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Letter From The Editor

LAST WEEK, this column drew attention to the fact that farmers in Jamaica had been driven to the cultivation of marijuana. In a study by Carlos Wesley who had stated that "whilst everything else in Jamaica was going to pot, marijuana production is experiencing a boom.....". He went on to explain that marijuana or ganja is a crop that grows under virtually any condition, requires no fertilizer and very little investment of time or technology, and there is an easily accessible and growing market in the nearby United States ready to pay for the weed in hard cash. In Jamaica, where the most basic necessities of life are hard to come by, hard cash is much in demand. For instance, take St. Thomas, the Island's southeast, a prominent Jamaican told the writer: 'People there have never had anything. Now, with ganja the local name for the drug, they can afford new clothes, new shoes and new houses'. Kingston sociologist and columnist Carl Stone is one who advocates legalisation of marijuana as a cash crop. In a recent column in *The Gleaner*, a leading daily he writes for, he 'saluted the courage and organisational depth' of marijuana growers, who have tried to create employment and develop a viable industry out of one of our natural export products. The salvation of this country lies in ganja.' *The Gleaner* agreed. In an editorial not long ago, 'we should stop producing so much sugar cane and produce more 'ganja instead.' Millions of dollars and untold efforts have been invested to pressure Jamaicans into accepting the notion that ganja is to Jamaica what Coca-cola is to the United States,' as Stone put it. The U.S. National Institute of Mental Health, for example, sponsored a 20-year long study by psychologist Vera Rubin in ganja use in Jamaica. Rubin's conclusion is that ganja (marijuana) is good. Workers engaged in the "most grubby, menial kind of labour", Rubin said, "spend, something like 65 percent of their thoughts concentrating on their work while under the influence of the drug." The aptly named Mr. Stone claims that at least 50 percent of all Jamaicans use marijuana regularly. Michele Steinberg, writing in *New Solidarity* pointed out that "..... another effort involves local culture hero reggae singer Boo Marley who has been called a 'walking advertisement for a dope-based economy.' Until a few years ago his career was limited to second-class nightclubs in Kingston's ghettos and records nobody bought. All that changed when Marley, who belongs to the marijuana-using Rastafarian cult, was 'discovered' by major American and European producers who have succeeded in promoting Marley to the status of international super-star. Steinberg concluded by saying: "But the key factor in turning Jamaica into a drug producer is the IMF's demand that Jamaica find itself a foreign exchange earner with which to pay its \$1 billion debt. Last year alone, debt service obligations swallowed more than one third of Jamaica's foreign exchange leaving little to pay for food and energy most of which is imported." Sri Lanka may soon have no alternative but to legalise the large-scale cultivation and export of ganja. In Jamaica, ganja has begun to replace sugar as a plantation crop. In Sri Lanka it may have do the same for tea, rubber and coconut.

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Power & Energy

THE PICTURE on our cover this week shows a bio-gas chamber whilst under construction at NLDB's Balapokuna Estate in Udabadda. It has now been completed, and is working satisfactorily. An enterprising superintendent, Ranjit Wijetunga, had constructed a bio-gas unit to be powered by the coudng of eight animals all under his own initiative and ingenuity. He had studied various models, read all the literature and after a small experimental trial unit, he had ventured on this larger outfit. What is of importance is that this was built at a fraction of the cost the CEB and other government agencies have indicated as the minimum for bio-gas systems. The Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 6,000 units which certain government departments have proclaimed as the cost of a two-animal unit for a small household, is, in our view, three times what the cost should be if normal economies are applied and inflated estimates are avoided. Like the WRB, the CEB seems to think that the costlier the outfit the better for everyone concerned — except, of course, the not so affluent user. Windmills, Tubewells and Biogas Units, according to our Technocrats and Bureaucrats, are only intended for rich individuals, families and organisations.

WE WILL REVERT TO THIS MATTER in a later issue, but in this we want to refer to the first technical book by a Sri Lankan in the UN system. This honour goes to Mohan Munasinghe, an economist-engineer in the Energy Department of the World Bank. His book **THE ECONOMICS OF POWER SYSTEM RELIABILITY AND PLANNING—THEORY AND CASE STUDY** has been published for the World Bank by the John Hopkins University Press, in January 1980, 344 pages, hard-cover \$ 24.00; paperback \$ 8.95.

We have just received a Review copy, but, before *Tribune* is able to obtain an analytical review of the book by a competent authority, we publish below excerpts from the publishers note about the book. "Modern economies are increasingly dependent on electric power for homes, businesses, and industry. The capital-intensive nature of the power

sector and the continuing growth of electricity consumption require a trade-off between the rising unit cost of supplying electricity and the cost imposed on consumers by reduced reliability and power shortages. This is especially true in developing countries, in which foreign exchange is scarce. The economics of power system reliability is a relatively new area of study; this book provides the first completely integrated treatment of the subject. Its principal objective is description of the proper reliability analysis and planning techniques by means of which electricity can be delivered from its generating source to the consumer most economically and with the least inconvenience. The new optimizing methodology presented here starts from the premise that society benefits most from a system of power supply that minimizes both the outage cost to consumers and the cost of the system itself. Thus, it goes beyond the traditional theories of power system expansion, which had considered minimizing only the cost of the system. The book also covers reliability evaluation and indexes, load forecasting, power system planning, shadow pricing, and the relation between optimal price and reliability levels. The theory of optimal electric power system reliability is presented in Part One, and is then illustrated by a case study of Cascavel, Brazil, in Part Two. Chapters: *Theory—Objectives and Methodology—Introduction to Reliability—Method of Optimizing Reliability—Estimation of Outage costs—Power system Planning and Supply Costs—Shadow Planning—Outage Cost Measurement—Distribution System Optimization and Conclusions: Appendixes Basic Mathematical Concepts for Reliability Modeling—Shadow Pricing Concepts—Load Forecasting and Distribution Primary Models Outage and Supply Cost Computations—Comparison with Previous Studies—Survey Questionnaires; Glossary; References; Index, 45 figures; 62 tables."*

THE DIRECTOR OF THE ENERGY DEPARTMENT of the World Bank, Yves Rovani, in the Foreword states: "In evaluating the merits of the investment programs it finances, the World Bank has generally sought to adopt a national viewpoint, by considering not only the supply costs incurred by the borrowing institution, but also the effect of these invest-

ments on other individuals and enterprises in the economy. In view of the increasing dependence of modern economies on electric power, the capital-intensive nature of the power sector, and the shortage of economic resources in the developing countries, the Bank's wider concerns have focused on, among other things, the trade-off between the rising unit costs of electricity supply and the costs imposed on consumers by the reduced reliability or quality of supply. I believe that this is the first book that seeks to provide a well-balanced and integrated economic-engineering treatment of the topic of power system reliability. It demonstrates that in order to maximize the net social benefit of consuming electric power, it is necessary to minimize total social costs, which consist of both the supply costs to the power authority and the costs to the consumer that are likely to result from supply shortages of power outages. This approach, which establishes socially optimum reliability levels, subsumes the traditional system planning criterion based upon minimization of system costs alone. Thus the methodology presented here is both timely and relevant, not only in the Third World, but also in the developed countries."

In his Preface the author states: "The original impetus for this research arose from the need to examine all opportunities for using the scarce resources of the developing countries as efficiently as possible in the electric power sector. The World Bank has pursued the goal of economically efficient use of limited resources in the power sector in two principal ways. On the demand side, basic research and case studies in marginal cost pricing have been carried out. The Bank is now encouraging and assisting the electricity authorities in Third World countries to develop and to implement power tariff structures based on long-run marginal costs. On the supply side, the Bank has researched and promoted the use of system planning and cost minimisation techniques. This work has focused on the application of economic principles for choosing among established technologies, while leaving the research and development of new hardware to manufacturers and other institutions, which are better equipped to address such problems. In this spirit, the Bank's research study, 'Standards of Reliability of Urban Electricity Supply' (RES 670-67),

from which this book stems, was originally designed to examine the possibilities for realizing system cost savings by varying power supply reliability standards. "My previous work in least-cost system expansion planning had left me dissatisfied with the common practice in the developing countries of using reliability standards that often were arbitrarily borrowed from the industrialized nations. Then, about two years ago, while we were working on the applications of optimal electricity pricing rules, Jeremy Warford drew my attention to a hitherto neglected aspect of power economics involving system reliability. He suggested that it might be interesting to examine the possibilities of broadening the cost savings approach to include the notion of outage costs or costs incurred because of poor reliability and resulting power failures. I felt it was logical, therefore, to combine the study of reliability standards, system planning and outage costs by expanding the basic framework of research project RES 670-67. Richard Sheehan, who was overseeing the research effort, quickly supported the idea. The economic principle developed in the study was the planning of power systems to minimize the total costs to society, defined as system costs plus outage costs. This criterion for power system planning leads to the development of economically optimal reliability levels. Therefore, this broader criterion subsumes the more traditional principle of minimizing just the power system costs to meet some (arbitrary) target reliability level.

"The results of the research project also illustrate the close links between different aspects of electricity economics, such as marginal cost prices, optimal reliability levels, and system planning. In particular, cost savings are important, because several factors have recently contributed to massive increases in both the developing and developed countries' power system expansion requirements. The 1973 OPEC oil price increase have resulted in a shift to more capital-intensive plants involving hydroelectric, coal, and nuclear generators. At the same time the possibilities for realizing significant cost savings through economies of scale and technological advances have diminished, while the progressive electrification of rural and other areas of low consumer densities at relatively high unit costs is accelerating. Potential net savings

to society resulting from the use of the new method could arise from voluntary decreases in reliability and consequent outage cost reductions, or from a combination of both effects in different geographic areas. Although the case study presented here involved distribution system planning in a city of a developing country, the theory and principles are general enough to be applied, with some modifications, to total system planning, including generation and transmission system optimization. The method is also applicable in the developed countries. It is fitting that this research study, which was designed to improve developing country reliability standards, because these standards were borrowed ad hoc from the industrialized countries, should produce results that were also relevant to the developed world."

On the title page the customary caution has been set out: "the views and interpretations in this book are the author's and should not be attributed to the World Bank, to its affiliated organisations or to any individual acting in their behalf." But there is no doubt that Mohan Munasinghe's methodology in evaluating power supplies will be applied by World Bank experts until something better is found. What is relevant and important for us is that whilst many are interested in reducing cost to a minimum, Sri Lanka technocrats and bureaucrats push up costs to the maximum for the greater glory of contractors and others who prosper from power and energy development and utilisation.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Before Anamaduwa

THE ANAMADUWA BY-ELECTION, the last by-election before the 1983 General Elections, will take place on May 7. Following is a list of the nine candidates contesting the Anamaduwa by-election with their parties and symbols indicated against their names: Mr. Asoka Wadigamangawa (UNP-Elephant); Mr. Saddhatissa Wadigamangawa (SLFP-Hand); Mr. D. M. Karunasena (Independent-Lamp); Mr. H. M. Chandra Dhanasena (Independent-Flower); Mr. Navagathagama Gampathige Simon

(Independent-Chair); Mr. Muththa Arachchige Lalith Ravindra Francis (Independent-Scales); Mr. Gamanayake Don Upatissa (Independent-Bell); Mr. Hettiarachchige Sudath Seneviratne (Independent-Spoon); and Gandara Ralalage Kusum Navaratne (Independent-Eye).

The JVP candidate Mr. Gamanayake is contesting as an Independent candidate since the JVP is not a recognized political party under the law. Only two candidates are from recognized political parties—the UNP and the SLFP. The other major political parties in the Parliamentary arena, the Lanka Sama Samaja Party, Communist Party of Sri Lanka and Mahajana Eksath Peramuna led by D. N. Gunawardene have not put forward candidates for this fourth by-election after the UNP came to power in 1977. With 38,635 registered voters, the Anamaduwa was won in the 1977 elections by Saddhatissa Wadigamangawa of the SLFP with 16,597 votes, while N. M. Chandrasena of the UNP came second with 15,414 votes. There are now 43,416 registered voters for the forthcoming by-election which is an increase of 4,581 over 1977.

The UNP is making an all out effort to win this by-election. This is understandable. The odds, at the moment, seem to be in favour of the UNP. The SLFP is not yet fully ready to meet the UNP on equal terms—although there are enough popular grievances in the country to work on to win votes at a by-election. The SLFP on April 4 had a hastily organised all-island Central Committee meeting to establish a kind of unity between the Sirimavo and Maithripala factions. It was an altogether interesting show when hatchets appeared to be buried and Anura appeared to agree to have Maithripala as leader—in case anything happened to Mrs. Bandaranaike as a result of the Presidential Commission investigations.

The *Ceylon Daily News*, 5/4/80, reporting on the SLFP elections had stated: "Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike was yesterday re-elected President of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party, at a closed door meeting held at the Party Headquarters attended by over 400 delegates. Mr. Maithripala Senanayake, a senior Vice-President and a former Cabinet Minister, was elected Deputy Leader of the Party. Mrs. Bandaranaike's son, Anura Bandaranaike, was elected President of the Party's Youth Front.

