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Is The Climate Changing?

The South—West Monsoon has played the very devil in Sri Lanka. It had poured so much rain in the hill country that floods and landslides have become the order of the day. The train service in the up-country has been disrupted for over a month and several people have been killed in the landslides. Pundits have rushed in to say that these landslides were due to erosion caused by the indiscriminate opening of tea estates in the hilly areas from which all the major rivers of this island began, and these gentlemen insist that unless a large acreage of good tea lands are once again re-afforested floods and landslides would increase whatever be the measures taken to

control floods in the lower reaches of the rivers.

Whilst the discussions about this aspect of the matter is under way in this country, the monsoons have caused flood havoc of greater magnitude in the north-eastern parts of India, in Bangladesh, in Burma, in Thailand and in the Philippines. Earlier the west coast of India, particularly the Bombay area, was devastated by floods.

All this has once again revived the discussion as to whether the climate of the world was changing. We cannot do better than cite an editorial in the *Hindu* of June 30, in order to acquaint our readers of the continuing debate on

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this subject. *Tribune* has often referred in the recent past to various views and opinions expressed by meteorologists on this matter, but the *Hindu* editorial sums up the situation in an admirable manner.

"The quirks of the south-west monsoon provoke the query whether any fundamental change in the climatic conditions of this part of the world is under way. Some Western meteorologists think that the whole pattern of climatic zones in the northern hemisphere is shifting south, with the northern Sahara becoming less arid and the southern Sahara extending further southward. It is too early to say whether this turn towards a drier climate is establishing a new trend. But there are those who feel that the available evidence about climatic changes in the northern hemisphere in recent years is considerable. The drought in Africa for the sixth consecutive year, the record rains in 1972 in parts of the United States, Japan and Pakistan and the dry spells in usually rainy Britain, besides the drought conditions afflicting the vast area stretching from Central America through West Asia to India are cited as instances in point.

"On the assumption that some fundamental change in climate is already taking place, many theories have been advanced to explain why it has occurred. One is that the world is drifting towards an ice age sooner than expected. Temperature recordings round the globe are said to have shown that the world has been getting cooler over the last three decades. It is believed that the high-altitude

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circumpolar winds, by blocking moisture-bearing equatorial winds, have caused the African drought. The weather change is also attributed to alterations in the quantum and intensity of solar radiations, to some tilt in the earth's axis or to disturbances in the earth's magnetic field which is regarded as having a close link with the particular pattern of climate obtaining in the world. The anxieties over environmental and atmospheric pollution have fathered the theory that the earth is cooling off because the sun's heat is prevented from reaching the earth by its pollution-ridden atmosphere.

"How far any of these theories is valid is at present open to dispute. Against the theory that pollution shuts off the sun's heat is another which says that by trapping the earth's heat within itself, the pollution-blanket could create conditions in which the ice cap would melt, raising the sea level and flooding coastal towns. Further, it could well be that no trend of change has actually set in and the recurring droughts as predicted by the meteorologists may not materialise in the quinquennium ahead. In fact the need for more conclusive evidence and clearer knowledge about the working of Nature has necessitated the 100-day study now in progress in which satellites, 38 ships and 13 aircraft, plus 4,000 personnel, are participating as part of the Global Atmospheric Research Programme. Its finding should help to improve knowledge of the weather sufficiently to discover the climate of the globe has changed at all or not."

This editorial brought in a whole sheaf of letters and two of the most interesting of them are reprinted below. G. M. Natarajan of Thanjavur had written:

"Sir, I read with interest your editorial on "Is the Climate Changing?" (in the Hindu of June 30). It has been reported that during the 19th century the accepted atmospheric carbon-dioxide concentration was 290 ppm. (by volume) while the present value is about 320 ppm. or 10 per cent more. Man's fossil fuel combustion is adding 9×10^3 million metric tons of CO₂ into the air each year. This increased CO₂ might exert a sort of "greenhouse effect" which would make the earth hot-

ter. In fact, this has already been observed to affect the climatic conditions.

"The second decisive factor is the emission of aerosol particles from industrial areas all over the world. The smaller particles of this type remain in the atmosphere causing increased darkness. This effect has been observed throughout the world and has increased by some 50 per cent since the beginning of Industrial Revolution. The particles prevent the sun's rays from reaching the surface and this in turn causes a cooling down process.

"The continual rise in energy consumption also has a long term effect on the climate. Hydro-electricity and geothermic energy are only conversions of natural energy, but nuclear energy and the burning of coal, oil and gas represent an additional source of energy and, therefore, warmth. This will increase more and more in the future, if the growing world population is to be provided with food and water.

"Among the various other factors responsible for climatic changes, geophysicists list increasing urbanisation as an important one. For example, the minimum daily temperatures in urban areas are often 5 to 10° C higher than those in the surrounding rural areas and annual mean temperatures are typically higher. In summer, this is due to the fact that the tall buildings and pavements of cities absorb more solar radiation (and reflect less) than the vegetation and soil of the rural areas in daytime and release more heat in night time, because of their higher specific heat. In addition, less heat goes into evaporation. Increased fuel consumption, especially in winter-time is also responsible for artificial heat production. These effects result in the production of an "urban heat island" that has been the object of many meteorological studies. Increased convection above cities is one notable example of how climatic conditions are affected. There are also other meteorological changes due to urbanisation.

"Prof. Hermann Flohn of Bonn University is of the opinion that climatic changes may also result from conversion of natural vege-

tation into agricultural areas. Agricultural statistics show that about eleven per cent of the total land area of the world has been converted into arable land in the course of the past 8,000 years. About 20 per cent is used to-day as pasture land. That means that about a third of all available land in the world is no longer in its natural state. Agricultural deforestation and defoliation through chemical warfare also contribute more and more adverse effects.

"The spreading of the Sahara desert every year about half a mile northwards and southwards is not due to climatic changes but is a result of the over-exploitation of natural reserves, including the exploitation of the fossil subsoil from the Ice Age that is degenerating and can no longer be added to.

"Prof. Flohn claims that there would be quite a different effect, if, for example, the ice of the Arctic Sea were to be melted as was suggested by many geophysicists. The differences in temperature between the Equator and the Poles would then continue to decrease in the warmer seasons of the year at least and the subtropical high-pressure system and the existing dry belt would shift at least two hundred miles northward.

"But all these forecasts are hypothetical. Hopes for better local climatic forecasts have only partly materialised. Recording and analysing all the determinant factors call for vast improvement"

The other letter was from V. Selvarajah of Poondi and he wrote.

"Sir, This is with reference to your editorial (June 30) on "Is the climate changing?" I do agree that some fundamental climatic change, to a macroscopical extent is taking place. Temperature recordings show that the world has been getting cooler over the last three decades. Some parts are also becoming drier and some parts get record rainfall.

"It may be that the record rainfall may be cyclic in nature, though we may not be able to calculate the period. The pollution of the atmosphere may form part of the explanation why the world is getting cooler, and urbanisa-

tion may explain in part why the world is becoming hotter.

"But I believe that the world cannot continue to cool down for long and that the world is not drifting towards an ice age, but that it is becoming drier or hotter every day, as we have got strong theories to support this statement. According to the law of increase of entropy (Entropy is the ration of heat gain or loss to constant temperature at which it takes place) the entropy of an isolated system either remains constant or increases, according as the changes it undergoes are reversible or irreversible. Hence the necessary and sufficient condition for equilibrium of an isolated system is that its entropy should be maximum. So long as the earth is at a lower temperature, it will continue to receive energy from stars and it seems that the universe is marching (sun is also a star) towards a heat death, where no energy transfer can take place.

"So it may be said definitely that though there are temporary 'ups and downs' in the climatic conditions due to various reasons, the world is becoming drier. In your editorial, you have said of a few areas of the world experiencing droughts. The above theory may well be a good explanation for this.

Is it not time that Sri Lanka paid a little more interest to this question? If the climate were really changing it would be necessary to bring suitable changes in our planting seasons. Should we not ensure that something more than the minimum in forestation should be maintained?

It must be remembered that history has many examples of how denudation of forests had led to the transformation of valuable and fertile lands into deserts. What will the climate of Sri Lanka be in 50 years if we keep on cutting down our forests and the big trees elsewhere at the rate we are doing?

IN BUCHAREST

World Population Conference

by Edgar H. De Lesseps

2 POPULATION PLAN OF ACTION: A WORLD SEARCH

Following is the second of a three-part series on the World Population Conference, August 19-30, at Bucharest, Romania. The Article considers the draft World Population Plan of Action, a focal point of the conference, with observations by members of the U.S. official delegation.

THE WORLD POPULATION PLAN OF ACTION (W.P.A.), currently being reviewed in draft form by many nations, gives "high priority" to research activity to help individual governments shape their own population policies.

Caspar Weinberger, who will head the U.S. five-man delegation to the World Population Conference at Bucharest, Romania, August 19-30, emphasizes that America will continue to support

"substantial research" in family planning services and in other areas. "The United States has played a significant role in helping to meet the population problems of other countries," says Mr. Weinberger, who is U.S. Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare.

