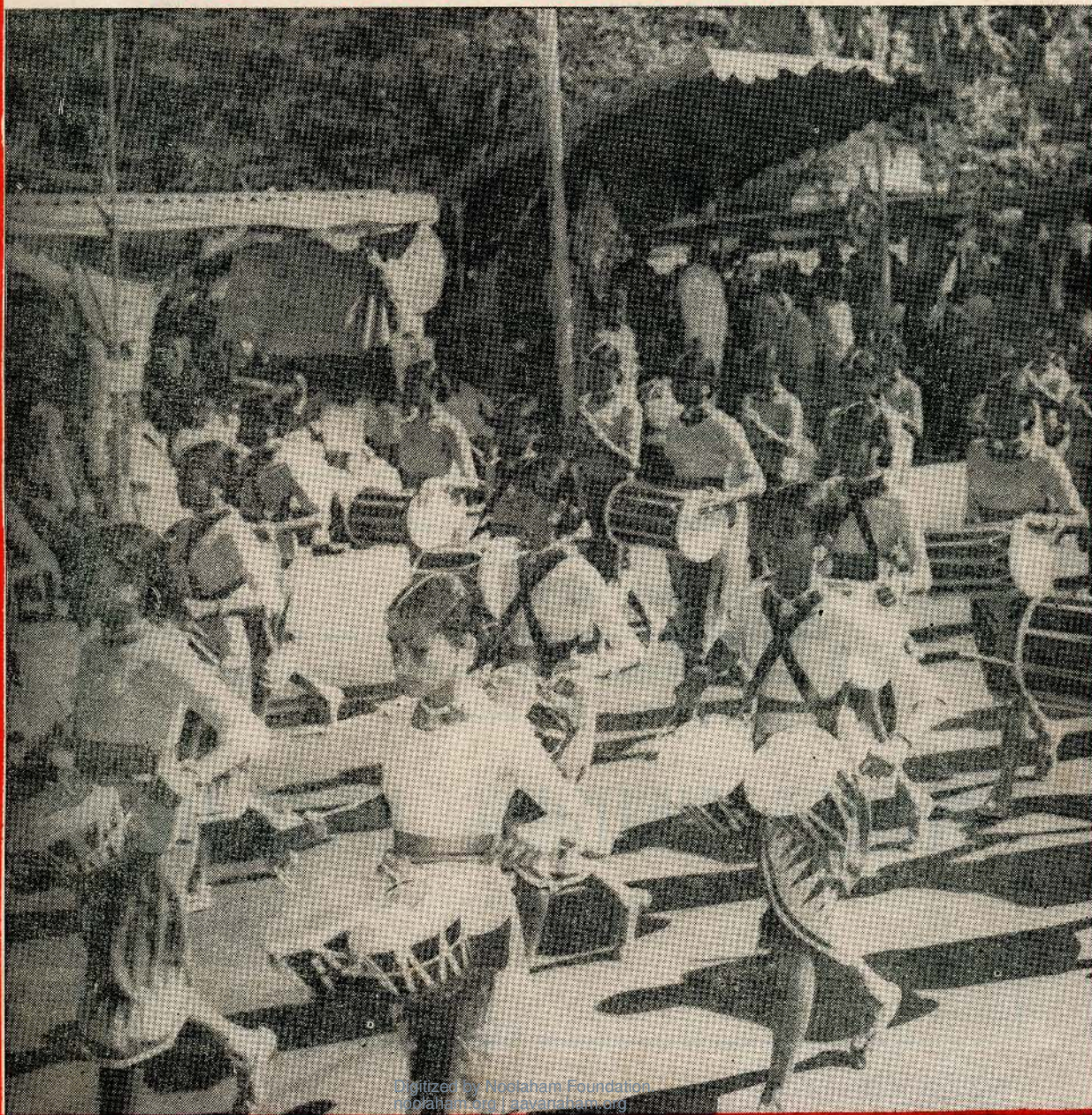


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Letter From The Editor

EVEN PEOPLE who should know better do not seem to realise that Sri Lanka's mounting burden of debt may soon submerge it in a morass that may lead to bankruptcy and debt slavery. On the latest statistics available, Sri Lanka's foreign debt is Rs. 15,841 million and the total public debt Rs. 35,475 million. With internal inflation rate soaring to dizzy heights—in the Budget Speech the Finance Minister had insisted the rate of inflation was only 15%, a few weeks later at a public meeting he feared it was nearing the 30% mark and now it is an open secret that the Central Bank opines that it is over 35%—the difficulties of repaying the interest and instalments of the foreign loans will be greater. And, with domestic production stagnant (if not dropping), a further devaluation of the rupee will soon become inevitable. The President, it will be recalled, at the recent ADA Seminar, drew attention to the deplorable state of our agriculture. In this connection it would be relevant to examine some aspects of the external debt problems of Pakistan. Ever since Bangladesh broke away, Pakistan has faced serious repayment problems and need for rescheduling became the most urgent and recurrent need. Up to June 1978 rescheduling to provide relief was granted almost automatically by the creditor countries, but that year the request for debt relief at 60% of the maturities due for the next five years from July 1978 was turned down at the Consortium level under US advise. The USA had not only turned down Pakistan's request for rescheduling but had also gone out of its way to advise other donor countries to follow a similar policy. This was to pressurise Pakistan to abandon her nuclear research programme. But with the Afghan crisis, and more especially after Pakistan turned down the \$ 400 million (two-year) aid as "peanuts", there are indications that Washington is anxious to take up the question of rescheduling the repayment of Pakistan's external debts with other creditors, including the World Bank and the IMF. This is a welcome development for Pakistan but it is a sad state for a nation to be so utterly dependent on rescheduling of debts as one of the most vital mainsprings of its economic activity. The whole question of Pakistan's external debt has been dealt with in a leading article in the Karachi paper, DAWN, by Tufail Ahmed Khan, and the part most significant for Sri Lanka today is: ".....The causes of our increasing indebtedness since the fifties can be traced to the following factors: (1) Negligence of agriculture which led to costly imports of wheat and a variety of other food items. There is now the effort to remove this cause. Indeed, the main basis of our economic recuperation in the last about two years is that agricultural production has gone up.....". The other causes of Pakistan's increasing indebtedness will be examined in subsequent articles but for the moment it would suffice to point out that, unless our agricultural production is stepped up in the next year or two, Sri Lanka will be in a desperate plight. Paddy is important, but more importantly we must grow more maize, sorghum, kurakkan, vegetables, pulses, cotton, sugarcane, legumes, fruits, fodder grass and everything else that can be grown (not to mention tea, rubber, and coconuts) if Sri Lanka is not to enter a new era of slavery to foreign (creditor) countries and multinational (transnational) banks.

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Earthquakes & Upeavals

Colombo, April 8,

TRIBUNE takes this opportunity to wish all its readers, who celebrate the New Year this week, the greetings of the season and best in the coming year. One must have one's tongue in one's cheek to wish anyone (except gem mudalalis, exporters and smugglers) a happy and prosperous New Year, because we can only see austerity and hardship ahead for a long time to come. We can, however, hope that the Government and people will proceed along the correct lines, rectifying mistakes in policies and actions, to lead the country to a period of accelerated economic development. What one can wish for most is that leaders and administrators develop the capacity to make correct decisions and to act wisely.

Astrological predictions in newspapers are not even intended to be accurate—they are only meant to keep readers happy. But there are signs and omens that do not seem propitious for many in the coming year. Buva-nasundaram who writes for us on the weather and allied matters, has, in this week's article (as in last week's) pointed out that earthquakes were occurring very frequently, at regular intervals, from January 1 this year: "On New Year's day 1980, Sun was at the centre of Sagittarius. Jupiter and Mars were in exact conjunction. Jupiter behind Mars and both stationary relative to earth. Saturn, though stationary was not in conjunction as in 33 B.C. but close enough to pull together with Mars and Jupiter. The Moon was full in Gemini between the twins, when a divine dancer stepped on the mid-Atlantic island of Azores, killing 50 and injuring 400. Earthquakes with his heels, tremors with his toes, he danced hither, thither, everywhere, under the sea, over the mountains and plains; from Azores to Philippines, to Sumatra to Sri Nagar. There were earthquake everyday in this dance of destruction. First Azores 16.44 G.M.T., 2nd sea near Philippines 21.07, 3rd Sumatra 18.15, 4th Sri Nagar, 5th, 8th, 10th, 12th, 13th.....The dance still goes on and the latest was on March 24 in the Aleutian

Islands near Alaska. On this day too Moon was between the twins in Gemini. Mars, Saturn and Jupiter again together, Mars stationary. Jupiter and Saturn retrograding slowly."

He had sent the article to us shortly after March 26, and on March 28 there was a report in the *New York Times* from *Maple Flats, Washington*, that: "Mount St. Helens, a 9,677-foot volcano in the Cascade Range of southwest Washington that has been dormant for 123 years, spewed forth clouds of steam and ash yesterday in what scientists called the first stages of an eruption. This followed a week of rumbling earthquakes that have severely shaken the mountain and the surrounding countryside. No injuries or property damage was reported, but more than 400 loggers, forest rangers and other residents of the sparsely populated mountain, as well as the village of Spirit Lake at the base of the north slope, were evacuated today as a precaution.....Mount St. Helens last erupted in 1857, an event witnessed by the explorer John Fremont who told of snows turned black with soot and ash that drifted 50 miles from the peak. The last volcano to erupt in the continental United States was California's Mount Lassen, which did so periodically from 1914 to 1917. Officials and reporters who flew over Mount St. Helens said that a large crack had appeared at the mountain's 7000-foot level and that the north wall of the peak's 1000-foot crater had collapsed. Witnesses said the venting began with a roar like a sonic boom; they said the crack appeared and the rim collapsed shortly thereafter. Mount St. Helens is in the primary stages of an ash eruption, said Dwight Grandall, a geologist with the United States Geological Survey. Mr.

TRIBUNE

There will be no issue of the *Tribune* on Saturday, April 19, 1980. Though we had hoped otherwise, the Sinhala and Tamil New Year holidays and the delays that stem from the auspicious astrological times to initiate various activities renders the scheduled production of the paper virtually impossible.

The next issue of *Tribune* will be on April 26, 1980.

Grandall explained that volcanic eruptions take two forms in their initial stages: ash eruptions generally accompanied by gas under high pressure and lava eruptions accompanied by gas under low pressure. But both ash and lava could be spewed out if the eruption reached catastrophic proportions, he said..... The beginnings of the eruption at Mount St. Helens created no panic, but concern was expressed over its possible extent.....

"The scientists had arrived after an almost uninterrupted series of earthquakes had shaken the mountain and the area around its base for several days. Semismographs had registered the temblors at 3.0 to 4.0 on the open-ended Richter scale. An earthquake reading of 4.0 on the scale can cause moderate damage. A series of more severe earthquakes, one of which registered 4.5 on the Richter scale, racked the mountain before the eruption of the ash. With the area evacuated, scientists said that the principal threat from an eruption would not be from lava but from mudflows caused by melting snow on the mountain slopes.....".

This long dormant volcano near Washington has started rumbling, causing tremors and mini-earthquakes and spewing ash just as Carter decided to get more tough with Iran over the hostages question (breaking diplomatic relations and threatening force etc. etc.) Carter has also proclaimed that his administration will make an all out effort to teach the Soviets a lesson by tightening up the boycott of the Summer Olympics in Moscow and widening the scope of the ban on technological equipment to the USSR. Whether these actions will not boomerang on Carter and the USA is yet to be seen. But Carter wants to use the Iran and Afghan problems (party created by US policies) to win the US presidential elections in USA. Taking hardline cold war policies has helped him through the primaries to eliminate Kennedy as a potential threat, but to succeed in his quest Carter has to keep proliferating crises and also appear to get tougher and tougher as the presidential elections draw nearer. Whichever way one looks at it, the tough line Carter has threatened (if he is able to implement only a part of his hardline programmes) will, in the long run, bring disaster to the US and the American people, though

Washington may have the doubtful satisfaction of having "taught somebody a lesson".

In the Middle East, Carter's Camp David Accords have brought no peace or understanding. The edifice of a peaceful settlement he had tried to build never really took shape. Begin, to keep himself in power, has violated the Camp David Accords to establish more and more Arab settlements in occupied territory. If nothing else, this will bring all other Arabs together on an anti-US collision course. Sadat to get more and more out of the USA has invited the Shah to make Egypt his permanent home for the rest of his life, and Shah's fateful destiny might sooner or later bring Sadat down himself.

In Africa, the victory Mugabe and the Patriot Front scored in the elections is the biggest blow the white racists and the powers like the UK and US have suffered. They had fully expected Abel Muzarewa to pull the chestnuts out of the fire for them, but he fared ignominiously in spite of all the support and assistance given him. The only consolation conservative elements in UK and US seem to have is that the victory of Mugaba will not please the Soviets because they had given greater support to Joshua Nkomo. White rulers now see major victories in small mercies.

Everywhere, in every country one looks at, there is trouble whether in Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America and Australia. Assam is one of the least among Indira Gandhi's headaches. Iran and Iraq are at each other's throat. The kingly order in Saudi Arabia has a great deal to worry about, West European countries wonder whether Carter's tough line will ultimately destabilise their governments. China is finding the birth pangs of a new capitalist era very difficult even under the camouflage and smokescreen of anti-Soviet slogans.

Nearer home in Sri Lanka, we still seem to have a few silver linings to light the hazardous paths we tread. Nobody starves (as yet), but the majority have to make do with less and less nutrition. The BJ affair has not caused even the ripples in UNP unity that many had expected. It has not led to any cracks in the UNP—though many see in it (wishfully perhaps) a faint writing on the wall to usher in fall and end of JR's UNP. The Devahuwa

Umbal has died down, and a curtain has descended on a dozen or more Devahuwas in nearly all colonisation schemes, big and small.

COVER

Railways

ON THE COVER, we have a joyous picture of the victorious celebrations at Matara on National Day this year. The drums beat loud and clear and the message the government wanted conveyed was that prosperity and glory were round the corner. All thinking people, not lost in sectarian and partisan obsessions, want the government to succeed in this endeavour for a better life for common people. But this should not blind us to shortcomings that detract from attaining that objective. One major stumbling block to prosperity is public transport. We will deal with the Railway in this note.

Airlanka has wisely decided to purchase Tristar (Lockhead) planes in spite of the intimidatory tactics of the salesman for McDonnells DC 10s—who had proclaimed at the press conference that the (stupid) natives of Sri Lanka didn't know how to choose planes. Airlanka should be congratulated for growing out of the SIA-Boeing complex and for wanting to strike out on its own—although the umbilical cord tying Airlanka to SIA has still to be cut. Travellers in Airlanka say that the cabin service is first rate—whilst the SIA's (except for free liquor) has deteriorated. One *Tribune* reader who recently did the Bangkok-Singapore run on the SIA said some harsh things about SIA service and mentioned that air travellers were switching to Swiss Air or KLM (although these lines do not have the much advertised "Singapore girl"). *Tribune* was a little sceptical whether Air Lanka would make the grade under the wings of its rival SIA, but there are clear indications that Airlanka has virtually decided to go it alone. In the air travel business, as in certain other fields, one has to do it big if one is to succeed.

The campaign *Tribune* has been carrying on from 1971/72 about the mismanagement and racketeering (in purchases and imports) in the C.G.R. has now begun to reach bursting point. In more recent times, the *Sun* and the *Weekend* have done yeoman service in investigative exposures about the CGR, CTB and a large number of matters of burning urgency. And now, the UNP Trade Union's (JSS) journal *Jathika Saviya* has joined in the fray to demand a reasonably good public transport system. Various motives have been attributed as to why JSS should spotlight the mismanagement and irregularities in the CGR and CTB, but this is of little consequence when the interests of the nation are at stake. In its first issue (Vol. 1 No. 2) the JSS paper had drawn attention to something *Tribune* had spotlighted some weeks ago—the continued insistence by the CGR on importing more and more locomotives and also about the way the latest tender for locomotives was "tailored" to suit a Japanese manufacturer who already had such locomotives (650 HP) giving him an advantage over other manufacturers who would have to start from scratch to manufacture a locomotive on the specifications set out. The *Jathika Saviya* had also demanded that the Corbett Jayewardene Committee report on the CGR (submitted on March 31, 1978) should be tabled in Parliament and published.

In regard to this Corbett Jayewardene Committee report, Mr. Peiris, the G.M.R., had written to the *Weekend* that the "bulk

Goods, vegetables and fish are available and the prices have been kept at pre-February levels (with variations due to seasonal variations), although inflation in certain sectors (housing, meat, poultry) have soared to giddy limits. But the most salutary feature is that more and more Ministers, MPs and other VIPs have begun to talk about increased production. The awareness of the importance of production in the current context will no doubt help to eliminate waste, corruption and other shortcomings. Concretely all road-blocks on the way of increased production must be removed as early as possible.

HAVANA DIARY

By S. P. Amarasingam

The concluding parts of this series, summing up the Sixth Summit and its impact on the rest of the world, will appear in the *Tribune* of May 10, 1980 (Vol. 24 No. 44) and thereafter.

of the recommendations have been implemented". Earlier on March 23, in a statement to the *Weekend*, Transport Ministry, Mahinda Elayaperuma, had stated: ".....all the recommendations of the Corbett Jayewardene Committee report have been carried out...there was no compulsion to table this report in Parliament as it was not a Parliamentary Committee or a Royal Committee report. The Corbett Jayewardene Committee was appointed only to examine the engineering aspects of the Railway and not the entire working of the Railway."

In an article in the *Ceylon Daily News* on April 7, 1980, Mr. Corbett Jayewardene, now Ven. Sedawatte Dhammaruchi, after some comments on "lose nuts and bolts" on the main railway line, stated: ".....I did not enter the sangha to accumate *akusala kamma*. Therefore it is necessary for me to place before the public the facts regarding the railway before an accident happens and people are killed. Matters leading to such accidents were among other matters investigated by my Committee and myself, and a report made. That report is not before the public. Over one year has passed, and in spite of an undertaking to table it in Parliament, the report gathers dust and even the work we did is slowly but surely being brought to nothing. When I accepted the Chairmanship of the Committee, I made it a condition that our report should be tabled in Parliament, and thus the report would become a public document. In pursuance of that undertaking, our interim report was tabled in Parliament in November 1977, and was used in the Budget debate of that year. Our final report has however not been tabled in Parliament so far. This may be due to the fact that I presented the report to the Minister the day he was leaving for Mecca, and he has probably forgotten about it. I ask him now to table the report. Not tabling it, reflects badly not only on myself but on my fellow Committee members as well. Not only that, both the Railway Workshops and the Railway Stores should get copies of it."

After dealing with loose nuts and bolts and the question of cement sleepers (*Tribune* has dealt with these also), he went on to say ".....Importation of materials by the Railway has become a habit. It is a bad habit,

especially when it deprives our countrymen of work.....". We will deal with other matters touched on the Ven. Dhammaruchi in a note in a future issue.

Earlier in a statement to the *Weekend* on March 23, the Ven. Dhammaruchi had touched on a number of urgent matters. We will refer in this note only to what he said about two matters. First about tabling the Report in Parliament: ".....I made it a condition of my accepting the seat on the Committee that our report should be tabled in Parliament. That has not been done; I have written to Mr. Mohamed several times to do so, but he has not even had the courtesy to reply. His attitude has been very disappointing. I think it is a breach of Parliamentary procedure not to table the report. Two MPs have already referred to our report in Parliament....." and secondly about the import of locomotives: ".....today the railway is becoming a scrap-heap of un-repaired engines, carriages and wagons and the scrap heaps are assuming mountainous proportions. The financial burden is being placed more and more on the shoulders of the taxpayer. The whole thing is a scandalous waste of money. In 1971, the number of locomotives was 205 and the stock balance in the railway stores was Rs. 60,675,553. At the end of 1976 with an increase of 24 engines, the stock balance had risen to Rs. 227,047,665. The main reason is that the Tender Board has ordered a different type of engine despite the advice of the Committee....." and on the importation of new engines Ven. Dhammaruchi said "in the first place I think the importation of these engines was not necessary. Millions of rupees have been spent to purchase these engines but that decision has been made before we were appointed. There were then 16 different types of locomotives. If existing engines are properly maintained according to a programme outlined in our report it would not be necessary to import these engines. For instance, Of 'M' class locomotives which are mainly used in passenger trains 18 were repaired in 1970. In 1978 only nine were repaired. Instead of repairing the existing engines some people have found that it is easier to import new engines."

The Corbett Jayewardene Committee's report confirms what *Tribune* has been saying over the years. It will be recalled in 1964, the SLFP government had obtained the services of a Team of Experts from the British Railways to report on the CGR. They had made a detailed study of Ceylon Railway system and made recommendations for the oncoming period. Their report was presented in 1966. On the question of locomotives, they had set out what should be done with dieselisation, but more importantly one of the points made out that for the hill country 30 locomotives, capable of hauling a full train were adequate. In 1970, trains were running to saturation capacity with 29 or 30 locomotives. If these locomotives had been maintained, the CGR would have had no need for new locomotives for a long long time of until the tracks were doubled to admit more trains. But then after 1970, when discipline deteriorated and the Railway Workshop disintegrated and mismanagement became the order of the day, a decision was made in 1972 to import 16 locomotives. At that time *Tribune* had pointed out that such imports were not necessary. But imports went on. And at every stage we had protested. But the benefits of importing locomotives are so massive for powerful people that our protests were in vain.

And the UNP administration, which was expected to do better, also rushed headlong along into more and more imports of locomotives. And today, engines suitable for the hill country (1250 HP to 1500 HP) number nearly 78 or 79—when only 30 are needed. Railway officials seem to keep such a large number of locomotives out of repair to justify demands for more and more imports. These high powered locomotives are best not used in the plains because they will tend to push out the tracks and damage the lines.

In forthcoming issues we will deal with other matters touched on by the Ven. Seda-watte Dhammaruchi in his statement in the *Weekend* and *Ceylon Daily News*. We will also examine what the JSS has had to say about the CTB. With the overwhelming parliamentary majority enjoyed by the UNP (and many observers feel that with the present disunity among Opposition parties the UNP may increase its strength by a victory at the forthcoming by-election at Anamaduwa and also

by the support given to it by the major Opposition, Party, i.e., the TULF) only constructive criticism from within the ruling party is likely to have any salutary effect on ministers and the administration. It is to be hoped that the JSS will persist in its efforts to improve the public transport system until the shortcomings stemming from mismanagement, waste and corruption are eliminated.

* * *

SPOTLIGHT ON T. V.

Better Programmes Now

There has been a major qualitative improvement in the TV programmes from the beginning of April. The films have obviously been chosen (1) to educate and (2) to entertain, but it is apparent that in the attempt to avoid the cheap and vulgar with an overdose of sex and violence there has been a tendency to tilt too much to heavy and ponderous features—and some of which are undoubtedly leaden. It is no doubt difficult, with the options available, to select programmes that will please everybody and which will conform to acceptable standards. But it is certainly better to err on the side of films with civilised values even though some may think them uninteresting rather than slip into the dangerous path of picking on films oozing with sex and bursting with violence which provide the wrong kind of excitement. The TV is a great media for education through entertainment and judging from the programmes so far (in April), I must say that those responsible for selections have done a good job and are certainly on the right track.

Sesame Street has gone off the programme, temporarily I hope. This is probably because there were no new supplies and the repetitions of old items to make an hour's show have become too frequent. It was altogether an enjoyable production, although some of the intellectual elite feel that it is too much of a Xerox-Rand production to push the concept of private enterprise among the young and a subtly incalculable bourgeois ideology (and the American way of life) in the semi-literate. Personally, I do not think that *Sesame Street* will succeed in making bourgeois puppets of

Third World youth, but this is not a matter worth arguing about. *Sesame Street* is a good programme to have two or three times a week.

Instead of *Sesame Street*, we have had the *Vision On* series on some days and other items like *World of Sports*, *Animal Kingdom*, *Snow Factory*, *Cartoons*, *Travelogues* and the like. It is yet too early to see how they measure up, but the *Vision On* is something beyond my understanding. Of the old regulars, *Bionic Women*, *Mr. Ed.*, *Checkmate*, *Family Affair*, *McHales Navy*, *Kojak*, *Adam 12*, *Flintstones*, *Police Woman*, etc., provide good clean entertainment, but the *Police Story* series has become tiresome. Of the new features, *Robin Hood* is going strong and well on the third part. It is excellent a film just as *The Secret Garden* which ended last week. Alistair Cooke's fourth in the American series "Making a Revolution", is a superb example of teaching history (without anyone getting the impression of being taught). This is a series worth repeating after some time—for those who missed it.

Up to the time of writing new features that impressed were: *The Ascent of Man*—it is TV version of a twentieth century classic. The first part shown was fascinating. *Transtel's* (West German) science series is educative, informative and entertaining. Another excellent film was the Australian "Teaching English" by a method to help students to learn the language expeditiously and correctly. The full-length feature shown last Saturday, *The Alphabetical Order* was a delightful comedy in the British manner. I look forward to more films like this. The two new musicals *Shang A Laeng* (pop) and *Cilla's Show* (variety) will become favourites. Moreover, the new way of filling in five to eight minutes gaps between main features with little music pieces—A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC—has overcome the earlier irritation caused by seeing the same old still photographs of flowers, landscapes, animals and the like—over and over again.

Soviet films have also been screened—so far on sport, children's cartoons and a feature on Moscow in the four seasons. Unfortunately, Soviet colour does not seem to suit our PAL system and all their films have a dull, dark and deadening impact. However,

the musical background of these Russian films is something far above the ordinary.

What is needed is more of the local—what has come so far is most uneven and uninspiring because there is a constant attempt to record as much as possible of the greatness and the glory of VIPs—directly about what they say or indirectly on what they have achieved.

This review will not be complete without a reference to the film on the life of Jesus shown on Easter Sunday. It was a 110 minute film—a little too drawn out for present day audiences, even Christians. But it held one's attention right through. In this picture, too, like some others (not the Soviet alone), the colour did not seem to suit PAL system.

ASWINI

FILM FOCUS

Indian Films

A colleague of mine who was in India recently, mixing business with a little entertainment, had much to tell me about the fantastic strides that the Indian Film Industry has taken in the last two years. Colossal productions lined by many new wave artistes have taken over, so much so that productions that were swayed by Sivaji Ganeshan and M. G. Ramachandran in the last decade have been overtaken by these refreshing trends which pack a devastating message to all and sundry, sans the hypocrisy and haloes which hallowed and harped sentimentously, if not sentimentally in the years gone by.

While there is a big boom in the Hindi film productions in North India, lower down that explosive Director Bharathi Raja has taken over with very bold films like *Pathinaru Vayathinile* (at 16 years) and *Sivapu Rijaakal* (Red Rose) that have dissected human life and the generation gaps that prevail and attempt to bridge them in a humane way leaving a very lasting impact in the minds of the people. Speaking of Hindi films it must also be remembered that it is a Hindi film *Zanjeer* that holds the record for the longest box

office shattering run in Sri Lanka, and it was more Sinhala picture-goers than others who contributed to this film's success.

These facts should be a cue for the State Film Corporation, for if the people want such films, then why stuff them with quality English films only. Chairman Anton Wickremasinghe, who knows his onions more than others in the cine world, was made an offer by the Film Producers Guild of South India recently when in Madras, that if Sri Lanka found the prices of certain productions beyond them they could be taken on a regular agency basis, subject to the approval of both Governments. This column repeats, as it did earlier, that it is the people who sustain cinema and therefore should not be denied their fill. That the Sinhala cinema would suffer if the gates are open too wide in a fallacy, for the free flowing English production have done no such damage to date. The immense box office appeal of the Sinhala "Uthumaneni" and "Handaya" are also cases in point to support this view.

NIRAM MARATHA POOKAL (Flowers That Don't Fade) (Tamil)—Here is a Bharathi Raja new wave Tamil release in Eastman colour, that took off slowly in Sri Lanka and has snow-balled since as its qualitative aroma spread by word of mouth. Four young stars, Vijayan, Rathika (M. R. Radha's daughter with Sri Lankan connections), Sudhakar and Rathi is the team that carried the story on cleverly, to expose the double and pseudo-standards and the hypocrisy of an earlier generation that stands in the way of true love—devoid of self pity. The salubrious climes of Ootacamund where flowers are always fresh, take over in the second half of the film and sustain their fragrance even in the wake of tragedy and despair. The acting was excellent all round, and with the Bharathi Raja magic reminds picturegoers gently that the Shivaji era is being matched if not overtaken by younger stars. See this film—you will like it all the way.

THE MARATHON MAN (English)—if a film is by the hand of John Schlesinger, it is axiomatic that it must be classy and so is this fine Paramount production. His touch is clearly evident in the story where an innocent and sentimental day-dreamer appropriately named Babe (Dustin Hoffman), a long distance jogger in New York is drawn into a web of vengeance

mapped out by an ex-Nazi killer, Szell (Sir Lawrence Olivier who once drove Babe's father to suicide and is now in quest of the diamonds that he has stored away for better post Hitler times. Roy Schneider as Babe's brother shines for a while, shuttling between a New York tycoon and the F.B.I. who have an interest in the recovery mission, till he is ripped of ruthlessly by the way. Sir Laurence and Hoffman then become the hunter and the hunted vieing for acting honours in the concluding stages of this brilliant film, which is interrupted by dental tortures that stretch your reflexes to breaking point. The film is recommended for all lovers of good cinema—and Dustin Hoffman of course, who has been cited many times for Oscar honours. His natural acting talents creep under your skin to stay!

James N. Benedict

POEM

To Love And Be Loved

To love and be loved
in a world where envy reigns.
It would be the fortune
a man could proudly gain.

Where the wide world
with its hatred and curse
bring pain to innocent souls.
To love and be loved
Will be the only solace.

The dark dreary night
bring lone and painful thoughts.
How soft the fingers of love
caress and bring joy that's lost.

From birth till steps
to God's little acre is kept
nothing could bring
more strength of will
than to be love and be loved.

Birth and Death as bloom and decay
bring not the end of a flowery way.
Let seeds love bore
enrich this dusty soil
That men may love and be loved.

Nimal Sarathchandra
Sri Lanka Ports Authority.

LETTERS

S. L. B. C.

Sir,

Please permit me little space in your esteemed journal to point out some salutary changes that should be effected in the SLBC Programmes.

The World News Review at 9.45 p.m. does not announce the titles of the news items at the beginning. This forces the listener to listen to all the news items, whereas if the titles had been announced earlier he would generally switch on to those he wishes to listen. All items are taped from the BBC, VOA and Radio Australia. Now all these stress the western point of view. For example, during the past 4-months day in day out we have heard of the 50 Americans taken as hostages in Teheran as the most important or the second important news item. Have they ever talked about the half a million Persians who died at Shah's hand? To the Westerner a white man is more important than one million non-whites.

And why should our news media give that much of publicity to this event. Some days this drone goes on for half an hour over our Radio. We would certainly like to see what the All India Radio has to say on these international topics. After all it gives an important point of view from the non-aligned world. For example, the Afghanistan issue is best obtained from the AIR than from the garbled western sources. Can we also get the Soviet version once in a way? At the moment Soviet version is given very grudgingly for a very very short time, that too once a fortnight or so.

As regards talks on international politics some speakers give factually incorrect data in between the truth. Generally speaking they seem to get all facts from the *Time* and *Newsweek* magazines? Surely it is common-sense to read other points of view and accumulate knowledge relevant to the subject to be reviewed.

The whole exercise is treated so shabbily by one speaker that he comes drunk and mumbles some written rubbish imagining that all listeners are ignorant.

"Behind the News", is highly instructive except that we have an overdose of white men completely ignoring the competent men in this country. No wonder, this country never gets the confidence to do anything by itself. We of course have a surplus of politicians. May I also point out that after the interview the words "thank you" should be heard for the simple reason that it is common etiquette. Also one must remember that the people as a rule follow the style of this mass media to a great extent.

V. P. A. Abeyesinghe

433, Nawala Road,
Rajagiriya.
17.3.80

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Sinhala Proficiency Exam

Sir,

Please be kind enough to publish the annexed letter in your magazine.

The U.N.P. Government has completed 2½ years but it has not solved the heart burning problems of Tamil Govt. servants up to date. The officers who had joined the Govt. service in 1960 are still getting the basic salary for the last 20 years without a single increment and not confirmed in service. Also they are barred to sit for the efficiency bar exam before they pass the sinhala proficiency exam.

Some officers who are working in Tamil areas specially local Govt. officers, Grama Sevaka, Midwives, Hospital Attendant, K.V.S., Anti-Malaria Field Assistants, Librarians etc. should be exempted from this exam. The cost of living has gone very high and this poor officers are leading hand to mouth living without enough salary to maintain their families. It is pointless to bring 200 students from Kegalle to Jaffna for communal intergration unless the people are treated like an equal citizen like others in Sri Lanka. We have the honour to thank the Honour Minister of Transport who has paid all the arrears of increment to his C.T.B. Officers. He has laid the foundation stone for equal treatment for all the people in Sri Lanka. I hope the other Honourable Ministers in U.N.P. Govt.

will follow the example of the Honour Minister of Transport and make Sri Lanka as a united nation.

S. Sinnathamby

Dutch Road,
Chavakachcheri.
22.3.1980

* * *

Winged Beans

Sir,

In Sinhala we call it "Dambala", in Tamil we call it, "Ranthai Avarai" and in English, we call it the Winged Bean. The Sri Lanka variety is divine green. The other, is mauve and is also known as Philippines Winged Beans. Both are natives of South Asia. The Winged Bean is a leguminous crop. Its vines are 100 to 150 feet and its beans are as long as 24 inches. It grows anywhere in Sri Lanka. The Philippines variety was given me by a Peradeniya campus staffer. The food value in these beans is so very vast, that some call it the wonder bean. It is the complete food. These Beans are rich in Vitamin "A". They have iron proteins and carbohydrates. Their leaves are tasty, their tuberous roots are eatable and they are useful manure for crops, that need them. The writer did grow some seeds that blossomed and bore fruit in Batticaloa.

Inthumathy Panjalingham

Vincent Girl's High School,
Batticaloa.
15.3.80

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Presidential Dialogue With Estate Trade Unions

Sir,

As the Planters' Association is now more or less defunct, after Land Reform, I wish to comment on some items in the above connection which appeared in last week's daily newspapers so that the other side of the picture may be seen. As is well known with the recent wage increases estate labour has never had it so good. A working family of four could earn

up to Rs. 1,500 per month exclusively of advances, on a well-run productive estate. Estate families usually live together and pool their resources. Also with free housing, near free medical aid, maternity benefits, holiday pay, creche facilities and provisions made available on the estate against pay, estate labour is cushioned better against inflation than other categories of labour. In addition in most estates sufficient land is made available for the cultivation of vegetables, plantains, yams etc., and to rear poultry and one to two cows — if they so desire. Furthermore, escalating transport costs do not affect resident estate labour. With the recent Rs. 2/50 daily wage increase and the prevailing prices for tea marginal estates have ceased to be viable and estates whose production is under 1000 lbs. made tea per acre per year — and there are many such estates — mainly state owned and marginal — are losing even more.

It is well known and appreciated in planting circles that a monthly wage or a guaranteed number of working days is not financially possible mainly on tea which is very labour intensive. Also the high cost of inputs and general routine maintenance together with the vagaries of the weather must be taken into account — as in the prevailing drought when there are very few working days on tea estates due the absence of flush. In this situation the labour has been kept going with generous advances which would be recovered in small instalments when work is resumed after the rains. It will be appreciated that estate owners — State or Private would be only too happy to give as many working days as possible but for this there must be work to do! Perhaps state owned and managed tea estates may be prepared to absorb the highest costs which will undoubtedly result if there are further wage increases and the request for a guaranteed number of working days or a monthly wage is implemented although they will undoubtedly run at a loss as many of them now do. Private owners of 50 acres will not be in a position to bear increased costs as outlined above — especially at the prevailing prices obtaining for green leaf. One would suggest that production is increased in whatever manner possible and that efforts be made to obtain realistic and good prices for our plantation products. If this is possible perhaps

further incentives for estate labour may be considered. It may also be advisable to appoint some form of INDEPENDENT Commission composed of Senior Planters and Agency Houses to look into the affairs of each estate which is currently running at a loss and to make their recommendations to rectify matters.

L. P. Ranasooriya

Kirimeitiya Estate,
Elpitiya
15.3.1980



SARVODAYA

The Tanamalwila Experience

by Devaratnam Danforth

UNQUESTIONABLY this is a success. Participation is at the core of the exercise. Weeraman Jinadasa with 15 years behind him as a practising Engineer in England came over to Sri Lanka in 1976 to take charge of the Tanamalwila Development Education Institute, which was established in 1972, on 500 acres of land placed at the disposal of the Sarvodaya Sharamadana Movement by government. Novib Netherlands, supported the establishment of the Institute and the Farm attached to it. I asked Weeraman why he took this rather extraordinary step. "Sarvodaya holds the key to inner satisfaction" he replied. He has clearly found the key from what I saw.

It was round 1.00 a.m. on the 30th of January that Mr. A. T. Ariyaratne and I together with 3 others drove into the complex and were pleasantly surprised to see Weeraman—he was not expecting us anyway. After a delicious cup of Soya coffee in rich Farm milk we went into the common room for a brief rest. There was a sort of United Nations in miniature—visitors to the Farm from Norway, Nepal, Scotland, England, Bangladesh, India, Solomon Islands, Fiji together with Sri Lankans.

Even as the soft veil of mist lifted, boys and girls were on their way to the Samma Vasas (abodes of Righteousness) for the day's work. This Farm has 6 Samma Vasas which are unique experiments in integrating spiritual and cultural values with modern scientific

methods in collective living, production and consumption patterns. Four are devoted to agricultural pursuits, one to the production of building materials and components for agro-based industries, and the sixth to the development of new farming techniques and handicrafts.

AS THE PARTICIPANTS went about their work, confusion, restlessness, tension and turmoil were conspicuous by their absence. To them, this was a vocation. What struck me was that everyone here had accepted the proposition that progress cannot be achieved as if through a percolator which holds that money poured from the top would sift down to the bottom, but rather that whatever is put in should act like yeast that rises upwards through the different layers.

I was fascinated to learn that the site of the Farm was an insurgent base in 1971 and is now the seat of an experiment in non-violent revolution which seeks to awaken all holding fast to such inalienable principles as truth, non-violence and self-denial. This seemed to be just as incongruous as the graves of Herbert Spencer who once preached the gospel of a superior race and of Karl Marx lying beside each other in London's Highgate cemetery. It is hard to think of two Movements who would take less pleasure in the company of each other.

Work at this Institute did not wait for the brick and mortar buildings to come up. Work started in a small cajan hut (which still remains) with a few trainees taken in from the neighbourhood. These pioneers had to do battle with the determined jungle and its denizens. Many of these pioneers are now instructors at this Institute. There was no fanfare or foundation stone laid. The small cottage remains the only memorial. When Sir Christopher Wren was asked where his memorial was, he replied "Look round London". The Institute is a memorial to the visionary Ariyaratne and his pioneers.

The principal projects in this Institute are General Agriculture, Dairy Farming, Carpentry, Irrigation, Building Construction, Low Cost Housing, Tinkering and Metal work, Appropriate technology, Sewing and Batik making. Each new field of activity was started only when the need was fully established through experience. For instance the metal

works was started when the Institute's fleet of vehicles came to need servicing and repairs. The carpentry section provides the furniture needed by Sarvodaya. The most recent entry into Batik making is to meet foreign and local demand. All this means earning while learning and later self employment if any participant so desired.

EXTENSIVE AREAS are under cultivation. Paddy, soya, cow pea and other lentils are grown here. The richness and fertility of the soil is maintained by diligent and appropriate use of compost supplemented only where essential by fertilisers. I was glad to find that agriculture is given pride of place here. It is a means by which rural poverty can be mitigated, if not eradicated, by making agriculture more labour intensive and productive by providing meaningful subsidiary occupation. One such subsidiary occupation can be dairy farming which I observed is being studied very carefully. A UN volunteer from India is working on this.

A well run dairy farm, such as the one I observed here at the Institute, demonstrates the benefits of dairying in rural areas. In a very short time people will become conscious of the potential this offers and of the resultant ramifications of economic activities. These benefits penetrate deeply and provide substantial extra income earning opportunities. Dairying creates substantial job opportunities and a complex of related agro-based activities, apart from providing good nourishment for the family.

Attached to the dairy farm is a bio-gas plant providing adequate fuel to a unit of 15 persons, for all domestic needs. The plant cost a bare 800/- rupees. The only 'input' is dung from a few head of cattle which also provide milk for this group. S'lon pipes lead the gas to the kitchen. On inquiry I learnt that a bio-gas plant for a family of 5 or 6 could be turned out for around 400/- rupees and that dung from 2 head of cattle will be all that is required. The gas thus produced would be enough for lighting purposes as well. It will be a most excellent proposition if the authorities in this country can undertake the mass production of these units for distribution to the people in the villages. This is likely to prove more meaningful and rewarding to the 85% of our people living in rural areas than wind mills.

The low cost houses which have been constructed in this complex are delightful little homes with a verandah, sitting and dining room, bed room and kitchen with even wall cupboards. They merge imperceptibly into the lush and green environment. The cost is only Rs. 3,000/- according to Weeraman.

A sales outlet has also been established. The Farm produce is available here for purchase as also other forms of merchandise of interest to everyone. Very proudly the participants call it the 'Super Market'. If the criterion is service, then indeed the term is most appropriate. Programme assistance for this Institute is now received from Novib, Netherlands, and from the Friedrich-Naumann-Stiftung, West Germany. The activities at the Institute make it self-supporting while providing employment to a large number of persons. Weeraman Jinadasa, though quite young, takes a benevolent paternal attitude towards his wards. They all call him 'Uncle'. He is firm, but kind enough to shed tears when he sees sadness.

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STRANGE PHENOMENON

The Divine Dancer

by V. Buvanandaram

COPERNICUS showed that the star that stood over the manger at Bethlehem, circa 33 B.C. was the exact conjunction of Jupiter, Saturn and Mars in the constellation of Pisces the fish. Overhead in a horoscope in the 10th House, Christ's Iagna would then be Gemini, the twins, the same as Einstein's. B. V. Ram an astrologer says that Virgin birth to Hebrews of those days meant that Christ was born when the constellation of Virgo, the virgin, was rising in the East. Then this conjunction is in the 7th house to fit the astrological laws of the founder of a great religion, his premature death on the cross and his name and fame lasting for ever.

The planetary motion in our solar system, the vertex motion of galaxies and the expansion of the Universe are all dominated by a single universal force, so indiscriminate that it tugs at all matter. This force is proportional

to the product of the masses and inversely proportional to the square of the distance between them. The Sun's pull of 3.6 into 10 to the power of $2\frac{1}{2}$ kg. on our earth keeps it in orbit without wandering away into space with its centrifugal force. In the atomic level this is a weak force since the interaction between a hydrogen ion and an electron is 10 multiplying itself 40 times.

Moon being only 238,857 or 384,403 km. away, pulls the strongest. It pulls the oceans and solid earth together with its cities and towns. We, who stand on earth will not feel this pull just as much as a boatman at sea will not feel it. Every time the Moon is high, the sea is pulled up by 75cm or 2 ft. This is only 69% of what it would be if the earth was unyielding. The theoretical pull on the sea would be 110cm. This difference of 35cm is the amount by which the earth under our feet is pulled, every time the Moon is up and sinks down as the Moon approaches the horizon.

This regular up and down motion of the tectonic plates though cannot be detected by the most sensitive physical apparatus is sufficient to build up stresses beneath the crust of the earth. When sufficient stress has accumulated, the combined pull of planets, particularly the massive ones like Jupiter and Saturn can cause slippage along a crack or a fault causing an earthquake.

EARTHQUAKES are worse killers than volcanoes. Volcanoes are local and often there is a timely warning to get away from it, as it happened in the Vesuvius volcano in the last days of Pompei. Earthquakes are sudden, more devastating and its tremors reach the entire world. In 1775, a violent earthquake all but annihilated the city of Lisbon and 15,000 people died in it. The Messina, Sicily earthquake of 1908 killed a hundred thousand people. Japanese, who live on a powder keg suffer the most. The 1923 earthquake in Japan killed 99,331, injured 103,753 and 43,476 were missing. In Britain there was only a single casualty in 500 years, killed by a falling stone in a London earthquake in 1580. *In Sri Lanka not even that, only the pantry door of a University hostel flung open. It was no earthquake is announced to the warden in the morning. "Earth quake, bolts broke, butter gone." Butter was a delicacy during the war.*

ON NEW YEAR'S DAY 1980, Sun was at the centre of Sagittarius. Jupiter and Mars were in exact conjunction. Jupiter behind Mars and both stationary relative to earth. Saturn, though stationary was not in conjunction as in 33 B.C. but close enough to pull together with Mars and Jupiter. The Moon was full in Gemini between the twins, when a divine dancer stepped on the mid-Atlantic island of Azores, killing 50 and injuring 400. Earthquakes with his heels, tremors with his toes, he danced hither, thither, everywhere, under the sea, over the mountains and plains; from Azores to Philippines, to Sumatra to Sri Nagar. There were earthquakes everyday in this dance of destruction. 1st, Azores 16.44 GMT; 2nd, sea near Philippines 21.07; 3rd, Sumatra 18.15; 4th Sri Nagar, 4th, 8th, 10th, 12th, 13th.....The dance still goes on and the latest was on March 24 in the Aleutian Islands near Alaska. On this day too Moon was between the twins in Gemini. Mars, Saturn and Jupiter again together, Mars stationary, Jupiter and Saturn retrograding slowly.

1907 was a year of many strange meteorological happenings. May cyclone at Batticaloa, Violent thunderstorms with hail and tornadoes at Puttalam, flash flood Yoda-Ella at Kalawewa breaching the still unemulated engineering feat Yoda Ella at eight places and breaching all over tanks in that area of destruction, excess rains at Mannar and Mullaitivu, yet a 144 day drought at Mantota, the Superintendent in his reports says the strangest of them all was "the 11 feet 9 inches ebb and flow of tide at Hambantota harbour, rendering the sea bed visible. At Galle it was 5 feet. Nothing else happened anywhere else, except at sea near the mouth of the river Kelani. The fishermen and inhabitants there saw considerable disturbances at sea, the ebb and flow rendering visible for moments, a portion of the Kalabuzala reef which is always covered, while the whole line was one mass of boiling foam. THE THEN SUPERINTENDENT attributed this strange phenomenon of 4th January to press reports of the destruction of two small islands Tana and Pulo li Maloe with 340 lives, off the west coast of Sumatra on 1st January 1907. This earthquake could not have thus affected the south and southwest coasts of Sri Lanka. It caused the letter from A.G.A., Mullaitivu "On the 3rd there have been a few exceptionally high tides." The happenings at Galle

and Hambantota and the sea off Kelani must be due to a closer earthquake. Chester A. Reeds, Curator of Geology at the American Museum of Natural History has compiled a map showing the earthquakes that occurred over the Globe during the period 1899 to 1925. A single lonely earthquake had occurred at $\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}N, 70^{\circ}E$. This must be the one that caused all that bother on 4th January 1907. "The seismograph at the Technical college recorded the first tremors of an earthquake, apparently of some magnitude at 10.35 a.m. on the 4th." This ebbing and flowing at Hambantota harbour and at Galle began at 1.45p.m. And lasted till 4.25 p.m.—puzzled the superintendent.

The heavenly situation on New Year's eve that year was similar to that of this New Year's day. The Sun and the Moon were in identical positions. Moon was full, between the twins in Gemini and Jupiter behind it was stationary and in conjunction with this full Moon. Mars and Saturn were on either side at the centre of a constellation and stationary. Astrologically, Sagittarius is a house of Jupiter. It is not only the window to the centre of our galaxy, the Milky Way but a large number of globular clusters of stars are located in the region of this constellation.

SCIENTISTS believe that Cosmic rays that come from interstellar space carry a hidden message of the process taking place in the Universe. There is much evidence that these cosmic rays originate from supernova or exploded giant stars of a long past era. After using up their nuclear fuel of hydrogen and helium, they suddenly explode creating a large amount of energy in a short time. Some of them cannot be seen now as they have become hazy and merged with the Milky Way. The famous Crab Nebula, which must have exploded during the time life began on earth, seen and chronicled by the Chinese on 4th July 1054 A.D. can still be seen in the Constellation of Taurus. Astrologers say that Sri Krishna an Avatar of Vishnu was born, when Moon was transiting under the Crab Nebula and Siva, the Divine Dancer of Death was born, when Moon was between the twins in Gemini.

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FOR OUR PROTEIN NEEDS

Fish And Prawn Culture

by K. Kanapathipillai

FISH CULTURE is by no means a new industry. From very early times the Chinese have been rearing fish, and have been carrying on this practice along very scientific lines. The system of fish-culture as practised by the Chinese is as ancient as the practice of, the rotation of crops they have been carrying on as 'farmers of forty centuries'. They have perfected this industry to such an extent that in a land of teeming millions they have been able to provide everyone of the inhabitants with a fish diet. A rice-eating people must necessarily depend on fish for their supply of nitrogenous food material, and it is no wonder, therefore, that the Chinese have throughout the centuries been keenly interested in the art of pisciculture.

It would be noted that the majority of Chinese, especially those who live close to rivers and the inland fresh-water lakes, with the exception of those found along the coast, have developed a peculiar taste for fresh-water fish; and the extensive water-ways and lakes of China provide facilities for the rearing of fresh water fish. The Red Basin and the Lake basin are par-excellence the lands of ducks and geese and bees-honey and fish, and as such one is apt to wonder at this strange combination of animal life that has contributed a mighty lot towards perfecting the diet of the Chinese people. *It may be said that the Chinese are the only people in the world who have paid considerable attention to the proper and scientific study of their environment.*

From China the art of Fish-culture spread into French-Indo-China (Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia), and finally it found a very suitable home in Malaya; and today in the Malay Peninsula (Malaysia) it forms a very flourishing cottage industry. Every paddy field has its 'Fish-well' and every homestead has its 'Fish-pond'. Here again taste has been developed for fresh-water fish. The fact is that in a wet, rainy and slushy country like Malaya it is quite natural for the people to

confine themselves to the rearing of fresh water species of fish and to a fish diet.

TWO METHODS are employed in rearing fish. The fish fry is brought in special 'Oxygen chambers' to Malaya from China. The trade in fish fry is as important as fish rearing in China; and the countries that have been benefited are Malaya and Bengal. The Department of Fisheries in Malaya has been taking a good deal of interest in promoting this valuable industry.

The first method of rearing fish consists in rearing the fry in small 'nursery ponds' until they have attained a length of about six or seven inches. They are now too big to be caught by predatory fish. Then they are transferred to the proper fish pond. As they are voracious eaters they are fed on grass thrown into the pond and kept in position in floating bamboo enclosures. The young ones are fed on Australian wheat flour loosely tied up in a bag and kept dipping in the water. The pond water should not have acids in it. When the water has an acid tendency, the fish die or contract diseases. Therefore it is advisable not to allow rotting branches and leaves to litter the pond. Pond mud is good, and cow dung is often used to make the pond mud when the pond is newly used.

The best ponds are those dug in a sandy soil, and cow dung is used to form the mud. It is not at all necessary, as some might suppose to have the water aerated or renewed, or make it running water. There is a natural cycle of events in a pond. One form of life provides the needs of another. So that the pond algae or other vegetation, especially 'duck-weeds' keep the oxygen and other gas-content of the water in perfect condition without any artificial aid.

I HAVE BEEN REARING fresh water fish in a small tub six feet square and seven feet in depth containing the necessary water weeds, and the fish were quite at home in it. And it is a common practice to have fish in wells in our villages. *Anabas* and *kuraddai* and *viral* are common species. But this is done purely for the purpose of keeping the well-water free of mosquito larvae and worms and insects. These fish are seldom caught and eaten. Whatever it be, the fact remains that fish live quite comfortably in our wells. The second method that may be employed for the purpose of

rearing fresh water fish is the one that is prevalent in Malaya and in Bengal. Every plot of paddy-land has its own well or bathing pool. These are stocked with fish. The common '*poddiyan*', '*kanayan*', '*viral*, and *kuraddai*', and others may be used. *Gourami* and *Thilapia* are two of the very fast breeders. The well may be flush with the surface of the field. The common '*Grass-eater*' (*Kayal*; carp) and '*pearl-spot*' are best fitted for highly saline areas or *Kalapuwas*. When the fields are flooded with water during the period of the irrigation of the paddy-crop, the fish find their way into the plots and feed on grass, mud, algae and the '*poochies*'—organisms found in the field and grow. Before harvesting is done the excess of water is let out of the plots and the fish return to the wells from where they are netted. Only a few are left behind in the well; and they spawn and help to form the fry of the next season.

The shallow *Kalapuwas* found all along the coast of Sri Lanka, especially in Batticaloa, Puttalam, Mullaitivu, Jaffna, Arugam Bay, Kalmetija, Kalapuwa, the paddy fields and village tanks could form ideal places for the rearing of fresh water and estuarine species. It is best we confine our attention to the rearing of 'grass eaters': *Manala*, *senkanan* and *carp* in such places as '*Periya Kalapuwa*' and Thillairu near Akkraipattu and other saline water shallows and *Kalapuwas* found in Batticaloa, Kallar, Valaichenai, Mullaitivu, Panichchankerni etc. Fresh water species like the *Anabas*, *poddiyan*, *viral*, *kokkichchan* can be reared in fresh water wells and ponds and village tanks.

IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE and educate the village folk in this very profitable and useful venture the state will have to establish a number of research centres especially in the neighbourhood of irrigation tanks from where they can supply the fry needed and the expertise and advice for carrying on this important industry. In the coastal villages where wells are found in almost every household it will be advantageous to rear *poddiyan* and *kanayan*. These fish abound in the Kumbukkan Oya, Menik Ganga, Gal Oya and other rivers, and specimen for rearing can be easily obtained from these rivers. The 'milk fish' is a very rare expensive estuarine specimen the flesh of which has a special taste. It may

be reared in the saline shallows and in the backwaters in the neighbourhood of the Batticaloa sand Bar, Valalchenai and Panichchankerni. It is my humble suggestion that a survey be made of the coastal backwaters found between Arugam Bay and Trincomalee so that it would be possible to select some suitable backwaters for rearing 'milk fish' *Murakkai* and *manna*, since they are excellent for eating and the tourists will enjoy eating them.

Among other estuarine species are *Otti*, *ora*, *pearl-spot*, *manalai*, *thirali* and *koduwa*. Of these *otti* and *ora* prefer a rocky bottom covered with green algae. Hence they may be reared in those parts of the Batticaloa Lagoon where there are rocky bottoms.

As regards the migratory habits of lagoon fish we have scant information. Some are seasonal fish and make their presence in the lagoons felt only immediately after the rainy season when green algae grow in abundance in the lagoons. In the Panichchankerni Uppu Aru the *otti* and *ora* seasons are the months of March, April & May; whereas the *pearlspot* feeder as it is on lagoon mud, continues to haunt the mangrove clumps in the shallow range of the lagoons. From the information I have been able to gather from the fishermen I can, I think, safely come to the conclusion that the *otti* and *ora* are migratory fish having a cycle of migratory habits conditioned by the phases of the moon.

THERE IS AN EXCELLENT white fish called *kilakkan* and another called *tiger fish*. The former is found both in the sea and in the Lagoon; hence it must necessarily be a migratory species. The latter migrates from the irrigation tanks and rivers into the lagoon coming down together with the flood water during the wet season. Since its flesh has an insipid flavour it may not be of any commercial value. But for making a hot chutney it is an excellent fish. The two estuarine species that may be reared with success are the *otti* and *ora*. But ever after the introduction of *Tilapia* into the Batticaloa Lagoon the *otti*, *ora* and *pearlspot* are dwindling in number. It has been reported that this is due to the *Tilapia* preying on the spawn and the fry of the fast disappearing *otti* and *ora* which are excellent lean fish for children and nursing mothers.

This is a matter that merits considerable attention and investigation. Since the *otti* and *ora* are species that prefer an algae covered rocky bottom it would be advisable to rear them where such a substratum can be obtained, as at Kallar and in the neighbourhood of the Buffalo Island. In fact artificial rocky beds can be made for this purpose. The line of reefs that stretch from the Kallady Ferry up to the Elephant Rock and Arachchiar Rock in the Batticaloa Lagoon can be availed of for this purpose, provided a large amount of money is spent for making this area a suitable breeding ground.

Koduwa and *Manalai* are two other species of fat, fleshy fish that would amply repay rearing. These fish have their favourite haunts in quiet waters undisturbed by bottom currents. The 'Sorukamunai' and Kallar expanse of lagoon, several acres in extent can be used to rear these two big-sized specimens.

(To Be Concluded)

WATER RESOURCES BOARD

Tribune's Criticisms

by The Editor

The *Tribune* Investigator who had dealt with the Water Resources Board (WRB) had to go out of the island, unexpectedly and suddenly, early in January 1980 and he returned only at the end of March. He will now pick up the threads where he left them and continue his series. To refresh the memories of our readers we propose to briefly refer to the articles that have appeared on this subject.

THE FIRST ARTICLE appeared in our issue of October 20, 1979 (Vol. 24 No. 15). It was entitled WHAT'S WRONG WITH IT? The questions that our Investigator finally posed were: "The Indore region receives far less rain than Sri Lanka—and over the centuries billions of gallons of underground water has undoubtedly been stored beneath the upper crusts of our soil. This underground water is also more easily replenished here in Sri Lanka by a bountiful nature than in

other places—by two monsoons at that. In spite of this, many parts of Sri Lanka, are becoming desertified. The Water Resources Board, allegedly in charge of this work, to all intents and purposes, appears to be dead or moribund. Why? Can anything be done to activate it?

“A Water Resources Unit had been in existence as part of the Irrigation Department for many years. It is reputed to have carried out ‘investigations’ for many years, but did not get round to exploiting groundwater. The last Government set up the Water Resources Board (WRB) as an advisory Board. But it did nothing to make an effective breakthrough on the groundwater front. The UNP, after it came to power in July 1977 reorganised the Water Resources Board with grandiloquent promises. The present WRB seems to have carried on in the same way as the superseded Water Resources unit of the Irrigation Department and the Advisory WRB of the SLFP—‘investigating’ until the skies fall down with no attempt at fruitful exploitation. With all the mighty resources of the Sri Lanka government, the WRB has not even done a tiny fraction of what Sister Baptista has been able to achieve in Indore with just one well-boring rig.

“Has anyone wondered whether there is groundwater in the areas in our island where the coconut trees are dying in thousands today? Our information is that there is groundwater and that the coconut trees need not have been allowed to die. Who is responsible for this situation? The WRB, or the Coconut Board or the Coconut Minister? But what is holding up the WRB, which is in overall charge of finding and exploiting groundwater? What’s wrong with it? *Tribune* will attempt to answer these and connected questions in a series of articles.”

THE SECOND ARTICLE in our issue of October 27, 1979 (Vol. 24 No. 16) was entitled THE REAL TEST. It first dealt with the massive and expensive advertisement campaign for windmills and the WRB proposals in that regard. The Investigator concluded his preliminary remarks, thus: “The impression has also gained ground that the windmills are only for rich people and big firms—and may be government departments which can pay exorbitant prices (because other people’s money

is involved). Unless the windmills can be made available at a reasonably low and realistic cost even to medium-sized and small farms or group of farms, the Government’s expenditure on WRB cannot be justified. For nearly 30 months since this government came to power, there have been regular newspaper boasts about miracle windmills but nothing has really happened. Not one gallon of oil is imported less because of windpower. All that has been done visibly are a few pro-types and the supply of Rs. 50-a-set blueprints. We will come back to the question of windmill in a later article.....”

Then the Investigator went on to the problem of groundwater, about the “drought” in the Coconut Triangle, about the warning notice about sinking more wells in Miocene Limestone areas (really meant for the Jaffna area but the warning covered all other areas as well). The question that was posed was: “And what about groundwater in areas outside the Miocene Limestone areas? Has the WRB any data about them? If not, will ‘investigations’ take another 15 or 20 years or more? Will the WRB want the permit system to be extended to these areas also? Whilst the WRB indulges in these futile exercises, coconut trees in the Puttalam District have died and continue to die in their thousands. It will take a decade of hard work to clear these areas of dead trees, replant new trees and nurture them until they yield. The coconut trees of Puttalam could have been saved if the WRB had exploited the known groundwater resources in this area.

“The excuse about ‘investigations’ is only a bogus camouflage for inactivity. In the next article we will refer to instances where the President Mr. J. R. Jayewardene and Prime Minister R. Premadasa called the WRB bluff and obtained groundwater without wasting time on ‘investigations’ in areas where such investigations are unnecessary and redundant at this stage. Are there only two people in the Government who can get things done and not be fooled by bureaucrats and technocrats? The real and the final test of this organisation is not in the number of newspaper advertisements it publishes or the inspired news reports that are pushed into the government papers, but in the number of functioning windmills and tube wells.”

THE THIRD ARTICLE appeared in the issue of November 3, 1979 (Vol. 24 No. 17) and the crux about the problem was summed up thus: "In the last two articles, we have drawn attention to the bureaucratic bungling and the total lack of a sense of urgency that has reduced the Water Resources Board (WRB) to a position that it has become a white elephant on the country's finances. The real and final test about the usefulness of the WRB, as presently constituted, is the number of functioning windmills and tube-wells it has helped to set up. By this test it has failed miserably. Excuses can be found in plenty—investigation, testing pro-types, delays in ordering rigs etc. etc.—but they are of little or no use to the millions of coconut trees in the Puttalam area that have perished because the groundwater was not tapped."

Then the Investigator referred to: "The WRB has recently been crowing about having found water for the Free Trade Zone (FTZ)—millions of gallons. The simple fact is they dug, they struck water and exploited it to the full. There were no long or or protracted investigations. Only because the President wanted it, the job was done without the hullabaloo about 'investigations' and mumbo-jumbo about 'boring rigs' and the like. Why cannot the WRB do the same in other areas known to have groundwater? One can anticipate the answers and excuses: "we have no units, no trained staff.' But it does not take long to train persons to use a boring rig. Where there is a will, there is a way, but in this case, there is obviously no will."

The Investigator had in the same article referred to the fact that Prime Minister Premadasa had a capacity to get things done by cutting out red tape and steam-rolling bureaucratic lethargy.....and had concluded: "What is required is a new policy of groundwater exploitation—even while investigations are going on. This can be done easily and without any danger in all Miocene Limestone areas in Sri Lanka—except Jaffna. It is also necessary for Government to consider the possibility of providing the people with cheap subsidised tube wells done on contract by Indian drilling firms (which undoubtedly have the most competitive rates compared to anything from the West). As presently constituted, structured and moti-

vated, the WRB can never deliver the goods. It will never be able to do it. This is something on which the President and the Government must act and act fast. No one has forgotten the attempts of the WRB to sink a tube well at Victoria Park (Vihara Mahadevi Park). Nor the pro-types of windmills at Narahenpitiya that collapsed when something more than a gentle breeze blew into them."

There was, unfortunately, a little uncertainty owing to the wording of one sentence, viz., "No one has forgotten the attempts of the WRB to sink a well at Victoria Park (Vihara Maha Devi)." Apart from the fact that that sentence has been misplaced—it should have appeared in the paragraph about the successful tube well in the FTZ—a printers devil had given a different complexion to it. The fact is that a tube well had been successfully sunk in Victoria Park in a short time under the nose of the Prime Minister without any long or laborious investigations.

(To Be Concluded)



TRANSNATIONALS

Need For Control

by Prometheus

MOUNTING CRITICISM concerning the role of TNCs has made western powers take steps to preserve the privileged position of TNCs in the current international economic order. One has merely to peruse the reports of the Trilateral Commission, the imperialist policy co-ordinating centre as it were, comprising representatives (both political and business) of the USA, Western—Europe and Japan, to note that the West is trying to convince the developing countries that the TNCs are the main source of their accelerated development. This was indicated by Henry Kissinger in 1975, when he was US Secretary of State, that "the TNCs were one of the most efficient motors of development". Addressing the UN General Assembly, he stressed that if the international community was imbued with the idea of economic development, it was not to allow itself to wage economic wars against the transnational enterprises.

However, inspite of such pressure by the US and other western powers, the majority of developing countries have not changed their opinion regarding the flagrant exploitation practised by the TNCs. In Manila, at the 5th UNCTAD sessions, the question of counteracting the negative consequences of TNC activity was discussed and reflected the fact that young nations are ready to continue their struggle against attempts to control their economies by the west, control which has only changed its appearance and passes over to the hands of the transnational corporation investors, as was noted by the Indian V. G. Shanker.

LEGISLATION is one instrument broadly used by the developing countries to safeguard their national interests. In some countries, investment codes have been drawn up and give priority rights to mining some minerals, only to state agencies. Algeria's 1966 Investment Code says that the state has priority rights in the extraction of oil and gas and in allied industries. Foreign Capital is allowed to participate only within the framework of mixed companies on a share basis with the Algerian government, with the latter always holding the controlling interest. In Nigeria, new companies are allowed licenses for the exploration and extraction of oil only when 51 per cent of their stock is in the hands of the State; some sectors of the economy have been reserved exclusively for the country's citizens. The Indian Government has set the limit of foreign participation in mixed companies at 40 per cent of the stock.

The Preamble to the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act of India (MRTP) of 1968, states that the purpose of the MRTP is to "provide that the operation of the economic system does not result in the concentration of economic power to the common detriment, for the control of monopolies, for the prohibition of monopolistic or restrictive trade practices.....". The MRTP Commission has been able to investigate and take appropriate measures concerning restrictive trade practices by the TNCs. TNCs like **CADBURY-FRY** and **WIMCO** were dominating the markets for confectionery and safety matches, respectively. These companies were accused of having exclusive dealership clauses inserted into their agreements with the wholesalers

in order to shut out potential and actual rivals. This particular action was condemned by the Commission. **WIMCO**, a TNC controlling 53 percent of the industry capacity for safety matches, was forcing many small manufacturers to produce for itself; in case of non-compliance, they were threatened with closure, as some of the latter alleged. The Registrar of Restrictive Trade Practices charged that **Bata**, the leading shoe manufacturer, while selling under its brand name shoes produced by small manufacturers, required them to have an exclusive arrangement with the company, put a ban on the expansion of capacity by these smaller units without an authorisation from the Company, and enjoined them not to sell any additional output from their existing capacity to a third party. **PHILLIPS**, the well-known TNC, proposed to set up a new unit for producing electro-medical equipment with technology and plants imported from its parent company. However, there was a strong resistance to the entry of a TNC in this vital area. Indigenous technology, it was argued, would receive a set-back if Phillips was allowed to operate. Hence, the MRTP Commission rejected the application.

ANOTHER IMPORTANT MEASURE being taken by developing countries to strengthen their sovereignty is through **NATIONALIZATION**. By the early 1970's, out of a total of 3,952 million dollars of foreign investments nationalised in Africa, the mining industry accounted for at least 1,706 million dollars or over 43 per cent. From the end of the 1960's to 1975, the property of more than 30 foreign companies, worth a total of over 2 billion dollars, was nationalised in Latin America. Together with the takeover of the oil industry in Venezuela, the value of nationalised foreign property comes to 7 billion dollars. In the course of the 1970s, the process of nationalization markedly increased. According to some estimates, nearly 80 per cent of the mining output is turned out by the State sector in Algeria, 70 per cent in Libya, about 60 per cent in Tanzania and over 50 per cent in Zambia.

One increasingly popular idea, especially in Africa and Latin America, to offset the negative impact of TNCs, is the development of **REGIONAL COOPERATION**. This is particularly emphasised in the OAU's African

strategy for Development in the 1970s, which specifically emphasises the need for the countries of the continent to pool their efforts for joint exploration, extraction and use of mineral resources. The switch from defensive to offensive action is an important indicator of the growing regional solidarity of the developing countries. For example, a regional organization was set up in October 1975 on the initiative of Mexico and Venezuela, called the Latin American Economic System (LAES) and incorporates all the countries of the continent, including Cuba. Among its basic tasks is the defense of the interests of the raw material producers and efforts to improve their terms of trade. The ANDEAN PACT, which unites five Latin American States—Bolivia, Venezuela, Colombia, Peru and Ecuador is another example. Today, this group accounts for one-third of the industrial output of the region. The mutual reduction of customs duties, the fulfilment of joint industrial development programmes and other economic integration programmes has brought gratifying results. In 1979, trade between member countries of the Pact increased by more than a third. Since its establishment, it has striven for erecting a barrier in the way of the uncontrolled sway of foreign capital, and have instead, given preference to the development of national companies.

Yet another weapon for defending developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin-America against the domination of the TNCs is the use of collective forms of struggle such as the establishment of associations of producers and exporters of raw materials. These **ANTI-CARTELS**, which embody the united will of the developing countries are ones such as the Inter-Governmental Council for Copper Exporting Countries, the International Association of Bauxite Producing Countries, the International Association of Mercury Producers, etc. Not all these associations have dealt with the situation equally effectively, but the very fact of their existence is of exceptional importance since it shows that the developing countries are determined to collectively alter the present unfair international economic order.

THE PROBLEMS ARISING from the activities of the TNCs have now become the concern of the United Nations. The question of the

nature of the activities of TNCs was first raised purely as a political one, regarding their subversive activities in Chile. The 57th Session of the UN Economic and Social Council (July-August 1974) adopted its Resolution to set up a UN Commission on Transnational Corporations only a few weeks after the 6th Special Session of the UN General Assembly had approved a Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order.

Western diplomacy has tried hard to hamper discussions on the activities of the TNCs—These attempts have a single common goal—that of confining discussions of the problems of TNCs to narrow and specific questions and to prevent any political generalizations, which would be against the interests of the TNCs and the governments behind them. The West has been able to influence the Commission's studies, to make the activities of the TNCs appear to be not as dangerous as they actually are. In the UN Report *Transnational Corporations in World Development: A Re-Examination*, the role of the TNCs in the economic crisis of 1974-1975 is hardly analysed, and mainly concentrates on certain concessions made by TNCs. It is not even mentioned that the Petroleum TNCs benefited by billions when OPEC raised prices.

One of the main aspects of the work of the UN Commission on TNCs is the formulation of a Code of Conduct for TNCs. At the recently concluded 3rd UNIDO General Conference, the need for a **CODE OF CONDUCT OF THE TNCs** in the transfer of technology, was insisted on by the majority of developing countries. The aim of such an international Code of Conduct would define certain internationally acceptable standards of technology transfer transactions among countries, with a view to achieving fairness in the field of technology. It was proposed giving up the practice of technology transfer in 'packages', in which machinery and methods feature as component of an overall deal including elements such as deliveries, of commodities and materials, managerial services, etc., This practise does not allow developing countries to make a choice of their own and compels them to bear unwarranted expenditure. The Code must also include fair prices for technology, the free use of technology to promote the aims of national development, possibilities of choos-

ing the most suitable, the NON-INTER-FERENCE of TNCs in the internal affairs of the recipient states and respect for national sovereignty in all matters.

March 27 — April 2

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

The West maintains that such a Code of Conduct of TNCs must be addressed to the developing countries as well. Their strategy, thus, is to remove the TNCs from the focus of criticism and instead have a Code of Conduct for Developing Countries. They want included in such a Code firm guarantees against nationalization, and in exchange for obligations assumed by the TNCs, the West demands a favourable investment climate. Instead of a Code for TNCs, the West prefers a Code of guaranteed rights for its investors.

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

The new balance of power in the world, steadily developing in favour of Socialism, is creating more favourable conditions for the legitimate struggles of the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America, for full and sovereign control over their economies. Active and persistent support in this struggle is being given by the Socialist Countries to the Third World, to create a just new international economic order. The birth and maturation of the NIEO cannot fundamentally be prevented by the West which can only delay its coming.

THURSDAY, MARCH 27: Government will initially impose an islandwide powercut of two hours from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. if no rains occur by the end of this month; if necessary a further islandwide power-cut will be effected from 12 noon to 2 p.m.; if that too, is found to be inadequate a further cut will be imposed from 9 p.m. to 8 a.m. Mr. G. V. P. Samarasinghe, Secretary to the Cabinet is to be appointed to fill the post of Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations temporarily, official sources said. Britain's Minister of Overseas Development Neil Marten yesterday called upon the developing countries in the Commonwealth to help one another. Rainer Offergeld, Bonn's Minister of Economic Co-operation, arrives today on an official visit to Sri Lanka, at the invitation of Mr. Gamini Dissanayake, Minister of Lands and Land Development and Mahaweli Development. —CDN. Although there will be a ten per cent cut in the British Overseas Development aid Programme in the UK government's new budget, aid for the Accelerated Mahaweli Programme will not be affected; this aid is a firm pledge; this assurance was given by Mr. Neil Marten, British Minister for Overseas Economic Development at a Press Conference held at the British High Commission yesterday. The Prime Minister, Mr. R. Premadasa's plan to construct luxury flats in Colombo for sale to upper middle class buyers is believed to have achieved its dual purpose of

SNIPPETS

Civilisation is a progress from an indefinite, incoherent homogeneity toward a definite, coherent heterogeneity.

—Herbert Spencer

If you pick up a starving dog and make him prosperous, he will not bite you. That is the principal difference between a dog and a man.

—Mark Twain

To desire immortality is to desire the eternal perpetuation of a great mistake.

—Schopenhauer

Life like a dome of many coloured glass stains the white radiance of eternity.

—Shalje

curbing undue inflation of land values in the city and also mobilising the much-needed finances to construct flats for the upper middle class. A 980-acre Open Zoological Park at Aranayake, modelled on the lines of the San Diego National Park in America will become the latest and one of the most spectacular tourist cum scenic attractions of Sri Lanka soon—CDM. Colombo is the world's cheapest city for the foreign visitor, according to a list issued by the United Nations—SU. The Law Commission is to launch a programme to teach law to students; the Commission is also to draw up a code of conduct for school children under this programme. The Ministry of Agriculture is to launch a programme in September to develop the Northern and Eastern parts of the country at a cost of US \$ 50 million; part of this money will be received from the I.M.F.—DV. Sri Lanka's former permanent Representative to the UN Mr. B. J. Fernando will have to go before courts to face charges of anti-state activities; this has been revealed by a Reuter report quoting sources close to Government—JD. Political commentators claim that the resignation of Mr. B. J. Fernando would further aggravate the in-fighting between senior members of the Government—DK.

FRIDAY, MARCH 28: There will be two hour power cuts each day from April 1, the Ceylon Electricity Board announced yesterday. The Colombo Municipality's Free Dispensary Service is to be reorganised shortly to provide ratepayers a better service, Colombo Mayor Sirisena Cooray, said yesterday—CDN. A delegation of the United National Party has told the Delimitation Committee that the districts of Mannar, Mullaitivu and Vavuniya should be merged into one electoral district in order to satisfy the essence of the proportional representation at a general election to Parliament. Canada will grant a loan of about Rs. 1,045 million (76 million Canadian dollars) to Sri Lanka shortly; this loan will be granted through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). Mr. Tong-Jin Park, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Korea, who arrived here last night is the first high-ranking personality from that country to visit Sri Lanka since diplomatic relations were established between the two countries in November 1977; he was met at the airport by the Foreign Minister, A. C. S. Hameed—

CDM. Hydro power generated by the proposed Victoria dam project will be distributed by 1000 million-rupee electricity transmission system to be set up next year. Sri Lanka and South Korea will today sign an Investment Protection Agreement providing safeguards and guarantees for investment by nationals in the two countries—SU. Transport Board employees who do not take more than 14 days' leave will be paid for each holiday which they have not taken; this decision of the CTB has been given Cabinet approval—DP. The government has granted permission to establish four handloom training centres in the Jaffna district; they will be at Vaddukodai, Punguduthivu, Chunnakam and Chavakachcheri—EN. The Minister of Rural Development is to launch a programme to make it possible for villagers to obtain foreign bank loans to develop rural industries, agriculture and to set up small-scale industries; two countries have already agreed to this project—DV. Thousands of buses worth millions of rupees which could be put back in to the service after repairs are lying idle in Divisional Bus depots while the country is faced with an acute shortage—DK. The Pallekelle milk processing factory worth millions of rupees will be submerged by the Victoria project; Mahaweli engineers have already requested the N.M.B. to remove the factory but no steps have been taken by the N.M.B. so far to shift the factory to another place—JD. The Communist Party will not join or support any capitalist party; the party will condemn such a move and the party's sole aim is to unite with socialist parties to fight for a socialist state; this was stated by Secretary of the Communist Party at the 11th National Convention of the Communist Party—ATH.

SATURDAY, MARCH 29: Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister A. C. S. Hameed yesterday told the visiting South Korean Minister of Foreign Affairs Tong-Jin Park, that as far as Sri Lanka was concerned the re-unification of Korea was a matter of great interest and that Sri Lanka was willing to do whatever possible to bring about a settlement—CDN. The President Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, who also holds the portfolio of Higher Education, has directed that with the starting of the Open University the present universities should not be "bled" of their staff—CDM. No man is above the law; you are at liberty to charge

anyone who violates the law, President J. R. Jayewardene told Police Chief Ana Seneviratne and his deputies yesterday; he was inaugurating the first quarterly conference which will be a regular feature with the Police top brass at the Presidential Secretariat. State control will not be imposed on voluntary social service organisations in the country; however, these organisations will be subject to strict supervision by the state. Sri Lanka's visiting West Germany will be required to obtain a visa with effect from tomorrow, the West German Embassy announced yesterday. A verdict of homicide was returned by the Jaffna Magistrate T. Yoganathan who held the inquest into the death of three persons following an incident which took place on 23.1.80 at Wekanda in Slave Island—SU. Rs. 50 million worth of paper were sold to some racketeers in Pettah by the Paper Corporation 4 days before increasing paper prices by 80%; the Paper Corporation incurred a loss of Rs. 50 million because of this—ATH. The price of gold has reduced considerably in the last couple of weeks in the Colombo market; the price of a sovereign has reduced from Rs. 2,600 last month to Rs. 1800—DM. A consignment of arms for the police costing Rs. 14 million has been ordered from U.S.A.; the consignment contain, 10,000 riot guns and 300 gas guns—DK.

SUNDAY, MARCH 30: An agreement between the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation and a Texas based oil giant for the resumption of oil exploration here is imminent, authoritative governmental sources revealed yesterday—SO. There will be a five per cent reduction in the prices of all items sold by the Co-operative Wholesale Establishment, the Department of Marketing and the State Trading Corporation from Tuesday; this was announced yesterday by the Minister of Trade and Shipping Lalith Athulathmudali—ST. The Government has decided to allow local private firms to operate their own lines on shipping routes not served by the Ceylon Shipping Corporation; the move follows a recommendation by the Minister of Trade and Shipping Lalith Athulathmudali. The Sri Lanka Freedom Party will hold a joint rally with the Lanka Sama Samaja Party on May Day this year. Sheer negligence has been pinpointed as the cause of most of the road accidents which left 260 dead in April, May and June last year, a study

by Police has shown—WK. The government is to implement a new plan with a view to reducing the prices of goods; the import duty on a large number of raw materials needed to manufacture goods are to be reduced—CM. 1000 acres of land have been allocated in Government forests in Mahiyangana for the Veddah community; this area will be named as a protected area. A Hospital development Fund is to be set up by the Ministry of Health to complete the shortcomings in hospitals; 50 top businessmen have already come forward to donate for the fund.

MONDAY, MARCH 31: Absenteeism among the Colombo General Hospital's 1600 strong minor staff has reached a new high, a hospital source said; "on any working day the daily average absenteeism rate is over 50 per cent", he said. The Association of Government Medical Practitioners unanimously decided yesterday to expel any member who tries to use political influence in the matter of transfers. The two-hour power cuts from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. and 12 noon to 2 p.m. will come into effect from April 3 and not April 1 as was originally planned; Mr. D. G. Senadhipathy, Secretary, Ceylon Electricity Board said yesterday—CDN. The Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) is now facing another critical situation while trying to meet the present power crisis in the country, as the Kelanitissa thermal plant because of serious steam leaks and defects in the boilers and turbines costs Rs. 900,000 a day to operate; this situation has arisen because the Kelanitissa plant is old and of poor reliability, according to the CEB sources. The parking charges for motor vehicles in the City of Colombo are expected to go up from next month—CDM. The setting up of a Marine Pollution Authority will form the nucleus of a national marine contingency plan prepared by the Government, to meet any disaster in regard to marine incidents, leading to a spillage of oil or other noxious materials in Sri Lanka waters—SU. The Police Department has made arrangements for complaints to be lodged in Tamil in any Police Station in the island—VK. The Ministry of Plan Implementation is now making inquiries as to why people who have applied for jobs through Job Banks have not been given jobs in government departments, boards and corporations—DP. The Director of the Mahaweli Development Board said that Mahaweli

waters will soon be diverted to Jaffna and the Northern Province will once more be fertile—*EN*. The government which is facing an acute financial crisis and has not been able to get the loans they require is planning to sell the Trincomalee harbour to the U.S.A. for them to set up a naval base—*ATH*. The Communist Party split into three groups at the end of its 11th National Convention; the three factions are led by the Deputy Chairman of the Party Mr. Pieter Keuneman, Secretary, Mr. K. P. Silva and Dickie Gunasekera—*DK*. The Ministry of Plan Implementation is investigating the reason for government institutions not employing qualified persons recommended by the Job Bank; the report on the investigation is expected to be handed over to the President—*DV*. Divisional Transport Boards are to start a new programme under which Jeeps will be used for transportation of commuters on roads which are not suitable for buses—*LD*.

TUESDAY, APRIL 1: The International Development Bank has granted a Rs. 250 million soft loan for the development of the dairy industry, Rural Industrial Development Minister S. Thondaman said yesterday. Kekirawa and Thiripane, in the Anuradhapura district are reported to have experienced a hail storm last Sunday evening, according to reports reaching the Police Communication Centre in Colombo. The Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna holds an exhibition in memory of those who died in the April insurrection in 1971, beginning today at the New Town Hall—*CDN*. Hospitals have been warned to keep a sharp watch on "special attendants" as they could be IRCs recruited for nefarious purposes; this warning from the Police went out following recent complaints of heavy losses of hospital equipment and personal belongings of patients—*CDM*. Specialised degree courses are to be conducted by the universities of Colombo and Moratuwa for hand picked officer cadets from the armed services and the police; these courses have been designed with an aim towards producing officers who in addition to being considered "military material" are also educationally qualified. Sixty eight persons were injured when the Transport Board bus they were travelling in turned turtle at Madiawatte near Angoda yesterday morning—*SU*. The 11th National Convention

of the Sri Lanka Communist Party has submitted demands to the Government through resolutions seeking the approval of self-determination, regional administration and citizenship to all upcountry applicants for Sri Lanka citizenship—*VK*. About 1000 teachers will be appointed to serve in estate schools; the Education Ministry has sanctioned this—*DP*. The government has decided to hold store-keepers responsible for any loss in the quantity of rice, sugar or flour when they are transported by the railway. 51 ships have reached the Colombo harbour carrying food items and textiles ordered for the forthcoming Sinhala and Tamil New Year—*DV*. Majority of those who commit suicide are using weedicides and insecticides; 29,116 committed suicide in 1979 and 1852 of them did so by using weedicides and insecticides. The Ministry of Industries and Scientific affairs are conducting tests to run vehicles on the mixture of petrol and alcohol; the Ministry hopes to run 20% of the vehicles in the Colombo Area by this mixture by 1985—*LD*. President J. R. Jayewardene has ordered further investigations into the B. J. Fernando affair; a top CID official has gone to New York for further investigations—*JD*. The airforce headquarters might be shifted to Minneriya; the idea is to remove the Air Force headquarters for Katunayake which came under the GCEC Authority—*DK*.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2: The government is today expected to consider the 121 page report of the Presidential Commission on Development Councils which has submitted 34 far-reaching recommendations; the government had a preliminary discussion of the report last Wednesday. The proposed power cuts which were to operate from tomorrow from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. and 12 noon to 2 p.m. have been stayed, the Ministry of Power and Energy announced yesterday. An official committee has recommended that stern measures be taken to recover Rs. 20 million due to the National Housing Department as unpaid loans and arrears of rent, an official spokesman said yesterday. The Ceylon-German Training Institute at Moratuwa is to be expanded with German aid amounting to Rs. 9 million. Air Lanka has signed an agreement with the Lockheed Aircraft Company to purchase two TRI-STAR aircraft for delivery in August and September 1982. The Sri Lanka

Freedom Party will hold its long delayed annual conference on April 4, to elect the 151 strong Central Executive Committee and the 17 member Politbureau at Party Headquarters at Darley Road, Colombo. All Government schools will close tomorrow for the Sinhala New Year vacation; they will reopen on May 5—CDN. Drastic measures to recover arrears of payment on housing loans including the auctioning of all houses in respect of which arrears exceed Rs. 10,000 have been recommended by a committee of officials of the Ministry of Local Government and Housing appointed by the Prime Minister, Mr. R. Premadasa, this is a sequel to arrears piling up to the tune of over 30 million up to the end of last year. To safeguard peace worldwide, it was vitally necessary for the North-South dialogue to make conceivable efforts to reduce the gap between the haves and the have nots; these observations were made yesterday by Mr. R. Offergeld, Minister of Economic Co-operation of Germany at a meeting held at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute, Colombo—CDM. The selection of members to Development Councils until the next general election is held, could be determined by the recognized political parties in proportion to the votes such parties have received in each district at the last general elections; the alternative will be to provide for the filling of such vacancies through a scheme of nominations on the basis of votes cast, to be adopted after consultation with secretaries of recognised political parties; this is the recommendation made by the ten-member Presidential Commission on Development Councils. A work to rule campaign launched by postal employees last night threatened to disrupt mail services. Japan has emerged as Sri Lanka's biggest international trading partner with Rs. 4.6 billion worth of trade both ways last year according to the external trade statistics of Sri Lanka 1979 which was published by the Sri Lanka Customs within a record three months—SU. The government appointed fuel conservation committee has strongly recommended the immediate increase of the price of auto diesel now sold at a substantial loss by the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation; the current selling price of auto diesel, which largely fuels both the country's public transport and haulage fleets is Rs. 13.50 per imperial gallon; this is

way below the production cost of Rs. 17.35 a gallon—CO. There were clashes between the leaders of the TULF and members of the Youth Front at the birthday remembrance meeting for the late Mr. S. J. V. Chelvanayakam in Jaffna—DP. The Constitution is to be amended to permit for the appointing of a vice-President in a bid to face the crisis inside the government; the Vice President will automatically be the successor to the President and therefore the coldwar inside the Party is expected to end when a successor is nominated—DK. The Ministry of Health is drawing up tougher loans against those who steal drugs from government hospitals and dispensaries—DM.

PAKISTAN

Statement On Foreign Affairs

The importance of Pakistan in the current global geo-political context has been accentuated after the recent developments in Iran and Afghanistan. For some weeks after the outbreak of the Afghan crisis, Pakistan's policies and postures were shrouded in uncertainty. The USA seemed to take Pakistan for granted and felt certain that Islamabad would accept the \$ 400 million aid Washington had offered on bended knees. There is also no doubt that Pakistan had in recent times followed policies to Inbuce massive US and Western aid especially in monetary and economic matters far in excess of what the World Bank and the IMF had recommended. The mountain had laboured and had produced only the molehill aid of US \$ 400 million to be spread over two years. Pakistan was understandably disappointed.

Furthermore, in the period after the Soviet intervention, earlier suspicions and allegations that Pakistan territory had been used by the enemies of the post-1978 regime in Afghanistan to organise counter-revolutionary and subversive activities against the socialist pro-Soviet government in Kabul were confirmed by statements of US officials and articles in the Western press. Pakistan has vigorously denied any involvement, but, this is difficult to believe. However,

the coming to power of the Babrak Karmal government, the execution of Amin and the Soviet intervention had made the chances of victory by the counter-revolutionary insurgent rebels very doubtful. And when Pakistan discovered that the USA valued her assistance in USA's global strategic plans only at an overall amount of US \$ 400 million spread over two years, General Zia rightly rejected it. Additionally, events in the Middle East and Iran and the reactions of many countries to Carter's tough hardline cold war hypocritical policies—oozing with moralistic rhetoric (forgetting USA's many lapses in regard to intervention)—seem to have compelled Pakistan to undertake a review of its policies.

We publish below in *extenso* excerpts from the speech made by Aga Shahi, Pakistan Foreign Minister, on Pakistan's foreign policy, in the current situation. The concluding parts of the speech will appear in forthcoming issues of **Tribune**. This speech was made on March 5, but we received the text of this speech late and with our own backlog in scheduling articles, we were not able to publish this earlier. But we feel that this speech (**Pakistan Times** 6/3/80) is an important landmark in the contemporary developments not only in the South Asia region but also in a global sense. —Editor

ISLAMABAD, March 5,

Pakistan has officially conveyed to the United States that it was not interested in the 400 million dollar aid package, as proposed by Washington, and had specifically dissociated itself from any U.S. initiatives to introduce the relevant legislation in the US Congress. It was Pakistan's considered view that for its security it must depend primarily on its national unity and strength and indigenous effort to present an iron fist in the face of any wouldbe intruder and in the second place to rely on political, moral and material support from the Islamic and non-aligned worlds as well as the time-tested friendship of China.

IN HIS MORE THAN AN HOUR exposition of Pakistan's foreign policy to the All Pakistan Convention of Local Bodies, Mr. Agha Shahi spoke in detail about the situation that had arisen due to Soviet Russia's military intervention in Afghanistan and also the aid offer made by the United States to Pakistan to meet the situation. Mr. Shahi said, amidst

cheers, that it would not be prudent on our part to be dependent for our security on any single power. Mr. Shahi said that in the recent exchange of views with India at the highest level we have made it very clear that while we are not in competition with India and do not aim at acquiring offensive capability to threaten its security, we reject any Indian veto on the acquisition of a credible defence capability, the nature and size of which must be determined by us alone. He said disparity in the military strength of Pakistan and India is so great that the clamour raised by India over the modest military sales credit offered by the USA to Pakistan is devoid of any rational basis. Equally also is the propaganda of those friends of India in accusing the United States of converting Pakistan into a military arsenal so as to constitute a threat to India's security. Continuing Mr. Shahi said, they know very well that India's military expenditure has consistently been four to six times that of Pakistan over the last ten years and that the United States has not sold even a single tank or plane or small arms to Pakistan for a long time. Our main concern at the moment is the security threat to Pakistan and this region which has developed as a result of the Soviet Military intervention in Afghanistan.....

There have been three bloody changes of regime in Kabul during the past two years. Throughout this period of convulsion and bloodshed in Afghanistan our policy and attitude have been based on strict adherence to the principles of non-interference in the internal affairs of States and respect for their independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity—principles which are enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, of the Islamic Conference and which constitute the very essence of the Non-aligned Movement. We believe that the security of Pakistan is best guaranteed through our faith in Allah Almighty, our unswerving adherence to the principles I have just mentioned, our national determination to fight in defence of our country and to rally the support of the Islamic countries, the non-aligned and all peace-loving nations to our just cause. It certainly does not lie in a stampede for the protection of this or that Power which would be fraught with the danger of curtailment of our inde-

pendence and sovereignty and may indeed jeopardise our survival as a State and nation. It was in the defence of the principles of the United Nations, of the Islamic Conference and of the Non-aligned Movement that we wholeheartedly participated in initiatives in the United Nations Security Council and in the General Assembly last January, to deeply deplore the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan and to demand the immediate withdrawal of Soviet troops from that country. It was in the same line of international duty that we hosted an extraordinary session of the conference of Islamic Foreign Ministers in Islamabad where also the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan was strongly condemned and a demand was made for the immediate and unconditional vacation of its military occupation by the Soviet Union.

I must emphasise that these actions on our part stemmed from our obligation to uphold the basic and mandatory principles of international conduct; not from any anti-Soviet motivation. This is evidenced by the fact that faithful to its Islamic vocation and to the principles of true non-alignment, Pakistan also supported wholeheartedly the resolutions of the Islamic Conference strongly condemning pressures of all kinds exerted by the Western Powers against the Islamic countries and declaring firm opposition to the threat by the United States of the use of force interference and exertion of economic pressures against our close brotherly neighbour and traditional friend, Iran. We also lent our fullest support to the resolution affirming solidarity with the Palestine Liberation Organisation in its struggle against Israel to secure the national rights of the Palestinian people including their right to establish an independent State in their usurped homeland and in the struggle for the liberation of Holy Jerusalem.

THE RESOLUTION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE on Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan, also suspends Afghanistan from the membership of the Conference and calls for non-recognition of the regime which has been imposed on the Afghan people by force of foreign arms. This view of the situation in Afghanistan is not a fairy tale invented by us or the total membership of the Islamic Conference or by the 104 countries which solidly voted in the United Nations for the withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan.

It is a grim fact to which the widespread resistance to the foreign military presence throughout Afghanistan, bears irrefutable testimony. The nation-wide opposition to the foreign occupation of Afghanistan is a phenomenon which has been universally acknowledged and even the occupying Power and the regime which it props have been compelled to do so. As a result of the oppression to which the brave people of Afghanistan have been subjected and the terror and cruel methods of suppression which have been unleashed since April 1978, Pakistan has been faced with a refugee problem of gigantic dimensions. Already half a million Afghan refugees, mostly old men, women and children, have sought and have been given shelter in Pakistan on purely humanitarian grounds. It is a travesty of truth to brand them as criminals, bandits, fugitives and what not. Is it not ironical that today, after vehement demands in the past, it is confessed by the self same propagandists that the hands of the Amin regime were dyed in the blood of thousands of innocent people of Afghanistan and that it was this brutal repression that provoked rebellion in the towns and villages of Afghanistan. The Afghan refugees in Pakistan represent the largest concentration of refugees in any single country in the world today. We know that they do not want to remain outside their country for a day if they can help it and would be glad to return to their hearths and homes as soon as conditions have been created which would enable them to do so in security and honour.

IN THE LIGHT OF THESE FACTS, we categorically reject the baseless charges emanating from various interested quarters that Pakistan encouraged these refugees to leave their homes and is engaged in training and arming them to conduct hostile activities in Afghanistan. These charges have obviously been trumped up to justify the military occupation of the country and the intensification of the military effort required to suppress the national resistance. It is evident that such a slanderous campaign against Pakistan cannot deceive anybody nor conceal the ugly reality which prompts it.

Reports have recently appeared in the Western Press that following the Soviet military intervention in Afghan-

istan, the United States is supplying light weapons across the Pakistan border to the insurgent forces in Afghanistan. Let it be stated categorically that Pakistan is determined not to allow itself to become a conduit for the flow of arms into Afghanistan. We deplore the attempts to implicate Pakistan in any such activity.

I said a moment ago that our principled stand on the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan is free from any element of anti-Sovietism. Let me explain this apparent paradox. We have in the past made a sustained effort to develop friendly and mutually beneficial relations with this great neighbour. The results, as you would all agree, have been positive. Regretfully, however, it has been also our experience the Soviet Union has made its relationship with Pakistan conditional on the nature of Pakistan's relations with our two neighbours who are allied to the Soviet Union through friendship treaties. The conclusion of such treaties has almost invariably led to military intervention. Despite our best efforts, we have not been able to free the course of our relations with the Soviet Union from these conditions. Nevertheless, we shall remain persistent in our search for a relationship of trust and confidence with that great Power, and do not view the future with pessimism.

The withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan would enable us to immediately repair our bilateral relations. The Soviet Union is capable of playing an important role in ensuring peace and stability in our region and, by virtue of its enormous resources of making a positive contribution towards the prosperity and economic well-being of the people to Pakistan. We are ready to participate in

any process, bilateral or international, for a guarantee by the super Powers of the Independence, neutrality and non-aligned status of Afghanistan, after the withdrawal of the Soviet armed forces from that country. As an essential element of a political settlement, it must be ensured that conditions of security inside Afghanistan are created to enable the refugees to return to their homeland. The right of the Afghan people to determine for themselves the political system under which they wish to live, must be respected. The successful culmination of such a process would enable us to revive without further delay our traditional ties of friendship and mutual benefit with whatever national Government is at the helm of affairs in Kabul.....

(To be continued)

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Govt.



Notices

My No. EA/3/314

**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. 84 of 11.04.1980.

Situation: Village of Kalamulla in Kalutara Totamuna (North) D.R.O.'s Division in Kalutara District in Western Province.

Name of land: Pellawatta

Lots & Plan No.: Lot No. 1 in P.P.K. 1696

Mahinda Gammampila

Assistant Government Agent, Kalutara Dt.
Kalutara Kachcheri,
24th March, 1980.

NEXT ISSUE—APRIL 26

*PARTIES & POLITICS
—UNP, SLFP, LSSP, CP, TULF

*FISH AND FISHERMEN
—A Master Plan

*DROUGHT?
—What Must We Do?

*MARIJUANA (GANJA)
—And the IMF.

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

Reference No. LD/F 513

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. 84 (Part III) of 11.04.1980

K. B. Wijekoon

Assistant Government Agent,
Kandy District.

The Kachcheri,
Kandy, March 1980.

Schedule

Situation: Teldeniya village (part) within ward No. 1 Yogawa, T.C. Limits of Teldeniya, Meda Dumbara D.R.O.'s Division, Kandy District.

Name of land: Ganimehenea alias Naina Cader Thambigewatte

Plan and Lot Nos.: Lots 1 & 2 in P.P. Maha 1658

My No. EA/3/392

**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. 84 (Part III) of 11-04-1980.

Situation: Situated in the village of Horawala in Iddagoda Pattu in Pasdun Korale West in Kalutara District Western Province.

Name of Land: 1. Alubogahalanda and Ihalawatte Pahala Kattiya

2. Adunwennawatta Pitakattiya Ihalawatte Pahala Kattiya and Alubogahalanda.

3. Ankanuwa Owita

4. Goluweliessa and Ankanuwa Owita,

5. Goluweliessa.

Lots and Plan No.: Lot Nos. 1-5 in P.P.Ka 154)

Mahinda Gammampila

Assistant Government Agent,
Kalutara District.

Kalutara Kachcheri,
20th March 1980.

W H Y ?

I Would Rather Stay Poor

by Jayantha Somasundaram

TOO MANY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, those that obtained independence after the Second World War, as well as South American Republics with a longer history of self government, have abandoned Parliamentary institutions that provide for pluralism. Today the virtues of representative democracy are confined to text books on political science. The politicians and the media in the Third World are more intent on giving us an array of almost convincingly good reasons why the Westminster model cannot or should not apply.

When we in Sri Lanka boast about our unbroken history of parliamentary democracy we are entirely justified. Our commitment to democracy is based not on lofty principles, but on reality. We are convinced not of the virtue of mankind, but the depravity of mankind. And since we believe that individuals are congenitally naughty, we aren't dumb enough to deposit authoritarian powers, in the hands of this or that individual, your party or my party. To protect the individual from the capacity of other individuals, we must not harbour any illusions about ourselves. Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts, sometimes imperceptibly, sometimes surreptitiously, but always irredeemably and totally.

International power politics has not fostered democratic institutions. Both the US and the Soviet Union have tried to convince us that material well being is the priority and civil rights aren't worth a damn. The only difference at times has been that the US has flirted with the comfortable to whom consumerism appeals, while the Soviet Union has appealed to the oppressed to whom egalitarianism appeals. But their own national interest has often been the overriding concern of the superpowers, and in the pursuit of this they have taught us to spit in the face of political freedom.

Local, regional and the international media that subscribe to the virtues of the market economy go to great lengths to paint glowing pictures of

countries where the tyranny of the market has become the tyranny of the jackboot. Singapore, Taiwan, South Korea etc. are supposed to be the new Eden. The Left wing press takes pains to point out the beneficial effects that the special revolution in property ownership has wrought. And no doubt it has brought economic deliverance to many. The market economies reek of consumerism and affluence. The state capitalist societies have their surfeit of egalitarian rhetoric. But all of this only goes to conceal the fact that they are mute societies. And this is sad. That's why we would rather stay poor.

TO TRADE OUR POLITICAL FREEDOM for economic opportunity is to enter a dead end street. Because once you sacrifice your civil rights you're not going to get them back without a terrific fight. In most Third World countries the military has often been used by those who seek to establish authoritarian rule. History tells us that you can't play games with power and that the uniformed bureaucracy has an insatiable taste for power. Feed it tidbits and it will grow strong enough to devour you. That's what happened in Chile.

60 PER CENT P.R. CONCESSION FOR JOURNALISTS

Lahore,

The Pakistan Railways has notified that all working journalists and their wives travelling with their husbands will be allowed 60 per cent concession on railway fare with effect from March 1. The Chairman Railway Board said that this decision has been taken in the light of the directive issued by the Federal Railway Minister, Maj-Gen. Jamal Said Mian. The Chairman said that railway concession would be allowed to all accredited correspondents, sub-editors, press photographers, reporters and news editors to whom the concession cards would be issued by the Railway Headquarters. The concession would, however be allowed only to news men and their wives and not to their other family members.

—PPI

—Pakistan Times, 1/3/80

In Sri Lanka in January 1962 we had our closest brush with authoritarianism. It would have undoubtedly put in power the Right wing of the UNP, to which J. R. Jayewardene is heir. But it was the over reliance of the Felix Dias' on the military that precipitated such a situation.

When a visitor to Sri Lanka gets off the plane, the first sight to greet him at the KIA is an Air Force guard with a sub machine gun. Foreigners are bound to conclude from this that either the government is paranoid or the citizens are delinquent.

Then at the BMICH we have Army sentries. The government which introduced them claimed that it was a response to Gamini Dissanayake who in a fit of bravado threatened to pull down the Hall brick by brick and build a memorial to slain JVPers. But then he has been on good behaviour for quite some time now. So why continue with the sentries?

It was comforting to see that the Navy guards at the SLBC have at long last been removed. The SLBC's programmes are appalling. But its hard to imagine that irrate listeners would have stormed the station and hung Eamon Kariyakarawana from the transmitting aerial.

The most welcome move of recent times has been the lapsing of the Emergency in the North. We would be facile if we didn't believe that there must have been tremendous pressure on the government to retain the Emergency. The execution of policemen who brutalised the population has often been the signal for an abdication of civil authority. The government has been wise to realise that a political problem needs a political solution, not a military program.

Civil liberties are too precious to squander. Maybe we don't have escalators on our pavements, television in our homes and cars in our garages. But freedom and dignity we do have. And guard them we must. Political freedom is never really bartered for economic freedom—it is bartered for political tyranny.

And that's why I'd rather stay poor.

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GRAMA SASTRA—14

—Scribbling On Uva Villages

A Health Community

—Why Not?

by Gamiya

THERE IS a WHA by the WHO: a World Health Assembly organised by the WH Organisation at least once a year. In 1977, on the 19th May, they listed the more common diseases of children (who ended in fanfare (IVC) on 31st December 1979)!—as diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), tetanus, measles, poliomyelitis, TB. It was also estimated that less than 10% of the 80 million born each year are being immunized against these fell diseases. Emphasis was laid on *“malnutrition as one of the major health problems of the world. Dietary deficiencies in developing countries and excesses and imbalances in developed countries affected the health of population's in both groups of countries.”*

The 1977 Conference and the Alma Ata Conference of 1978 insisted on primary Health care and focussed attention on the fact that *“malnutrition increases susceptibility to infectious diseases.”* So much can be done by so few to so many, if only the rural doctors in Sri Lanka did their best to foster and sustain a programme of paramedics (barefoot nurses) really interested in primary health care. That is why it is exhilarating to see Asians help Asians. There is a UN team helping out in this country: Indians, and Filipinos especially. The writer of these lines saw a Filipino doctor who had a working-smattering of Sinhala, enough to convince his audience that he was genuinely interested in the welfare of little people. And they listened to him with wrapt attention, taking down notes so that their village of G.....may be helped even in some little way by an alternate method of health education.

OUT OF THE 18 sector-subjects which he had: antenatal, midwifery, postnatal clinic, family planning clinics, premature unit, newborn, young child clinics, mobile and FHS, hospital wards and opds, nutrition rehabilitation, health services for nursery schools and school health services, handicapped child-

ren, child guidance, research, community development and agriculture extension services, international organisations.....he chose for a first lesson the discovery of undernourished children: weight method and measure of the mid upper-arm; expatriated on the need for proper distribution of the dosage of triposhya and for whom it was destined. If this kind of additional, voluntary service was also done by local doctors who stayed behind in the country, and having stayed preferred the village, then many of our rural medical problems would be ready for solutions.

We must be thankful for small mercies. Gamiya is not oblivious to the fact that the programme is FHS-oriented (Family Health Services), and that in UN-IDB-IMF jargon is a way of lessening quantity of births in Developing countries in order to keep secure and politically stable and up-in-life-standards, the materially Developed world. But there is great potential in its approach to the primary health care of children already born.

It is surely an entry-point for a village community to develop its own health potential as a Village Health Community which goes beyond the family but treats the whole village as a 'family' working out its own health destiny. In such a programme, there will be a healthy approach to ayurvedic medicine. Herbal medicines are inexpensive, easily available, independent of multinational drug companies, and are known to people and manageable by them: are natural and non-processed products. Then a near-by radio blared out: "Aspro has come again. Rely on it"

OFFICIAL EXCHANGE RATES

Official Exchange Rates of Commercial Banks to their customers for Telegraphic Transfers fixed on Tuesday this week were as follows:—

CURRENCY	PER 100 UNITS	
	Buying Rate	Selling Rate
U.S. Dollar	Rs. 1629.50	Rs. 1632.50
Sterling Pound	Rs. 3557.00	Rs. 3563.00
Deutsche Mark	Rs. 844.95	Rs. 846.55
French Franc	Rs. 370.40	Rs. 371.10
Japanese Yen	Rs. 6.3510	Rs. 6.3660
Indian Rupees	Rs. 201.80	Rs. 202.20

Confidentially

POSTAL

IS IT NOT TRUE that there is something really rotten in the state of our Post & Telecommunications services? That to take our postal services first, there have been grave irregularities for many many years now — really spread over the last two decades? That with the post-Independence (more specially post-1956) breakdown of discipline in the public service, consequent to the insistence on the wild-ass kind of freedom by the trade unions and the overbearing anarchic manifestations of the ideology of *ape anduwa*, the postal services like most other services of the Government, began to deteriorate? That no government of whatsoever hue has so far been able to put matters right in spite of increased emoluments, privileges and perks granted to postal workers? That as the years went by the irregularities and malpractices proliferated? That among the more serious defaults were the stealing of cheques, money orders, and other valuables in the post? That to effect such theft many bagloads of letters were thrown into lakes and canals? That gift parcels from abroad were regularly robbed? That so profitable had the pilfering of money from letters become that the pinching of magazines and periodicals had virtually ceased—except in the remote corners of the island (where it was still worthwhile to take magazines and periodicals)? That *Tribune* has had occasional complaints of copies being lost in post from remote areas in Tirukovil, Bakmiwewa, Horawapotana, Valaichenai, Nochchiyagama and the like? That written complaints to the local postmasters had usually set matters right? That *Tribune* has really not had any serious complaints about the postal services—or it may be that nothing serious had come to our notice? That is why we were surprised to receive a letter from an old reader, Rev. James Cooke, O.M.I. of the St. Joseph's o.m.i. Seminary of 26, Green Path, Kohuwela, Nugegoda which brought to light a serious lapse on the part of the postal authorities? That it would be best to let his letter dated March 30 speak for itself? It was ad-

ressed to The Manager, *Tribune*, and it read: "The enclosed letter has a history. I wrote and posted it to you on the 18th February a day before I left for Indonesia. On my return a few days ago, I found awaiting me a letter from the Postmaster, Nugegoda, requesting me to call over at the post office to collect the letter I had written to you. Though the address was correct, as you can see from the enclosed envelope, the postman had written on the envelope that the number was non-existent and had returned the letter! I am taking the precaution of sending this letter by registered post. Please attend to this at your earliest convenience as my friend in Rome is very anxious to have the *Tribune* without delay."

That enclosed in this registered letter was the letter of 18th February with a cheque for one year's airmail subscription for a copy of *Tribune* to be sent to Rome? That enclosed also was the envelope which the letter of 18th February had been sent? That the address was correctly typed, and in spite of this there is a scrawl (visible) on the envelope to say that the number (or address) was non-existent? That as we are generally thankful for small mercies we are happy that the postal authorities took the necessary steps to see that the letter was returned to the sender? That to have done this the postal authorities would have had to open the letter to get at the sender's address—it was not written on the envelope? That the cheque did not go astray probably because it was endorsed "Account Payee" and "Not Negotiable"? That this is not a story where we can say that *all's well that ends well*? That we now wonder whether other letters addressed to us had been put aside with the endorsement that the address was non-existent? That apart from this there are several strange anomalies in Sri Lanka postal distribution that baffle us? That copies of *Tribune* posted at one and the same time at the Mail room at McCallum Road reach addresses in Colombo city on different days? That whilst subscribers in Havelock Town or Borella get the copies posted on Friday or Saturday or Monday, subscribers in Horton Place or Bambalapitiya get them on Tuesday or Wednesday? That the situation is reversed the next week? That often subscribers in London get their copies earlier than subscribers in the island—even in Colombo?

RACE & CLASS

A JOURNAL
FOR BLACK AND
THIRD WORLD
LIBERATION

COPIES

WILL BE SOON

AVAILABLE

FOR

LOCAL SALES

AT

S. A. E. P. P. BOOKSHOP

96, Justice Akbar Mawatha,
Colombo 2.

Do you know ?

A RECENT SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION ALSO REVEALED THAT SRI LANKA IS THE CHEAPEST COUNTRY TO LIVE IN

The primary fact that emerged from a recent survey conducted regarding commodity prices in a number of Asian countries, is that the prices of essential consumer items in Sri Lanka are considerably lower than those in most other Asian Countries.

The countries included in the survey were Sri Lanka, Burma, the Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Pakistan and India.

Country	BURMA	PHILIPPINES	THAILAND	INDONESIA	MALAYSIA	SINGAPORE	PAKISTAN	INDIA	SRI LANKA
Bread per lb	Rs. 8.40	Rs. 8.10	Rs. 7.70	Rs. 7.50	Rs. 4.74	Rs. 2.83	Rs. 2.41	Rs. 2.27	Rs. 2.05
Sugar per lb	Rs. 5.49 in govt. shops Rs. 13.03 in the open market	Rs. 2.77	Rs. 2.95	Rs. 3.40	Rs. 2.91	Rs. 4.33	Rs. 3.57 on ration Rs. 6.95 in the open market.	Rs. 5.90	Rs. 4.50
Flour per lb.	Rs. 8.92	Rs. 6.44	Rs. 4.73	Rs. 2.27	Rs. 2.18	Rs. 4.83	Rs. 1.65	Rs. 2.27	Rs. 2.37
Full Cream Milk Powder per lb.	Rs. 43.21	Rs. 24.81	Rs. 27.70	Rs. 28.40	Rs. 16.30	Rs. 21.33	Rs. 29.00	Rs. 30.45	Rs. 8.50
Kerosene per gal.	Rs. 6.72	Rs. 24.00	Rs. 23.41	Rs. 4.55	Rs. 9.47	Rs. 28.37	Rs. 17.02	Rs. 27.73	Rs. 14.68
Rice per measure.	Rs. 1.72 in govt. shops. Rs. 3.60 in the open market.	Rs. 5.20	Rs. 5.60	Rs. 5.68	Rs. 5.82	Rs. 8.34	Rs. 9.52	Rs. 11.80	Rs. 3.50