Mrs. Bandaranaike's nephew and a key Minister in her government, Mr. Felix Dias Bandaranaike, suffered a humiliating defeat in a contest for the post of Party Treasurer. Her film-star son-in-law, Mr. Vijaya Kumaratunge, also fared very badly. He failed to secure a place on the 17-member Politbureau. Two former Cabinet Ministers, Messrs S. K. K. Sooriyachchi and K. B. Ratnayake also failed in their bid to enter the Politbureau. Mrs. Bandaranaike's name was proposed by Mr. Maithripala Senanayake, while Mr. Maithripala Senanayake's name was proposed by Mr. Anura Bandaranaike. Mr. Felix Dias Bandaranaike was defeated by Colombo MMC Sumathipala Jayewardene. Ratne Deshapriya Senanayake also suffered a humiliating defeat being beaten in contests for a post of vice-president and also for a place in the politbureau. Mr. Ratnasiri Wickramanayake was elected General Secretary unopposed. The following were elected to the five posts of Vice Presidents— Messrs Stanley Tillekeratne, T. B. Ilangaratne, P. B. G. Kalugalle, Halim Ishak and K. Shanmugalingam, Mr. Ishak and Mr. Shanmugalingam were elected without a contest. The others were contested. "Five assistant secretaries were elected. They were Mrs. Tamara Kumari Ilangaratne, and S. M. Karunaratne, Basil Rupasinghe, Kingsley Wickremaratne and D. M. Jayaratne. While all the office-bearers, barring the Assistant Secretaries, go into the seventeen-member Politbureau, five others voted into this body by the Central Executive Committee yesterday were R. P. Wijesiri, Hector Kobbekaduwa, J. R. P. Suriyapperuma, H. W. Dixon Silva and Alavi Moulana. In addition, three others also go into the Politbureau, from the auxiliary bodies—Anura Bandaranaike, (Youth Front), Mrs. Kumari Balasuriya (Women's Front) and Mangala Moonesinghe (Trade Union)". The *CDN* had added: "Asked to comment on the elections, yesterday, Mr. Felix Dias Bandaranaike said 'those who canvassed hard won.' A young lawyer from Kandy commented. 'The SLFP has not shed its caste consciousness. It has as yet, no real democratic alternative to the UNP to offer the country.'" The *Ceylon Daily News*, 5/4/80, in its headline had pointed out **KANDYANS DOMINATE AT SLFP ELECTIONS** and said: "Almost all the top posts at the Sri Lanka Freedom Party elections held yesterday went to Kandyans. In the process

several of the old guard including Mr. Felix Dias Bandaranaike were defeated."

BUT THE PICTURE WILL NOT BE COMPLETE without the comments of the Communist weekly *Forward*, 20/4/80, which had an interesting piece about the SLFP. The CPSL is now bitterly opposed to the SLFP as "another capitalist party" and its remarks have a touch of vinegarial acidity: "The meeting of the SLFP's Central Committee (not its 'annual conference', as Lake House reported) on April 4 took place in a big hurry. So much so that delegates from SLFP branches in the Jaffna, Trincomalee and Batticaloa districts as well as those from some parts of the south, could not be elected in time to attend the meeting. The reason for the undue haste is not difficult to understand. Disgruntled SLFPers, whom Mrs. B and her cohorts had arbitrarily pushed aside from positions to which they had been elected by the last party conference, had filed writs before the courts challenging the legality of the new SLFP constitution under which this had been done and demanding reinstatement in their old positions. By holding new elections for new central bodies and office-bearers, the Bandaranaike leadership hope (as in the recent J.S.S. case) to prompt an adverse decision by confronting the courts with a *fait accompli* that would incline them to think that no purpose would be served by pursuing the matter before them.

"The need to hold new elections made Mrs. B face up to inner-party realities, which had been hidden from her by the 'family cabinet' that surrounded her, but which had been rubbed home by the defeat of many of the candidates the family caucus had sponsored in the district elections to the Central Committee. Matters were made even more complicated by the decision of the government, after an intense inner-UNP debate, to go ahead with the case against Mrs. B before the Presidential Commission. Mrs. B, one hears, had rejected the advice of those who urged her to 'do an Indira' before the Commission. Not only would such conduct be out of character, but Mrs. B had herself challenged the government to have their charges against her investigated by a Commission. So her battle before the Commission will be a strictly legal one.

"The possibility that the Commission may deprive Mrs. B of her civic rights, thus leaving the SLFP without her as their Presidential candidate at the next general elections, hangs like a Damoclean sword over both the SLFP and Mrs. B herself. All this made it necessary to come to terms with the forces led by Mr. Maithripala Senanayake who, together with his new ally Mr. T. B. Illangaratne, has emerged as the main force challenging the family's dominance within the party. It looks as though Mrs. B finally decided to come to terms with the Maithripala forces, on the grounds that, 'if you can't lick them, join them'. She herself was unanimsously re-elected as President, proposed by Maithripala and seconded by T. B. Illangaratne. Maithripala, in turn, was unanimsously re-elected as Deputy President. Anura whom his dotting mother was grooming for succession, had to fall into line and take his place in the succession queue. Mr. Senanayake told the Central Committee that he and Anura had 'made up their differences.' But the others who had spearheaded the anti-Maithripala campaign within the SLFP were not so lucky. SLFP's Maoist leader, Ratne Deshapriya Senanayake, was roundly defeated in his attempts to get elected both as Vice-President and as a member of the 'Politbureau'. Film star Vijaya Kumaran atunge paid the penalty for his wife's anti-Maithri manoeuvres and crashed in his bid for PB membership.

The Maithri-Illangaratne forces seem to have carried the day. Mr. Illangaratne was elected as a Vice-President and P.B. member without difficulty, and his wife as an Assistant Secretary. Speaking after the election, Mrs. B only stressed the need to 'reorganise' the Party and prophesied a return to power at the 1983 general elections. No indication of any changes in the reactionary and disastrous policies of the past was, however, given." However, in spite of this new "unity" at the top, there has been no manifestation of this unity in the SLFP campaign at Anamaduwa. It will be interesting to examine the degree of enthusiasm displayed by some top SLFP circles. Whilst the SLFP has accepted the LSSP suggestion of holding a joint May-Day rally (with the MEP joining in for good measure), there has so far been no open declaration whether the LSSP will support the SLFP at Anamaduwa. But, as the LSSP will not support either the UNP or the JVP or any Independent, its options are either

to keep out of the elections or support for the SLFP candidate.

BUT THE ARRANGEMENTS for a joint SLFP-LSSP rally naturally led to speculation in political circles. The *Ceylon Daily News* of April 4, 1980 had a piece of inspired writing under the heading WILL THE SLFP, LSSP GET TOGETHER AGAIN? said: "Will the Sri Lanka Freedom Party and the Lanka Sama Samaja Party get together again to present a common front against the United National Party Government? This is the question that is being asked in informed political circles. A frontline member of the LSSP confirmed that discussions were in progress with representatives of the SLFP. But he stressed that the question of a merger of the two parties had not arisen. 'We are still talking', he said. Another point made by this frontliner was that the main topic of discussion now was to stage a united May Day rally in which all anti-Government forces would participate. He revealed that the LSSP had spoken not only to the SLFP, but to Left parties like the Ceylon Communist Party (Moscow), the Mahajana Eksath Peramuna, the Sanmugathasan wing of the Communist Party and the JVP. There were still certain differences to be ironed out, he said. While the JVP, the MEP and the Sanmugathasan wing of the Communist Party were showing a positive stance towards an United May Day rally this year, the Moscowite Communist Party appeared to have certain reservations.....it did not want to have any truck with the Sri Lanka Freedom Party which the CP (Moscow) labels as having ceased to be a member of the progressive forces of this country. In any case the talks are still in progress, he added.

"The new policy line of the CP (Moscow) came out at the recently concluded Eleventh Congress of the party. At this Congress a leading Moscow-trained theoretician in a policy statement said that there was absolutely no difference between the United National Party and the Sri Lanka Freedom Party. In the final analysis they were both capitalist parties. This is the line of thought that is standing as a barrier in presenting to the people a united front of all parties opposed to the UNP on May Day. Within the LSSP it is reported that the new party line that it should once again forge links with the SLFP was first put across

by a former Cabinet Minister and a group which included a former MP. There is also said to be some second thoughts about a United May Day rally with the SLFP among sections of the LSSPs Youth Leaguers. Their line is that since the SLFP had let down the LSSP, the party should not have any truck with it. They are also reported to be arguing that the SLFP is still being led by reactionaries who are no different to the UNP. Inside the SLFP itself there are strong indications that the younger men and newcomers are now gradually coming into the party's decision-making apparatus. For example, in Kandy a SLFP newcomer was recently elected president of the Kandy Branch. Old-timer and former Cabinet Minister Hector Kobbekaduwa had to bow out giving way to R. P. Wijesiri, Harispattuwa's outspoken second MP. So was Mrs. Bandaranaike's close relative Colonel A. Ratwatte. Another development that has taken place in the hill capital is that the former Gampola MP D. M. Jayaratne has taken over as Secretary of the Kandy branch. In the deep south, Mahinda Rajapakse has emerged as a district organiser. SLFP theoretician Professor Mendis Rohandera has failed to find a place as a District Organiser."

Migara in the *Weekend* of April 6, 1980 and April 20, 1980 discussed all the possible permutations and combinations that will stem from the collaboration (or coalition) between the SLFP and the LSSP. The first article was written immediately after the SLFP Working Committee meeting. It discussed in detail some salient points in SLFP's recent political history, and then described some of the more intriguing developments that took place at the SLFP meeting on April 4. Then it went on to discuss the SLFP-LSSSP negotiations particularly the LSSP efforts, after J.T.U.A.C. meeting in March, to bring the SLFP into the fold of the "Left and Progressive Forces". Evidently, none of the other "Left progressive" parties except the MEP, were in favour of having a joint May Day rally with the SLFP. *Migara* in his article on April 26, pointed out the serious divisions in the anti-UNP camp. The headline was an indication of *Migara's* thesis: "WORKERS OF THE WORLD DIVIDE"—IS THIS THE SLOGAN OF THE OPPOSITION ON MAY DAY?

There is no doubt that the "Left and Progressive" camp, which is anti-

UNP, is totally and completely divided and this will naturally be reflected in Anamaduwa by-election results. The JVP is going it alone with its sharpest attacks reserved for the SLFP, LSSP and CP. The CP is keeping out of the election (it does not have much of a base in Anamaduwa). The TULF is not in the picture. In the final analysis, it will be a UNP-SLFP battle. (After the speeches at the joint May Day rally the LSSP position vis-a-vis Anamaduwa may become more explicit.

The UNP is therefore going into the by-election with many advantages. Much is made by certain opposition papers that JR—Premadasa differences has caused a split right down the middle of the UNP. There is more wishful thinking than fact—for some to think that the differences within the UNP will manifest themselves in Anamaduwa. Differences no doubt exist but there is no indication that any splits and breakaways are in the offing. The results of Anamaduwa will be worth studying. How much of the anti-UNP and anti-government votes will the SLFP be able to poll, (with the tacit support of the LSSP and MEP)? What kind of showing will the JVP make in the face of several Independents contesting the elections who were directly or indirectly connected with the JVP insurgency in 1971? Will the groundswell of anti-government discontent that stems from the high prices and inflationary spirals fall into the lap of the LEFT and other non-UNP parties—even though none of them have concrete practicable and viable policy alternatives?"

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FILM FOCUS

All English

KRAMER Vs KRAMER—My review of the film *Marathon Man* in the *Tribune* dated 12/4/80, tallied off with the remark that Dustin Hoffman's natural acting talents creep under one's skin to stay and confirmation of this point of view did not take long to come, when just a few days later, he won the Best Actor's much coveted 'Oscar' for his role in *Kramer vs Kramer*, which was also voted as the best picture for 1979. In receiving the award, Dustin was all humility in a shock "realisation" that he had overtaken actors like Jack Lemmon,

Al Pacino and Peter Sellers'' to the winning post. The story of *Kramer vs Kramer* concerning the plight of a child in the wake of the legal separation of his parents has not come a day late, considering its relevancy to our times when marriages have become mock rituals where the future of innocent children are sacrificed most pathetically and heartlessly at the marital stakes.

SHARKS TREASURE—The novelty of its theme and the excellent underwater shots of shark infested waters off the Mexican coast, has made this United Artists Production a big box office draw. It was also a delight to see that handsome actor of the early forties Cornel Wilde keeping in fine physical trim in spite of his age. He has scripted, directed and produced this film in which he takes on the role of vice-free captain of the vessel in quest of the treasure lying deep, between a Coral Island and the Mexican shore, with a crew of three which includes that fine and penetrating coloured star Yaphet Kotto, to be beaten out of it between the cup and the lip by the vagaries of angry waves, that do not co-operate in the hunt. The sharks, and very fierce ones at that act as sentinels of the sea bed wealth and sequences when they are speared and spiked down add to the spice of the film, which I would recommend heartily for the whole family—the tiny ones inclusive.

THE LIVING DESERT—A Walt Disney release, directed by James Alger, the camera takes you roving to the vast expanse of de-hydrated land between Texas and Mexico, referred to as the Great American Desert, which has been cut off, of the Trade Winds by the coastal Rocky barriers. A kind of life peculiar to such an environment however throbbed and thrived to the amusement of the large number of kids in the audience, quizzing their parents at one moment and applauding those creatures at the next, when they were winning wittily and cleverly in a race for the survival of the fittest. Bats that move by radar, a scorpion love dance to music, a Kangaroo mother mouse outwitting a slippery serpent on its trail and a death duel between a wasp and a deadly Tarantula were part of the fare dished out delightfully in animated philosophy. The occasional shower did come and in its muddy wake, the blooming of desert flora in attractive shades were a feast for the eyes—opening a window to the marvels of nature and the

wonders of God.

A STAR IS BORN—In keeping with a consteller axiom, which perhaps is outdated now by the discovery of Black Holes and all that, when a star dies yet another is born instinctly. This film directed in another context by Frank Pierson, intervenes sentimentally in the journey of love of two musical super stars (Barbara Streisland and Kris Kristofferson) who meet when one is on the decline and the other on the ascendant. There are many catchy musical scores some of them composed by the versatile Streisland herself, who has also assisted in the production of the film. In 'rocking' and 'rubbing' in hard, too many good things, the film hung heavily on a mixed audience, who would have wished an earlier adieu. That rock stars could shake with such sentimentality came as an intimate and romantic revelation in the love interest that lined the film, while leaving an oft asked question, asked even by Streisland in one sequence 'How does Kris look like with his beard off' unanswered. If you are one who shakes and taps to rock music, well here is your film.

HORROR OF FRANKENSTEIN—En E.M.I. production that has all the relevant ingredients: this film leaves you with many goose pimples and hair standing on end. The creator, out-monsters the Monster in sadistic fervour. Have a peep into the cauldron, if that is the kind of blood splattered brew you relax with. I just couldn't.

James N. Benedict

P O E M

VEGETARIAN BREAD

MISTER BAKER

MISTER BAKER

Give me please Vegetarian Bread.

Hungry children

Must be fed.

Give me please Vegetarian Bread.

Don't want weevils

Don't want roaches

Don't want worms either living or dead.