The draft population plan of action will be a focal point at the Bucharest Conference. Delegates of world governments represented there will consider the plan for adoption. The working document will be open to amendments on the Conference floor before final approval. Since 1970, at the request of President Nixon to the U.S. Congress, Mr. Weinberger says, the U.S. Government has "generously supported" family planning programs, both at home and abroad. Assistance in this area goes to 31 developing countries, ranging from demographic surveys to training programs to information and education.

"The research that has been carried on in our country has been beneficial to others," he points out. "We will certainly continue our commitment to this international co-operation." The United States also will encourage research, Mr. Weinberger, says in the Social Sciences-including the Behavioral, Political, Economic and educational disciplines-so that America's knowledge of the population field can be increased "and more precisely focused."



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"These programs," he adds, "will include foreign students so that they can bring to their own lands the knowledge and techniques gained from our work in the social and behavioral sciences. By bringing this research and work to fruition, the United States will have made a significant contribution toward progress in solution of world population growth."

Mr. Weinberger cites current work at the Center for Population Research, a part of his department. For example, the center is studying medical effects of oral contraceptives and vasectomy, concentrating on methods of fertility regulation that are safe, effective and likely to be used. "The thrust of our international assistance and our domestic programs is the same," the Secretary stresses. "We want to be sure that individual couples know that there is a choice about whether and when to have a family and that that choice is for them to make. That is the only 'population policy' that our government has and that it encourages any other government to have."

The Draft Plan was prepared by U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim and the UN population Commission, representing 27 countries. Research activity is, however, only one facet of the plan. It also embodies, among many others, such principles and goals as: (1) recognizing the basic human right of individuals to determine the number and spacing of their children and calling on governments to provide by 1985 the information, education and means to do so; (2) advocating increased measures to reduce infant and child mortality and to extend average expectation of life; (3) inviting countries with high birth rates to consider reducing them by five to ten births per 1,000 persons in the population by 1985; (4) integration of women into the development process; (5) calling on UN agencies and donor countries to assist developing countries with their population programs.

WORLD GOVERNMENTS to be represented at the Bucharest Conference have received copies of the draft plan. General William H. Draper Jr., Honorary Chairman of the Population Crisis Committee and the U.S. Representative to the U.N. Population Commission, is also a member of the American

delegation to the Bucharest Conference. This country, he says, would have opted for stronger measures in certain areas than those proposed in the Draft Plan. However, he adds, the United States will agree to any effective and realistic proposal which has a consensus behind it. If the Plan's broad provisions are adopted at Bucharest, General Draper contends, "a social and economic revolution will be underway."

Regarding U.S. differences with the Draft Plan, Philander Claxton, Special Assistant to Secretary of State Kissinger on Population Matters, says the United States has proposed additional medium-range national goals of fertility reduction for both developed and developing countries. Also, it has proposed a goal of reducing global population growth to 1.7 percent by 1985, based on an average growth rate reduction of 2 percent for developing countries and 0.6 percent for developed countries, which have correspondingly lower present growth rates. There are other differences, too.

Presently, the world's industrialized nations—Europe, the Soviet Union, Japan, Australia, Canada and the United States, all representing a total of about 1,000 million people—have reduced their average growth rate to a little more than one half of one percent a year; they are adding less than ten million people annually to their population.

Three European countries—West Germany, East Germany and Austria—have actually attained zero population growth, Mr. Claxton notes.

However, the developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America, far less able to provide for more people, and growing at the rate of 2.5 percent annually, are adding 65 million people each year.

OTHER PRE-CONFERENCE ACTION on the draft plan has come from Southeast Asia, the Western Pacific, Africa and the Mediterranean.

At a July 8 meeting at Manila senior health officials from 17 countries of these areas endorsed a basic principle of the plan: that

national population policies are integral elements of overall socio-economic developing policies, never substitutes for them.

Economic development is inextricably linked with the environment. Heavy migration to urban areas in developing countries arouses extraordinary environmental concern, believes Russell W. Peterson, Chairman, of the President's Council on Environmental Quality, who will be deputy head of the U.S. delegation to the World Population Conference. "These nations," he says, "lack infrastructure investment to provide for drinking water treatment, waste disposal and public health. Housing ranges from inadequate to non-existent, transportation facilities are overtaxed."

The prime threat from population growth is famine, Mr. Peterson maintains. "Population measures have caused serious environmental problems in rural areas of developing countries where most of the suitable land is already under cultivation," he observes. Developing nations need rapid economic development, he believes, not only to provide a higher standard of living but "to permit them to reach the socio-economic threshold that appears to facilitate stabilizing population growth." Therefore, economic well-being and environmental quality are vital elements of the quality of life all over the world. "Exponential growth in population or pollution will seriously degrade the quality of life," says Mr. Peterson, "both must be brought to zero growth as soon as possible."

Concurrent with, but independent of, the World Population Conference at Bucharest will be Population Tribune (P.T.), a Forum wherein private persons and representatives of non-governmental groups will discuss population matters. The private group helped formulate the Conference's program.

3. DISPARATE VOICES TO UNDERSCORE COMPLEXITY OF POPULATION ISSUE

Following is the third and final part of a series on the World Population Conference, August 19-30, at Bucharest, Romania. This article

examines disparate views expected on the complex subject, with commentary by several population experts. HOW MANY PEOPLE should live on earth? Who is entitled to decide?

These are perhaps the most fundamental questions facing mankind today.

On a finite planet with increasing demand for decreasing resources, everyone is affected—in one way or another—by population growth.

Disparate views about how to meet the population issue are expected to be voiced by representatives of world governments when they meet at Bucharest.

This variety of opinion, though, will serve only to underscore the complexity of the global challenge.

Antonio Carrillo-Flores of Mexico appointed Secretary-General of the Conference, explains that the World Population Plan of Action (W.P.P.A.), which various countries will consider at Bucharest, recognizes that different nations have diverse population situations. The plan also recognizes that each nation has the sovereign right to implement population policies most relevant to its own situation.

"All nations are agreed," Mr. Carrillo-Flores says, "that in carrying out such policies, the State must not intrude in decision that are the private concern of the human couple and must accord full recognition to the fundamental rights of man." The nation's readiness to consider a population plan, he believes, "is a mark of how widespread the realization has become that population parameters are important and must be assigned their proper place in all types of national planning."

Thirty-five developing countries have adopted population policies and organized National Family Planning Programs, most of them with the objective of reducing fertility rates and population growth. The total population of these 35 countries is 1,990 million equivalent to 78 percent of the total population of developing regions. Most developed countries and 60 or more countries in the developing world, have yet to take the step of formulating explicit population policies. THE BUCHAREST DIALOGUE therefore is expected to produce disparate voices. One extreme position will hold, for the most part, that population growth is

desirable asserting that if development policies are pursued, any necessary cut in population growth rate will occur "automatically". An opposing position will see current population growth as a genuine crisis, attributing poverty, malnutrition, environmental deterioration and even threats of war to population increase.

As the U.S. Population Council, a private organization specializing in scientific population study, points out in its 1974 Status Report on world population, there is a middle ground that is winning a growing consensus.

This middle ground will have an opportunity to surface at the Bucharest Conference. It acknowledges that apart from population other factors cause socio-economic progress to lag in many parts of the world, factors such as low health educational standards and income inequities.

The intermediate position recognizes the potential benefits in some areas of a larger population and of continued moderate population growth, but also considers high fertility and continued high rates of population increase as barriers to socio economic development in many countries.

This position perceives population growth as a multiplier of many other social and economic problems, not the sole factor in determining the future quality of life but an important one. Moreover, it concludes that prudence and responsibility, with regard to future generations, require a reduction of the world's present growth rates. And, in view of the strong momentum of demographic trends, to do so earlier rather than later. There also is general agreement that rapid population growth, at some of today's unprecedented levels, is a disadvantage even in areas that would benefit from a larger population attained gradually.

THIS CONSENSUS ON the desirability of slowing population growth by reducing fertility rates, the Population Council report says, has gained worldwide support in the past ten years or so.

Yet there is no general agreement on the need to stop population growth entirely, or on the best means for reducing fertility, or on the propriety of "strong" measures. There are still many

intellectual and political positions being debated around the world. But there appears, on the other hand, to be an appreciation of the importance of these population trends and the will to take some action.

Lester R. Brown, a senior fellow with the Overseas Development Council, a non profit center for public education, has published a book that has stirred extraordinary interest in population circles. It is entitled in *The Human Interest: A Strategy To Stabilize World Population.* It is expected to contribute toward further recommendations at the Bucharest Conference. Mr. Brown argues that the resource scarcities and ecological stresses of the early 1970's—and their social and political implications—point to the folly of accepting current population and growth rate projections as inevitable.

Rather, he proposes that all nations should work to stabilize world population at 6,000 million by 2015. His timetable calls for exceptional global efforts to change individual attitudes and procreative behaviour, limit consumption and modify life styles, ensure universal access to family planning services and reorient economic policies toward meeting the most basic needs of all people—thus decreasing the insecurities that have historically encouraged higher birth rates.

THE TASK, Mr. Brown, suggests, is far more manageable and far less costly than the consequences of the "business as usual" course man has charted for himself so far.

And what is man for?

"That is the profound question underlying the problems of population", contends Bernard Berelson, President of the Population Council. The question is, of course, unanswerable in any definitive sense, he says, but it reminds that quantitative answers are unacceptable.

"Population trends, if adverse, exacerbate and aggravate other social problems and relieve none," Mr. Berelson says. "Population trends, if favourable, open man's options and enlarge his choices. Thus population policy is not an end but only a means—a means to a better life. That is what the concern about population is about, or ought to be."

IS COMMUNISM THE ANSWER?

BY JEPHARIS

At the anniversary celebration (1972) of Devasaranaramaya, Ibbagamuva, held appropriately on the 55th anniversary of the Great Soviet October Revolution of November 7, 1917; the discussion of the seminar: which had all along been mainly committed to exploring the possibilities of developing the Collective Farm ideal, or a broad-basing of land stewardship, on the lines advocated by India's famous wandering sage, Vinobha Bhave, which had been adopted on an experimental basis and microscopic scale at the Yakkala ashram (on the 64th mile-post of the Colombo-Trinco road and 8 miles beyond Kurunegala), even planning tentatively for its success as far ahead as forty or fifty years in time: took a controversial turn towards the end with the introduction of the idea that COMMUNISM was the best way out of our present dilemma, eradicating the all too obvious social evils of our time, and ensuring a more equitable distribution of the national wealth.

In Communism, for instance, each would care for all, and all would care for each. However, for Communism to succeed, men's hearts must change, and the rich have to realise of their own accord, and of their own free will, the need for sharing their material wealth with others. Otherwise, the State will have no option but to tragically seize away their assets, and draw away their lands from under their feet, as is happening now.

The Collective Farm idea is really Socialism under a microscope, i.e. it provides a microscopic example of the Welfare State in practice, its ideal of an economy based on a collective ownership of land, and the equitable distribution of its produce, by the peasantry, being in keeping with the fundamental ideals of the Welfare State as a whole. But this type of 'Pilot Project' does not wholly defeat the capitalist structure in which it is set (the structures of society are still Capitalist, in spite of the socialist policies of the Govt.) for it does not by any means eliminate the petty capitalist.

The type of Pilot Project obtaining at Devasaranaramaya, should catch on in other areas of community service, land development and also incidentally, in Christian-Buddhist dialogue, serve as an impetus and encouragement to the welfare programmes deriving from the socialist policies of the nation at large, go a long way towards alleviating the present and future food crises, and absorbing even a small percentage of our unemployed

youth, and provide a worthwhile outlet for the deepest national aspirations of the people.

I give below the relationship of the three distinctive political 'isms' of our times to land ownership, viz:

Crown or State or Government ownership of land: Communism

Collective or Co-operative or Peasant ownership or land: Socialism

Private or Syndicate or Company ownership of land: Capitalism

It has been discovered in practice that fragmentation, arising from rich landlords having to sell out in small holdings due to financial pressures forced upon them by a Socialist Government, and now a ceiling of 50 acres being imposed upon them by a Land Reform Commission (which is likely to be reduced to 25 acres in the foreseeable future), is not in the best interests of the working of those lands, leading to a decline in the overall economy of the nation. A large estate functions better as one viable economic unit, than when divided into small, independent, fragmented units.

On the other hand, fragmentation might result in a better yield per acre on account of each person being entrusted with a smaller tract of land to look after, and therefore being able to utilise it more thoroughly. "An enlightened self-interest" which once imagined itself to be at the heart of the national interest, has been proved from experience to be anti-national both in theory and in practice, ultimately leading to a privileged few fattening them-

selves by exploiting the toil and labour of the suffering masses.

The Church, of course, teaches that all land belongs to God, and that human beings never, actually owned anything, but are stewards in trust of any property committed to their charge unto posterity. That is why, according to certain last wills and testaments of deceased persons, certain properties have been handed down entailed unto the third and fourth generations of certain families who alone could sell out. The second generation did not have the power to dispose of such properties until in recent years fresh legislation was introduced to abolish the *fidei commissum*. Likewise, Christianity defines land as entailed wealth leased out to responsible men by God, in the interests of ongoing generations of mankind.

It is when particular families' e.g. the Pieris', de Mels, de Soysas, Bandaranaiques, Ratwattes, Obeysekera, Kotalawelas and Senanayakes exhibit possessive instincts that they suffer, and the nation suffers with them.

The Church in Ceylon, even the Buddhist Sangha, do not portray the policy of poverty as preached by Jesus and Buddha, but are wedded to vested interests, and seem to derive their temporal strength from those interests: indeed the church visible, and certain Buddhist temples, having lands of their own from which they obtain a portion of their income, are segments of those interests; and where the Establishment and Sangha have failed Christ and Buddha respectively and thrown in their lot with mammon, is it not possible that a Communist theology, or ideology in practice would perhaps provide a more adequate alternative vehicle for the fulfilment of God's purposes here on earth?

Where the Church has failed God, it is possible that Communism might succeed. Communism, in fact, could well be an instrument of God's action in the world, and although a secular means, just as holy, just as sacred, and just as divine, as God's action through the church.

Just as heaven and earth are supplementary units, it is impossible to separate the 'church' from the 'world'. One is as 'sacred' or as

Communism?

'secular' as the other, each cannot exist without the other, and like mind and body, or spirit and soul, both are complementary to one whole: indeed the whole world is a part of God's Church, or vice versa, and what is called "the Church" only performs a particular, (not the only, and not necessarily the most sacred) service to God, of Whom it is an extension, and a function to the world, of which it is a part. Indeed, the **WHOLE CREATION** (second cause) is a projection of **GOD** (first cause).

Communism need not necessarily (as the Roman Catholic Church seems to think) be something evil, or sinister, or to be shunned (remember how R. C. priests insisted from pulpits throughout Sri Lanka that their flocks should vote UNP at the 1956 & 1960 elections, when the UNP were ruthlessly defeated?); though like the Church, set in a sinful world, it must needs be to some extent contaminated by its influences. Some would say that Communism is evil because its birth-pangs were violent—springing from the blood-bath which accompanied the Bolshevik Revolution and the overthrow of the Romanov Dynasty of Tsars and their aristocratic supporters and "boosters"—and that nothing good could come from an evil means. However, there is nothing inherently evil, or atheistic, or anti-spiritual as, many people seem to think, in the doctrines of Karl Marx, Engels, Trotsky, Lenin and the other "fathers of the modern revolution"—even in the teachings of Red China's fabulous Mao or Korea's legendary Kim or Vietnam's Uncle Ho.

The Communists may take away our churches, and forbid the practice of collective or co-operate worship; but does a true Christian have to go to church in order to worship and to pray? Does he not often go only to "be in the fashion" and to be entertained? He could worship God just as devotedly, just as sincerely, just as "spiritually" and, just as acceptably, secluded in his own closet, in his own home, and still be universally linked up with the worship of all true believers everywhere. Like the visitor to Prithipura who inquired from its Director: "Where is the spiritual center?", we have

been too prone to identify worship with a particular building set aside for the purpose, forgetting that worship (worth-ship) is a way of life rather than a part of life.

On the other hand, Communism is totally unsuited to the genius of the Sinhala people. The masses, brought up on a long tradition of feudalism and subjection to alien rulers, have grown accustomed to having "father-figures" to look upto and respect, and obey, and even worship and bless (and maybe secretly curse); and this is a situation which true Communism must not tolerate, still less support. Our people have to be 'educated' out of their servility, and inspired to live up to their full stature as proud, unbending members of the lion race.

However, the cultural tradition of the Ceylonese nation, nurtured on the distinctively Buddhist teachings on the operation of Karmic Law, fertilised by a spirit of love, compassion, and tolerance, together with a respect for all life, and all conditions of life; provide a totally unsuitable soil and climate for the growth of Marxist doctrine in this island. The very nature of its easy-going inhabitants militates against it, and besides Buddhism teaches that Karma must work itself out in its own way which, explains the phenomenon of the rich and the poor the exploitor and the exploited the presence of an unjust society amongst us ("justice is altogether turned away backward"), unequal conditions among men, and widely different forms of sin, sickness, sorrow strife and suffering.

Christianity teaches that we belong to God, and are His children, against the Marxist doctrine that human beings are state property, existing for the state to serve the state.

Communism might destroy men's freedom of worship, and cause many personal rights and privileges of the individual to be sacrificed in the interests of the nation, but it cannot destroy one's personal relationship with one's Creator.

To sum up: is Communism really the answer to our present political, social and economic dilemma?

Well, this question can never be satisfactorily answered by us mortals with our perverted, limited understanding, and immature wisdom: but it must rank high on the list of possible solutions. However, Communism or any other ism cannot solve all our problems, whether personal or corporate. We believe **GOD KNOWS BEST**, and would provide His own perfect solution in His own good time.

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7: Five East European countries are reported to have agreed in principle to conduct future trade with Sri Lanka on the basis of convertible currency: two of these countries—Poland and Hungary—will switch over from barter to the new basis almost immediately. Mr. Pieter Keuneman told in the National State Assembly that the Government was determined to make the Jaffna Campus of the University of Sri Lanka a good Campus and not a mere apology for a campus: even if the Federal Party was opposed to a campus being set up the Government would go ahead: Mr. V. Dharmalingam M.P. for Uduvil, said that the campus was being set up at the expense of secondary education in the peninsula: this was because the campus was to be sited at Parameshwara College and the Proposal to take over the Jaffna College for the Campus. Mr. Leslie Goonewardene told the National State Assembly yesterday that a scheme was now being considered to do away with annual licences for motor cars by collecting the revenue through a very slight increase in the price of oil. An agreement for the second program of export assistance financed by the Swedish Industrial Development Authority was signed in Colombo yesterday: the program provides for an expenditure of over US £ 800,000 over the next three years. Mr. Felix Dias Bandaranaike who returned to the island from Kuwait yesterday said that he had invited officials and businessmen to study investment possibilities in this country. Twenty-seven teacher training College will be closed for three months and nearly 25,000 teacher trainees will be sent back to their respective schools during this period: this is being done to reorganise the whole system of teacher training to be in keeping with the new Educational Reforms. Dr. Colvin R. de Silva, said in a meeting in the Nawalapitiya electorate that the Government did not intend to continue the system of subsidies which he claimed had ruined the economy of this country. The Mayor of Colombo, Mr. M. H. M. Fowzie, is expected to seek nomination to the Sri Lanka Freedom Party: the Mayor is expected to send in his application in a day or two. The annual conference of the Lanka Samasamaja Party Youth League will be held from the 10th to the 12th of this month: delegates from 80 youth League branches of the Jaffna peninsula will also take part in the conference. Mr. Anura Bandaranaike, Organiser of the SLFP youth league, has congratulated the Progressive Writers' Association for the steps taken by the Association to foster unity between the various nationalistic in the country. President Nixon's bombshell confession that he was involved in the Watergate cover-up from the outset left his impeachment defence in ruins with only a miracle—or resignation—likely to save him from conviction and dismissal: referring to the cover-up, Nixon is reported to have

said "I didn't tell the whole truth—I am sorry". Greece and Turkey yesterday exchanged accusations of atrocities in Cyprus casting doubt on the second stage of the island's peace talks: the two countries paraded harrowing stories of murder, rape and mass transportation before the United Nations.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8: According to the *Daily News*, the Government has decided to reimburse large losses incurred by five public sector corporations: but it will not make any further reimbursements next year and will insist on their working as efficient production units and finding their own resources: the five corporations are the State Hardware Corporation, The Ceylon Ply Woods Corporation, the Ceylon Oils and Fats Corporation, the Ceylon Leather Products Corporation and the Ceylon Fisheries Corporation: the Fisheries Corporation in particular has been informed that the Government will not reimburse its losses any further. The Ceylon Government Railway has estimated the damage caused by the recent floods and earthslips to its property around Rs. 5 million. The Superintendent of Health Services Mannar has declared Madhu a 'diseased area' for cholera: the Ministry of Health Service requested the public not to visit Madhu for the annual religious festival which starts next week. The Minister of Labour has sought the approval of the Government to amend the Industrial Disputes Act so that no party to a Collective Agreement could terminate the agreement during the minimum period of its operation. The Board of Directors of Jaffna College are reported to have submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister, the Minister of Education and the Minister of Housing and Construction embodying their views on the proposed takeover of Jaffna College for the Jaffna campus. Mr. H. Rivierex, a French Government party M.P. who is the leader of a group of French Parliamentarians now visiting Sri Lanka, at a Press conference yesterday said that France had carried out nuclear explosions in pursuance of its policy to remain an independent nation free from alignment to the big power blocs of the east or west: France's nuclear tests too were for peaceful purposes. Due to the delay in receiving the Return Forms from the printer and the consequent delay in the issue of these forms to tax payers, the final date of making the first return and payment for the year of 1974-75 has been extended from August 15 to August 31. The Government was taken by surprise in the National State Assembly yesterday when the Opposition called for a snap vote on a Government motion and was defeated 20 voting against and 15 for: the motion sought to adjourn the sitting till the 22nd of this month: the Assembly will therefore sit at 2 p.m. today. According to press reports, nearly 15,000 acres of paddy lands were destroyed by floods on the outskirts of Niwala Ganga in the Matara district owing to floods. The new telephone directories will be available for sale in all Post Offices from the 12th of this month: a copy is priced at Rs. 15: in the past directories were supplied free of charge to the telephone subscriber: this directory is the first to be printed after three years. The Maldivian Prime Minister, Mr. Ahmed Zaki, was given a rousing welcome when he visited his old school, St Peter's College yesterday: he broke down in tears completely overwhelmed by nostalgic memories of his school days. The Joint Opposition Parties have tabled a motion in the State Assembly urging the

Government to accept the reports of the Commission appointed by the citizens of Jaffna to inquire into the incidents that took place on the final day of the IATR Conference held in Jaffna. With President Nixon's political support quickly eroding, leaders of his own party in the Senate are trying to decide the best way of sending him a message—resign or be ousted from office. An outbreak of heavy fighting in Cyprus held up the international ceasefire talks causing both Greek and Turkish representatives to seek instructions from their Governments.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9: According to the *Daily News*, sea water with distinct traces of crude oil is now being pumped out of the first test oil well at Pesalai; the Chairman of the Petroleum Corporation, Mr. E. R. S.R. Coomaraswamy, has told the *Daily News* that the sea water is dark in colour indicating that the water is mixed with oil. According to the *Daily News*, regulations are now being drawn up for the imposing of penalties as severe as those passed on smugglers, on persons who cannot prove that banned items in their possession were legitimately purchased. According to the *Daily Mirror*, the Minister of Industries and Scientific Affairs has decided to give 'pep talks' to the officials of industrial corporations under his Ministry in an endeavour to boost production and improve efficiency so that the socialist policies of the Government could be implemented. The minimum guaranteed wage scheme for plantation workers is expected will be gazetted next week; this is the first time in the history of the plantation labour that a minimum wage scheme for plantation workers is to be introduced by legislation. New grants totalling £ 105,415 in support of professional and scientific conferences, and to help people from countries such as Sri Lanka to attend meetings throughout the world, have been announced by the Commonwealth Foundation from its headquarters in Marlborough House, London. Police opened fire to stop a gang of smugglers and seized contraband to the value of Rs. 100,000 from a jungle three miles off the sea coast near Point Pedro; no one was injured. The Minister of Housing and Construction, has instructed his officials to announce all particulars regarding vacant excess houses under the Ceiling on Housing: according to the Minister, this will enable the public to know the details of these houses if they are interested in purchasing them. A mass rally of the United Front will be held tomorrow at Polgahawela and the Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike will preside. The National State Assembly was adjourned yesterday till the 22nd of this month; the activities of the Assembly ended in 35 minutes for lack of quorum. Jaffna College will be officially taken over by the Government tomorrow: armed personnel are guarding the premises of Jaffna College since last Wednesday. President Nixon will make a televised speech at 9. p.m. today, the White House announced as aides were saying the President had decided to announce his resignation: the announcement was made after a meeting of one hour and ten minutes during which Mr. Nixon informed Vice President Gerald Ford that he was resigning and handing the Presidency to him.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10: The Ministry of Education announced yesterday that it would acquire Jaffna

College for the purpose of establishing the Jaffna Campus of the University of Sri Lanka: it would however permit the present management of Jaffna College to continue to run its secondary school in part of the premises taken over until new buildings are constructed: students following undergraduate courses will be considered for absorption to the University. The Food Department yesterday bought a consignment of 11,000 tons of white sugar from India for delivery in September: the deal was closed at £ 289 per ton: this stock ensures a regular supply until the end of the year. The Minister of Foreign and Internal Trade, Mr. T. B. Illangaratne, will begin a two-day official visit to Jaffna on Monday: the highlight of the visit will be the district conference regarding the distribution of food stuffs and co-operative activities in Jaffna District. The Prime Minister of Maldives ended his official tour yesterday and was seen off at the airport by the Prime Minister: in a joint statement issued by the Prime Ministers of both countries, they have expressed hope that the states bordering the Indian Ocean will take steps to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Indian Ocean peace zone. Mr. T. B. Illanganatne, Minister of Foreign and Internal Trade, has made order under the Companies (Special Provisions) Law extending the "appointed date" from September 1, 1974 to January 1, 1975: this course of action has been taken after hearing representations made by several new foreign companies doing business in Ceylon: the date has been decided by the Cabinet. An Indian film festival organised by the High Commission of India, with the co-operation of the Government of Sri Lanka is scheduled to open at the Regal Cinema Colombo on Thursday. According to the *Daily Mirror*, the Communist Party of Sri Lanka (marxist-Leninist) at the 10th National Congress has adopted a resolution which says that the immediate danger that the people in Sri Lanka face today is the threat of fascism. According to the *Lankadipa*, the newly appointed Chairman of the Fisheries Corporation, Mr. Dixon Silva, has detected a big fraud in the Corporation involving several lakhs of rupees: the Chairman has detected the fraud on the very first day he took over as Chairman. Mr. Kenneth Shinya has been appointed as Sri Lanka's Ambassador to Indonesia. Mr. Pieter Keuneman, will leave for Moscow tomorrow: the Minister will be away till the end of this month. The Minister of Foreign and Internal Trade, is said to be considering a proposal to pay a monthly salary for President of Co-operative Societies. Mr. Gerald R. Ford took the oath of office as the 38th President of the United State yesterday and declared: "my fellow Americans, our long national nightmare is over": he was sworn in by Chief Justice Warren Burger on the same spot where two hours earlier his predecessor, Richard M. Nixon, had bade his staff a tearful farewell following his resignation over the Watergate scandal: Mr. Ford, in a brief speech after the swearing in ceremony pledged search for peace: he said that he became President without any secret promises or any political platforms: the new President during his speech made only on reference to Watergate which had propelled him to power.



NIXON

Press Reactions in USA And Elsewhere

The New York Times,

Behind the dazzling succession of events of this most extraordinary week in American political history lies one fact of surpassing importance: the long and unmistakable drift toward concentration of power in the hands of one elected official, the President of the United States, has been stopped, Mr. Nixon and his closest associates considered themselves above and beyond the law, unhampered by constitutional limitations, untroubled by moral constraints. Their subtle moves toward subversion of the government and deception of the people have now been halted, and reversed, by the processes of law and the political system, but most of all by an aroused moral force that has united the nation.

The peaceful transfer of power that has resulted from the convulsion of these last few days has come with a cleansing sense of relief to the American people; and it was accomplished without the slightest trace of disorder and in the most perfect civic tranquility. In the best and most fundamental sense, this nation has proved its commitment to both law and order in political life....

And that is the triumph. With the accession to office of Gerald R. Ford, whom Mr. Nixon himself had chosen Vice President following the ominous disaster of Vice President Agnew, the nation has successfully passed through its traumatic crisis of leadership.

Irrespective of political differences, President Ford has the Congress and the people behind him during these difficult days of transition. While at this time there can be but pity for his shattered predecessor, there is universally warm support for Mr. Ford even among his political adversaries. President Ford's simple, direct approach to people and problems, his unassuming manner, his candor and openness and, we trust, his willingness to accept objective advice from persons in and out of government who are more knowledgeable

than he—all these qualities will be of help to him in undertaking the giant task of leadership that now is his.

Mr Ford has one supreme advantage. He took his solemn oath of office secure in the knowledge that the country stands firm, the structure unshaken, the genius of American democracy renescent. Out of the Morass of Watergate the nation has planted its feet on solid ground once again. Out of the tragedy of Mr. Nixon has evolved the triumph of America.

New York Times,

Mr' Nixon's Presidency was surely not without its positive accomplishment's especially in the arena of foreign affairs. This quixotic man, whose political career was founded on virulent opposition not merely to anything that could be made to look like communism but to any effort to move toward reconciliation of the Western and Communist worlds, was the President under whom the policy of *Detente* with both the Soviet Union and the People's Republic Of China was pushed further than any other President had dared to go since the second World War. While the crucial question of limitation of armaments and many other facets of foreign policy are in less than satisfactory condition, the United States is in a generally better relationship with the rest of the world, including our own allies, than when Mr. Nixon assumed office five and a half years ago.

The domestic record, on the contrary, has little to commend it.....

But his accomplishments, or his failure of accomplishment, are the least important part of the Saga of Richard M. Nixon. What is important is that here was a man who failed his public trust. Never before in American history has there been such a failure at so high a level. This is the sorrow and the tragedy.

Historians and students of human psychology will long ponder on Mr. Nixon's mind and motives to try to understand why this intelligent, pragmatic man followed courses of action that produced his own downfall and turned honor to ashes. At the moment, it is clear on'y that he destroyed him-

self by senseless acts in an election he could not lose, wasted his opportunities for lasting achievement and ended by consciously and continually deceiving members of his own staff and his most loyal political supporters.

While one can have only pity for Mr. Nixon today, one can have pride in the institutions that have proved strong and resilient enough successfully to surmount the most severe internal crisis and the most insidious internal danger to have threatened this great Republic of ours in more than 100 years.

The New York News,

The Nixon resignation is more a personal than a national tragedy. Our system—based as it is on laws and institutions which have endured for well nigh two centuries—can weather this crisis and continue strong and unimpaired.

If Americans will but keep their heads screwed on, the betting looks good that the nation will emerge from this long-drawn-out Watergate turmoil basically unshaken and unscathed—and, quite possibly, the better for it.

Washington Star-News,

It is time to reflect, with some sense of national pride, upon the testing through which we've just passed as a people. For this order of deposing an errant President could very well prove the means of regeneration—a revival of faith in the heritage and promise of our country.

The tumultuous decade behind US, and especially the past year, has been a time of growing skepticism about the strength of American institutions and, indeed, the ability of Americans themselves to rise above cynicism and materialism in times of crisis. After all, so much has changed. And did the founders, with their quill pens and simple generalities, really write a constitutional tune that could play through the age of technological supremacy, with all its complexities of social change, its new concentrations of power?

We have seen the polls showing a loss of optimism about the American future, and declining election turnouts that bespcke a growing public disillusionment with Government. And we have heard all this,

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and more, cited as proof of a system in decline toward obsolescence. The nation simply cannot go forward, some have said, without structural changes—perhaps a whole new modernized Constitution. But we should have remembered that it's all been said before and much worse, for that matter. "Your constitution is all sail and no anchor," sneered Lord Macaulay more than a century ago, in a letter to America. And many Americans believed him.

Well, now we've seen the anchor. We have seen it hold in a hurricane....

Resolving the Watergate mess has, true enough been a slow and difficult process, because the crucial evidence was denied so long. But the determination and courage of many people made the workings inexorable in their many parts: the Senate Watergate Committee which first met when few dared whisper the dread word impeachment.

Finally, the Judiciary committee, and ultimately Congress itself in a virtual consensus voted for removal of the President. This orderly and historic progression of justice to the highest summit, under the Constitution, is testimony that the old foundation is strong as ever, the old ideals are bright, as we approach the nation's bicentennial.

When Benjamin Franklin left the constitutional convention, a woman asked him what kind of a government had been wrought. "A Republic, Madam, if you can keep it," he replied. There should be some thrill for all of us in knowing that this generation is indeed keeping it, with all freedoms intact.

Sao Paulo, Gazeta Mercantil:

The American democratic system undoubtedly emerges strengthened by the crisis. In a period when new generations questions validity of the checks and balances written in the constitution, the system gives perfect proof that they function even as regards the most powerful man of the nation.

Buenos Aires Clarin.

Beyond the fate of a controversial Republican Leader, two things can be affirmed: American institutions have shown solidity by remaining intact under unpreceden-

ted onslaught, and coexistence.. will prevail regardless who is the principal occupant of White House.

Buenos Aires, La Prensa,

The first conclusion is positive, it consists in irrefutable proof of the unparalleled stability of free institutions in the United States. A similar development in another nation is impossible to conceive without dangerous overflow of popular passion, serious street disorders or visible breaks in normal functioning of Public Administration. After the developments we witnessed, friends and enemies of the United States will have to recognize the greatness of the American people.

Rio De Janeiro, O Globo,

The world's major capitals viewed the change of Presidents calmly, confident that the policy of 'peace-seeking' will continue in the hands of the architect of Nixon's great diplomatic victories in the Soviet Union, China, Vietnam and the Middle East.

Pais (Colombia), El Pais,

The United States has won, through this constitutional affirmation, one of the most difficult trials in its history. It was a battle which gave it more prestige than being the first to break the atom, being the top military power, being the first in technical advancement and being the first to put a man on the moon. This is so because it is a country with a Constitution that stands up firm despite any uprising or crisis and is not vulnerable to collapse.

Milan, Corriere Della Sera,

The King is dead, long live the King. The traditional formula for succession in old monarchies is used today by many commentators to describe the climate of the modern American republic.. America looks towards her future rather than towards her past. Faults of a particular President did not weaken the Presidential institution. Nixon's personal tragedy did not become a tragedy of the United States. The radical solution given to the crisis shows the strength and vitality of a political system which courageously carried on a surgical operation unprecedented in its history....

The long and sad tragedy of Watergate has produced positive results. From now on, it will allow Americans to face future problems with renewed optimism and in a restored atmosphere.

Turin, La Stampa,

This is not the appropriate moment to judge or condemn. Final judgement and condemnation have already been expressed by the American people. But it is necessary to try to understand. It is important to understand because America is the most powerful country in world. Not only its allies, but also opponents and enemies of America are highly interested in preserving a healthy and stable U.S. democracy. The Watergate scandal showed that this democracy has many imperfections. But it is also highlighted certain domestic machinery for self-correction of which few other societies can boast. America has passed from one tragedy to another, but every time she seems to sink in a destructive crisis she emerges perhaps stronger. After Nixon's fall, in our eyes, America is stronger rather than weaker. And world balance is stronger rather than weaker.

Oslo, Verdens, Gang,

There can be no doubt that Nixon with this last speech recovered a great deal of Public sympathy which he had so thoroughly forfeited..with this speech, an admirable performance in itself, the Watergate scandal all but vanished..the cleaning up of the Watergate scandal has been pursued with an openness and willingness to get at the root of things which hardly could have happened in any other country. It gives us faith in the hope that today's change of Presidents marks a turning point in America's political history, and that the world's most powerful state will emerge from this ordeal a stronger nation.

Geneva, La Suisse,

Ford's taking over the Presidency will cause a pleasant reaction, it is hoped that with him a wind of integrity will blow through the White House, and that it will restore the national unity which was cracking up under Watergate scandal..the Americans have really never questioned that their poli-

tical system and their almost two hundred year old constitution will survive the storm. Under special circumstances..it has demonstrated its value.

Rotterdam, Algemeen Dagblad,

How damaging is the Watergate affair, with as a finale the resignation of President Nixon, to the prestige of the U.S.? The U.S. is the mightiest country in the world, and this it remains....

One could even say that the manner in which the Watergate scandal came to light, as well as the way in which it has been exhaustively investigated, are points which strengthen America's prestige as a great democracy..

We are inclined to be very critical of our mightiest ally, and we have never made a secret of our disgust about the Watergate affair and the the scandal surrounding it. While we have the right to be critical, we also are duty-bound as an ally to rejoice in the fact that the United States has proved to be a Democracy so forceful and viable that it can easily survive such a thorough clean-up without losing its power or influence in any real sense.

London, Daily Mail,

Gerald Ford is not so far a name to create visions of inspired leadership or historic destiny. Yet he has the capacities, the support and the potential to be the exorcist of the national nightmare, to achleve unity and tranquility out of neurotic divisiveness and restore self-respect to the country's perverted pride.

London, Daily Express,

Democracy has been on trial in America. It has won through. Those who believe in the rule of law and government by consent may rejoice. Not at the departure of Richard Nixon but in the vindication of freedom with justice.

Tehran, Ayandegan,

The system of checks and balances in the United States is what bridges the gap between the Constitution as a theory and the constitution as a reality. It is very easy to draw up a Constitution that looks modern and comprehensive ..But the U.S. Constitution is a reality..the last one and a half years were very painful for the

United States, but in the end the Watergate scandal has proved a source of prestige for American democracy.

Austria,

Hugo Portisch, leading political commentator, wrote in *Kurier*, "All we can do is hope that Nixon's resignation..has put an end to the American nation's division, letting the country at last recover, and that Gerald Ford will be able to distinguish between what was wrong in Nixon's conduct of office and right about his policy. May he succeed in re-establishing confidence in the leadership of the United States. Gerald Ford must serve a Presidency, not just an interregnum: otherwise the world would get out of joint."

Belgium,

Widely read Catholic *Gazet Van Antwerpen,*

"Ford has made good impression. It is too early to know whether Nixon and Kissinger's foreign policy will be continued unchanged in future."

La Cite

"Mr. Ford's image is marked by common sense and honesty, although he is not credited with qualities more brilliant than those sound and very urgently needed virtues. With evident sincerity, the new President said, to everyone's relief, that he would keep Mr. Kissinger as Security of State and that he would support his peace diplomacy."

Le Peuple,

"Mr. Ford is an avowed conservative..he generally supported all the views of the Administration that can be termed realistic in foreign policy..it is possible that the two remaining years of Mr. Nixon's term will allow Mr. Gerald Ford to build an image of a man capable of leading the Republican Party with changes of success. It is essentially the economic situation and the social tensions that will decide it.."

L 'Echo De La Bourse,

"Gerald Ford.. starts with serious handicaps. One of them is that he was selected by the man who is presently out. And that he was chosen by him, to a certain extent, because of his easy-going nature.

Another handicap: Gerald Ford.. has not been elected."

Helsingin Sanomat,

"Although Gerald Ford now assuming the leadership of the U.S. has not acted specifically as an international politician, there is reason to believe that he sincerely wants to continue the policy of *Detente*."

"The possible danger is in that, after Watergate, he, Ford, hardly can become a particularly strong President. The stock of the Congress is high, and its members may try to maintain their upper hand. In addition, there have been predictions that the U.S., once out of the fires of purgatory, will turn inward.. and will concentrate on the domestic problems, above all, beating the inflation. This is of course possible. However, it is both more desirable and more probable that the Americans, while starting to write a new chapter in the history of their country, will, in spite of the unhappy ending of the previous chapter, remember the undeniable achievements of its main character and will continue to build on them and, in this way, benefit the whole world."

Demari,

When there is now a change of a president in the U.S., the fact that Kissinger will stay in the administration of Gerald Ford is a hopeful sign. It is possible that Kissinger's role will become even stronger now—because the tenacity and consistency of Ford is not known."

SOVIET UNION

President Nikolai Podgorny cabled President Ford: "We express confidence that relations between the USSR and the United States will receive a further constructive development in the coming years."

Pravda said the New Administration intends to follow the same foreign policy as the Nixon administration, and Ford's decision to keep Henry Kissinger as Secretary of State is regarded as a sign of this.

Frankfurter Allgemeine (Jan Reifenberg),

Nixon's successes in the field of foreign policy remain..they

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provide the basis for Ford's policy. They are the result of far-sighted analysis of the international situation. Only a Republican and a stout anticommunist like Nixon could justify that policy to middle America. Kissinger, the architect of that policy, remains Secretary of State, Had Nixon shown an equally sure hand in the field of domestic policy, there would have been no Watergate..his resignation has restored America's internal peace.

Die Welt (Heinz Barth),

The air in the White House will be fresher and healthier now. However, the question is whether a clean record and a good character are enough to fill the tremendous dimensions of the Presidency.. Like Nixon, Ford has no illusions about the letter—may be that Ford has not such opportunist motives as Nixon had when making some serious concessions to the Soviets in the field of nuclear armament. If relations between Washington and Moscow change at all, they certainly will not change so as to lead to further fraternization between the two big powers"

Sueddeutsche Zeitung (Hans Heigert,)

That huge country (U.S.) the most important nation in the world, has not lost its so frequently moving moral power. Occasionally it gets tired and, as if to recover, retires. However, time and again it turns to public affairs in certain cycles. It is a process of permanent self-purification. From this point of view, one can look at that nation only with respect and admiration."

General-Anzeiger,

Ford is promising continuity to all sides. To substantiate his promise, he demonstratively secured for himself the continuing services of Kissinger. However, continuity was proclaimed also by Schmidt when he replaced Brandt as Chancellor. There has been much change here since, not only in style. Kissinger under Ford will not be what he was under Nixon. There no longer is a compulsion for intensified activity in the field of U.S. Foreign policy in order to distract attention from internal difficulties. Ford's deliberateness can only have a favourable effect on Kissinger's occasionally exuberant temperament. The Europeans presumably will do well and get along well with the (Ford-Kissinger) team."

SYRIA

Ath-Thawra,

"The Arabs are witnessing a turning point in American policy which bears close watching, despite assurances that American foreign policy has not changed."

KUWEIT

The Kuwait Daily News, said there is still no assurance that the Ford administration will follow what the papers called "the course of understanding and perceiving the new facts" in the Middle East. The papers urged the Arabs to depend on their own strength "if they want the U.S. to listen to them and appreciate their weight."

EGYPT

Commenting on Washington reports that there will be no change in Middle East Policy, *Al Ahram* said the whole issue depends primarily on the Arab side, which should maintain what the paper called its position as an effective world power.

LEBANON

Marwan Hamadeh, assistant editor-in-chief of the independent *L'Orient-Le Jour*, writes,

"Gerald Ford remains unknown to the Public. The whole world is holding its breath to see how he will work, Arabs, especially. The new President of the U.S. is, in fact, the only American official to have recognized Jerusalem as the unified capitol of Israel. Also the only one to have always bad-mouthed Palestinians (and) only one to have considered "insufficient" the 2,500 million dollars given to the Hebrew State. Furthermore, his speechwriter is an influential member of United Jewish appeal..we are thus justified in fearing that he will take the U.S. from the path of reason to paths of adventure in the Near East. The world is spoken along with America..but even so, the drama has its positive aspects, such as the reiteration of the concept of equality before law and the separation of forces.."

TUNISIA

President Habib Bourguiba sent President Ford a message of congratulations:

"I have the firm hope that under your force the policy conducted by the USA for the safeguarding of peace, the consolidation of Detente and the elimination of hotbeds of tension in the world, will be continued in the Middle East here an action has been undertaken with a view towards arriving at a just and durable solution to the conflict, founded on the recognition of the legitimate rights of the people of that region, particularly those of the Palestinian people to their country, toward which the efforts of all and, first of all, of the American government must be conducted without slackening for the return of peace in this region, so severely tested."

IN AUSTRALIA

The Sydney Morning Herald,

"Mr. Ford is still something of an unknown quantity—but then so was Harry Truman when he succeeded Franklin Roosevelt. He starts with some obvious advantages. He provides a presence that embodies a sense of honesty, decency and integrity, and these qualities are above all what are needed in the White House..His relations with congress bid fair to be much better than Mr. Nixon's.."

Canberra Times,

"The simple fact that there has been an orderly and universally accepted transfer of the awesome power of the Presidency in the U.S. today is a cause for thankfulness in a world where there is ample reason for dejection. There are many countries in which such a momentous change, in the extraordinary conditions that have attended the resignation of Mr. Nixon, could not have taken place without violent dislocation and even bloodshed. So much for the democratic maturity and discipline of the American people and their leaders.. Mr. Ford now heads a nation the people of which have again demonstrated their greatness."

JAPAN

Asahi,

The first task for President Ford will be to bridge the gap which resulted from a split in public opinion and unite the American people..in the long run, there will be a need to promote domestic policies to solve economic problems which have been neglected

and to establish a system to prevent another Watergate. No basic change is expected in the Ford Administration as many observers have pointed out because secretary of state Kissinger will remain in the cabinet amid the trend toward relaxation of tension."

THAILAND
Bangkok Post,

We, of course, are concerned with the American position in South-east Asia, but as Ford has been quick to point out, his own foreign policy will be that of Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. Hopefully, though, when President Ford has his bearings on the American scene, he will visit us and learn first-hand about our problems. President Ford seems to be a man of some understanding. We hope that he understands that this region has unique problems of its own, and that we are not merely an 'adjunct' of American policy. In the meantime, we welcome President Ford to the political arena. May he keep a mind which is open, a sympathy which is far-reaching and a power which is as just as it is strong."

COLOMBIA
Conservative *El Siglo*,

"Fortunately, public opinion has absolute confidence in the new President, for Gerald Ford has a record of rectitude in his professional dealings. It should also be noted that once again, the great American democracy has been able to put itself on top of a difficult situation."

MEXICO
El Nacional,

"Feeling of relief comes from U.S. having effected transition of power so smoothly, employing institutional mechanisms laid down for such a situation, with only the remotest possibility of ever having to use them. The first words of President Ford on foreign policy served to reassure other nations and give them confidence, especially by the fact of his naming Kissinger as his Secretary of State.

El Sol,

"The virtue of democracy is that it can be improved. Hence Watergate strengthens our faith in this system of government, with the modifications that each country sees fit to apply..."



SHAMBA

The Important Thing is to Keep Going

by

ANATORY BUKOBA

August 6,

This is being written on my favourite rock on the western side of our river. A dull morning, but the sun has broken through, thirteen years ago to this day. I had slept in a grass hut in the night, in a real *shamba*. The night was to find me in very different circumstances. Tonight it will be different, too but I trust the contrast will not be so great.

Today I had a letter which arrived sea mail about Galloway cattle. It is a beef breed that enjoys very poor grazing. Galloway and Herdwick sheep are the breeds of cattle and sheep that stir me deep down and makes my flesh thrill. It must be their association with a certain type of country, *fell*, which is like out *patna* and *talawa*

It is a bad time now for work. We are sort of on holiday, all of it culminating in a few days time. The group I met by the sea, people interested in coming here, has not turned up yet, but they may well do so for the festivities. Another local lad, whom I met opportunely this morning, seems genuinely interested in working with me. I have known him, and I have met him off and on, since I first came here, which is exactly a year and a half ago today by the way. The sun is getting hot, and I may have to move to the house.

About breakfast time I saw the dolls being made up by our two-year old; cloths put in a pile tidily, and then rolled up, and there was your doll, or rather two dolls for there were two tiny piles of clothing a bigger one and a smaller one.

What kept me away this time was partly the *perahera* at Kandy. It needs no description, for it is too well known. The first day I saw it was an experience, for the sky was constantly throwing showers, and I hid under my *itti-redhi*

and a monk's umbrella. We took the rain with true complacency; nobody seemed worried, I was sorry for those in the *perahera*; children; others, bare bodied; those on elephants, and they had no shelter at all, most of them. I hung around for two hours after the *perahera* and wondered where I could find a corner to sleep. It was still throwing showers. These two hours were among the most illuminative I have had, and they taught me more about the *perahera* than the *perahera* itself. As to the people there, whom I came across, we were all friends, although no one knew me, I was one with them, but yet a stranger. During those two hours I got an inkling into the organization that goes into making the Kandy *perahera*; the eating places within the Temple precincts, and so on. On the second day that I was present, I learnt even better how well organized the whole town is for the *perahera*. Everything worked smoothly; no one was inconvenienced. Some of the special constables only were inclined to be officious, I had a brush with one when I could stand it no longer, and I got away with it. I have not been present at a United Front mass rally yet, although I would have liked to; and so I can only say that I found the spirit of the people who were in Kandy on the *perahera* days the same as those who lined the streets of Colombo for Dudley Senanayake's funeral although it may be odd to compare a joyous occasion with a sad one.

The hour is late now, and I would like to pen a few more lines. Every-

Food for thought?

A dairy farm near the Japanese town of Atsugi has added old newspapers to its cows' diet. They are cheap. True, they have to be flavoured a little. Consuming two kilogrammes of newspapers a day, the management affirms, the cows continue to produce wholesome milk. Printing ink, however, contains lead, and so, the France Presse Tokyo correspondent reports, further research will have to be done before it is definitely established whether or not old newspapers are suitable as fodder.

thing is very dry now, and nothing will grow unless it is well watered. The exception is probably sorghum, which I think I am correct in saying will not grow in soil that is well rained on; in other words, in a wet climate. Agriculture everywhere now in the Dry Zone is at a standstill, except where the land is irrigated. In spite of all this, I noticed today that our *kaddays* are full of vegetables. There is no destitution. Everybody is happy.

There is a wonderful spirit about the place. I think it is that we have grown as a nation. There are no longer any second-class citizens. I think it is that to a large extent we all share one life. now. It is no longer anomalous that an educated man should sleep in a cadjan house. It is fast becoming normal that a man normally wears trousers should go about in a sarong; but a larger number, especially in our towns, I think I am right saying, are taking to trousers.

Newspapers might give us the idea that all life in Ceylon revolves round the government and the government politicians. Anyway, there are so few Opposition politicians. In the countryside one is not much conscious of the government; it might not even exist for all the notice that is taken of it. That is the beauty of Ceylon. We are not yet, or no more, dominated by the newspapers. I think we shall very soon not be buying them at all. As for wireless, we are fortunately spared much of that.

There has been activity once again, I hear, on the adjoining land where the new people are. They had just left it for quite a while, after staking their claim to it by doing a little clearing. They have official sanction. Some of our neighbours have been making bricks. One has been selling his another has made them to build his own house.

We are in the early hours of the morning now. As I said, it is the festive season, and *Kaddays* or boutiques are going up for that. These are temporary constructions. The bus service has, I think, improved a little, and so the general election may be further away; it always seems to get worse as an election draws nearer, as I remarked before.

The days are clouded over: always threatening to rain, but never doing so. The days are not unbearably hot.

The important thing, of course, is that we have to keep going. We all have something to do we must do it. Collisions of will, there will be, some for a good reason, some for a bad. Not every person's will will be rightly ordered. God allows this to happen for his own good reason, and out of bad will come good. It is very easy to despair. It is when life has never been so good, that there is great danger of it never being so bad. This is life. There is much to be said for life not being too good. This may seem a strange interpolation into a *shamba* article, but it corresponds to my mood. If I had not felt so low, I would not have written so much; it was better than facing bed.

There are no cows in our area, to speak of. There are some carts, and these have bulls, but they are not many. There is one person close by who has a small herd; another family had two or three, but these went in the last year. It would be very difficult to find fodder for the animals at this time of the year. There is standing dried grass, but this is burnt off. There are buffaloes; one family has them near us, the ones that come through the land, but most are further afield.

Writing these pages has worked the evil out of my system, or perhaps I had already begun to lose it before I started. Anyway, I have not far to go to do my stint, and bedtime is long overdue. To lose one's sense of possessiveness over property is not an easy thing. Your loss is someone else's gain, and that makes it harder to bear. When that person is someone near you, it is even harder whatever am I writing about?

In the midst of all your woes,
Don't lose your hair or head;
Don't wish your neighbour harm
But keep quite calm instead.



Exit Nixon

By Spartacus

RICHARD NIXON has resigned from his post as President of the USA. For the last several months he had been engaged in fighting the last political battle of his career with a tenacity worthy of a better cause. But to no avail. The mounting evidence of his complicity in the Watergate scandal was too weighty to be rejected even by his own supporters. Added to that were his own numerous prevarications and tergiversations on the subject. The last straw was his confession that he had lied even to his own lawyers. Resignation was the only alternative to impeachment and trial, to be followed by a spell of imprisonment, the ultimate disgrace.

Richard Nixon has been a dominant figure on the American political scene ever since the 1950's. His recent political triumphs, especially in the foreign policy field, may make many forget his early career when he was one of the most uncompromising of the reactionary, Right-wing politicians in America.

Nixon became Vice - President under Eisenhower and together with him and Secretary of State John Foster Dulles began to hot up the cold war till the world was brought to the 'brink of war' many times in the straits of Formosa and Berlin, in the Middle East and the Caribbean Sea.

Nixon's refusal to face up to the facts was once exhibited in a most peculiar way. When the whole world was applauding the first Soviet moon shot in 1959, Nixon told a conference of dentists that there was nothing to prove that the USSR had actually sent a rocket to the moon! The *Tribune* commented at that time that the greatest contribution that the American dentists could do to bring Nixon to his senses would be to pull out some of his teeth!

It was Nixon, of course, who figured in the famous 'kitchen debate' with Khrushchev in Moscow, an unnecessary provocation

that almost sabotage the first US-Soviet summit meeting due to be held a few months later.

Nixon just lost to John Kennedy in the 1960 Presidential election and was for some time not in the limelight. When he returned to power as US President in 1969, it was to face a world that had changed beyond recognition in the intervening years.

The 1960's were remarkable for two things. The Soviet Union, after recovering from the losses suffered during World War II, was making seven-league strides ahead in economy, technology and military power, leaving even the US behind in many fields. On the other hand, the USA, though the mightiest power on earth was finding it impossible to subdue the little gallant people of Vietnam.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY had, to some extent, realised the American dilemma, stated that there could be no American solution to every world problem and begun taking the first steps in the direction of detente when he was gunned down. Johnson who succeeded him has already gone down to history as the man who got the Americans bogged down in Vietnam and ensured his own political downfall.

Nixon succeeded him in 1969 on the promise that he would end the US involvement in the 'dirty, war' and bring 'peace with honour' a phrase made famous by Neville Chamberlain, the traitor of Munich just before the outbreak of World War II. But the first term of office of Nixon as President (1969-72) not only saw the greater ferocity with which the war was waged, greater losses to US forces and war material, greater humiliation and degradation of the American image the world over, but even its escalation to Cambodia. All this led to a massive movement against the continuation of the Vietnam war within America itself.

The beginning of 1972, re-election year for Nixon, saw his fortunes at its lowest ebb. It was then that he began his journey to Canossa travelling both to China and the Soviet Union in an attempt to mend fences with those communist states and put them on a more normal basis. Whether he was only indulging in an election stunt, or whether he had gained a more realistic insight into the new world

balance of forces, it is difficult to say WHAT WE KNOW is that Nixon's initiative paid off and was re-elected comfortably to the White House again. Nixon's second term saw the virtual end of the cold war between the USA and the USA and the Soviet Union and the transformation of the world from the era of confrontation and crises to that of a new understanding and spirit of co-operation between states.

Nixon's visit to China signalled the American abandonment of Chiang Kai-shek, the puppet whom they had tried to depict as the true representative of China for over 20 years after he had been ousted from the mainland. The US also acknowledged Taiwan as an integral part of China.

His visits to the Soviet Union in 1972 and 1974 as well as Brezhnev's return visit to the USA in 1973 resulted in several important advances in the field of controlling the deadly strategic arms race, concluding a series of agreements beneficial to both countries in numerous fields of human endeavour and reaching the agreement on the prevention of nuclear war, of great significant to all mankind.

But while Nixon was busy normalising his relationships with those whom they hitherto treated as their foes, the time-bomb that was the Watergate scandal was slowly ticking away till it has now blasted him into political oblivion.

The facts of the Watergate affair are, of course, no surprise to those familiar with the Tammany Hall tactics that pervade American political life. It blows the lid off the 'democracy' that is said to prevail in 'God's own country' and which has been so brilliantly portrayed in the Pulitzer prize-winning novel *Advise and Consent* by Allen Drury.

But what will interest students of political affairs is how Nixon's downfall will now be used by his opponents to reverse the foreign policy trends that are associates with his period of office.

There are doubtless powerful forces operating in America who will only be too glad to scuttle everything Nixon has done in

this field and take the US and the world to the old 'cold war' days.

But, however, powerful they may, they can only delay or temporarily hinder the trend towards detente and understanding that is an objective necessity of the times. Such trends were initiated, not because Nixon or someone else liked them, but because they were inevitable under present world conditions.

They will continue to be inevitable in the world of today and tomorrow too, if human life is to survive on this planet.

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TOPICAL

COLLECTIVE SECURITY IN ASIA

By T. Duraisingam, J.P., U.P.M.
Attorney-At-Law
Member, World Peace Council

The world is celebrating these days the 25th anniversary of one of the greatest and most important mass movements of our time the Peace Movement. The consistent, tireless, painstaking and effective work of the fighters for peace helped to frustrate many aggressive imperialist actions and schemes, helped to increase the chances of success for the opponents of war and to tie the hands of the reactionary forces. Never before have acts of aggression and violence against the peoples met with such widespread indignation, protest and active resistance as it is today.

THE MAIN FORCE behind the peace movement is the World Peace Council. It was inaugurated by the First World Congress for Peace, which was held in Paris and Prague in April 1949, when the horrors of World War II were still fresh in people's memory. This Congress saw its prime task in making it clear who wanted peace, and who wanted war. And if at every juncture in these 25 years more and more people were able to see who was to blame for the tension, who engaged in brinkmanship, who was behind the cold war and the armed conflicts, the credit for this belongs primarily to the Peace Movement.

Ever wider and more influential sections of world opinion, the representatives of many governmental and non-governmental, national and international organizations, openly declare in support of the principles of peaceful co-existence. They see in the realization of these principles the way to a just, democratic peace based on respect for the rights and interests of all peoples.

Peace is indivisible and all peoples and governments of all states big and small and from all the continents should actively participate to preserve and strengthen it. International security is essential for the maintenance of peace in the world and the most important prerequisites for the strengthening of international security are the just settlement and effective prevention of possible international conflicts and the developments of

economic, political and cultural co-operation among the nations of the world. The acceptance of the principles of peaceful co-existence and the ensuring of international security create the most favourable conditions for democratic freedoms, social and national liberation and development.

To achieve international security the nations and peoples of the various continents should work to build dependable security systems in these continents.

The road to full normalisation of the political climate in Europe and the transition from confrontation to co-operation based on the principles of peaceful co-existence has been paved by such developments as the radical improvement in the USSR's relations with France, the United States, the Federal Republic of Germany and some other Western countries. The treaties of the USSR, Poland, the German Democratic Republic and Czechoslovakia with the FRG have been of significant importance in bringing about this process of normalisation in Europe.

THE SOVIET UNION and other socialist countries have played an important role in bringing about this detente in Europe and which has expressed itself in the admission of the two Germans, the GDR and the FRG, to the United Nations and in the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe.

The Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe in which 35 countries are participating is consolidating the results of this

process on a continental scale, and laying the foundation for multi-lateral relations based on enduring peace, security and co-operation among countries participating in the conference.

The European states have been responsible for most of the wars fought throughout the world during the last two centuries, wars to subjugate other nations and wars to redivide colonial spheres of influence.

If Europe can move forward to collective security why can't Asia? With the dawn of independence to the countries of Asia, Asia's quest for peace and for mutual co-operation began. By the fifties the Asian countries had already worked out principles which envisaged the development of their relations in the direction of peaceful co-existence and co-operation.

In 1954 India took the initiative with China in expounding the Panchasheela, the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence which formed part of the preamble to the Indo-China Agreement on Tibet. These principles are: (1) mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty; (2) non-aggression; (3) non-interference in each other's internal affairs; (4) equality and mutual benefit; and (5) peaceful co-existence. Referring to this agreement Chou En lai, the Chinese Prime Minister, stated that on the basis of the five principles laid down in the Tibet agreement "all nations of the world can peacefully co-exist whether they are big or small, strong or weak, and no matter what kind of social system each of them has." He further stated that it would be desirable "for appropriate responsible persons of the principal Asian countries to meet occasionally and con-

The Reward

The Rev. James Clark of Woodbridge (U.S.A.) was recently honoured by the local diet club for cutting his weight by more than half—from 377 to 172 pounds. The Reverend, who did it because he had difficulty getting into and out of a confessional box, got a piece of cake and cufflinks as a reward.

sult each other" in order to seek common measures for maintaining peace and security in Asia.

The Soviet newspaper *Pravda* commenting editorially on the Panchasheela principles stated: "There cannot be any doubt that the acceptance of these important principles by the Asian as well as other countries would diminish the possibility of wars, serve to alleviate tension in the world community and improve the valuable co-operation between countries."

The Panchasheela principles were reiterated in the joint communique of the Governments of the People's Republic of China and Malaysia which was signed at Peking on May 31, 1974, by the two Prime Ministers Chou En-lai and Tun Abdul Razak. The communique stated that "the two Governments hold that although the social systems of the People's Republic of China and Malaysia are different, this should not constitute an obstacle to the two Governments and peoples in establishing and developing peaceful and friendly relations between the two countries on the basis of the principles of mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful co-existence."

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU was inspired by the vision of a united and reascent Asia.

One of his first acts as the Prime Minister of India was to convene an Asian Relations Conference in Delhi. It was the success of this conference and his vision of a united Asia and also of an united Africa, which led to the holding of the Asian-African Conference in April 1955 at Bandung in Indonesia, and popularly referred to as the Bandung Conference. This conference was organised by Indonesia, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Burma and 29 other Asian and African states participated.

The Prime Ministers of India, Indonesia, China, Sri Lanka and a number of other states attended this conference as delegates. The Bandung Conference was an important landmark and has given inspiration to nations and peoples of the world. The ten point declaration to promote world peace

and co-operation adopted at this conference and which was based on the Panchasheela principles, has been used as the basis of declarations and the aims and objects of organizations for the promotion of peace and co-operation.

It is unfortunate that due to major schisms and differences among the sponsors of the Bandung Conference, it has not been possible to hold a similar conference thereafter. This was a direct consequence of imperialist policy. When the imperialists ruled, they in keeping with their traditional policy of divide and rule, encouraged regional, national and religious strife among their subject peoples. Even after independence the imperialists fomented and encouraged these divisions.

They instigated separatist movements and border disputes. