jin Park arrives here on March 27 leading a high powered delegation for talks on investment in Sri Lanka—WK. A new ten-year scheme to provide clean drinking water to villages and towns will be started next year by the Local Government and Housing Ministry in collaboration with the Health Ministry at a cost of Rs. 560 million; Technical aid will be provided by the UN Development sources UNICEF etc.—CM. Minister of Justice Nissanka Wijeyeratne speaking in Jaffna said that the high ideal of the President is national unity; in order to achieve this and social harmony in each constituency students' central bodies will be established he said—EN. The Inland Revenue Department has decided to increase the amount given as gifts to those who give tip offs on tax evaders and corrupt practice by businessmen; this will be a step on the programme to detect the increasing amount of tax evaders—SM. The P.M. is to launch a programme to train youth in various areas by setting up training centres with the help of the private sector—SLDP.

REVIEW

"ROOTS"

This film was screened at the American Centre Auditorium from February 29 to March 2. Based on the novel by Alex Haley it traces the history of one American black family for over 100 years beginning with the birth of Kunta Kinte in a village on Zambia in 1750. It shows how he was captured by slave traders and transported to America. Slavery in all its horrible aspects is so clearly shown and the constant struggle of Kunta as well as his descendants to try to escape to freedom. And finally the fulfilment of this aim after the civil war when Kunta's grandson together with his children and grandchildren moves to Tennessee. To those who had read the book it was a coming to life on the screen of all the familiar characters. The lead roles were all taken by powerful actors and actresses who brought out the misery and the pathos as well as the tenderness and love. There were many heart rending scenes of partings and punishment bringing vividly to the screen all the misery of the slaves and the cruelty and cold heartedness of their masters.

It is a film worth seeing and despite its nine hour duration, held one's interest throughout. We are grateful to the USICA for affording us the opportunity to view such a good film. V.A.

O O O

PIRATED CASSETTES

A Reuter dispatch recently referred to Hongkong as the center for pirated cassettes. It is estimated that each year Hong Kong exports some 45 million cassettes, which are worth about 45 million US dollars. These cassettes are exported as far as England and Australia. Egypt and Lebanon are considered the largest buyers. In Hong Kong, there are about 10 to 20 cassette tape studios engaged in piracy. Some studios are capable of turning out 12 one-hour cassette recordings every five minutes. Each one-hour cassette recording costs about US \$0.26, but sells for US \$1.00. Last summer, the Copyright Unit of the Preventive Service raided several pirating studios and sent the operators to court. The law can impose a fine up to US \$200 and a jail term up to one year for each cassette tape pirated.

More About Rain

by V. Buvanasundaram

LAST WEEK, the general pattern of the rainfall in January was examined with special reference to the rainfall in January 1980. It was shown that this year cannot be described, on the rainfall so far, as the "drought of the country" when the rainfall in the early months of 1974 was less. A few details about rainfall statistics are most revealing.

The January drought continued into February and on the 2nd and 3rd Ratnapura and KKS had identical falls of 0.10cm. On the 4th Detenega had moderate falls of 3.05cm. There were some light falls in the east from that day to the 13th. On the 14th there was a fairly heavy fall of 5.94cm at Kekanadure and moderate falls at Pannilkande 5.33cm and Kirama 2.77cm, a light to moderate fall of 1.88cm at Anningkande and a light fall of 1.00cm at Hali Ella. There were a few falls on the south-eastern slopes of the hills. The next day 15th, Tangalle had a heavy fall of 9.76cm and the rain area widened with light to Moderate rains at Raygam Estate 2.21 cm and Ratnapura 1.91cm, and light falls at other places. There were no meteor showers to explain this strange rain.

It rained in mid-January, it rained in mid-February and Astrometeorologists expect the drought to end in mid March. In the fixed zodiac of the our astrologers the Sun flits from constellation to constellation at the middle of each month. The drought began in mid-December, when Sun entered the constellation of Sagittarius and archer, whose arrow points to the centre of our galaxy. It has moved through Capricornus and Aquarius and will move into Pisces by mid-March.

AT THE TIME OF WRITING, 6th March, tall single cell cumulus clouds are passing over into the sea without raining. They would easily respond to artificial seeding. Perhaps, before this comes out in print, Colombo may have had a shower but that is not the end of the drought. March is not the month for it. Nature, the mill of God, grinds slowly.

On the east coast roughly between Valai chenai and Kumana and interior, high January average of rainfall are on the southeastern slopes of the hills. Iddumalkelle Estate, Uda-wahinna, height 2170ft., 25.31"; Keenekelle Estate, Badulla 3860ft—20.90"; Kobenella Estate, Urugalla 4500ft—22.01", Badulla at 2,200ft. is in a valley sheltered by hills. Its January average is only 9.02" but among the meteorological stations, this is rather high, beaten only by Batticaloa at 10.90". Like the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) the rains of the northeast monsoon move south lagging behind the Sun. The sun is in southern hemisphere late in September and the rains reach their southern-most limit in January to water the southeastern dry zone. Panama tank has its highest monthly average in January—12.90". Yala gets an average of 6.02" in January. In November 6.80" and December 7.13" it gets more. Northeast monsoon rains do not go so far south.

THIS YEAR ON THAIPONGAL DAY, 14th January, I was out early morning to collect flowers. The rich set their dogs and let the flowers fall than give to the poor for worship and so I had to walk to the Observatory to gather some. On my way, I saw all the sweepings on the road piled up and set on fire. The white based clouds passing over turned black at the bottom. Large drops were forming out of smaller drops and some of them fell on me too. From 10.15 to 10.30 a.m. there was a sharp shower at the Observatory that recorded 0.06cm. This was the only shower for January and February for the Observatory. The clouds were drifting southwest and at Ratmalana with additional pollution the rain was 0.22cm. This was again the only fall. Colombo Fort had nothing.

In the North, KKS airport is situated at a corner of the Peninsula and most of the condensation nuclei sprayed by an aircraft taking off in a northeasterly direction would fall into the sea. There were some thrown over land to break the monotony of a rainless peninsula, KKS 0.12cm; Jaffna 0.11cm and Kondavil 1.30cm. Kondavil received the three showers: 9th 0.36cm; 14th 0.43cm and on the 24th 0.51cm (0.50cm on a square km. is a million gallons of water).

On the West Coast at Katunayake airport, like at KKS, this northeasterly take off throws most of the nuclei into the sea. However at the turn to fly northwest, they will be thrown over land. Thrown from such heights only a few drop close by and more will be thrown afar. In that small area of induced precipitation, the rains increase from Ambepussa 0.01cm, Ambanpitiya 0.25cm, Vincent 0.30cm and Avissawella hospital 0.35cm. It stops there. Avissawella Estate got nil rainfall. The falls of 0.48cm at Sellakandal and 0.10 at Nettikulam could be explained either by the seeding of descending aircraft or by some chena cultivation. It is only at Trincomalee that a northeasterly take off could spray most of its nuclei over land and a wide area in the midst of zeros has had rains. These aircraft turned to KKS to meet the terrorists and Meawachchiya of Eastern Province got the highest fall in the area seeded by the aircraft. *IT HAS BEEN POINTED OUT in earlier articles and also in the last that there was an unusually heavy spell of rain in the period September-December 1979 in many parts of the country. A wet spell is usually followed by a dry spell. It had rained heavily from September to mid-December till one and all cursed it to go away. All these rains came out of upper-cyclonic circulations.*

Some of them reaching ground level frightening meteorologists to send out warnings of cyclones that never occurred. Cyclones need the hot humid air of an ocean surface to drive the strong winds in it, with the energy released by the condensation of water vapour on to all available freezing and condensation nuclei.

The moisture lost has to be replaced by evaporation from seas, lakes and lagoons. Radio-zonde observations are necessary to judge this replacement. Unlike in Dassanaiké days, when missing an observation is like losing a limb, there were no upper air observations since the drought began. Even after it was resumed on 12th February, the cheap instruments were not recording correctly. The fuel crisis had won over the battery crisis and so to the old "Bamford method" of judging the humidity of our atmosphere by the dew-point at Nuwara Eliya, ht. 6,230ft.

The nuclei lost has to be replaced either

by dust and smoke particles from the earth, carried aloft by winds and convection or from above as debris of meteor showers. According to Dr. Bowen, it takes about 30 days for the particles to fall from 100 km. into the level of the lower atmosphere, where they could nucleate clouds. The diameter of these particles should be less than .004mm, otherwise they will burn up on entering the atmosphere and appear as visible meteors. The type of clouds and the nature of precipitation in January and in February indicate that it was more a shortage of condensation nuclei that caused the drought, rather than the deficiency of water-vapour in our atmosphere.

Dr. Bowen discovered the meteor shower way of increasing the nuclei concentration of the atmosphere through the study of peaks in rainfall pattern during wet spells in Australia and confirmed it by samples brought down by aircraft. This increase in concentration of nuclei from meteor showers should be global but experiments carried out in Panama, Hawaii, USA, England and Sweden proved negative. Only South Africa gave some support for this correlation between meteor showers and increase in concentration of nuclei.

During the days of our drought, there were three meteor showers. Geminids December 13/14, Ursids Dec 22, Quadrantids 3rd January. These after about 30 days according to Dr. Bowen should have increased the nuclei concentration of the atmosphere and brought in some showers. January 13 is 31 days after Geminids and there was a heavy fall of 9.91cm at Iddumalkelle and fairly heavy falls of 5.06cm each at Maha Uva and Mahaduva and moderate falls at Bibile 4.06cm. Sakaman 4.05cm and Rannapura 2.63cm; light to moderate falls at Gikiyanakande 2.29cm, Sirikandura 2.20cm, Tangalle 2.00cm and Nuwara Eliya 1.29cm and light rain at Badulla 1.17cm and Batticaloa 1.19cm. On the 14th Hokandara 4.62cm and Gikiyanakanda 2.56cm had moderate falls, while Deniyaya had a light to moderate fall of 2.27cm and a few other light falls.

Dr. Mason does not believe in this theory of Bowen. He believes that most of the con-

densation and even freezing nuclei required at a higher level originate from earth as dust particles. This is supported by the laboratory experiments of Mason and Maybank. Two Japanese workers Kumal and Isonso used the electron microscope and electron diffraction to examine the nuclei at the centres of snow crystals, they also came to the same conclusion. One very interesting fact came out of the experiments of Mason and Maybank. These ice forming nuclei, once having been involved in ice-crystal formation get trained in this process for example, Kaolinite originally active at -090 , after a single process of ice formation becomes active for the second at $-04c$. Montromerillenite initially inactive even at $-20c$, at a second time it had been trained to do its work at $-10C$. The same must be true of condensation nuclei on which water-vapour condenses as liquid water at levels below the freezing level (0C isotherm). Trained nuclei that are over and over taken up and fall back again and again with the rains may not need the super-saturation that is theoretically needed for condensation on them.

On the day after the Independence Day celebrations we found ourselves in the midst of Asst. Directors of Public Administration discussing the Matara celebrations. "The dust, the dust, the crowds kicked up. It was terrible. Even the President left early. He could not stand the dust. All of us bathed in dust."

Did the dust kicked up on Independence day start those rains on Maha Sivarathri day? They were all trained nuclei from Matara.

There is a great deal we have to learn (and a great deal to do) about the seeding of the clouds to precipitate rain.

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ECONOMICA

● Food ● Pot ● Devaluation

Tokyo, Feb. 20,

In 1960 when the OPEC was formed and began its functions, the United States bitterly charged its member countries with using as a weapon oil vitally needed for industrial development. Since then,

each oil price hike has received the severer protests from Washington. Yet, that country is using as a lethal weapon food essential to human life.

At present, worldwide food consumption is annually, 1,316 million tons, while a long term projection by the FAO predicts that in 1985 food shortage in the developing countries would reach 85 million tons and rice shortage for 1980 is estimated at between 5 million and 10 million tons. A June 1977 ACIA study paper revealed that of the world population of 4 billion, at least 1 billion were starving or faced with malnutrition. Grain output of the United States in GY 1978-79 topped 270 million tons, of which 10 million tons are in surplus. *President Carter is making full use of the surplus food as a strategic weapon for political purposes.*

On February 15 last, two American Congressmen denounced Japan's export of surplus rice as a government-subsidized inroad into the traditional rice market for the United States. They expressed what they termed "grave concern" over the export by Japan of 300,000 tons of rice to south Korea. The two US officials reportedly warned that such acts would invite retaliation from their country. Japan has been a food surplus country since the latter half of the sixties. As a means of dealing with surplus rice, Japan is planning to export 4.8 million tons in the next five years. As part of that project, Japan sold 250,000 tons to south Korea last year, which offended the two American Representatives.

American Congressmen exploited that issue to apply pressure to bear upon the Japanese government to buy surplus grain from the US. Despite the fact that it had also a huge amount of surplus rice, Japan had to agree to import of grain. According to *The Dong-A Ilbo*, May 2, 1979, a South Korean mission visited the United States to negotiate the purchase of 3,500,000 straw bags (500,000 tons) of rice. As a result, south Korea imported 550,000 tons of unpolished rice, 300,000 tons from the United States and 250,000 tons from Japan. This year, Seoul plans to buy 4 million straw bags of rice (approximately 570,000 tons) from abroad. *The Dong-A Ilbo* reported on December 30 last. A contract has already been signed, to be supplied by the United States with

2,100,000 straw bags (some 300,000 tons) and plan is to get the remaining 1,900,000 straw bags (270,000 tons) from Japan. Given this fact the latest criticism of Japan is unreasonable in view of the US's policy of free trade and at the same time it shows one aspect of the trade and economic frictions between the United States and Japan. Victims of such use of grain weapons are guiltless consumer countries. South Korea was once known as a major granary.

After WW II, the United States, seizing south Korea, helped destroy its economy. The United States had its war-expanded industry unable to find a market enough to consume its surplus products. Its agriculture was in a similar fix forced to cut back its output. Those surplus goods were provided to foreign countries in economic assistance, which were obliged in exchange, to comply with the policy objectives of the United States—a political and military subjugation. South Korea has been flooded with American surplus products industrial and agriculture, under the pretense of economic aid, which has resulted in the weakening of its economy.

To cite some examples. Many years ago, south Koreans used coal and hydroelectric power as energy. In post WW II years, the US forces in south Korea refused to pay for electricity supply from North Korea to force it to suspend power supply. Then, surplus, US petroleum was imported in huge quantities as a new energy source and homes compelled to use heating oil. Surplus farm products were introduced, sending the prices of local agricultural goods plummeting. American-made fertilizers were sold to the south Korean farmers at prices far higher than the international prices, boosting the cost of agricultural production. Consequently, the south Korean gradually lost enthusiasm for farming, which in turn led to an annual decrease in agricultural production. In 1977, the number of people deserting the countryside was 476,000 and in 1978, the figure rose to 781,000.

Today, the south Koreans rely on imports for cabbage and peppers, essential ingredients of their traditional kimchi. As things stand now, the south Korean market for American surplus farm products has to be opened. Since the American-approved con-

clusion of the south Korea-Japan treaty of 1965, Japanese economic concerns have staged extensive advances into south Korea, while Japan has been taking an increasing share of American assistance to Seoul. Under such conditions, how can the Americans say no to the Japanese export of rice to the south Korean market?

In moves reminiscent of the old Cold War, the Carter Administration has recently declared an embargo on grain exports to the Soviet Union to tighten its containment. The aforesaid outcries by the two American Representatives against the Japanese export of rice can easily be written off as hysteric screams over the evident backfire of that new containment policy.

—People's Korea.

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Kingston, Feb. 25.

Under the conditionalities imposed by the International Monetary Fund, the economy of the island of Jamaica is reaching levels of collapse close to genocide. There is only one industry on this "vacation spot" that is growing, and that is the production of marijuana for the United States drug market. There can be little doubt that the International Monetary Fund and the Carter administration are encouraging the cultivation of marijuana as Jamaica's new "cash crop."

First, since 1979 Jamaica's economy has been under strict IMF control, the Fund set up a command center in the nation's central bank to monitor all cash flow. The last week, Jamaican Prime Minister Michael Manley returned from Washington, D.C. after failing to convince the IMF to rescind its decision to cut off credit to Jamaica. The credit line had been severed when Jamaica failed to meet one of its IMF conditionalities last month. The IMF will not even consider a loan. Manley was told, unless his government agrees to further austerity, including laying off several thousand more public workers. As the IMF is well aware, with Jamaica's economy collapsing and legitimate employment nearly nonexistent, Jamaicans are forced into marijuana

production and the smuggling operations that go with it, as their only source of income.

In several agricultural districts throughout the island, marijuana production has almost completely replaced the production of food. One of the island's poorest sections, St. Thomas Parish, is now a center for an outfit that uses sophisticated technology for the large scale marijuana cultivation: the Ethiopian Zion Coptic Farm Co., a Florida-based cult that uses the drug as a "sacrament". The cult also owns a modern fleet of airplanes and boats, which it uses to smuggle the drug into the United States. As the growing of dope, which used to be limited to the Rastafarian cult, now becomes rampant throughout Jamaica, manufacture on the island has almost ground to a halt. There is almost no foreign exchange available to import necessary raw materials. The collapse has been aggravated by the increased costs of imported fuel. Last week the government was forced to increase the price of gasoline by 20 percent, to approximately \$ 2.65 a gallon. Kerosene, the main household fuel, rose by 77 percent to about \$ 1.45 a gallon.

There are dire shortages of salt, bread, rice, soap, and detergents. Numbers of hospitals have been forced to cut back services or eliminate emergency rooms because of shortages of drugs and medical supplies. Jamaica is fast descending into a social hell. The private sector organisation this week called for the resignation of Manley's government and threatened to close down all of the island's business unless its demand was met. Earlier a mob had blocked off the main approach roads to the town of Mandeville to protest rising prices.

against Carlos Wesley, NSIPS.

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Ankara Feb. 25,

The Turkish government announced a 50 percent devaluation of its currency the lira, this week. The devaluation followed armtwisting by the International Monetary Fund on Turkey to impose what France's "Les Echos" newspaper called "draconian austerity" on the Turkish population.

The devaluation is expected to worsen an economic situation that is already perilous; inflation rates are running over 70 percent and unemployment rates over 20 percent. In the past weeks, Turkey has been short of critical commodities such as gasoline, fuel oil, pharmaceutical drugs, and certain foodstuffs. Social unrest is on the rise. Turkey had the worst terrorist outbreaks in all of Europe, and the army has issued stern warnings to the ruling Demirel government to restore order or face unspecified action by the army command.

—NSIPS,

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HAVANA DIARY—25

Basic Agreements—2

by S. P. Amarasingam

CONCERNING THE AFRICAN issues, the Conference in its Final Declaration stated that on reviewing the events that had taken place since the previous Summit Conference was held, the progress made by the struggling African peoples was acknowledged and a deep concern was voiced for the imperialists' destabilization plans and aggressions. The Conference also stated that the struggle of the African peoples, particularly the struggle of southern Africa, was closely tied to anti-imperialist and anti-colonialist revolution and the development of the Movement of Non-aligned countries. The Conference also expressed its gratitude to the socialist and Scandinavian countries for their aid to the liberation movements.

THE CONFERENCE HAILED the important initiative of having called the Maputo meeting at the ministerial level to examine and analyze the situation in southern Africa and endorsed as its own all the recommendations adopted at that meeting. All the countries were urged to pay special attention to the execution of the Action Plan approved in Maputo and later ratified and enlarged by the Co-ordinating Bureau. The heads of state or government congratulated the Organisation of African Unity on its 16th year of existence and acknowledged the OAU's importance as an effective instrument to promote peace.

ON ANALYZING THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, the Conference reiterated that the consolidation of the victory achieved by the peoples of Angola, Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau, Cape Verde and Sao Tome and Principe decisively changed the region's balance of forces. The Conference acknowledged with pleasure the Iranian government's decision to stop selling oil to South Africa. Also deeply acknowledged was Nigeria's decision to nationalize British Petroleum's oil concessions when the latter failed to comply with the oil embargo decreed on the racist regime in Rhodesia and broke its promise not to supply oil from the North Sea to South Africa's apartheid regime. The heads of state or government hailed the decision taken by the Governments of Iran, Grenada and Nicaragua to break their ties with the racist apartheid regime. The Conference arrived at the conclusion that southern Africa was one of the tension spots in international relations and a point of confrontation between imperialism and the forces of progress and peace.

REGARDING SO - CALLED internal settlement for Zimbabwe, the Conference stated that the fraudulent April 1979 elections made a mockery of Zimbabwe's legitimate goals and were in no way a solution. It appealed for greater support from the international community, and particularly the Movement of Non-aligned countries, to the heroic armed struggle being waged by Zimbabwe, led by the Patriotic Front, against the opprobrious, racist and illegal Salisbury regime. The Conference pointed out that armed struggle was getting stronger and growing throughout the country. It added that the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front was also waging in a struggle in the political and diplomatic fields. The Conference reiterated that Rhodesia continued to be a British colony illegally ruled by a gang of racists and traitors. It voted its concern for the manoeuvres of the British Government and of certain U.S. Government elements seeking recognition of Rhodesia's illegal regime. The Conference likewise took note that at the last meeting in Lusaka the heads of government of the Commonwealth turned down the so-called internal settlement of Zimbabwe and reaffirmed their total commitment vis-a-vis the legitimate majority government. It emphasised that the outcome

of the Lusaka meeting had gained neither international acceptance nor recognition as long as Zimbabwe did not have a true majority and independent government. The Conference voiced its total support for the Patriotic Front and the latter's decision to intensify the armed struggle against Muzorewa's racist and illegal regime. It also called for preventing supplies of oil and its by-products from reaching Southern Rhodesia; condemned the lifting of UN economic sanctions in cohorts with the Salisbury regime and rejected recognition in any form for Rhodesia's regime. The Conference warmly congratulated the Patriotic Front upon its admittance as a full-fledged member into the Movement of Non-aligned countries.

CONCERNING THE ISSUE OF NAMIBIA, it strongly condemned the South African racist regime for its stubborn refusal to withdraw from that territory and reasserted the Namibian people's right to independence and their territorial integrity. It also reasserted its unconditional support for the struggle led by SWAPO as sole and legitimate representative of the Namibian people. The Conference stated that the racist South African regime's continued illegal occupation of Namibia was an aggression not only against the Namibian people but also against all of Africa's sovereign states. The Conference strongly denounced the establishment of an illegal and arbitrary "National Assembly" and stated categorically that the non-aligned countries will neither recognize nor cooperate with this illegal "assembly". The Conference firmly rejected South Africa's manoeuvres aimed at violating Namibia's territorial integrity through annexation of Walvis Bay; legitimizing the electoral farce of December 4, 1978, and setting up a neo-colonial regime under Pretoria's control. The Conference similarly praised the Namibian people led by SWAPO, its sole and legitimate representative and appealed to all progressive forces to immediately increase their material, military and financial support for SWAPO so that it may intensify the armed liberation struggle. Such aid should cover mainly equipment supplies, support for training programs and support for the Namibian refugees. The heads of state or government voiced their support for the programs calling for humanitarian aid to Namibians sponsored

by the United Nations, the Organisation of African Unity and other international organisations.

THE HEADS OF STATE OR GOVERNMENT stated that the liberation struggle in South Africa had already entered a decisive stage. The Pretoria regime has unleashed the most brutal repression by resorting to criminal and fascist methods aimed at weakening and destroying the South African people's unity. The Conference voiced its deep concern for the continued economic, military and nuclear co-operation of the imperialist powers, particularly the United States, Great Britain, France the Federal Republic of Germany and Israel, with South Africa's racist régime. It resolutely condemned such co-operation that has contributed to increase Pretoria's war potential, which is part of its industrial development plans. The racist regime is challenging world public opinion when it pretends to become the defender of the West's white Christian civilization and the gendarme of the region's so-called free world.

THE CONFERENCE stated that southern Africa embodied one single field of operations in which the South Africa apartheid regime was the central strategic issue. The problems of southern Africa cannot be dealt with separately for they are politically, militarily and economically intertwined. The Conference condemned the racist authorities' bantustans program and rejected the systematic aggression against Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Swaziland and Zambia. It also underlined that South Africa had increased its repressive designs since Portuguese colonialism was defeated and had invaded and systematically attacked Angola to stop it from becoming an independent state. Broad consideration was given to every form of support and aid for the Front Line states, now acting as a safe rear guard and giving their militant solidarity to the liberation struggle being waged by the peoples of southern Africa. The Conference reasserted that the Front Line states will not now and in the future be alone and it recognized that the material and financial support given to these states would in all certainly boost their ability to withstand aggression and enable them to effectively uphold their territorial integrity.

ON THE OTHER HAND, the Conference voiced deep concern for the serious situation prevailing in Western Sahara, and it considered that the ad hoc commission set up by the OAU would succeed in bringing about self-determination and independence for the Saharan people as soon as possible. It hailed the accord between the Republic of Mauritania and the POLISARIO Front and Mauritania's decision to withdraw its forces from the territory of Western Sahara. The Conference likewise deplored Morocco's armed occupation of south Western Sahara previously under Mauritania's control. Concerning Mayotte Island still illegally occupied by France, the Conference voiced its active solidarity with the people of the Comoro Islands in their legitimate struggle for independence. Concerning the Malgache Islands in the Indian Ocean, the Conference called for their return to the Republic of Malgache from which they were arbitrarily separated by the former metropolis.

(To Be Continued)

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WITHOUT COMMENT: UNP VIEW

New Horizons Without Subsidies

The end of an era. The beginning of a new Economic Order. That, surely, is the historic significance of the abolition of the major food subsidies—rice, sugar and flour, inclusive of bread. It so happens that those who live in times of radical change, are too near the event to evaluate and appreciate the transition to a new way of life. The full impact of significant and momentous changes sometimes takes years to be realised. That is a lesson of history.

Rationing and subsidies. These two factors have dominated the lives of people since independence. The Second World War erupted when we were yet a British colony. Under colonial rule, food cultivation had been virtually neglected. A whole range of key food items, ranging from rice, flour

to sugar, from chillies and onions to potatoes were imported to the island from the far flung boundaries of the British Empire. An empire, which so straddled the globe that the sun never set on it. It was cheaper and easier for our colonial masters to import essential food items and develop the economy of the country to produce those crops like coffee first, then tea, rubber and coconuts to meet essentially imperial needs.

Far-sighted statesmen like the late D. S. Senanayake, even before independence was won, realised the unsatisfactory nature of such an arrangement. Mainly through his efforts, the island's first colonisation schemes were opened by clearing forbidding extents of jungle land. This was done especially in the North Central Province, settling them with pioneer cultivators, undertaking the restoration of massive tanks so vital for cultivation and initiating a meaningful start in the cultivation of large scale tracts of paddy land and other essential foodstuffs. However, the major part, by far, of our food needs continued to be imported under the British, and rationing had to be resorted to so that an equitable distribution of the available major food items could be ensured. The Second World War ended in 1945, bringing with it major changes, especially in the Asian continent, Sri Lanka and other countries in the region, such as India and Burma, were to soon gain political independence. The end of the British Raj and the emergence of a host of newly independent countries, brought in their wake a number of major economic problems. The newly independent countries, naturally wanted to be masters of their own destinies and the production and sale of major food needs, such as rice become soon a state monopoly. Sri Lanka had to negotiate for the purchase of its major food imports, such as rice, flour and sugar on a Government to Government basis.

The ravages and shortages caused by war, and the political, as well as economic problems which beset the major food producing countries, thereafter, began to result in steadily increasing prices of key food items. Moreover, in the case of items such as flour, which came mainly from the USA, Canada and Australia, Sri Lanka, as an independent entity,

had to negotiate for such purchases too, in competition with other flour consuming countries. Especially after 1956, much of the sterling balances, which had accumulated to Sri Lanka during the World War, were dissipated on the purchase of consumer items, while expenditure of those balances for development purposes were virtually negligible. The foreign exchange situation for Sri Lanka entered a critical phase during the 1960-64 period. The spending spree on a wide range of consumer goods since 1956, had to come to an end.

In the meantime, the world rice supply situation grew steadily acute after the mid-sixties and shortages in supply, as well as price hikes, resulted in a drastic cut in the rice ration. But the reduced measure on the ration was given free to alleviate the difficulties which confronted the poorer sections of the population. During this period, too, a major food production drive was initiated by the Dudley Senanayake Government, with varying degrees of success. However, unfortunately, due mainly for political reasons, the return to power of the United Front Government after the 1970 General Elections, and the untimely abeyance of this food drive, which, once it lost its momentum, took time again to be revived.

Memories are not short and people have not forgotten the food problems which hit the people during the 1970-77 period. Riceless days, bread and flour scarcities, which caused endless hardships, exorbitant prices for wide range of food items, which were acutely scarce, were the order of the day. It is in this context that the UNP Government, led by Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, was swept to power in the July 1977 elections with an overwhelming mandate from the people. The UNP Government was pledged to a policy of development so that the critical unemployment problem could be effectively tackled and the abolition of artificial price increases effected. True to its election pledges, a free economy was initiated, with the rupee freed to find its true level among international currencies, and import controls and the pernicious permit system thrown to the scrap heap. International recognition was to soon follow these honest and open economic policies and aid from foreign financial institutions and countries

at an unprecedented level in the island's history soon followed.

Unfortunately, unprecedented price hikes in relation to oil brought about by the oil producing countries, and increases in prices of capital goods, machinery and raw materials essential for development as well as major price increases in sugar, flour and imported rice have bedevilled the development programs of the Government. Moreover, the position has been rendered more acute by an appreciable downward trend in the prices paid for our major exports such as tea, a diminution of production in tea and a shortfall in the output of coconuts following the cyclone devastation. It is against this desperate economic backdrop, resulting in an ominous gap in our trade balance, that the Government, consistent with its election pledges, has taken the bold and honest step of the complete abolition of subsidies on imported rice, sugar, flour and bread. The oil crisis, has of necessity to affect the cost of public transport too. And, it will be only a matter of time, before bus and train fares are increased to a realistic level in keeping with the exorbitant prices we are called upon to pay for our oil imports. The thousands of millions of rupees, which will be saved by the abolition of subsidies, will help to share up the Government's development programs. It will also facilitate the flow of increased aid to Sri Lanka. Lending agencies and foreign countries, in a position to give aid will be convinced that aid to Sri Lanka is a worthwhile proposition, because such aid will not be frittered away on consumption but utilised for meaningful development which spells more employment all round.

Opposition politicians and their close supporters can indulge in wishful day dreams that the abolition of subsidies will mean at least the revival of their hopes of success at the next General election. The people at large however, will not forget the bleak and barren days of the Sirima Bandaranaike Government when the self-sale politics and their yesmen shouted in processions that they would drink tea without sugar and eat sambol without chillies and onions! The Food Stamp scheme is yet in operation to ensure relief for the poorer sections of the community. But the major strategy of the Government in the interests of the people, is not the endless con-

tinuance of a dole, but the successful implementation of key development policies. Such a situation will give jobs to lakhs of idle hands and inflation will give jobs to so increase production that Sri Lankans will be able at last to live truly as free men and women in a free society. —UNP Journal, 23/2/80

PROBLEMS OF THE THIRD WORLD

TNCs & Development

by Prometheus

THE MAINSTREAM PRESS has scarcely given due prominence to the discussions in Parliament recently on the role of multi-national corporations and their impact on Third World countries. In recent times, the problems engendered by the foreign economic activities of the Transnational Corporations (TNC's) in young states in Asia, Africa, in Latin America have become acute. Of far-reaching significance was the offensive launched against TNC's by developing countries at the 6th UN General Assembly session devoted to the problems of raw materials and economic development, held in April 1974. The sessions clearly demonstrated that the main obstacle to the establishment of a new, just economic order demanded by developing countries are precisely transnational corporations and the powers behind them. In its decisions, the sessions envisaged "regulation and supervision" over TNC activity and recognised in principle the right to nationalisation. The sequel was the establishment of the Centre for Transnational Corporations by the UN.

The successes of national liberation revolutions and the growing role of developing countries in the international arena have compelled the governments of imperialist states and international monopolies to reassess the significance of these countries for the future of the entire capitalist system. For them, it is not a question of abolishing the backwardness of the developing countries or of altering their subordinate position in the world economy but rather one of turning them into profitable but dependent extensions of the economic systems of the developed

states of the West. The question now is how best they can achieve this objective.

TAKING PART in the attainment of those strategic aims of neo-colonialism are the TNC's which wield tremendous economic might, and their subsidiaries in dozens of foreign countries. The TNC's control almost 3/5 of world capitalist trade. The expansion of TNC's in developing countries is encouraged by the availability there of cheap labor and rich natural resources. The wages paid to employees in developing countries are ten to fifteen times less than in highly developed countries. According to UN statistics, in the early 60's, the average annual per capita income in developed capitalist countries was 1037 US Dollars and in developing countries, 83 US dollars. By 1974, this gap increased further, and the respective figures being 3,600 dollars and 265 dollars. In regard to natural resources, according to existing assessments, the developing countries account for 36 per cent of all phosphates, 40 per cent of iron ore, 48 per cent of copper, 64 per cent of bauxites, 83 per cent of manganese and 84 per cent of cobalt. Africa alone possesses more than 90 per cent of the world reserves of diamonds, platinum and chrome ore. The Middle East contain 63 per cent of proven oil deposits, being more than 10 times the size of deposits in the United States.

It must be stressed that the private capital of imperialist powers has long since established itself in the economics of many Third world Countries. Thus, the number of foreign manufacturing subsidiaries of 187 major US multinationals increased between 1959 and 1967 from 887 to 1,765 in developing countries as a whole. In the period from 1966 to 1975, the US Transnational Corporations opened 7,624 subsidiaries abroad, which included 2,378 in developing countries. In 1970, the 250 largest British Companies had 2,094 subsidiaries in developing countries. A. L. Brown, a leading expert on international corporations, notes that "in the past it was said that the sun never sets on the British Empire. Today it already sets on it. However, **THE SUN DOES NOT SET** on dozens of such corporate empires as Mitsubishi, General Electric, Volkswagen, Unilever or Chrysler".

The financial and economic power of

the multinationals, their using of the latest in technology have inspired in many developing nations the hope that with the aid of the TNC's, they could come out of the economic morass they are in. The doors are therefore thrown open to the TNC's.

However, as many Third World countries have discovered that Transnational Corporations, far from speeding up the progress of their own economies, have become a strong brake on their development. Third World countries hoped to find in the TNC's a mighty source of financing their industries. Experience has shown that TNC's are not such a source of capital.

AT THE CONFERENCE of the Association of Advanced Management held in Hong Kong in 1977, a Philipino spokesman, J. Jenares cited a few revealing figures. The North American Ford Motor Co. invested only 1.3 million pesos (173,000 dollars) to organise its enterprise in the Phillipines, and drew 168.5 million pesos from the local sources. According to the figures of the Phillipines Council for the National Economy, over ten years the branches of 108 North American companies operating in the country invested their capital to the sum of only 58.6 million dollars, which is 12 per cent of the overall amount of investment of 489 million. At the same time, their remittance to the mother companies amounted to 369 million dollars, and only 20.8 million dollars were reinvested in the Phillipines economy. American researchers R. Burton and R. Muller point out that US companies finance more than 80 per cent of their operations in Latin America through local resources and reinvestment. This was why, perhaps, the former Filipino Senator J. Salonga called the multinationals leeches who live because they suck the blood of their victims.

In the fifteen year period (1950-1965), US private corporations invested 3.8 billion dollars in Latin America. From this investment, 11.3 billion dollars in profits were remitted home to the US while the profits retained locally increased the investment of 3.8 billion dollars to 10.3 billion dollars. **THUS**, From the 3.8 billion invested was derived 17.8 billion dollars in the

form of remitted profits and increased local investment—a cool 469 per cent!

The Seventies was declared by the United Nations General Assembly in October 1970, as the "Second Development Decade", which has now ended. This period was expected to be an era during which all member nations of the UN, above all the industrialized nations, to do their best to render economic assistance to the developing countries and to make it more effective than the first development decade of the sixties. Let us consider the figures for 1971, and 1976. The US monopolies direct investment in the developing countries increased substantially—from 20,700 million to 29,100 million dollars. This means that in 1976 American monopolies subsidiaries in the developing countries controlled assets equivalent to two annual national incomes of a country like Egypt or one national income of a country like Indonesia or Nigeria. According to the *Survey of Current Business*, the overall net profit from the US direct private investments in the developing countries between 1972-1976 amounted to almost 32,000 million dollars out of which 22,900 million dollars was transferred to the United States. In this way, only one out of every four dollars of net profit made by the American corporations' subsidiaries in the developing countries remained there.

ALONG WITH THE EXPANDING TIES of developing countries with socialist states in their efforts to develop an independent national economy, and the implementation of measures by governments of certain countries to nationalise foreign assets, the TNC's, it would appear, are compelled to make some concessions. The creation in developing countries of joint societies and companies with the collaboration of business enterprises is a peculiar form of adjustment of TNC's to the new historical conditions. A poll conducted among the managers of international departments of US business firms indicated that 90 out of the 300 biggest US TNC's 86.7 per cent are prepared to participate in mixed enterprises, while 70 per cent were willing even to become "junior partners."

When setting up mixed companies, the TNC's allow the employment of local personnel at management levels. The Japanese monopoly

MATSUSHITA DENKI chose more than half of its directors in foreign subsidiaries from local personnel. As E. Keller, President of the ADELA Corporation stated at a meeting of a group of UN experts who were studying the impact of TNC's, the greater the responsibility of the managers of the subsidiaries and their powers, the more local citizens hold managerial posts in them, the better these subsidiaries "integrate" in the host country and the less probability of conflicts. *The purpose of such tactics is to create the semblance of "equal partnership."* The TNC's thus attempt to obtain certain guarantees against the risk of nationalization, to utilise economic advantages offered by the govts. of developing countries to national companies and to make maximum use of local financial resources in the direction most suited to them. Even when representatives of local business hold most of the shares there are yet many ways of ensuring the foreign partner control over the mixed enterprise.

These include the majority of seats on the Directorate to the TNC, scattering of the shares of the joint enterprise among small shareholders not taking a direct part in the management, signing a "Basic agreement" specifying the obligations of the sides which, as a rule, leave in the hands of the TNC the main channels of influence such as management of the mixed company, supply of raw materials and marketing. The TNC's also devote much attention to gaining a foothold in local public, business and political circles. For instance, persons influential in local political circles are invited to accept well-paid posts as directors or consultants of foreign affiliations of TNC's.

How can one speak of "partnership" when, the average rate of profit on direct investments of US TNC's in the period 1960-1970 amounted to from 3.5 to 9.7 per cent in the developed capitalist countries, and 17.4 per cent to 27.5 per cent in the developing countries, with a record level of 34.7 per cent reached in asian countries. In 1970 alone, total profits repatriated by foreign firms exceeded the inflow of fresh investment by 725 million dollars in africa, 802 million in africa and 2,202 million dollars in asia.

The economist Gunder Frank expresses the situation rather succinctly: "The metropolis

lites and appropriates it for its own economic development. The satellites remain underdeveloped for lack of access to their own surplus.....One and the same historical process of expansion and development throughout the world generated—and continues to generate—both economic development and structural underdevelopment.”



REVIEWS

Publications Received

THE FAMILY: *Published by the Family Services Institute.* This Newsletter marks the first Asian International Conference on the Family: The natural environment of child development, held, perhaps for the first time, in Sri Lanka. The Institute hopes that this will 'stir' the consciousness of the country as a whole.' Much of the impetus for the study of family problems has come from the conception of the family as a "unity of interacting personalities" proposed by the American sociologist Ernest W. Burgess. As a social institution its origin is lost in antiquity. The importance of the family for social intercourse should not be under-estimated. It is here that the child receives its early training, possibly the most important, before it goes out into a hostile world. The newsletter discusses such subjects of contemporary relevance as Family Relationships, Family Power, Family Planning and School Dropouts. During times when disturbing social trends have developed, when the high rate of residential mobility and urban migration have created problems of poverty, and crime there is an obvious need to secure the Family as an oasis of stability where the young will find nourishment. When attempts were made to break up old family ties by encouraging the young to rebel against their parents, the outcome was deviant behaviour and lack of self discipline. The trend had to be arrested.

I found this Newsletter of much interest. The article on Family Power in the context of Social Change refers to the environment in which the group lives. The development of

highly urbanised environments hinders the maintenance of intimate relationships. It is an accepted fact that a rural population is traditionally more stable than an urban situation. Thus, those who are in a position to influence thought should contemplate upon the suggestions made in this article and act. Two points of view have been expressed by Daya Abeywickrema and Paul Caspersz on Family Planning and Development. While Daya Abeywickrema argues that "if Sri Lanka is to make use of the current development programme the need for a better planned family and a controlled rate of population growth becomes essential" while Paul Caspersz argues that this exercise will "weaken the moral fibre of the nation". Ask any man who tills the soil, he will tell you that he would prefer a larger family. His position is that although he may have an extra mouth to feed, he would have another pair of willing hands to help him in his field. Why has God give us one stomach but two hands. Has anyone pondered upon this? Is it not a paradox that the affluent who can afford a larger family keep it down, while the poorest of the poor are in relentless pursuit of a larger one? A population policy should indeed be an indivisible component of the economic policy as Paul Caspersz examines in his very well written piece.

Families exist to ensure the continuity of the human race and to enable societies to continue from generation to generation. Every effort taken to maintain its sanctity deserves the support of all and to this extent the efforts of the Family Services Institute, Paul VI Centre, 24, Front Street, Colombo 11, Sri Lanka deserves much approbation.

Devaratnam Danforth

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THE CHRISTIAN WORKER. This is a bulletin of the Christian Workers Fellowship. It carries articles on the development process being unfolded and is very much under way and on workers right. There are also articles on other subjects but the one that interested me most is the record of the Fellowship's activities during 1979. It provides positive evidence of concrete steps that were taken during that year to bring a little sunshine into

the lives of the people who needed it most. The Kamkaru Sevana (Worker's Centre) Ratmalana runs a pre-school for the children of the workers. In Ratmalana this can be a most useful project. In addition other group activities are being promoted. In Ratmalana which has emerged as a prime industrial centre this is a praiseworthy programme. The centre at Hatton caters to the needs of the plantation sector. The Gami Seva Sevana (Rural Service Centre) Galaha which has already been in existence for 2½ years appears to have dairy farming as it's major activity. The Farm has 16 milking cows, poultry for egg production, rabbits and goats. It strikes me as somewhat unusual that no one has thought of setting up a Bio-Gas plant here. The Farm can cut down on fuel costs to a considerable extent if it does so. The cost will be marginal.

The Fellowship runs programmes at Werapitiya, Anuradhapura and Colombo. Farming is once again the major programme in Werapitiya and Anuradhapura while work at Colombo is stated to have 'suffered considerably' because of lack of personnel, who are deployed for work outside Colombo. The Fellowship will be happy if friends willing to help could contact it's office at the YMCA Fort. An open letter sent to the Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town calling upon His Grace to "offer the people a concrete model of identification for the oppressed people of South Africa—for the sake of the poor man Jesus—who died to free us all" is also included in this Bulletin.

How many of us would indeed be happy if God's will were done on earth and if His kingdom also did come? How many Christians are prepared to forgive those that trespass against them and of forgiving their debtors as they hoped to be forgiven their debts? An honest answer to these questions can be the start to the resolution of many evils in this World, including the problem in South Africa, of which the open letter speaks.

Devaratnam Danforth



AFGHAN DIPLOMAT

On Why He Defected

New York, Feb. 26,

Abdul Rahim Chafoorzai of Afghanistan, who chose to resign his diplomatic post and protest at the United Nations about the Soviet invasion of his country, said in an interview February 25 with USICA UN Correspondent, Blythe Finke, that though the lives of his wife and four sons still in Kabul may be in danger, he chose to take a stand on behalf of liberty for his country. He had been sent by the Government in Kabul to the United Nations in New York to attend a meeting of the non-aligned movement. There, the 33-year old diplomat, to the surprise of the Cuban delegate sitting in as Chairman, and other members of the group, made a strong protest on behalf of his people against Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. The following are excerpts of the interview:

Question: The Soviets claim they are in Afghanistan in response to a legitimate request from the Afghan leadership. What is your response to the Soviet claim, and what do you think was Moscow's motivation, both short and long-term, in invading Afghanistan and installing the Karmal regime?

Chafoorzai: It has been very hard for the Afghan people to believe that the presence of the Soviet forces in Afghanistan is in accordance with the will of the Afghan people. In accordance with the aspirations of the people and in accordance with the invitation from the Afghan side. That is why an absolute majority of the Afghan people have expressed their indignation, and expressed their protest against such a situation in which the territory of Afghanistan, a nation of 17 million people, has been invaded and occupied by Soviet troops, under the pretext of the so-called invitation from the Afghan side for assistance and for help.

Q. Under what circumstances do you think the Soviets would withdraw?

A. I think it is up to the Soviets themselves to decide. As far as the Afghan people are concerned, we—in our whole history of relations with the Soviet people—have had beneficial co-operation, but the recent action

taken by the Soviet Union is something that has really astonished and disappointed the people. Because the Afghan people are a people and nation by nature peaceful, I believe if the Soviet Union decided to change its policy towards the people of Afghanistan, and bring about a situation in which the people of Afghanistan will be able to freely determine their own future, to be free from outside domination, and to live in liberty, and be free to choose any sort of government, then the people of Afghanistan would do their utmost to forget the unfortunate experience resulting from the invasion by the Soviet troops.

Q. What sort of steps should the non-aligned nations take, in your opinion, to express their displeasure over the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan? What should the United Nations and the Muslim nations do?

A. In the statement I made before the non-aligned conference, I expressed the indignation of the people of Afghanistan against the situation in which their country was invaded by a superpower. I stated that, since 1955, there are two important principles to which the non-aligned conference has adhered. One is the principle of non-interference in the international affairs of states, and the other, the respect for the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of states. It is very unfortunate that in Afghanistan in the present situation, these essential principles have been seriously violated. I have drawn the attention of the non-aligned conference to the situation in Afghanistan, and on behalf of the Afghan people, I have requested the non-aligned movement to urgently convene a meeting to evaluate the situation in Afghanistan, and take effective and necessary action.

Q. Do you believe the United States is correct in taking a firm stand against the Soviet Union on this issue?

A. I think the members of the United Nations, in adhering to the principles of the UN charter and the universal declaration of human rights, are responsible for taking prompt, urgent and effective measures in any part of the world in situations in which the rights of people to liberty, to peace, and to live in dignity free from outside domination are

endangered. I think it is not only the responsibility of the United States, but it is the responsibility of all peace-loving countries and members of the United Nations to support the Afghan people in their just cause, to assure the urgent withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, and to assure that the people are free to determine their own future.

Q. What form of government do you feel the Afghan people are ready to support if the Soviet presence is removed?

A. As soon as the military forces of the Soviet Union are withdrawn from Afghanistan, then the people of Afghanistan would decide upon their own future. I am not going to project what sort of government they would decide upon, but I believe an absolute majority of the people would favour having an Islamic Republic. As soon as the Soviet troops are removed, the people would have chance to decide their future?

Q. What encouraged you to defect?

A. The only motive is my deep sense of responsibility toward my people, and toward my country. As soon as I realized that the presence of Soviet forces in Afghanistan did not meet the approval of the Afghan people and was not in accordance with an invitation from the Afghan side, I decided to join in the struggle against the illegal presence of Soviet forces in Afghanistan.

—USICA

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AFGHANISTAN

Repulsing Attacks

by A. Petrov

Moscow, Feb. 28,

Today's *Pravda* carries an article by A. Petrov on the abortive attempts by provocateurs and diversionists to upset the tranquility and order in the Afghan capital. One is not surprised, the article says, that after the forces of Afghan security and militia organs had captured the organisers and perpetrators of the rampages, the latter turned out to be subversive elements paid and equipped abroad and infiltrated into the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan from Pakistan, who have the US

secret services behind them. At present, investigation is going on and, according to a statement of the Afghan authorities, relevant documents will be made public. It is characteristic that the White House is issuing loud protestations of U.S. "non-complicity" in these events. But is such a coincidence purely accidental?

President Carter had demanded that all foreign troops be withdrawn from Afghanistan by February 20. Of course, such demands fall within the sphere of "ultimatums" to which the U.S. administration so rashly resorts on any occasion. At the same time, however, one cannot fail to perceive a coincidence, namely that the "programs" in Kabul organized by infiltrated gangs began on February 21, i.e. on the morrow following the expiry of the "Carter ultimatum." At present, with reliance on documents captured and the evidence of the organizers of the disturbances one can definitely state that what was in progress was preparation of a counter-revolutionary rebellion, with the "program" and the destabilized situation in the Afghan capital serving as a prologue to it.

The Carter administration, the article says further, is waging a struggle against the present democratic Afghanistan and its government because they pursue a policy which accords with the interests of their people and not with Washington's strategic anti-Soviet ambitions. Imperialists would wish to be able to decide for the Afghan people the political course it should follow. The government that must be in power in Kabul and against what neighbour Afghanistan must be turned.

They have already assigned such a role to Pakistan, having turned the country, against the will and the interests of its people, into a springboard for an open aggression against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. The Pakistani leaders swear that they have nothing to do with the events now occurring in Afghanistan, asserting that they are only providing "humanitarian" assistance to the Afghan refugees. It is hardly worthwhile believing the words of a regime which is playing the game of "humanitarianism" and which has been described by western bourgeois press as one of the most "ruthless and tyrannical

dictatorships" in Asia. As to facts, one cannot help believing them. And the facts irrefutably indicate a direct responsibility of the Pakistani regime for the undeclared war unleashed from its territory against Afghanistan and for the recent actions as part of the criminal interference in the affairs of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, committed in Kabul by diversions infiltrated from Pakistan. Pakistan has been repeatedly warned about this responsibility through diplomatic channels both by Afghanistan and the Soviet Union.

A resort to hypocritical statements about "non-complicity" in the provocations against the Afghan people cannot hide the imperialist policy being pursued by the United States of America, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, the Zionists leadership of Egypt against the lawful government of Afghanistan. It is beyond doubt that any provocations of the enemies of the Afghan people, any encroachments on the sovereignty and freedom of Afghanistan will continue to meet with a firm and resolute rebuff, the author of the article in the stresses in conclusion.

—APN

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AFGHAN REBELS

U.S. Said To Supply Arms

by Michael Getler

Washington, Feb. 15.

The United States is supplying weapons to rebel forces battling Soviet troops in Afghanistan, according to reliable sources. The weapons, presumably being slipped across Pakistan's 1,400 mile border with Afghanistan, are said to be mostly small arms and relatively simple anti-tank weapons that give a soldier the capability to knock out an armoured vehicle. *The smuggled arms are said to be Soviet-built which helps disguise the source of supply.*

The covert U.S. weapons supply, which the sources said began after the Russians entered Afghanistan in force in late December, is described as neither large nor dramatic. Yet it would reflect a Carter administration decision to try to help the rebel forces, which are up against the sophisticated weapons of

the Russians, while raising the cost to the Russians of their action. Although it is not known precisely how the supply is being carried out, the operator presumably is the CIA. Key committees of Congress responsible for overseeing covert activities have been kept informed of the administration's actions by the State Department and the CIA. There are many areas outside the Soviet Union where Soviet-built weapons are in use and can be acquired. There is a sizable underground arms market flowing west from Eastern Europe. There also are Soviet weapons in Africa, where Cuban forces use and lose them and in countries as Egypt and China that were heavily supplied with Soviet arms but since have cut their military ties to Moscow.

The purported decision to supply arms, even in limited quantities is a significant step beyond the aid that the United States was providing Afghan insurgents before the Soviet intervention. According to the sources, the covert U.S. aid before the intervention was limited to funneling small amounts of medical supplies and communications equipment to scattered rebel tribes and to giving what was described as technical advice to the rebels about where they could acquire arms on their own. U.S. officials previously have said privately that the insurgents actually were well supplied with arms by units of the Afghan Army that defected to the rebel side. The reported U.S. supply of the rebels would seem to contradict that view unless the arms available in Afghanistan are not suitable for use against the Soviet armoured units.

Although the State Department consistently has declined to comment on questions about what, if anything, the United States is and has been doing in Afghanistan, there have been a number of public hints of some U.S. action. The clearest indication that there was some U.S. activity before the intervention in Afghanistan was given on Jan. 9—two weeks after the intervention—during a television appearance by Sen. Birch Bayh, D-Ind., the chairman of the Senate select Committee on Intelligence. The television questioner referred to the opposition by Afghan rebels to the successive regimes in Afghanistan since

a coup in April 1978, that brought in a Communist government. "Can you say whether we have in any way been trying to help them?" he asked. The senator replied, "I think I can say that, when a significant number of people in Afghanistan were determined to try to exert themselves and to try to have some say in what kind of government Afghanistan should have, and not have, it imposed upon them by the Soviets, we did take certain steps to help them do what any group of citizens should be able to do in a country". Asked recently about what he was referring to Sen Bayh, through his spokesman, declined to elaborate.

—*International Herald Tribune*, Feb. 16-17, 1980

LETTERS

● Upali Wijewardene

Sir,

In the *Tribune* of 16th February 1980, *Grassroots* had raised the question: "Can Upali Wijewardene continue to function as the Chairman of the Greater Colombo Economic Commission?" I personally think that Upali Wijewardene can in fact continue to be the Chairman of the Greater Colombo Economic Commission and also that he should be allowed to continue to do so for the following salutary reasons:

Mr. Upali Wijewardene is a self-made multinational businessman who has made his mark on his own. He is the most successful international business that Sri Lanka has so far produced. Therefore, there is none in Sri Lanka today other than this single soul Upali Wijewardene who is more qualified to be the Chairman of the Greater Colombo Economic Commission to make it the grand success which is now in the process of achieving. If Upali Wijewardene is removed from the Chairmanship of the Greater Colombo Economic Commission, I am sure that it would soon be a flop. So if the Greater Colombo Economic Commission is to make the success that it is making now, Upali Wijewardene should be allowed to continue in that high office without any interruption.

Like other categories of successful professionals even successful businessmen like Upali Wijewardene should be given the opportunity to serve the country and its people by holding public offices. Beggars should not be appointed to economic concerns like the Greater Colombo Economic Commission for beggars would exploit such positions to their own mean advantage. Mr. Upali Wijewardene is a multi-millionaire. He does not personally gain anything by being the Chairman of the Greater Colombo Economic Commission; on the contrary the country and its people stand to gain very much from his business acumen, knowledge, experience and competence. Hence, for petty parochial jealousies Upali Wijewardene should not be removed from the Chairmanship of Greater Colombo Economic Commission.

Bandula Sri Gunawardhana

Editor, World Government Journal,
270, Park Road,
Colombo 5.

This subject was comprehensively discussed in the *Tribune* of 24th March, 1979, 25th August, 1979, 20th October, 1979, 27th October 1979, 3rd November 1979 and 10th November, 1979 expressing the view that growing orchid for cut flower trade is not a profitable venture. As there was none to contradict this view a reply was solicited under Editors Note Book Column appearing in page 2 of the *Tribune* of 2nd February, 1980. But so far no one appears to have challenged the aforesaid view.

I wish that you would be so kind as to read the articles appearing in the *Tribune* before proceeding further in this venture. If necessary, I shall be happy to supply you the relevant copies of the *Tribune* for perusal and return.

Yours faithfully,

Dr. T. G. D. Chandra Perera, J.P.
66, Attanagalle Road,
Veyangoda.
12.3.80

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● Sarathchandra Rajakaruna

This is a copy of a letter sent to Mr. Sarathchandra Rajakaruna, Deputy Minister of Food & Co-operatives, Ministry of Food & Co-operatives, 330, Union Place, Colombo 2.

Dear Sir,

I thought of addressing this letter to you after reading the leading news report appearing on the first page of the *Ceylon Daily News* of 8th March, 1980 under the caption "Earn Rs. 1,500/- with 4-Hour Work Day".

I have been an orchid grower on a commercial basis for a considerable length of time and I am also a founder member of the Exotic Plants & Orchid Growers' Co-operative Society Ltd. It is my view and also the view of a large number of my friends who have been growing orchids that though this is an expensive hobby no profit can be made by sale of cut flowers. Profits can be made only by sale of plants and top cuttings to those who are interested in this hobby. If, however, arrangements could be made to sell top cuttings and plants to foreign countries this can be a foreign exchange earner.

RANDOM JOTTINGS

by Rambler

● BIRENDRA

*BIRENDRA OF NEPAL—Realising that he had to pay his respects to Indira Gandhi after she came to power, Birendra worked out a strategy which he thought would impress her. He started on a tour of some South and South-eastern Asian countries—Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Singapore—and persuaded these countries to back his demand for Nepal as a Peace Zone. Birendra (in the joint communiques) also made it a point to make these three countries to couple Afghanistan and Kampuchea to condemn the Soviet Union and take a different line from that of India on both issues. Thus, armed with what he thought was the powerful backing of South Asian and ASEAN countries, he called on Indira.

But he didn't get his way on matters of international significance. As between India and Nepal there were obviously no difficulties: (1) about demarcating boundaries,

especially in replacing damaged boundary posts (or pillars); (2) about reviewing bilateral relations, especially in trade and (3) about other matters that came under the purview of Indo-Nepalese Treaty. "But the two sides took note of these differing perceptions of certain issues like the Nepalese proposal for a zone of peace with regional implications which could not be discussed within the confines of their bilateral relations" commented G. K. Reddy in the *Hindu*.

King Birendra had also mooted the idea of a regional mechanism for frequent consultations among the countries of South Asia on both political and economic issues. "He put across the suggestion during his talk with the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, that the scope of such consultations, which would be initially confined to neighbouring countries like India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, could be extended later to give a wider Asian dimension to it. The King argued that it is no use sending special emissaries around to co-ordinate regional reaction after an event like the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan had taken place. He felt that the neighbouring countries in the area should remain in close contact even in normal times to be able to co-ordinate their responses and act in unison in averting the dangers of wider conflicts in the wake of such developments in the region. The king had apparently discussed this concept with the leaders of other countries like Sri Lanka and Bangladesh during his five-nation visit, before putting across the idea to Mrs. Indira Gandhi during his talks with her in Delhi. The main thrust of his argument was that, apart from holding periodic meetings at ministerial or official level depending on the nature of the problems facing them, the participating countries should feel free to send out special emissaries to elicit the views of others on any issue at any time to assess and harness the consensus for defusing a crisis and averting the danger of outside intervention."

Mrs. Indira Gandhi saw through this transparent device to weave a kind of camouflaged *cordon sanitaire* around India—a strategy the US, UK and some Western countries seem to have evolved in recent times and

which they had hoped to make a concrete reality with the concurrence of Desai under cover of checking "Soviet expansionism". But Indira Gandhi is a different kettle of fish from Morarji Desai, but Birendra nevertheless made a heroic effort to put this strategy into effect. The ball had been set rolling by Ziaur Rahman of Bangladesh and Suharto of Indonesia paying visits to some of these countries and laying the foundation for what was to come. At the time of the Bangladesh-Indonesia presidential visits to Sri Lanka, *Tribune* had hinted that there were whispers that Ziaur Rahman had mooted the idea of a regional organisation consisting of Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia and Burma. India and Pakistan were to be brought in later. The defeat of the Janata Government and the re-emergence of Indira had knocked the bottom of the plan, but nevertheless the sponsors do not seem to have abandoned it.

This undoubtedly western-inspired strategy had lay hidden until Nepal disclosed part of the plan by asking India to participate in it. Indira's reaction was predictable. According to G. K. Reddy: ".....The Prime Minister cautioned him (Birendra) that the countries of the area had to be doubly careful in attempting to evolve a regional mechanism of this type, since they had to contend with the inherent risks of the big powers taking advantage of their differing perceptions to create further dissensions among them. Her first reaction was that a country like India had to study carefully the wider political implications of the proposal before indicating its considered reaction to it. It would be bad enough, from India's point of view, to give an opportunity, to the big powers to dabble in the internal politics of the region, but worse still to expose themselves to the perils of being compartmentalised into sub-regional pressure groups to subvert their respective power pursuits under the guise of promoting regional co-operation. The brief joint statement issued today at the conclusion of King Birendra's visit made no mention at all of this Nepalese proposal for regional consultations. It merely noted that the two effort to increase their contacts at all levels to expand co-operation in mutually beneficial spheres."

Indira Gandhi has thus made it clear that India will not be party to the creation of a "bloc" in which western countries will seek to intrigue through weak and unstable governments like Nepal and Bangladesh and satellite client states like Singapore.

Will Nepal persist in trying to pull western countries out of the South Asian fire? Nepal "as a zone of peace" is only an attempt to have non-aligned and international guarantees to perpetuate the dictatorial and antiquated monarchial rule of the Rana feudal nobility. Sri Lanka was extra careful in the wording of the paragraph about the "Nepal a Zone of Peace" concept in the joint communique: "His Majesty the King of Nepal explained his proposal for Nepal as a Zone of Peace. His Excellency the President of Sri Lanka stated that he supported the concept of zones of peace in all parts of the world, including Nepal, and that in this context the proposal of His Majesty the King that Nepal be declared a Zone of Peace is a valuable contribution to this concept."

Newspaper headlines had given a different impression of Sri Lanka's reaction to the concept of Nepal as a zone of peace, but the actual text reveals a welcome caution. Sri Lanka cannot under-write the Birendra regime for all time or be party to a regional bloc for foreign intrigues.

Bhutan has already, walked out of this proposed grouping by calling on Indira Gandhi and agreeing to follow Indian initiatives in foreign affairs and not be party to anti-Indian intrigues by raising unrealistic slogans about "Independence". Bangladesh had taken a tough line against India over sharing the waters of the river Ganges and even suggested bringing Nepal into the discussions (later to add Bhutan, China and Burma). But India has taken a tougher line and told Bangladesh where it should get off and draw the line.

FILM FOCUS

Sex And Crime

***TAMIL FILMS**—at the recent O.C.I.C. Film Awards Ceremony referred to in this column last week (15.3.80), if there was one theme that pervaded the occasion, it was the need for racial amity in this country. While

the film **SARUNGALE**, which was dedicated towards this end, won two of the major awards there was also a film script competition for which 3 cash awards were given for the best contribution made on the theme of communal harmony. That the O.C.I.C. should have sponsored those moves were very laudable, but getting down to brass tacks devoid of any "sops", the O.C.I.C. should be more alive to the needs of the Tamil speaking people of this country who have been deprived of seeing modern films in their language, produced either locally or imported from abroad.

It is true that the local Tamil productions have been caught up in the doldrums and need resuscitation, and who can breathe more life in this direction than a recognised and internationally labelled body like the O.C.I.C. This column wishes, that as preached at a recent bridge building confabulation at Tewatte, this film body will move positively to remove this running sore in the field of entertainment and erase the insinuation that it is catering to the needs of the Sinhala filmgoers only.

The O.C.I.C. should also get its voice heard loudly regarding the films overloaded with violence, sex, incest and the like that are getting past the censors for public exhibition, corrupting our youngsters and running counter to the culture streams of Sri Lanka. The shocking theme of the much gloated film *China Town* and the Tamil Film *Manmatha Leelai* are cases in point. It would be sad if the O.C.I.C. should be getting into the limelight for these annual occasions only, and resting for the rest of the year. The State Film Corporation's Chairman Mr. Anton Wickremasinghe, was present at the O.C.I.C. Festival and this column has no reservation whatsoever that he would act promptly if the O.C.I.C. were to tap on his door with a view to generating "peace" and "purity" through the film media.

***DIAMONDS**—English. That steely eyed actor Robert Shaw who was thrown up from obscurity by that Box Office breaker "JAWS" and also stung rather badly in the recent release "THE STING" takes on the main role in this film which traces meticulously a daring robbery in the Diamond Center of the world, situated in Tel Aviv. Shaw is the robber and he teams up with Richard Roundtree to pull off the precious stones and pierce the ingenuity

TRIBUNE, March 22, 1980

of his younger brother—doubled by him—who chiseled so much security in the vaults of the Diamond bank. He plans the robbery just for kicks and with sadistic satisfaction heads the story to a tension ridden anti-climax. All in all, a good escapist film, if you can keep your gullibility unextended.

GENERAL CHAKRAWARTHY—In this Tamil film in colour, the title role film maestro Shivaji Ganeshan likes a glove as he acts the happily married General with the versatile K. R. Vijaya as his ever loving doctor spouse. A pretty daughter in Kavitha gets into an indiscreet predicament and the happy Christian family finds itself in an ugly spot, with the General away on a special military assignment in Tanzania. An abortion that could have saved the situation is ruled out completely, with some of the most convincing arguments for "Pro Life" I have heard in a Tamil film. This is a short crispy film but enmeshed in a story short of moral depth and thrown in as an appetiser to a promiscuous generation that could taste the forbidden salad and take furtive gulps at it. The finale however is interesting and ends well with General Shivaji flexing his muscles.

KANCHANA—This behind the camera story on a local Sinhalese film location, with the Director spinning a sensuous web to lay his predatory arms around the heroine of the production, Kanchana, rolled by newcomer Rathika, who hams all the way. Pretty Sriyani Amarasena has quite a time Keeping this aimless flop in wide-screen afloat.

James N. Benedict

MARGINALIA

IPIL IPIL HOAX

by Serendib

Perhaps the most massive and sustained advertising campaign ever conducted in Sri Lanka is one by the Water Resources Board to persuade people to grow IPIL IPIL. It has been described as a miracle tree that gives man and animal everything they need.

It will be remembered that during the last government, Dr. Herath, the present

Chairman of the Water Resources Board, was Chairman of the Livestock Board. At that time too, a massive and expensive campaign of advertising had been conducted by the National Livestock Board to induce people to grow IPIL IPIL. A vast amount of money was spent on advertising the virtues of the IPIL IPIL then. Millions of seeds were distributed, and all that is happening today had happened at that time—but what has Dr. Herath to show for that campaign and expenditure of the old Livestock Board?

And now the same process is being repeated—at great expense again to the tax payer. Lakhs have been already spent on advertising IPIL IPIL, soon it will be millions. And is all this expenditure justified?

Regarding the value of IPIL IPIL, *Tribune* has just received a copy of a report on "Biofuel Systems and Plantations—Energy Farms Their Environmental Implications." This is a paper by a Research Fellow in the Environment and Policy Institute, East-West Centre, Hawaii. This is an extract from the report referring to IPIL IPIL: "Hamlet cannot be staged without the Prince!—nor can one write on species and increment without reference to *Leucaena Leucocephala* (*Ipil-Ipil*), the so-called miracle tree—like *Anthocephalus kadamba* the miracle tree of the sixties but now apparently in limbo! In discussions with those actively studying this species, the writer gathered that estimates of increment have been in the region of 31.25 bone dry tonnes/hectare/per year, or on a five year rotation yield of 156 bone dry tonnes/hectare/(about 312 green tonnes). There have been many glowing claims made for this species.

"The publication '*Leucaena—Promising Forage and Tree Crop*,' lists some of its achievements: (1) A photograph shown of an 8 year-old tree, with a height of 20m and a diameter of 40 cm. But this is just one single tree in a very small grove of trees; (2) At Canlubang estate in Philippines, the highest annual production of woods ever measured is cited. But these are small groves of trees which have been furrow ploughed by buffaloes; (3) In Paliparac area in Mt. Makiling, it is reported that *Leucaena* covered this area from Imperata grass to productive firewood

forest, and twelve years later 14.5 tonnes of firewood was being harvested per hectare. This report does not state whether this was the total yield in twelve years, or on a smaller rotation of say, 3-6 years. Even if it is only a three-year rotation (from the photograph the plot shown appears to be about 4-5 years), it represents a MAI of less than 5 tonnes per year—a very low yield indeed for a miracle tree.

"The writer has observed in more than one country plots shown to visitors to demonstrate the marvelous growth of *Leucaena* (a) in some instances they are single trees near nursery sites (b) they have been few rows of trees of previously ploughed agricultural land, with intensively managed and heavily fertilized agricultural lands around these rows.

"In fact, in Sri Lanka, one high official had the temerity to take the Minister in charge of Forests to show a single tree in the garden by the Conservator of Forests' window (incidentally the writer happened to be the Conservator of Forests) when the Forest Department assessment of the performance of *Leucaena* on a plantation scale in Sri Lanka was extremely poor! It was ideal for small woodlots and gardens. For the purpose of comparison it may be recorded that yields of 32.5 to 37.5 tonnes/hectare/per year have been reported for grasses, while algae culture in California has yield dry biomass varying from 20 to 97.5 tonnes/hectare/per year.....

And so it goes on. The research scholar is no other than W. R. H. Perera who was Conservator of Forests in Colombo. He was also a member of the Water Resources Board (WRB) until he left to go to the East-West Centre as a Research Fellow. The advertisement campaign for IPIL IPIL has been stepped up in recent weeks, but members of the Board seem to have little or no say about the way things are done.

The time has come, however, for a few questions to be asked:

1. How many IPIL IPIL trees survive from the millions of seeds distributed for planting in the SLFP period when Dr. Herath was the Chairman of the Livestock Board?

2. What is the amount of money spent by the Livestock Board on advertising in the SLFP period on boosting IPIL IPIL?

3. What is the amount that has been spent by the Water Resources Board in boosting IPIL IPIL in the post-1977 UNP government?

4. On the basis of scientific data and reports available about IPIL IPIL is all this expenditure justified? Why all this fuss about a product which is virtually a dead duck?

5. Is it not true that in some countries (e.g. Australia) the planting of IPIL IPIL is discouraged because if it is more than 40% of an animals' feed, it was likely to make the animal infertile and impotent? Is there an excess stock of animals in Sri Lanka, that we should adopt indirect "family planning" for animals?

QUIDNUNCS

● Foreign Service ● Indonesian Business ● STC Chairman

A **QUIDNUNC**, according to the **Shorter Oxford Dictionary**, is "one who is constantly asking 'what now?', 'what news?' hence an inquisitive person, a gossip. The word comes from the Latin, *quid* (what), *nunc* (now)—*what now?*—and is defined in **Websters Dictionary** as "one who seeks to know all the latest gossip." Our own era, especially in Sri Lanka, is admittedly the *Quidnuncs' Golden Age*. Gossip is now a marketable commodity. The stories our *Quidnuncs* bring are based on a substratum of truth and *Tribune* publishes them only if the fire from which the smoke has arisen has some kind of reality. Apart from a few kite-flying stories to provoke investigation, most stories in this column are enough for a daily paper to go to town with a banner headline.

*A **QUIDNUNC** from the higher rungs of intellectual elitism has sent us the following questions which he (and *Tribune*) think are worthy of being raised in Parliament.

1. What is the number of Officers recruited outside the scheme of Recruitment to fill posts scheduled in the Sri Lanka Overseas Service, other than to posts of Ambassadors, after July, 1977 and what are their names,

qualifications and posts (giving designation) to which they have been appointed? 2. What is the number of vacancies in the Sri Lanka Overseas Service filled temporarily, by contracts or permanently, by these appointments? 3. How many vacancies were there in the cadre of the Sri Lanka Overseas Service at the time of the Examination held in June 1977 and how many vacancies were added thereto up to December 1979? 4. What are the names of the candidates who have been called for the Viva Voce examination and the marks obtained by them, both at the written examination as well as at the two viva voce examinations held? 5. Why were two separate batches of candidates interviewed and what was the basis on which selections for interviews made? 6. What is the number of appointments made on the results of the above examination and if the number is less than the number of vacancies, is action being taken to fill the rest or any more vacancies on the same results and if not why?

There is no reason why the Government should not table answers to these questions—but a M.P. should raise them in the first instance to obtain the information.

*A QUIDNUNC from Pettah wants to know why the contents of all important inquiries addressed to the Sri Lanka Embassy in Jakarta (in Indonesia) are known to one particular businessman in Green Path in Colombo. The Quidnunc also wants the Government to investigate whether (or not) all deals negotiated by the Embassy itself have been channelled through this source as the agent in Sri Lanka who will thus collect a commission. That this channelling is alleged to have already taken place in the matter of railway sleepers, dry fish (prats) etc. etc. That an examination of the Embassy-sponsored imports from Indonesia in the last 3 or 4 months will be most revealing.

*A QUIDNUNC in the higher echelons of the commercial world of Colombo has raised a number of interesting questions about the activities of the State Trading Corporation (STC):

(i) Why was no tender called for the 50,000 tons of cement recently imported by the STC through Malships? That the first intimation the public had of this import was

when the cement was offered to the public ex-wharf by the STC? That the question is being asked why no tender in the usual way was called for for this purchase of 50,000 tons—worth over US \$ 4 million? That it is not known how the STC got round the government order that all tenders (presumably purchases) over one million rupees should go before a Tender Committee appointed by the Cabinet? That if permission was granted to place the order for 50,000 tons of cement by calling for offers privately, who granted the permission?

(ii) Is it not true that the Chairman of the STC has gone on foreign trips at least 12 times since this government came to power in 1977? Is it not a fact, asks the Quidnunc, whether the Tribune has not pointed out that it was not necessary for Chairmen of Corporations and Purchasing Missions of Govt. Departments to go abroad to conclude multi-million contracts? That sellers agents will be willing to come to Colombo many times over to sell wherever goods the STC or the Government wants to buy? That it will be interesting to know the reasons given by the Chairman for these trips and also the transactions (if any) entered into on each trip?

(iii) Does the Act of Parliament which set up the STC permit it to participate in tenders or act as agents for foreign shippers? Is it true that the STC are the agents for a Korean Shipping Line called Daewoo and that they submit tenders on their behalf? That what has surprised the shipping trade is that STC say that the brokerage commission allowed by the Shipper is only 1% (and this is undoubtedly credited to government) whereas the freight brokerage in the trade is 2½%? That the question asked is why the STC is willing to work on a lesser Commission—or whether the balance 1½% has gone “invisible?”

There are also many other questions being asked about the activities of the STC. For one how many senior and qualified employees have quit the organisation during the last one year? And why? Is history repeating itself here as in the Milk Board?

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Govt.
Notices

**The Land Acquisition Act (Chapter 450)
As Amended By The Land Acquisition
(Amendment) Act No. 28 Of 1964.
Notice Under Section 7(I)**

Reference No. LD/F 634

It is intended to acquire the land described in the Schedule below for a public purpose. For further particulars please see the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka No. 81 of 21-03-1980 (Part III).

K. B. Wijekoon
Assistant Government Agent,
Kandy District.

The Kachcheri,
Kandy. 27 February 1980

Schedule

Situation: Hiddaulla village, Meda Palata Korale (Udunuwara) Udunuwara D.R.O.'s Division, Kandy District.

Name of land	Plan and Lot Nos.
Hewahehena alias Mahawatte	Lot 1 in P.P. Maha 1937

My No. EA/1/297

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

It is intended to acquire the land described below for a public purpose. For further particulars, please see the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka No. 81 (Part III) of 21-03-1980.

Situation: Situated in the Village of Wadduwa West in Ward No. 8, Wadduwa within the T.C. Limits of Wadduwa in Kalutara Totamune North in Kalutara District Western Province.

Name of land: Playground of T.C. Wadduwa
Lots & Plan No: Lot No. 1 in P.P.KA 1713

Mahinda Gammampila

Assistant Government Agent, Kalutara District
Kalutara Kachcheri,
28th February 1980.

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

Reference No. 25/2/496

It is intended to acquire the land described in the schedule below for a public purpose. For further particulars please see the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka No. 81 (part iii) of 21-03-1980.

W. M. T. B. Menikdiwela
Assistant Government Agent,
Kegalle District.

The Kachcheri,
Kegalle. 03rd March 1980

Schedule

Situation: Situated in Wahawa Village, Walgam Pattu, Rambukkana D.R.O.'s Division in Kegalle District.

Plan No.	Name of land.
Supplement No. 5 in F.V.P. 124	Billage watta and Agalapallekumbura

My No. EA/4/278

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

It is intended to acquire the land described below for a public purpose. For further particulars, please see the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka No. 81 (Part III) of 21-03-1980.

Situation: Situated in the village of Hettiwatta, ward No. 5 Dharga (within the Town Council limits of Dharga Town) D.R.O.'s Division of Kalutara Totamuna South Kalutara District in Western Province.

Name of land: (1) Bakinigahawatta, Assmt. No. 25/2, Kadyawatta Road, (2) Bakinigahawatta, Assmt. No. 25/4 and 25/10; Kadiyawatta Road, (3) Kachchunadi Assmt. No. 25/8 and 25/11 Kadiyawatta Road; (4) Dummalawayal Assmt. No. 313/1 and 313/2 Matugama Road; (5) Kanatiya Assmt. No. 313 Matugama Road; (6) Periyawayal Assmt. No. 315, Matugama Road.

Lots & Plan No: Lot Nos. 1,2,3,4,5, and 6 in P.P.K. 1699

Mahinda Gammampila

Assistant Government Agent, Kalutara District,
Kalutara Kachcheri,
26th February 1980.

Confidentially

! : Wijetilleke Letters

! : Water Pumps

IS IT NOT TRUE that there is in Sri Lanka now a rapidly multiplying bundle of papers known as the *Wijetilleke Letters*? That they have become the main topic of conversation of the day? That it is said that photostat and xeroxing machines in the city cannot cope with the demand? That some may describe the contents as allegations? That others may say they represent facts? That still others fall back on the excuse that it is something that has to be tolerated under a liberalised economy? That *Tribune* will deal with the contents separately, in a later issue, but for the moment it would be useful to examine the reasons why the letters were written? That one fact that emerges is that Sri Lanka has an abundance of dedicated men who are prepared to and have already sacrificed a lot to be associated with the progress which was forecast after the 1977 landslide victory of the UNP? That, however, Dr. Wijetilleke was one of the favoured few in that he had an alternative to turn to? That even when the last vestiges of self-respect had been drained out, he was able to take the liberty of being outspoken before he upped and away? That the last straw broke the camel's back? That there are thousands of similar persons dedicated to a cause who cannot say their piece because of the lack of an alternative? That therefore they have to sit, suffer and be silent? That one interesting outcome of the *Wijetilleke Letters* is not what caused them or whether the contents are factual? That it is a fact that the *Wijetilleke Letters* have caused more than a ripple, and that others similarly placed (persons of dedication, honesty and integrity) may soon have the guts to expose their inner feelings despite not having the alternative? That, moreover, disillusionment, but not within the walled moats of the castles of power, is today being voiced with some startling exposes? That it is a peculiar specie of disillusionment is not aimed at the irregularities

of omission and commission? That instead the theme is why doesn't someone act? That the question is being asked whether this is democracy? That whether this is the clean dharma government that the people voted replace the arrogant corrupt of the one before? That now the peculiar specie of disillusionment is being voiced with a growl of protest not the plaintive bleat of a year ago? That some say that though the Ides of March have just gone by, in the world of today disaster can erupt anytime? That some say that the *Wijetilleke Letters* can even attain the fame of *Pickwick Papers*—for though no one in authority seems to take these Letters seriously, they (like the *Pickwick Papers*) will not be forgotten

IS IT TRUE that there are fears that this country may soon be flooded with 20,000 Japanese water pumps to be distributed free to all and sundry? That if this should happen, the local water pump industry (which is also exporting pumps in a small way) will be ruined and be completely thrown out of business? That the Government should be careful about what it accepts as free gifts or grants under international Aid Schemes? That for 1980 the stories going the rounds in Colombo is that the authorities have decided to obtain hand sprayers and tractors—under this same aid scheme? That wisely the Administration has decided to give these sprayers and tractors to the 5,000 odd agricultural service stations that have either been set up or would soon be set up? That the protests of local manufacturers of sprayers only prevented these sprayers being distributed free to "needy" farmers (meaning MPs favourites)? That for 1981 it is said that some bright spark has hit upon the scheme to obtain 20,000 water pumps to be distributed free to "needy" farmers? That to silence protests from local manufacturers, it is likely that local manufacturers will be asked to gift pumps to "needy" farmers or under-write sales to farmers whom the banks regard as credit risks? That the highest echelons of government should look into this threat to a local industry? That the aid could easily be otherwise utilised—by getting bulldozers, cattle or poultry feed etc. etc.? That such items could easily be substituted for water pumps or other equipment now manufactured here?

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A MISSION

Missions are inspired by great ideals. On the 17th May, 1880, Colonel Olcott arrived in Sri Lanka, inspired by the noble mission of leading our spiritual, cultural and educational re-awakening.

The renaissance that occurred in the field of our education, formed an indispensable motive force in our yearning for national liberation.

In all places and at all times, there is a service man can render to man.

Time passes. Needs too vary. The character, shape and the profile of missions, change. But, the sense of mission never changes.

Time passed A new era dawned. Fresh needs emerged. Man's Service to his fellow-man took on an international community stature.

The UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR POPULATION ACTIVITIES 'Needs Mission' is currently visiting Sri Lanka to fund and assist national needs today—that too with a sense of mission.

All countries bent on development, inevitably face a grave problem. How can POPULATION be managed in keeping with development-goals so that the masses could fully and comprehensively enjoy the fruits of development?

The 'Needs Mission' from UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR POPULATION ACTIVITIES on a visit to Sri Lanka, at the invitation of the Government, is currently busy helping us to achieve this national self-reliance in order that population policies and plans could be generated in terms of our specific needs.

A series of co-ordinated and integrated activities in these fields launched by UNFPA has been in force in Sri Lanka during the last seven years.

The UNFPA has already initiated a series of projects in our country. These include Family Health, Family Planning Services in Hospitals, communication in family planning and population. Educating the school children in population matters, Family Health Education, Training mid-wives, inclusive of Human Reproduction and Demography, in university study courses, educating the family planning volunteers, training Estate family planning workers, special social development projects for the Mahaweli area, Education in Socio-Economics and Statistical work, and assistance to the National Census in 1981.

As a matter of course, most people tend to talk about population-increase as Sri Lanka's gravest problem. But, it is only a hand full that has realized the gravity of this problem in its true proportion. It is alarming even to consider the figures of land-man ratio in Sri Lanka, forgetting problems of development for the moment.

The total extent of land in Sri Lanka including that covered by hills and valleys, rivers, streams and lakes, marshes, swamps and even roadways, houses and other edifices put up by man is only 1,621,240 acres. In the year 1901 when population was 240,000 the per capita land ratio was 4½ acres. In 1946 the ratio was 2.4 acres. In terms of today's population the ratio is 1.1 acres. One must not forget that this ratio is in terms of total extent of land not only cultivable land. This extent of cultivable land, represents less than half-an-acre per person.

Such resources as rivers and streams are nature's gift to man. But, these cannot be created afresh, nor can they be renewed. The best that can be done is to use these resources with economy and circumspection. But when population burgeons in leaps and bounds, wouldn't these resources get exhausted in the immediate future? If we cannot renew or create afresh those natural resources that get exhausted can, we reap the expected results of development.