MISTER BAKER

Pests I dread.

Give me please Vegetarian Bread.

Claude R Daly SJ

31, Clifford Road,

Colombo 4.

19 April 1980

GRAMA SASTRA—17

—Scribblings On Uva Villages

Prevention

by Gamiya

The FHS, or the Family Health Services (the UN plan, and not the one that goes by this name in Colombo city, an NGO scheme that attempts to get to the roots of the problem) often worked out in rural areas, might turn out to be superficial unless real, thinking people are in the process, interested in the genuine health programme of a village.

In the charter that Gamiya looked through, there was question of environmental hygiene, but the state in collaboration with the village in question, must provide toilets and announce that slabs are ready, available, free of red-tape and bureaucracy. There must be greater interest in the giving of these slabs than in the trickledown theory of development which make Tourist Toilets Triumph in ten-star (say five-star) Hotels. Or again, school health and school feeding. Here too, the very question would lead to employment, wages, protein, food, landlessness, a self-reliant bio-fertilizer scheme rather than foreign fertilizer which risked lower health and lighter purses for a never-to-be Developed country like Sri Lanka, whatever the "Ford—Rockefeller combine" would say (as in *Moving Towards a New Society*, by Susan Gowan and Lakey and team). Or again, "health services must be started in nursery schools" (says the paper). The CCA approach to nursery health is very different:—

"Thus we see that health education and social education and organization for change in the present structures of society is essential. This education can be at the nursery level, in schools, with the youth, women's groups and farmers' clubs of the village etc., It is surprising to see that children of a very young age can be initiated into the social system of health: (i) children can be taught rhymes which include the social dimension and thus increase people's feeling of worth; (ii) parent groups help them to understand the socialisation process. There is thus a two-way interaction between parents and children" (CCA, Christian conference of Asia,

Colleagues in Development, n. 21, 25
October 1979, page 50).

Curative medicine seems to ignore the root causes of illness. When Lakshmi came to a S. Indian dispensary last January, she had anemia. The prescription was 'a blood transfusion'. Social-worker Thirunava who was there, promptly replied: "The root causes are lack of food, insanitary conditions and worm infestation. Lakshmi will return for a blood transfusion after a few months, and will be economically poorer because of the cost of treatment. Let's get to the root social causes." Thiru was dead right. S. India is not the only place in Asia where these things are being perpetrated. Right here in SL, it is happening every day. Rural Asia is a hell-hole abandoned to its darkness, but the groanings are unmistakable: "How long! How long!". You do not need a Sensorimeter set up by the Biosphere Committee to know that they have reached saturation point. When the City area gets 84 points of protein and the rural gets only 44, then it is time to wake up. The whole country needs on an average, 54 protein points. There is maldistribution and no motivation for a better one.

The paper goes on: "improve nutrition by better farming and fisheries". We ask: what can we do when our sea-fish and prawns are actually drawn away from the mouths of the poor, and they are fed with potential local fish: when the 'dasa boga (kurakkan, soya, etc) are carried away because the people need money?

o o o

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. 1604.50	Rs. 1607.50
Sterling Pound	Rs. 3627.25	Rs. 3533.25
Deutsche Mark	Rs. 882.55	Rs. 884.15
French Franc	Rs. 378.65	Rs. 379.35
Japanese Yen	Rs. 6.5580	Rs. 6.5730
Indian Rupees	Rs. 2028.0	Rs. 203.20

HIGHLIGHTS

by R. Varadachari

PTI Correspondent in Colombo

THE VISITS to New Delhi of the Vietnamese Prime Minister, Mr. Pham Van Dong, and of the Cuban Foreign Minister, Mr. Isidore Malmierca, the unabated fury of the students' agitation in Assam, exoneration of Mr. Sanjay Gandhi and Mr. Vidya Charan Shukla by the Supreme Court in the "Kissa Kursi Ka" film case, (satirical of the power-play during Mrs. Indira Gandhi's emergency rule), and the continued disintegration of the opposition parties are the highlights of the Indian political scene during the last fortnight.

Mr. Pham Van Dong's Indian visit was primarily meant to drive home his Government's concern over what he called, the Sino-American collusion aimed at hegemonism and neo-colonialism in Asia and win India's recognition of the Vietnam-backed Heng Samrin regime in Kampuchea. He has gone back with an assurance from Mrs. Indira Gandhi that India stood by her Government's commitment to recognise the Samrin regime at the appropriate time. He would have been happier if a tentative date had been set by India for the recognition. He was however no less happy over the shift in the Indian position on the issue after Mrs. Gandhi came to power. Mr. Pham Van Dong noted with pleasure at a press conference in New Delhi on the conclusion of his four-day visit to India that while the previous Janata Government had put as a pre-condition the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from the Kampuchean soil the present Indian Government had quite categorically committed itself to recognise the new Pnom Penh regime without any pre-condition. *Diplomatic circles in New Delhi believe that the Indian recognition of the Samrin Regime is now round the corner.* The Vietnamese Premier minced no words in New Delhi in denouncing the United States and China, fiercely accusing them of collusion to subvert the freedom of the newly-Independent Indochina States. He charged China with "expansionist designs" and a cynical disregard for the sovereign rights of other peoples.

He alleged that the present Chinese leadership was acting hand in glove with American "imperialism" and pursuit of its "expansionism and hegemonism". Mr. Pham Van Dong said that besides arming the discredited Pol Pot remnants operating from sanctuaries across the border in Thailand, China was encouraging the Vietnamese dissidents to flee the country, paralyse its economy and impede its reconstruction.

While on many international issues there were convergence of views between India and Vietnam, differences between the Indian and Vietnamese positions on the Afghan issue surfaced during Mr. Pham Van Dong's visit. India wants an early withdrawal of the Russian troops in Afghanistan while Vietnam would seem to justify their presence for quite some time as, in its view, the United States was making use of the Afghan crisis to lead a massive military build-up in the region, to supply Pakistan new weapons which could be used against its peaceful neighbours and step up the United States presence in the Indian Ocean area by consolidating its military bases. Mr. Pham Van Dong summed up his government's view on the subject at the New Delhi press conference thus: "The true essence of the problem is the multi-form interference by foreign forces in Afghanistan." His main refrain was that the Soviet Union had as much right to intervene in Afghanistan as Vietnam did in Kampuchea to protect these countries from foreign aggression.

THE VIETNAMESE PRIME MINISTER landed on the Indian soil with the public avowal that Kashmir was an integral and inalienable part of India, thus bringing fully in line his country's position on the issue with that of the Soviet Union. As if to back up his statement, he made a flying visit to Kashmir as the former Soviet Prime Minister, Mr. Nikita Khrushchev did, and called for the withdrawal of Pakistani and Chinese troops from the "Indian territory" of Jammu and Kashmir. His averments on Kashmir elicited an immediate reaction from Pakistan whose foreign office spokesman described them as "surprising and deeply disappointing". The spokesman also announced his Government's decision to close down its mission in Hanoi along with some others, for "reasons of economy". There could how-

ever be other interpretations to the Pakistani decision in view of its proximity with Mr. Pham Van Dong's policy declaration on Kashmir. According to the Pakistani spokesman, Mr. Pham Van Dong's statement on Kashmir was "ill-judged" and intended to secure the immediate recognition of the Samrin regime by India. As if anticipating attribution of this motives, the Vietnamese Premier denied at his New Delhi press conference that there was any political motive behind the Vietnamese position on the disputed Kashmir. He said that as far back as 1954, the late Ho Chi Minh had said the same thing in Calcutta during his visit to India at that time.

Mr. Pham Van Dong's visit coincided with the trip of the Cuban Foreign Minister, Mr. Malmierca, to New Delhi as the special envoy of Dr. Fidel Castro. The Vietnamese Premier naturally backed Mr. Malmierca's mission to Delhi though India was sceptical about the reported Cuban initiative for a meeting between General Zia ul-Haq of Pakistan and Mr. Babrak Karmal of Afghanistan in Havana under Cuban auspices following the TASHKENT pattern under which the Indian and Pakistani heads of states met under the Soviet auspices soon after the Indo-Pakistan war of 1964 to produce the historic Tashkent declaration. The Cuban proposal has already become a non-starter with Pakistan and Afghanistan rejecting the idea for different reasons. In this contest India does not propose to associate itself either as one of the sponsors or supporters of the Cuban initiative for a direct Pak-Afghan dialogue until the right climate has been created for it. The Cuban proposal looks to the Indian eye as too simple to be productive.

ON THE DOMESTIC FRONT, the escalating student's agitation for disenfranchisement and ejection of "foreigners" from Assam seems to be the main concern of Mrs. Gandhi. The seven-month old agitation which seems to have the total support of all sections of the public opinion in this northeastern border state has created anxious and embarrassing moments for the Central Government which has been caught between the genuine and understandable anxiety of Assam's people not to be reduced to a minority in their own home state and the inalienable right of any Indian

citizen to settle down in any part of the country with full and equal rights. Thus placed in an unenviable position, Mrs. Gandhi made an air dash to Gauhati on April 11 with an open mind and a grim determination to find an amicable solution to the tangled issue. She has not made much headway but hearteningly the doors for dialogue with the All-Assam Students Union had not been closed. While the Central Government is prepared to have 1971 as the base year for "detection, deletion and deportation" of aliens who are mainly Bangladesh refugees and Nepalese labour force, the students want an earlier index year for the purpose. In a twenty-minute talk with Assam Student leaders, Mrs. Gandhi made a fervent appeal to them for ending the agitation which had taken the form of boycott of schools, colleges, business establishments, Government offices and the oil refinery in the state. In her view, the agitation has and will have "national and international repercussions". The national Indian daily, the *Hindu*, in a thought-provoking report on the sensitive issue, observes that "the people of Assam are going through a crisis of confidence and the Centre had to do everything possible to reassure them that their legitimate interest would be safeguarded before anything is done to end the agitation. (At the same time) the Centre is faced with the impossible task of having to move two or three million non-Assamese out of the state if it concedes the demands of the students. It will produce a chain reaction by providing a precedent for similar demands in other states, besides leading to a serious conflict with Bangladesh if an attempt was made to deport those who have illegally entered the North-east states whether before or after its liberation. It could provide a parallel movement in Bangladesh to push out some of the Hindus in retaliation, creating a highly explosive situation."

THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA has set aside the two-year conviction imposed by a Special Court on Mrs. Gandhi's controversial second son, Sanjay, and Mr. Vidya Charan Shukla who was Minister of Information and Broadcasting, during the 20-month emergency rule of Mrs. Gandhi, for having allegedly conspired to burn a feature film highly critical of the power-game during the period. The three-judge bench of the Court has held, in

Its 44-page judgement, that "the film and all the material relating to it no doubt appear to have vanished into thin air but then neither Mr. Gandhi nor Mr. Shukla can be held responsible for it in the absence of proof which would exclude all reasonable doubt." The judges explained that the prosecution had not been able to prove either that there was any conspiracy between Mr. Gandhi and Mr. Shukla to destroy the film by burning it or to commit any other offence in respect of the film. According to the Supreme Court verdict, the circumstantial evidence produced by the prosecution did not rule out the hand of some third person who was interested in the destruction of the film. "Mr. Gandhi and Mr. Shukla could not be said to be the only persons interested in the destruction of the film if it was as obnoxious to the then Prime Minister or as critical of the functioning of the then Union Government as the prosecution would have us believe." Thus Mr. Gandhi and Mr. Shukla get the benefit of doubt from the highest judiciary of the land. However, whom the three judges of the Supreme Court refer to as the "third person", probably as the missing link, is enigmatic.

EVEN AS THE ELECTIONS to the opposition-ruled state assemblies in India are drawing close, the opposition parties are getting more and more fragmented and are in the process of disintegration. The Janata Party has suffered three major vertical splits during the last one year or so and is on the verge of total collapse. Mr. Charan Singh walked out of it after the failure of the Janata experiment to become the caretaker prime minister by forming the break-away Lok Dal. The Lok Dal has since broken into two, with the Raj Narain group walking out of the Charan Singh camp. The Jan Sang component of the Janata Party has also walked out of the Janata Party to have a separate identity of its own under the label of the Bharatiya Janata Party. The latest blow has been struck by Mr. Jagjivan Ram who has joined the Congress headed by Mr. Devraj Urs, former Chief Minister of Karnataka and one time trusted lieutenant of Mrs. Gandhi after a suspense-ridden ten-day interlude. Many members of the Janata and Lok Dal parties like Mr. Brahmananda Reddy, Mr. Swaran Singh and Mr. H. N. Bhaguna, have joined the Indira Congress either prior

to the General Elections or thereafter, reducing the Janata Party to an anaemic and withering force.

These agonising splits and dismal cross-overs had rendered the chances of a united opposition to Mrs. Gandhi being forged before the forthcoming state assembly elections remote. Personal ambitions and incompatibilities and lack of vision have been having sway over principles in the factional struggle now being witnessed in the opposition camp. Mrs. Gandhi has been the principal gainer in this ominous process, with the opposition in complete disarray. This augurs well for her ascendancy in the nine states which would go to polls soon. That was her objective when she boldly dissolved nine of opposition-ruled states. She seems to be close to her goal. But the Marxists-led West Bengal and Kerala States would continue to be thorns in her otherwise bed of roses.



BACKGROUND

The Problem Of Assam

THOUGH THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT and Press have tried to play down the disturbances that have been taking place in the North Eastern parts of India especially in Meghalaya and Assam (which compelled the Central Government to postpone elections in Assam) events have developed to such an extent that government is now compelled to use the armed forces to put down the disturbances. Writers on the subject both conservatives and radicals have tried to give various explanations—the Conservatives have argued it to be a democratic protest and radicals as "cudgel of chauvinism", while others argued it to be a "tangle nationality issue". Briefly, the problem is about the "foreigners" found in these areas.

The current controversy was the culmination of the demand to secure the deletion of the names of "foreigners" from the electoral lists, started six months ago. At the beginning it was directed against all "outsiders" in Meghalaya and against the Bangladesh Hindus and Muslims in Assam. These so-called

"foreigners" are not aliens in the strict sense of the world. They are mostly from Bengal and Nepal. To an extent one could say now the migration from Bangladesh to be aliens. To understand the real nature of this influx of "foreigners" into Assam, one should at least trace it back to the beginning of the century. The mass influx of "foreigners" may be said to have commenced at the turn of this century when the then rulers of India the British, threw open vast stretches of virgin lands to encourage the cultivation of jute and paddy to landless peasants from East Bengal. The gradual migration movement was speeded up when the East Bengal Assam railway was opened. The British Tea Planters also brought labourers from other parts of the country. The independent Assamese peasants like the Kandyen peasants of the 19th century were not interested in cultivating and producing goods for the market or in an intensive cultivation. The Superintendent of Census as early as 1911, fore-warned that the unregulated immigration was "likely to alter permanently the whole future of Assam and destroy more surely than the Burmese invaders of 1821, the whole structure of Assam culture and civilisation." A comparison of the population growth of Assam with that of India would illustrate the magnitude of this problem for the Assamese. Between 1901 and 1911, the population growth of Assam was 16.8, while that of India was 5.7. Between 1961 and 1971 for Assam it was 31.7 and for India 31.6. The influx became acute during and the aftermath of the creation of Bangladesh. *It is said that nearly 11 lakhs of East Pakistanis both Hindus and Muslims entered Assam and Meghalaya during the crisis, and there was also an influx after the killing of Mujibur Rahman. One is not sure for certain how many of them stayed back permanently in Assam.*

IN THE 1920s in order to curb an all out influx, the Britishers devised the Line system and excluded certain tribal areas from outsiders. But this system proved to be a failure. In the 1930s this problem had become a central issue affecting the nationalist politics. In the 1930s Nehru and Rajendra Prasad wanted to send a large number of Hindus from Bihar to balance the Muslims. In fact, 1928, Maulana Bashani agitated for the abolition of the Line

system and proposed the creation of a "Ban gasam" as a palliative for the acute land hunger in the East Bengal region. The Congress was not in favour of this and they were in turn prepared to accommodate the Assamese in the Indian Federation. In 1937 the leading intellectuals from Assam, Ambikagira Roy Choudhuri and Nijmony Phukan offered to support the Indian National Congress provided they supported the Assamese people to fight back the influx from Bengal failing which these intellectuals warned Nehru and others that the Assamese intelligentsia would consider secession from India. The period immediately preceding the Indian independence, Pakistan claimed Assam for themselves and in fact the Muslim League government of the state in the 1940s sponsored such Muslim immigration which caused anxiety among the Assamese. But this was solved by delinking the district of Sylhet from Assam in 1947 and attaching it to East Pakistan afforded some relief to the Assamese. *The Independence and the partition of India did not afford any solution to this problem. As seen earlier, it actually heightened the problem.*

In the midst of the expansion of Urban Bengali Hindus and the Bengali Muslim peasants, the Assamese sought to identify their culture in their language. This resulted in the language riots of 1960. However, the Assamese are now not in a position to demarcate the Assamese homeland without bargaining with other communities, because in 1956, they constituted 57% of the population. This cannot be a true picture because the political leaders of the Bengali Muslim community adopted the strategy of entering Assamese as their mother tongue in the census returns. This leaves one with a puzzled and confused state of the strength of each community in this area. During the Indo-Pakistan war in 1965 the Central Government advised the State Government to expel all infiltrators from East Pakistan. This led even to the harassment of Indian Muslims. Only the threat of I. M. L. A's prevented the strict adherence to these expulsion orders.

ONE CANNOT SIMPLY DISMISS the events as a movement of the middle class now as resistance against the progress made by the leftist forces in this region. In the 1977 elections CPI (M) captured 11 seats in the State Assembly. The Indian Government can ill-

afford to ignore the currents evidence as directed against the C.P.I. (M). Nor was it merely confined to ultra-nationalist. The All Assam Student Union (AASU) who are spearheading the movement have drawn support from all influential forces and parties in Assam. They have the support of the Assam Sahithiya Sabha a cultural organisation and other regional groupings. On the other hand, the demands of the AASU were not confined to the mere expulsion of "foreigners" and curbing the influx of "foreigners". They also demand speedy steps taken to control floods which afflict this area very often, the employment of Assamese in the Central Government Undertakings and the effective Implementation of the Official Language Act of 1960. Assam is rich in mineral wealth. There are two Petroleum Oil Refineries in the State and 750 tea plantations. Assam produces such cash crops as jute, tea, cotton, oil seeds, sugarcane, etc. The successful experimentation and cultivation of wheat is an added economic boom. A region which India can afford to lose economically.

Strategically too, Assam is in a highly vulnerable position. Assam borders China, Burma and Bangladesh and in the event of a crisis, these neighbours will not be too happy to support India to maintain her territorial integrity. One has to take a serious view of this because there are already hints emanating from this region, failing all attempts for the creation of a federation of North Eastern states outside the Indian Union.

Certainly, Indira Gandhi will not be the Empress to allow the dismemberment of the Indian Union any more. Mrs. Gandhi has already denounced the "son of the soil" theory as pernicious and it was too simplistic to imagine that more jobs would become available if Bengalis were forced out of Assam. The economic and other blockades against Assam was led by the supporters of Congress (I), both in West Bengal and Bihar. On the other hand the disturbances have already affected valuable oil and petroleum product supplies from Assam. The AASU has already rejected the State Governor's offer to make 1967 as the cut-off year to decide on the citizenship issue. It is also interesting to observe the AASU has supporters in Meghalaya too and

the problem is as serious in Meghalaya as in Assam.

What is happening in this area today is nothing short of the "Assamese civil society in rebellion." The Bengali Hindus and Muslim communities in Assam themselves are not very happy to permit the influx of "foreigners" into this area and it is up to the Central Government to canvass their support for an understanding and meaningful solution to this problem which if it led to worsen may very well threaten the integrity of India.

K. Arumainayagam

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PAKISTAN

Foreign Policy-3

This is the third and concluding part of Mr. Aga Sahi's statements on the foreign policy of Pakistan.

Islamabad, March 5,

PAKISTAN DOESN'T STAND ALONE in its present predicament. It derives its strength not only from the principles which motivate its action, but by the assurance that it is backed in its just and honourable stand by the entire membership of the Islamic Conference and the overwhelming majority of the members of the Non-aligned Movement and of the United Nations. The great People's Republic of China, has never failed us in our moments of trial and has only recently reiterated its full support to us and its readiness to extend further material assistance.

It should be taken for granted that any measures adopted to safeguard the national independence and sovereignty of Pakistan and to ensure the inviolability of its frontiers, fall within the framework of the fundamental aims and objectives of Pakistan's foreign policy. The most important element in the guiding principles established by the President for our foreign policy is that our international relations shall be conducted in conformity with our Islamic aspirations. Its essence lies in the pursuit of the closest possible ties of friendship and co-operation with the Islamic coun-

tries and playing a positive role in the various Islamic forums together with an appropriate role in the Non-aligned Movement which would enhance Pakistan's prestige and standing and strengthen its security. Our ability to do so is directly proportional to the fidelity we demonstrate to the principles of the Organisations of the Islamic Conference. In one of the resolutions adopted by the recent extraordinary session of the conference, Islamic States have been warned of the dangers of being drawn into the plans and strategies of the super powers and of turning this area into an arena of their conflict.

THE TWO SUPER - POWERS now profess friendship towards the Islamic world. But they can carry conviction only to the extent that they demonstrate friendship in deeds. Let the one super power withdraw its aid and comfort extended to the Israeli aggressor and compel Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories including Holy Jerusalem. And let the other super power end its military occupation of Islamic Afghanistan. It is Islam alone which can be friend and protect Muslims and Muslims alone who are the friends and protectors of Islam. It is in accordance with the requirements of a truly Islam-oriented policy that we work in close partnership with the Islamic countries for Islamic unity, the preservation of the individual and collective interests of all Islamic countries, and for the assertion of Islam as a moral, political and economic force in the world, independent of the super powers. In doing so, we place special reliance on those Islamic countries which are generously endowed by Allah Almighty with natural and other material resources and which are motivated to utilise these resources for the benefit of the Ummah.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in particular, stands out amongst the Islamic countries as the custodian of the holiest places of Islam and as a source of immense spiritual and material strength, in its devotion to the strengthening of the Islamic community of nations. Pakistan, among other Islamic countries, is deeply indebted to the Saudi Government for its generous economic and defence assistance to Pakistan. Identical motivations have forged indissoluble links between Pakistan and other Islamic countries particularly those in the region of the Gulf which are situated

in close proximity to Pakistan. There is a special place in our hearts for Iran, our great Islamic neighbour which is equally interested in the security and prosperity of Pakistan as a bastion of Islam. We have taken steps to strengthen our traditional ties of brotherhood with Iran. We have made sustained efforts to support the great Islamic revolution in Iran and have placed our limited resources at Iran's disposal in defending the revolution.

I HAVE VISITED IRAN on three occasions in the recent past and have had the privilege of personal interviews with Imam Khomeini. We have achieved a measure of success in defusing the explosive situation arising out of indications of the use of military force by the United States to secure the release of the hostages in Teheran. Our initiatives in this regard prepared the way for the visit of U.N. Secretary General Waldheim to Teheran and the unsponsored action which is reflected in the setting up a commission of inquiry to satisfy Iran's grievances. The commission is at the moment conducting hearings in this regard in Teheran. We have also succeeded in establishing a machinery which would enable the two countries to consult on how best certain immediate Iranian technical assistance and other needs can be met by or through us and to ensure prompt actions after these needs have been identified. As you would also know, a delegation of ulema from Pakistan recently visited Iran to exchange views with respected Iranian ulema on matters of common ideological interest to both sides.

Pakistan occupies a strategic position on the map of the world. It can neither change its geography nor escape from its responsibility for the defence of its own territory which also constitutes indirectly the defence of the territory of its Islamic neighbours. In fulfilling our destiny we feel secure in the belief that unity of our indomitable people supported by the great Islamic community of nations will prove equal to the task and enable us to emerge triumphant from our current and future trials.

In conclusion, I would recall the stirring words of the President in session of the Islamic Foreign Ministers Conference in Islamabad. ".....The real weakness of our actions stems from our lack of conviction in our faith. We loftily claim that we are holding fast to

the covenant of Allah but in reality our grasp of this cable is not strong enough and our hearts are not inspired by true Islamic fervour. In our daily lives we are leaning towards materialism. We often forget that Islam is the religion which meets in the best possible manner mankind's material as well as spiritual needs. I believe that we have to search our hearts, renew our faith and close our ranks. If we can succeed in this, I assure you that we will have immeasurably strengthened the citadel of Islam against all external forces."

U. S. VIEW

Cuba And The Future Of Non-alignment

by William M. Leogrande

The following is an analysis of the post-Summit future of non-alignment and Cuba's role in the Movement by William M. Leogrande, a Professor of Political Science at American University in Washington D.C.)

Washington, April 15,

Cuba's objective at the Sixth Summit was to accelerate the Movement's Leftward shift, to make the membership recognize what Cuba regards as the inherently anti-Imperialist content of its principles and interests. This as it turned out, was more than the consensus of the movement could bear. While the Cubans did not hesitate to press hard for their positions on the Cambodian and Egyptian issues, they were unwilling to risk splitting the Movement on the larger issue of a "natural alliance" with the Communist camp. Cuba's views thus are still more radical than the Movement's consensus. Nevertheless, despite concerted diplomatic efforts by the United States, the results of the Havana summit were more radical than those of any prior summit. The radicalization of the Non-aligned Movement continued, albeit not as rapidly as Cuba might have liked.

THE GREATEST DIPLOMATIC PROBLEM generated for Cuba by the summit was an exacerbation of the fear that the Cubans would misuse the chairmanship of the move-

ment, guiding it toward the sort of "natural alliance" with the Communist Camp which the conference has clearly rejected. This fear, always present among the Movement's moderates, was reinforced by Cuba's handling of the Cambodia issue during the Summit itself. In an obvious effort to assuage such concerns, Castro closed the conference with the promise that Cuba would never exploit the chairmanship to its own benefit, but would use it instead to "struggle and work for others." In presenting the results of the Summit to the U.N. General Assembly several weeks later, Castro emphasized his role as spokesman for the Non aligned Movement rather than that of Cuban Head of State, and he concentrated his remarks on international economics, the issue around which the Movement was most united.

Though his U.N. address was well received, Castro could not create unity among the non-aligned than their inherent ideological diversity would allow. The fragility of the consensus reached at Havana was quickly revealed at the United Nations, first in the defeat of the "Non-aligned proposal" to seat neither Pol Pot's nor Heng Samrin's Cambodia in the General Assembly (Pol Pot won easily, gaining a substantial number of votes from Non-aligned nations), and later in Cuba's failure to win a Security Council seat. As chairman of the non-aligned, Cuba should have defeated Colombia with no difficulty, yet the election remained deadlocked through 156 ballots. In the wake of the Soviet Intervention in Afghanistan in December 1979, Cuba's plurality eroded, and the Non-aligned States themselves (led by India and Nigeria) engineered Cuba's withdrawal and the subsequent election of Mexico.

IF THE TONE OF CASTRO'S U.N. ADDRESS is any indication, Cuba will probably be very cautious about exploiting the Movement's chairmanship to give the movement a more leftist cast than the resolutions of the Sixth Summit warrant. The set-backs at the United Nations on the Cambodia issue and the Security Council election demonstrate that the moderates among the non-aligned nations have reached the limits of their tolerance for radicalism. Though the Cubans will no doubt interpret the Summit's resolutions in radical terms, they are unlikely to risk their newly

won prestige by using the chairmanship to push the movement beyond those limits. This is especially true in the new international atmosphere created by the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. Widely (though not universally) condemned in the Third World, the Intervention has certainly put an end to any chance that the Non-aligned Movement will in the foreseeable future acknowledge the Soviet Union as its "natural ally."

Yet neither is the Afghanistan intervention likely to produce a sharp reversal in the orientation of the Movement. The Leftward shift of the Non-aligned Movement since 1973 has not come about as the result of the beneficence of the Soviet Union or the diplomatic skill of the Movement's radicals. The anti-Western (as distinct from pro-Soviet) consensus which has existed since 1973 is rooted in realities that John Foster Dulles recognized two decades ago: the issues of decolonization and international economics, even when expressed in bloc-neutral terms, tend to be inherently anti-Western in nature. As long as these issues dominate the priorities of the Non-aligned Movement, it is unlikely to become much more moderate. For now, the Movement seems to have reached an uneasy equilibrium in which the radicals content themselves with implicit criticisms of the West, while the moderates are satisfied with having avoided the Movement's abandonment of explicit neutrality toward the blocs. Unless Cuba tries to use its chairmanship of the movement to upset this balance, the non-aligned nations will probably maintain their tenuous and imperfect unity.

THE MOVEMENT'S FUTURE ATTITUDE toward the West depends primarily on the dynamics of the decolonization and economic issues. While the number of colonies in the world has dwindled greatly over the years, the remaining colonial issues (as the Non-aligned define them) include some of the world's most intractable political problems—e.g., Namibia, South Africa, and the Middle East. Though they may be few in number, these issues consistently produce the most vociferous denunciations of the West at non-aligned summits. The North-South dialogue on global economic relations is rarely couched in explicitly anti-Western terms; nevertheless, its development has contributed greatly to the Third World's animosity toward the West. While the Third World's grievances

against the developed nations may, in theory, apply equally to both the advanced capitalist and advanced socialist countries, most of the Third World's economic linkage are in fact with the West.

Thus, the real antagonisms generated by international economic issues have tended to be between the non-aligned nations and the developed capitalist ones. The Soviet intervention in Afghanistan does not change these realities—rather, it adds a new dimension to them. Through the past decade, the stance of the Non-aligned Movement has reflected the Third World's uneasy relations with the West. The Soviet Union has rarely been a principal in the issues which are close to the hearts of the non-aligned. Thus, while it has avoided condemnation, it has also been unsuccessful in persuading the Non-aligned that it is their "natural ally", despite the movement's anti-Western consensus. The future, however, will surely bring deeper Soviet involvement in the Third World, both politically and economically. As that happens, the Soviets will run the risk (as the example of Afghanistan dramatically demonstrates) of producing among the non-aligned a new set of grievances which are anti-Soviet rather than anti-Western in character.

IN ITS FIRST DECADE, the Non-aligned Movement's politics were defined by the cold war conflict between East and West; in its second decade, its politics were defined largely by the members' grievances against the West alone. As the movement enters its third decade, its politics and policies will increasingly be determined by an interaction with both of the world's power blocs that is more complex than that which characterized the Movement's first two decades. —USICA

x x x

LONDON LETTER

War Or Peace?

London, April 20,

American government statements about the use of force against Iran in case of economic sanctions do not secure the release of the hostages has caused a great deal of concern among all political circles here. Even the supporters of Prime Minister Thatcher privately betray alarm.

A REPORT FROM WASHINGTON by George C. Wilson in the *International Herald Tribune* of April 4 sets out the steps the US has taken to strengthen its position in the Indian Ocean: "The United States will station Americans in Oman, Kenya and Somalia as part of its military build-up in the Indian Ocean region, Robert Komer, under-secretary of defence for policy, confirmed today. But he sought to assure members of a House Foreign Affairs subcommittee that the US profile would be kept low in those politically sensitive countries. He said there would be between 15 and 100 Americans in each place to act as caretakers for expanded military facilities. Some of the caretakers will be military specialists, while others will be civilians employed by defense contractors. Their job will be to keep ports and airfields in Oman, Kenya and Somalia ready for use by the US military including the Rapid Deployment Force that President Carter is organising....."

"There was some display yesterday of congressional uneasiness of committing American resources to those three countries to protect Gulf oil. 'There would be enormous public resistance to the United States getting involved all by itself to meet a Soviet threat' in the Gulf, warned Rep. Paul Findley R-III. He criticised the administration for choosing Oman and Somalia for storing military equipment over such other countries as Egypt and Turkey. The administration has chosen 'the weak route', Rep. Findley said. In time of crisis, when the United States wants to use bases in Oman and Somalia, 'our position might be very tenuous', he said. Mr. Komer replied that Egypt is about 1,000 miles farther from the Gulf than Somalia and that 'the Turks are absolutely adamant about not getting involved in Middle East contingencies.' Also Mr. Komer continued, the administration plans to store most of its heavy equipment and ammunition for the Rapid Deployment Force on cargo ships to be stationed in the Indian Ocean area. Rep. Larry Winn Jr. R. Kan, joined Rep. Findley in expressing doubt that the 82 Airborne Division would have the armour needed to take on Soviet divisions or those of other countries equipped with Soviet armour in any Gulf conflict. Mr. Komer conceded that the light 82d would have a problem in such a fight but said that Marines

and other forces would back up the division. Even so, he said, 'I am not terribly sanguine about our present capability' for Gulf conflicts. 'By 1985 or 1986 we will have a very respectable capability in the area', he added. Mr. Komer said the administration soon would ask for an undisclosed amount of money to improve these military facilities for use by US forces. *Oman*—Thamarit, Masirah and Sib airfields, ports in Matrah near Muscat and in Salalah (Mina Qaboos and Mina Raysut). *Kenya*, Mombasa, Embaksai (near Nairobi) and Nanyuki airfields and port. *Somalia*—Berbera and Mogadishu airfields and ports."

THE FACILITIES IN DIEGO GARCIA have been expanded and increased. Agreements have been signed with the governments of Kenya and Somalia for utilisation of seaport and airport facilities in Mombasa, Lamu, Berbera and Kismayo where Americans have constructed workshops for re-equipment and have built warehouses and barracks, which can ensure permanent presence there of American warships, storage of nuclear arms, particularly missiles of 'Pershing-2' class. A formation of special units is going on like "Rapid Deployment Forces" in order to conduct military operations in the Indian ocean. Soon it is expected that 2,000 marines would arrive in the region, part of whom will be quartered in military bases in Kenya, Somali and Oman.

Reports received here in London indicate that moderate African leader like Nyerere (Tanzania) Kaunda (Zambia) Raksikera (Madagascar) and others have serious apprehensions about the US strategy in this region not only to defend "American oil interests" from positions of strength but also to contain the emancipatory and liberation movements in West Asian and African nations. There is also a fear among African leaders and peoples that the imperialist powers now want to build a **cor-don sanitaire** "around Africa under the excuse that Africa is a "zone of their military interests" with a continuous chain of strong points from the Atlantic coast (Morocco, Liberia) up to the Indian Ocean utilising pliable states amenable to American influence, like Zaire, Kenya, Somalia. A further target of imperialist attention seem to centre in Uganda. The demand has been made by certain pro-West states like Kenya that Tanzania should withdraw their forces from Uganda and replace them with Commonwealth or

UN force which will include American contingents.

AS THIS NOTE IS BEING WRITTEN, an AFP message from Kuwait dated April 13, stated: "The Gulf State of Dubai has granted port facilities to the United States navy, the Kuwaiti newspaper *Al Watan* reported yesterday. The newspaper quoted 'credible' diplomatic sources at Abu Dhabi, capital of the United Arab Emirates, as saying that Washington and Dubai had recently signed an agreement over the facilities at Bou Ali, the Kuwaiti news agency *Kuna* said. *Al Watan* added that the agreement signed after negotiations in London by Emiratis' Ambassador to Britain Mehdi Tajer and President Jimmy Carter's White House chief of Staff, Hamilton Jordan, had provoked dissent within the Emirates."

Disquiet and uneasiness have also been displayed by some of US allies in Europe. An AP message from Hamburg on April 12, stated: "Chancellor Helmut Schmidt said yesterday his government has advised the United States against using military actions to free the hostages in Iran. The West German leader said yesterday that in case of new United States economic sanctions against Iran 'we will do our part although we do not consider this (step) right'. Addressing a Social Democratic Party congress in Hamburg, Mr. Schmidt said that Europe's selfinterest in the US-Iran crisis was to maintain peace and ensure 'that the oil keeps flowing.' The Chancellor said he could sympathise with the 'almost intolerable demands on the spiritual strength of a great nation posed by the months of bitterness about 50 US hostages held by Islamic revolutionaries in Teheran. But he said he has urged President Jimmy Carter not to use force. Maintaining world peace, he said, should be the first political maxim of negotiations in the crisis over Iran and the East-West arms race....."

AGENCY REPORTS FROM TEHRAN dated April 14 brought another aspect of the Iran crisis to the forefront: "Mr. Joseph Swick, a hostage in the US embassy in Teheran, has said the 'hostages are of no value to the American administration'. In a television interview here yesterday, Mr. Swick said had we been important people or wealthy, we would have been long ago in the US and the Shah here. He said he had sent a number of letters and articles to American papers and only few of

them printed after a heavy-handed censorship. He added that contents of some of the letters were completely distorted. Mr. Swick said his view was that the former Shah should face an international court for the crimes he committed against his people. The people of the world, and especially the American people, should learn what a criminal the US government supported Giving details about the subversive activities carried out by the US Embassy staff members, he said one Col. Hunt maintained contacts with a group planning to stage a coup in the country. He said his department in the Embassy was engaged in electronic espionage of Soviet territory from stations located near Kabkan and Bemshehr within the Iranian border. Mr. Swick said a C-12 spy plane crammed with electronic gear for taking sensitive photographs by the CIA and military intelligence used to operate with the full knowledge of the American Ambassador. Two months before the seizure of the Embassy, I went abroad to take photographs of the territories of Iran, India and Pakistan. Most of the photographs taken by the spy plane have been captured by the militants who have taken over the Embassy. He showed his television audience packages of equipment allegedly belonging to the Pentagon's intelligence department. During the revolution, all information was fed into the Embassy's computer, which was used in June 79 to monitor Iranian communications facilities." Mr. Swick told his audience."

Earlier, on April 8, the US President, after breaking diplomatic ties with Iran had announced the steps at a hastily called news conference in Washington. He accepted no questions from reporters. After marathon meetings with his foreign policy advisors, Mr. Carter also announced: "..... Iranian assets which were frozen in December would be used to aid in designing a program to aid the hostages and their families (2) legislation will be introduced to facilitate the processing of any claims against Iran. The steps I have ordered today are those that are necessary now, he said. Other actions may become necessary if these steps do not produce the prompt release of the hostages. Mr. Carter did not indicate what those further steps might be, but a naval blockade of Iran known to have been considered."

Up to the time of writing, the breaking of diplomatic ties (it is a tacit declaration of war) and the economic sanctions do not seem to have had the desired effect. On the contrary it seems to have roused the Iranians to a further pitch of indignant hostility. Carter took these steps in retaliation for the decision by the Iranian Revolutionary Council not to accept custody of the hostages from the militants. Iran accused the US of using overt aggression through its application of new sanctions in Teheran hostages crisis reported AP, Reuter. A written statement issued by the Revolutionary Council at the end of an emergency meeting said, "the excuse of the US Government for its overt aggression is the issue of the detention of the hostages.....the US President is trying to hide the imperialist interests of his government under the cover of the embassy hostages." The statement added: "The events of the past year show that the fundamental issue for the US Government is not the holding of the employees of the embassy, who are accused of sabotage and espionage." It said the sanctions would have no effect on the position of the US hostages."

But the Revolutionary Council considered declaring a state of emergency and a holy war of self-denial to cope with the reprisals. Ayatollah Khomeini declared the sanctions were a "good omen" because they meant the US government had lost all hope of controlling Iran. The Ayatollah's foreign Minister said the penalties would not change Iran's position on the 50 American hostages, who began their 157th day in captivity. But President Abolhassan Bani Sadr said Iranians must realise Mr. Carter means business with his latest economic and diplomatic reprisals. "I tell the nation, it is a war", he said. "I am warning you, if you want to be alive, produce and work." The Ayatollah said breaking relations was "the one thing in all his life Mr. Carter has done in the interests of the oppressed because it marked an end to ties between a risen country and a world devouring plunderer. This is the beginning of the dawn of final victory of a nation against the blood-thirsty superpower which was forced to cut relations, the Ayatollah said and now the US, will be forced to "end its pillaging" in Iran.

Though Iran's Moslem fundamentalists

seem intent on fighting on several fronts (Iraqis and Kurds outside and the Leftists inside), they do not seem to be in a mood to succumb to American pressures.

But will American determination to compel Iran to do its bidding bring war? All that the Iranians wanted was the Shah—and they took the hostages after the US admitted the Shah to that country. But the US refused to surrender the Shah (and has tried various subterfuges to escape responsibility and help the Shah) and the Iranians naturally refuse to release the hostages. The US and the West want Iranian oil cheap—and they might go to war under the pretext of saving the hostages!

—Tribune Correspondent

WASHINGTON LETTER

Will Carter Use Force?

April 8,

On Easter Monday, little children were rolling Easter eggs on the South lawn of the White House. Outside, Iranian students, flanked by hundreds of policemen and jeered at by irate Americans, chanted against the Shah and his visiting host, Anwar Sadat. At the same time, President Carter went on national television to announce sanctions against Iran. Omniously, he stated that these sanctions were just the beginning.

CARTER HAS FEW OPTIONS LEFT this volatile election year. The endurance of the American public is all but exhausted. Walter Cronkite was reminding millions of viewers that the hostages were spending Easter, as they had spent Thanksgiving and Christmas—in captivity. The cherry trees around the Jefferson Memorial have erupted into blossom. But Americans weary with the crisis were tying yellow ribbons around them to remind the world that the hostages are still in Iran. The pressures were building up on Carter to act.

The Carter administration had two goals in the hostage crisis. First, get the hostages out of Iran alive and safe. Second, preserve America's honor and her standing as a superpower. The Ayatollah had repeatedly rubbed

America's nose in the dust. For some time, the *Washington Post* columnists have made almost hysterical demands for a show of force. Today, the *New York Times* lead editorial together with its respected columnists, James Reston and Tom Wicker conceded that strong action is necessary. They contended that by vacillating America appears to be weak and indecisive. This in turn would encourage the Soviets to further adventurism. Now, the second goal, maintaining America's prestige, is the dominant and overriding policy. All this translates into eventual force against Iran.

THE ANNOUNCED SANCTIONS are mild and will not help to release the hostages. Indeed, the latest news was that of the Ayatollah deriding and ridiculing these measures. First the US broke diplomatic relations with Iran. Battalions of police cordoned off Massachusetts Avenue, the fashionable section of Embassy Row, on which the Shah sited his opulent embassy. The Iranians are given until midnight to leave. Second, the break in trade is more formal than real. U.S. exports to Iran were a mere \$ 1.8 million in February compared with the \$ 200-300 million per month before the Revolution. Third, cancelling all US visas issued to Iranians abroad. Revoking visas of Iranians in the US would run into legal snags. Finally, unfreezing \$ 8 billion in Iranian assets to meet the scores of legal claims filed against the Iranian government in American courts. It is expected that the relations of the hostages will file multimillion dollar suits for wrongful imprisonment against the Iranian government.

Those who support the above sanctions argue that they will strengthen the moderates, "the neckties", against the clerical "turban-towelhead" faction. They argue that these sanctions support the moderates argument that further detention damages Iran's interests. But would the Revolutionary Council see it this way. Carter flung the gauntlet. Without hesitation, the Ayatollah picked it up. There is now an internal momentum to take the sanctions to their logical conclusion. Our scenario: a naval blockade. Mullahs agitating the faithful to frenzied demonstrations. Probably, a trial of the hostages, or worse, a hostage succeeding in taking his life.

Retaliatory bombings of refineries. A wrong

move like the militants killing some hostages. A massive bombing of Teheran. In other words, the "chicken" games, so familiar to all students of international relations.

If our predictions come true, the persons who will most suffer are the uninvolved Iranian citizens, and the Third World, Europe and Japan which are exclusively dependent on the Gulf for their oil needs. Would everyone have the sense to avert this tragedy.

—Tribune Correspondent

TRANSNATIONALS

Export Pollution

by Pro metheus

IN THE US AT PRESENT, a battle is raging over a bid to limit the dumping of toxic waste in Third World Countries. The US administration is concerned at the possible political and economic backlash of the continued dumping of dangerous products on foreign markets, and is attempting to regulate the export of chemicals, drugs and other industrial goods banned from domestic consumption. This phenomenon, of the export of products and the location of industries of a "dirty nature", by the TNCs, in Third World countries, could only be termed criminal. TNCs are not concerned about the ethical responsibility to refrain from dumping on unsuspecting nations products and industries not used domestically. Profit and more profit is their sole consideration.

A classic example is the case of the Japanese TNC KAWASAKI Steel Corporation (KSC). KSC, a major steel maker in Japan, came to Chiba city after the Second World War. KSC has emitted poisonous wastes and pollutants unchecked for more than 20 years and continues to do so. As a consequence, Chiba City is said to be the most polluted area in Japan. Many deaths had been caused by Sulphur oxides, nitrogen oxides and fine ore powder emitted from a steel mill of Kawasaki Steel Corporation. In Chiba, pollution victims and citizens who supported their cause filed a law suit with the Chiba District Court in 1975, demanding that the construc-

tion of the No. 6 blast furnace be suspended, compensation be paid for damages done and that the pollution level now permitted by law be reduced to a lower level to stop the presently on-going pollution.

But, TNCs disregard national borders. With their global network of subsidiaries, high technology and marketing systems, TNCs far outstrip the barely adequate regulatory activities of a government that considers such "dirty business" only a minor nuisance. To outflank the pressure from the Chiba citizens, KSC decided to relocate the most heavily polluting source of the steel making process in a land 2,000 miles away from Chiba, a place it chose arbitrarily solely for geographical convenience Cagayan de Oro, Mindano, the Phillipines. KSC made a remarkable statement on the first day of the "Trial Blue Sky", so-called by the Chiba citizens who wanted to re-possess their blue skies: "Chiba citizens need not be afraid because we are moving the sintering plant that gives off large amounts of sulphur oxides and nitrogen oxides to Mindano in the Phillipines". Such a blatant shameless statement by KSC shows that TNCs don't hesitate to express their intention of exporting pollution to Third World Countries. The attitude of some Third World Governments to such situations amounts to more than encouragement. The Construction of the KSC plant in the Phillipines was officially decided at the Tanaka-Marcos Conference held on January 7th, 1974, in which President Marcos said: "Industrialization is what we are aiming for.....if it gets difficult to expand plants in Japan (because of the pollution problem), we are willing to accept them". The KSC sinister plant in Mindanao is a typical example of the numerous cases of pollution export by TNCs to Asia, Africa and Latin America.

EVIDENCE OF SUCH DUMPING and its tragic consequences have repeatedly been brought to the notice of the US and other Governments. Congressional sources have accused the US of "environmental imperialism", while Union leaders have denounced the "flourishing export trade in death" carried out by the TNCs. The magazine 'Mother Jones' points out that the annual volume of trade in products banned from use stands at around 1.2 billion dollars. 400 Iraqis died in 1972 and around 5000 were hospitalised

after consuming the by-products of 8000 tons of wheat and barley coated with an organic mercury fungicide, whose use had been banned in the US. In 1979, the United Nations Environment Programme reported that numerous farmers of Compara, in sub-tropical Bolivia, committed suicide in the late 60's after the continued use of powerful pesticides imported from the US had triggered an ecological catastrophe in their tomato fields. Blaming themselves as "killers of Panchamama" (Mother Earth), they chose to die "by drinking the pesticides that had caused all their problems" the UNEP recounted.

Cynically as it were, the General Accounting Office in the US last year denounced the effects of the export trade in hazardous chemicals for its boomerang effect. The US is alarmed only when her citizens are in danger. An official report stated that "A large portion of food imported into the US may contain unsafe pesticide residues. In some foreign countries, pesticides known or suspected of causing cancer, birth defects and gene mutations are carelessly or excessively used". According to the latest figures, some 40 per cent of the 2.6 billion dollars of pesticides produced every year in the US is for export. And curiously enough used on these very crops imported into the United States.

In the field of pharmaceuticals, numerous examples can be cited to prove the export of death by TNCs. Corporations deliberately resort to deception as in the case of the William S. Merrell Company, which produced TRIPARANOL, under the proprietary name MER/29. Triparanol was given in the hope of preventing coronary heart disease inspite of the fact that there was no factual evidence to indicate that the drug would achieve this. It has been estimated that a thousand individuals developed cataract as a result of this treatment. According to Walter Modell, editor of CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY AND THERAPEUTICS, "critical laboratory data on Triparanol has been criminally suppressed. Pharmacological tests in the laboratories of the manufacturer of Triparanol had shown that in rats and dogs, cataract formation, loss of hair, and gonadal changes occurred. Thus the effects that were subsequently seen in man-ataracts, loss of hair and impotence-were predicted by laboratory observations but sup-

pressed". The Company was fined 80,000 dollars by the District Court in Washington for withholding and falsifying test data.

Winstrol, a synthetic male hormone, which stunted the growth of American children, is freely available in Brazil where it is recommended as an appetite stimulant for children. Lomotil, an anti-diarrhoea medicine, sold only by prescription in the US since an overdose could be fatal, was sold over the counter in Sudan. Depo-provera, an injectable contraceptive banned in the US since it causes malignant tumours in animals, is widely used in 70 countries particularly in population control programmes. At the 1977 meeting of the United Nations Environment Programme, a Kenyan minister warned that developing nations would no longer tolerate being used as dumping grounds for products.....and that their people should not be used as guinea pigs for chemicals.

Many Third World countries are increasingly becoming aware of the problem of the export of pollution by the TNCs and are resorting to appropriate measures. The Mexican Government closed several factories that produced DBCP, a pesticide that was found to cause sterility in workers. In February this year Sierra Leone rejected a 25 million dollar deal with a US company that wanted to dump toxic wastes there. *According to an official US report, if the United States does not exercise special vigilance..... "citizens and governments of foreign countries may develop increasingly hostile attitudes towards this country." Moreover, "the label, "made in USA" could become feared, rather than respected."*

LETTER

Jaffna and The W.R.B.

Sir,

According to news items in the dailies, the water Resources Board (WRB) has stated their reasons for the Government's decision to ban any further digging of private wells within the Jaffna peninsular area. They say that fresh water resources are limited and that over-exploitation may cause sea-water entry into our underground fresh water basin.

if a correct balance between the natural input during the rains and the mechanical draw off for domestic and agricultural purposes during the dry months is not maintained. This way of reasoning had been propounded even by the professional men in the past although in trying to build the Jaffna Lagoon Scheme the reason given was to create fresh waters resources, leaching out salt impregnation, etc. are given. Now we in the Jaffna Peninsula are entirely dependent for water from wells. The source of well water is underground water. Rain water soaks into the ground and is stored in the underground lime-stone bed. Being less dense than sea-water its pressure on sea-water can even keep out the sea-water entering our underground basin.

THE RECORDS SHOW that the average annual rain-fall within the peninsula is about 55 inches. That out of this nearly 45 inches falls during the N. E. Monsoon viz between October and February. It is estimated that nearly 80% of this rainfall is lost to sub-soil storage by accelerated surface drainage direct into the surrounding sea, or to the sea through the inland lagoons. This should be viewed as a colossal waste of water resources. It is here that we can conserve and store additional fresh water in our underground storage tank when we complete that underground tank.

Before arriving at this hasty decision to restrict the digging of new wells, which to the Water Resources Board appears to be the easiest way out for the problem, let us take the case of the Keerimalai Bathing Tank and the number of similar springs from Keerimalai along the coast. Cannot the seams in the rocky promontory be blocked by a seawall and the water stored and used or diverted elsewhere into the sub-soil basin? Incidentally such a basin is being formed in the lime-stone quarries of the Cement Factory.

But it is often repeated that underground water stored is diminishing owing to over-use, and over draw-off and that sea-water may fill up this void. Take another case—that of Puttur Tidal Well. This "bottomless" well has a definite bottom at nearly 157 feet depth as has been proved by soundings taken. The water level in this well is nearly always constant throughout the year. That with heavy

pumping the fresh water level can be reduced nearly 17 feet before salt-water is encountered. Stop pumping for 24 hours and the well again fills up to the original level. Note that it is not re-filled with salt water but fresh water again and to the same depth. Or does the Board say this is de-salinated water: Anyway even sea water finds its own level which we call Mean Sea Level.

Also let us remember that an individual farmer whose holdings does not exceed an acre does not require a pump exceeding one cusec capacity. So he should be protected against this pernicious permit system and attendant corruption all round. Before envisaging such a drastic and negative proposal, cannot the Board suggest a more technical proposal? Anyway such a proposal must benefit the greatest number of people and the community at large. To my mind the Jaffna Lagoon Scheme offers the best solution for storing even for a few months a greater portion of the 80% run-off of the anual rainfall in a basin.

The basins are there and are made up of two principal inland lagoons known as Thondamanar (North Lagoon) and that round Navatkull (South Lagoon). Even the sub-soil over the entire area of the Jaffna Peninsula is also a potential basin though its bed may not be even and can be pock-marked with a series of pockets as in the case of all lime-stone formation. Thalady pond and other ponds are rapidly being filled up by land-hungry and ignorant folks.

There is a mass of information and reports on the Jaffna Lagoon Scheme. Mr. F.R.G. Webb M.C. has prepared one such report and the designers of the present scheme have had their say. But what tickles the common man is why gates have been earlier constructed with their sills at 3.00 M.S.L. but are now being raised to 0 M.S.L. Perhaps the idea was to create a hydrostatic head for "Flood waters". In the process they over-looked the hydrostatic head of the sea-water at each rise of tide when the lagoon itself is low during the S.W. Monsoon of dry weather. It is conceded that during the dry season a near sand-storm can be observed over the lagoon area. But these could have been controlled by say

low-wind-mills lifting water at several points to wet the area.

THE ADVANTAGE of the two principal lagoons being used to store water and to soak rain-water lies in the fact that out of the total area of 225 Sq. miles of the Jaffna Peninsula, nearly 40 sq. miles is the area of the lagoons. Even if the rain water threatens to drown the common man and his wife and children in one or two days of havy rains, he is foolsh enough to direct the surface water quickly to the lagoon and the sea. The rise inside the lagoon basin may approximate 5-6 M.S.L.— certainly not to rain the arable and habitable lands which are above 6 M.S.L. In the periphery of the lagoons lands up to 4.0 to 5.0 M.S.L. are not cultivated due to unproductiveness and some of that may be private or traditional salterns. The point is for a scheme to succeed it must benefit the most number of people. Not a handful of fishermen or a few land owners who say the land is their own though they cannot use the land. So the lagoons should be sealed off by a barrage at 3.0 M.S.L. which is nearly the high tide level. Flood waters can then be discharged over a permanent crest with a probable afflux of 2', or the crests made longer for bigger discharges. As said earlier the sub-soil lime stone base may not be naturally flat in the same way as is the top surface of the Peninsula is nearly flat. Therefore water is not evenly stored as in a single tank of 225 sq. miles and so many feet deep. It is known that in the Tellipallai area the lime-stone out-crop is higher than say in the Chavakachcheri and Pallai areas. This results in pockets of fresh water stored at various depths over the areas comprising the cultivated lands. With close contour borings in wells gradually developing, these pockets can and will get inter connected and retain a greater portion of rain-fall.

In conclusion the Jaffna Lagoon Scheme constructed and under improvements in recent years must serve its purpose viz (i) exclude sea water from the lagoon basins (ii) absorb surface drainage and floods and pass excess water into the sea. (iii) leech the lagoon bed and "sweeten" the adjacent areas. That is the ultimate technical goal. Our aim should be to create a little Amsterdam of the peninsula. Amsterdam itself is said to be nearly 10' below

April 10 — April 19

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

sea level. The dykes there can be a solution to our problems. The dictionary meaning of a barrage is a dam such dam as the damming of a river for irrigation purposes". Gates are sometimes incorporated in the flow but these gates are there to control barrages in one direction. The gates in our aenflalb at Thondamanar and Navatkuli are supposed to control flow in two opposite directions viz excess drainage water on the one side from the lagoon while on the other side the rise of the tide of the sea. Have we succeeded in theory at least in our hopes. We must remember that the human factor enters into our scheme here. The gates have to be operated manually; sometimes twice a day with the rise and fall of the tide.

I trust that the Water Resources Board will reconsider their decision to restrict wells to a permit system and suggest a more constructive solution to the people of Jaffna and more particularly to the farmers of Jaffna. Certainly the professionals should not prostitute their talents and learning to the whims of the gay politician for the sake of a little worldly gain and suggest restrictions which are bound to be flouted.

This fear that any of our wells are now beginning to yield salt and/or sea water is groundless. We continue to use only fresh water. We stop pumping for irrigation and then allow the wells to fill up again with fresh water after a few hours. It is noticed that the W.R.B. has not indicated any specific location of any such wells for one to test this bogey. Meanwhile let us be more resourceful than the Water Resources Board and get about this business of getting more of the rainfall collected in the sub-soil basin of the Jaffna Peninsula during the rains.

L. R. Vethanayagam

No. 8, College East Lane,
Uduvil, Chunnakam.
31/3/80



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

THURSDAY, APRIL 10: Government will soon introduce precautionary measures to safeguard the interests of Sri Lankan pilgrims to India; the Minister of Cultural Affairs E. L. B. Hurulle was directed by the government yesterday to probe the areas where necessary action must be taken for the protection of pilgrims. Mr. Anandatissa de Alwis, Minister of State and Cabinet spokesman said yesterday. The French Minister of Economy Mr. Rene Monory will arrive in Sri Lanka today leading a government and private sector delegation for discussions mainly on technical and economic co-operation between the two countries. The Prime Minister Mr. R. Premadasa yesterday challenged the Sri Lanka Freedom Party to make a public statement as to whether they would follow the same economic and social policies adopted by the United National Party government or go back to the era of economic and social restrictions, which prevailed during their period, if they were returned to power at the next general election. The government yesterday appointed a three-member Ministerial team to examine whether Sri Lankan women should be allowed to go to the Middle East for employment in view of complaints of ill-treatment. A new variety of liquor—"Old Arrack"—is the State Distilleries Corporation's gift to tipplers for the New Year; this variety is being sold at Rs. 40 per bottle—CDN. Labour welfare officers are to be appointed in Sri Lanka mis-

sions in West Asian countries, where more than 10,000 Sri Lankan emigrant workers are employed. The Cabinet yesterday decided to permit corporations to undertake or carry out any activity outside the terms of the corporation provided in each case, Cabinet approval is obtained. A National Health Council under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister R. Premadasa with other Ministers concerned with allied subjects will be set up, Cabinet decided yesterday—*SU*. Seriously bothered by the looting of the country's cultural treasures that has accompanied the increasing antique consciousness both internationally and locally, the Ministry of Cultural Affairs has recommended that Sri Lanka legislates to prevent the outflow of cultural property—*CO*. A contract worth millions of rupees to develop areas that will receive water from the Victoria reservoir has been awarded by the Ministry of Mahaweli Development with-

out calling for open tenders—*ATH*. The Petroleum Corporation has stopped giving diesel to some C.T.B. depots on loan system; the CTB owes the Petroleum Corporation Rs. 1.8 million so far for the purchases of diesel. Thousands have lost their means of livelihood by the government's ban on Chana cultivation in the Uva-Wellnessa areas—*DK*. The president has permitted Mr. Upali Wijewardene to continue to work as the Director-General of the G.C.E.C although the special Parliamentary Committee unanimously declared that he was unsuitable to hold that post; the President has pointed out that Mr. Wijewardene has not done anything wrong while holding the post and what he has done earlier does not affect his present position—*JD*. A team of IMF experts who carried out a survey of Sri Lanka's economy and the development projects has decided to give large-scale aid to the country; the team has decided to give an emergency loan of Rs. 1,800 million and has promised to raise the remaining needs at the Aid Consortium meeting to be held in May—*DV*.

Govt.



Notices

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

Ref. No. 3/62/539
J.75 E.378

It is intended to acquire the Land/Lands described in the Schedule below. For further particulars please see the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka No. 87 (Part III) of 02-05-1980.

Schedule

Name of village etc: Rambatta village in Gandahe Korale, Mawatagama D.R.O.'s Division, Kurunegala District.

Name of Land: Seram Watta

Plan and Lot No: Lot No. 9 in Supplement No. 6 of F.V.P. 877

H. M. W. Chandraratne
District Land Officer,
Kurunegala District.

The Kachcheri, Kurunegala.
09 April 1980

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

Ref. No. 3/62/3167

It is intended to acquire the land/land described in the Schedule below/The Lands described in the Schedule below have been acquired. For further particulars please see the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka No. 87 (Part III) of 02-05-1980.

Schedule

Situation of Land: At Weragampitiya, in Ward No. 4—Weragamplita within the Urban Council limits of Matara, D.R.O.'s Division of Wellaboda Pattu & Four Gravets, Matara District.

Name of Land: Pinwatta Assmt. No. 154 Sri Dhammawansa Mawara

Lot & Plan No. Lot 1 in P.P. MARA/950

C. D. Vidanapathirana
Acquiring Officer,
Matara District.

The Kachcheri,
Matara, 15th April 1980

FRIDAY, APRIL 11: Finance and Planning Minister Ronnie de Mel told Parliament yesterday that his recent mission to get aid for the country's development program was successful; "the results exceeded our expectations", he said: Mr. de Mel's mission covered a number of European and West Asian countries; in a detailed statement to the House, he said that when he set out, he had to expect the worst. Foreign Minister, A. C. S. Hameed replying to a question raised by Opposition Leader A. Amirthalingam told Parliament yesterday the circumstances in which Sri Lanka's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Mr. B. J. Fernando resigned from his post. French Minister of Economy Mr. Rene Monory said yesterday relations between Sri Lanka and France were extremely friendly and in complete harmony—CDN. President J. R. Jayewardene, who is also Minister of Higher Education, has decided to amend the University Student's Loan Fund Act to enable banks to recover the Rs. 70 million owed to them; it will make it obligatory on employers to deduct the loan instalments direct from salaries of graduates who have taken bank loans for their education and remit them to the banks. The French government has granted a record level of aid to the tune of Rs. 520 million (128 million French francs) to Sri Lanka for this year—CDM. Detectives of the Criminal Investigations Department yesterday bared the Sri Lankan connection in the 'Asphalt deal' in which the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation has been defrauded to the tune of Rs. 24 million—SU. Steps are to be taken soon to prevent the wastage of expensive drugs and the pilferage taking place in government hospitals; the President speaking at Welimada said that it would be possible to give employment to six lakhs of people with the Kotte City development plan—DP. A massive five-year plan is to be implemented by the Ministry of Fisheries to increase the annual catch to 300,000 tons; the estimated earning from this annual catch is around Rs. 5000 million—DM. The government is to increase the loans given to university students as the present amount is not sufficient because of the increase in our cost of living—LD. The Secretary to the Special UN Family Planning Committee, Julia Henderson has told the government that the Government's development projects may not get

the expected results because the population growth has not been taken into account when these projects were planned—ATH.

SATURDAY, APRIL 12: Unprecedented buying was the order of the day right throughout last week; the New Year rush was on, shops were full of customers and sales were brisk; pre-New Year shopping reached its peak yesterday as people queued to get their requirements at the CWE and in most of the big shops in the city. District Ministers will be directly responsible to the President under the proposed District Development Council scheme to be set up before the end of the year. The Sinhala and Hindu New Year dawns with the Sun entering Aries—(the Mesha Rasi) the first sign of the zodiac from P'sces—(Meena Raasi) at 2.02 p.m. tomorrow. Unless there was a social calamity in the country, land value would continue to rise, a leading Chartered Valuer has said. The Ministry of Fisheries has launched a Master Plan for the development of the fisheries industry, aimed at doubling the fish production by the end of 1983—CDN. The Inspector General of Police, Mr. Ana Seneviratne yesterday issued a blanket order to the police to arrest and lock up all persons found in a drunken and disorderly state in any public place. The Minister of Rural Industrial Development, Mr. S. Thondaman, has urged the Government to appoint officers capable of working in Tamil to all Kachcheries in the island. Sri Lanka will shortly employ 80 more UN volunteer doctors; the UN volunteer doctors now in the country are mostly from India and the Philippines—CDM. The Indian Government's curb on females taking up employment in West Asia has come as a windfall to local employment agencies; they are helping Arab employers to recruit Indian females and using Colombo as a base to get these women across to their places of employment—SU. A group suspected of being involved in the hijack incident and other robberies in the North has been arrested—EN. State Commercial establishments have recorded their highest earnings in 20 years this New Year. The special Parliamentary Committee which unanimously decided Mr. Upali Wijeyewardene as unsuitable to hold the post of Director-General of the GCEC is rumoured to have decided to resign; the reason is that the President has not removed Mr. Upali Wijeyewardene from his

post as recommended by the Committee. The Joint Action Committee of Trade Unions has rejected the invitation to join the joint SLFP-LSSP May-Day Rally—ATH. A bill will be tabled in Parliament next month by which journalist of trade unions cannot be used for anything other than the Trade Union movement—SM. The proposal to give paddy farmers a bonus of Rs. 450 to 500 per acre to encourage farmers to grow more paddy is under consideration by the President—RR.

SUNDAY, APRIL 13: Sri Lanka may send a special emissary to Washington to interview the Carter administration about the threatened imposition of stringent quotas on Sri Lanka made garment exports to the United States—SO. As in ancient times the services of Buddhist monks will be obtained by the government to protect shrines and stupas excavated by the Archaeological Department; this is a sequel to a recommendation made to the Government by Mr. E. L. B. Hurulle, Minister of Cultural Affairs. Yet another Avurudu dawn at the auspicious time of 7.38 a.m. today. A specialist engineer from France has arrived in Sri Lanka to examine the breakdown at the 50-megawatt generator at Laxapana. One of Saudi Arabia's leading industrial tycoons, Ghaith Pharaon's business conglomerate, Saudi Research and Development Corporation (REDEC) has shown interest in undertaking work in the accelerated Mahaweli Project—WK. Tamil families from the hill country who are now living on government lands in the Vavuniya district will be able to live there permanently; on the instructions of President Jayewardene, Lands, Land Development and Mahaweli Development Minister Gamini Dissanayake has issued instructions to this effect to the Vavuniya G.A.—C.M.

TUESDAY, APRIL 15: A Committee to revise the 100-year-old Customs Ordinance will commence sittings in Colombo, in the first week of May; this step has been taken on a directive given by the Minister of Finance and Planning, Mr. Ronnie de Mel. Crime during the Sinhala and Tamil New Year was well contained this year as compared to last year, Mr. R. Sundaralingam, DIG (Crimes) said yesterday. The SLFP and the LSSP have agreed to share a common platform at the May Day Rally this year, but the CP has turned

down LSSP overtures to join them, informed sources said. The advertising of drugs for 59 specified diseases is to be prohibited under a new bill shortly to be introduced in Parliament by Health Minister Gamani Jayasuriya; the new law also prevents the distribution of drug samples to the public, except to those in the medical profession—CDN. Thousands of unemployed will benefit by a government decision to waive educational qualifications for recruitment to minor posts in the public service which require only a basic knowledge of a language to carry out the duties; the decision will apply to posts carrying an initial annual salary of Rs. 3000. The three year master plan to solve the housing problem of public servants, Grama Sevakas, medical officers and judges has been initiated by the Prime Minister and Minister of Local Government, Housing and Construction, Mr. R. Premadasa—CDM. Development schemes aimed at bringing about immediate results and to generate employment are to be launched in the Northern and Eastern Provinces as special development schemes; the government has allocated Rs. 2.5 million for this—VK. 70% of the youth in the country are either drug or liquor addicts according to Dr. Wijaya Dissanayake of the psychiatric division of the Medical College—DM. Stern action is to be taken by the government against co-operative employees who disrupted the distribution of essential goods during the new year—DV.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16: The financial allocation under the decentralised budget would in future be made on the basis of population and not on the basis of electorates as was done now, a government spokesman said. Sri Lanka Prime Minister and Mrs. Premadasa arrived in London at noon today en route to Zimbabwe. About 1,500 volunteers from the Jaffna district will participate in shaamadana at the Maduru Oya Project in April and May; the first batch of 500 volunteers will be seen off at Jaffna by Mr. Nanda Mathew, Deputy Minister of Lands, Land Development and Mahaweli Development and Mr. U. B. Wijekoon, District Minister for Jaffna. Police have arrested three "wanted men" who they said had been terrorising the Jaffna peninsula for several months. TULF President M. Sivathamparam has given notice of a motion in Parliament calling for the abolition of the

death penalty in Sri Lanka—*CDN*. A firm, fixed basis on which annual bonus will be paid to public corporation employees will soon be settled by the government; a sub-committee of Development Secretaries will be appointed shortly to decide on this matter. An American International Organisation hopes to set up a 150-bed private nursing home in Colombo. Sri Lanka's Indian Ocean, neighbour, the Republic of Maldives, will prospect for oil shortly, the country's President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom said yesterday; Mr. Gayoom who made a short stop over in Colombo en route to Baghdad, said there was a possibility of the existence of oil, "we might cooperate with Arab oil producers or reputed firms in Europe for this purpose", he said. Armed Police units yesterday continued to comb the Tissamaharama area for a gang of fifteen persons who are alleged to have attacked a posse of Policemen on Sunday—*SU*. The period of service of MPs will be limited in that a Member of Parliament will not be permitted to serve as such for more than two six-year Parliamentary periods in succession—*DP*. The import of potatoes will be banned from next year; necessary laws will be introduced by government shortly—*EN*. The government is to bring about a number of important changes in the countries election laws; a MP can represent an electorate only two terms; the government will give funds to nominees of recognized political parties for the Presidential elections; recognized political parties will be able to use state radio and TV in Presidential and Parliamentary elections—*DV*.

THURSDAY, APRIL 17: The Ministry of Finance and Planning is considering the possibility of introducing a financial institution to channel expatriate savings into housing and real estate development by offering concessionary financial terms; the possibility of issuing development bonds to channel savings to Sri Lanka was also being considered, Finance Minister Rcnrie de Mel said yesterday. Sri Lankan Prime Minister, R. Premadasa accompanied by Mrs. Premadasa and other members of his delegation, worshipped at the London Vihare and inspected the site for the new vihare in 'Chiswick'. The policy of a market economy introduced in Sri Lanka in 1977 has led to a rapid increase in the establishment

of private and public limited liability companies according to a spokesman for the Department, of the Registrar of Companies. Police will pay bigger rewards to policemen who do good work, especially in the prevention and detection of crime, police headquarters announced yesterday—*CDN*. Under a scheme formulated by the Prime Minister, Mr. R. Premadasa, a substantial subsidy will be provided by the government to persons who would instal bio-gas units in their homes; the subsidy will be Rs. 2000 against the estimated cost of Rs. 5000 per unit. The Foreign Minister, A. C. S. Hameed said in his Prize Day speech at the Akurana Central College, that the principles of non-alignment should be taught in our schools and the schools of the Third World. The Minister of Fisheries, Mr. Festus Perera, yesterday unearthed a racket by Fisheries Dept, officials at the expense of the ordinary fishermen—*CDM*. The exports of petroleum products has become Sri Lanka's third largest foreign exchange earner replacing the traditional coconut; foreign exchange earnings from the export of petroleum products during the first eleven months from January to November 1979 was Rs. 1922 million. Lands, Land Development and Mahaweli Development Minister Gamini Dissanayake has decided to provide land to doctors, engineers and other skilled personnel at reasonable prices; the lands will be apportioned from the Mahaweli Development Zone—*SU*. Army Commander Maj. Gen. Dennis Perera visited Jaffna by air yesterday and expressed satisfaction about the prevailing peace there. The Fruit Board has introduced a new incentive scheme for its employees by which the employees who do not take leave will receive an additional allowance of a hundred rupees in addition to their monthly salaries. 15,000 acres of paddy land near the Kantalai tank cannot be cultivated this season; a high level meeting is to be held in Colombo to investigate this—*DP*. The price of cement will be reduced from next week according to the head of the Cement Corporation Mr. Ajantha Wijesena—*EN*. The Joint Action Committee of Trade Unions is to launch a day of national protest; token strikes, picketing, work to rule and raising black flags will be the main areas of protest on this day; the committee will shortly decide on the date for the protest—*DK*.

FRIDAY, APRIL 18: The Hotels Corporation is planning to use 500 rooms in private homes close to the city to meet the rush for tourist accommodation; this scheme is being worked out by the corporation in consultation with the Tourist Board on the instructions of the Minister of State, Ananditissa de Alwis, a spokesman for the Hotels Corporation said yesterday. Luxury items and development-consumer commodities imported at and over the 50 per cent import duty slab may soon come under a minimum 60 per cent duty levy; the additional 10 per cent would be in the nature of an export development cess. British Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher received Prime Minister of Sri Lanka R. Premadasa yesterday morning at her official residence at 10 Downing Street. The price of LP Gas has been slashed from Rs. 68 a cylinder to Rs. 34, the old price; this was one of the decisions taken by the Ministers at their weekly meeting yesterday; the government also decided to increase the cost of printing and writing paper and to undertake three major construction works. The Minister of State for Overseas Development Neil Marten hosted Prime Minister R. Premadasa at a luncheon on behalf of the British Government at Lancaster House—CDN. The cabinet yesterday decided that the government should not impose a decision on the question whether Sri Lankan sportsmen should take part in the forthcoming Moscow Olympic Games or not. Public co-operation is essential to reduce the mosquito menace from what it was during the recent prolonged drought, according to a Health Education Department official of the Colombo Municipality. The cabinet yesterday decided to award tenders to foreign contractors for the construction of large housing complexes in the city and the new Pettah Market. Two hundred delegates representing countries of East Asia, South Asia and the Pacific Region are expected to attend the Regional Seminar on "Integrated Planning for Tourism Development" which is to be held at the BMICH from May 8 to 12, 1980—CDM. Ayurvedic remedies will be encouraged to combat rabies, Cabinet decided yesterday. British Prime Minister Mrs. Margaret Thatcher has informed Premier Ranasinghe Premadasa that she would be in a position to visit Sri Lanka in September or October next year. A high-powered delegation led by two senior government ministers,

Trade Minister Lalith Athulathmudali and Textile Industries Minister, Wijeyepala Mendis, is scheduled to leave for Washington this week to negotiate over the United States move to place curbs on Sri Lankan garment exports to the US market. Former Premier and Sri Lanka Freedom Party leader Sirimavo Bandaranaike has become a grandmother at the age of 64—SU. Customs investigating an increasing trend in gem smuggling is convinced that some of the proceeds of the sale of these stones abroad are used to pay contraband, particularly garments, suits and shirting, smuggled into the country—CO. The cabinet decided yesterday that foreign investors interested in exploring for oil in Sri Lanka would be given concessions but Sri Lanka will not spend any money on it—DP. The Mahaweli Development Board will have to face the entire expenditure of Rs. 800 million as the board has been unable to take a final decision on the type of Dam to be constructed at the Kotmale Reservoir; work on the Kotmale project started 14 months ago—DM. The Building Materials Corporation paid bonus to its workers for the new year by borrowing Rs. 2 million from the Housing Authority although the normal practice is that the corporation must pay bonus only from its profits; the biggest joke is that the Housing Authority which loaned Rs. 2 million to the BMC decided not to pay any bonus to their workers—JD. The price of paper is to be increased by 50%—DK. A number of large firms, investors, architects and experts of Great Britain have agreed to help and collaborate with Sri Lanka to set up industries of world standards, the industries will use local raw materials and natural resources; this is the outcome of the recent visit to Britain by the Minister of Industries Mr. Cyril Mathew—DM.

SATURDAY, APRIL 19: Former Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike, yesterday denied the charges served on her by the Special Presidential Commission probing alleged misdeeds committed during her regime. Trade and Shipping Minister Lalith Athulathmudali will leave for Washington from London by Tuesday to lead the Sri Lanka delegation for negotiations with American authorities on the question of an American quota clampdown on garment exports to the USA from Sri Lanka, Ministry sources said yesterday. Agri-

cultural Development and Research Minister, E. L. Senanayake said yesterday that the price of rice which was now around Rs. 3 per measure could be brought down even further very soon. The government's decision to charge Rs. 3 from every person for the issue of Identity Cards would become effective from May 1, Commissioner of the Department of Registration of Persons G. P. S. U. de Silva said yesterday—CDN. A high-powered investigation into the apparent scarcity of high value currency notes was ordered by the authorities yesterday; Central Bank and CID officials were asked to find out whether the recent discovery by Customs officials of a tourist bringing a large quantity of Sri Lanka currency into the country, had any connection with a currency racket. The Jaffna peninsula yesterday came directly into the mainstream of Sri Lanka's development efforts when the first batch of 500 out of 1,500 Jaffna youths left for shr:madana at the Mahaweli project site. The Minister of Industries, Mr. Cyril Mathew has given government approval to construct a 500 ton capacity tank at an estimated cost of Rs. 5 million to store LP gas. Police Constable 10593 Mahinda of Tangalla was shot dead inside a bus yesterday while he was trying to arrest one of the suspects wanted in connection with the attack on policemen with firearms, swords and clubs last Sunday where a number of policemen were critically injured at Tissamaharama when they raided a gambling den—CDM. Sri Lanka's first Development Councils will be on the basis of the outcome of the 1977 General Election; ministers who have in the past several weeks examined President J. R. Jayewardene's memorandum on the setting up of these Councils have veered towards this decision. Employers now contributing more than nine per cent to the Employees Provident Fund will be allowed to remit the excess, up to three per cent above the mandatory nine per cent to the proposed Employees Trust Fund. The joint May Day rally of the SLFP and LSSP will be held at Campbell Park, a Police spokesman said yesterday. Industries and Scientific Affairs Minister Cyril Mathew has been asked by Cabinet to investigate the severe shortages of kerosene and petrol prevailing in certain parts of the country—SU. Government has decided not to give even no pay leave for English Science and Maths teachers to go abroad for education

or employment; this decision has been taken after the Minister of Education pointed out to the government that there is an acute shortage of teachers in these categories and that a large number of them have requested leave to go abroad—DV.

P O E M

T R E E S

(with apologies to Joyce Kilmer)

I think that I can never see
A tall and stately standing tree,
Must knock it down and stack a load
And all the streams and rivers ford.

And get somehow to Colombo
Or any town, just come or go
Unload it: Timber Merchants' Store
And ask if he wants anymore!

Oh, one permit is all I need,
(But people b'indly say it's greed)
Just see how glorious and how free,
Is that once-heav'ly-rooted tree.

Sure, those who know me, know my trick,
How I, the forest Bosses lick
With one permit; I load satin,
And pack with that one, fifteen in.

The OPEC countries want ply-door
(My friend the MP planted four!)
Next week I too must plant "halmeel"
Then cut two forests when I feel!

The heat in Occampitiya's strong:
No rain for many months along.
I pump in: gallons 303,
While others lean of forestry.

With medic-men it's hard to earn.
They curse if medic-trees, they learn
Are hacked down, but you hand a fee,
Then you pass on, and they don't see

It surely fanned you in the face
And cooled you with such lovely grace,
It brought some rain, I'd sure agree,
But then, my eldest girl's dowry?

Say God can make a tree, so what?
The Eastern Sage in shadow sat.
One may do this, another's free,
But I can only destroy trees.

Joannis Killmer Dalal

TRIBUNE, May 3, 1980

Confidentially

Customs

IS IT NOT TRUE that all attempts to improve and streamline the Customs have been resisted—by many, unfortunately, who should know better? That the spearhead for these attacks come from “invisible” and “underground” elements who have a vested interest in keeping the Customs in the chaotic mess in which it has been in for some years now? That with smuggling already Sri Lanka's industry number one, the revenue the country can obtain from import and export has been reduced considerably? That smuggling is daily expanded import and export trade—a part and parcel of a liberalised economy—is not what it should be? That the newspapers are daily full of stories of smuggling? That what reaches the papers is only a fraction of those that are detected and what is detected is only a minuscule of the smuggling that goes on? That what is exasperating to the small band of officials honestly interested in checking smuggling is that some of the biggest offenders and the real underworld kings, even when caught red-handed, manage to get away with “mitigated” penalties? That some of them get away because they produce “receipts” to say that the goods caught were purchased locally? That even though everybody knows that the “receipts” are bogus, they are nearly always (in favoured cases) accepted as genuine? That all this is now becoming part of the way of life in Sri Lanka?

IS IT ALSO NOT TRUE from this over-growing saga of smuggling, there seems to be, as we said, persistent under-current of opposition to any modernisation and reform of the Customs? That an Opposition daily recently had a diatribe against a foreign adviser who has been entrusted with the task of simplifying Customs procedure and bringing it up to date? That the daily had stated that some “customs officers” had indicated that the money spent on this IMF advisor was wasted? That this newspaper criticism had prompted the Customs Officers' Union and Customs'

Staff Officers' Union to submit a protest to the President through the Minister of Finance? That among other matters the memorandum had stressed: “.....The Customs Officers and the Departmental Staff Officers whom both the Unions represent dissociate themselves from the views expressed on this newspaper. The inquiries carried out by our Unions reveal that neither a Customs Officer nor a Departmental Staff Officer is associated with this mischievous propaganda. It may be that some disgruntled elements who do not associate with the well-being and the progress of this Department and the country are trying to sling mud on Mr. Stanley G. Quinton the I.M.F. Adviser attached to this Department at the request of the Government. We totally condemn the act of this newspaper as uncharitable. We take this opportunity to being to Your Excellency's notice the immense contribution made by Mr. Stanley G. Quinton and enumerate them below: (a) Reorganisation of the Department in its day to day functions in order to process Customs documentation most expeditiously and effectively keeping in line with the simplification and harmonisation of Customs procedures formulated by the Customs Co-operation Council, Brussels; (b) Advice on problems of intricate nature relating to customing cargo etc; (c) Lectures to Customs Officers on Customs Management and Procedures which have been geared to meet the increasing economic development activities of the State; (d) Lectures to representatives of the Trade and Commerce on various aspects of Customs work in order to familiarise them with the Customs requirements; and (e) Preparation of the booklets to facilitate the smooth working of the Customs Organisation and to provide Guides to the Trade Representatives.”? That the memorandum also states that “the summary that Mr. Stanley G. Quinton has prepared will be of immense help to the various Chambers and the Trade. Various Organisations have shown a keen interest and are happy that a comprehensive publication is being made available to them at last which remained a want since the introduction of the current Tariff Nomenclature (BTN) in May 1968?”

* * *

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In Sri Lanka

Voluntary Family Services

Since Independence our population has doubled from 7 million in 1948 to 14 million in 1978 and is increasing at 1.8% per year.

Compared to the death rate which is 6.6 per thousand today the birth rate is 28 per thousand (one of the highest in the world). Our population density which was 95 persons per square mile in 1871 is 572 persons per square mile today. Our age structure is top heavy with a dependent population of 49.6% under 18 yrs, and 6.4% over 60 yrs, which has to be maintained by a work force of only 44% of which 9.2% is unemployed. Our natural resources are getting depleted rapidly. Arable land has diminished from 4.5 acres per person in 1901 to 1.1 acre per person in 1979. But the most serious effect of rapid population growth is the severe increase in unemployment. To generate new jobs we need adequate capital formation. But capital formation cannot improve when the basic needs of an increasing population have to be met first.

To solve this problem the government is taking all meaningful steps to curb unplanned growth of population and:

- 1) will provide enhanced family planning services and incentives both by way of money and leave to individuals both male and female who practice family planning
- 2) will emphasize service oriented programmes to enable motivated couples and individuals to receive family planning services and to undergo sterilization voluntarily
- 4) will pay a minimum of Rs. 100/—to all employees of public sector institutions and state organizations who voluntarily undergo sterilization (both male and female)
- 5) will give 3 days full pay leave for male sterilization and 7 days full pay leave for female sterilization to employees of public sector institutions and state organizations. This leave is in addition to the normal leave
- 6) will ensure that the Private Sector Organizations too would provide such incentives to their employees who undergo sterilizations.

(Excerpts from the opening address of His Excellency J. R. Jayewardene to the International Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development in August 1979)

RELEASED BY THE MINISTRY OF PLAN IMPLEMENTATION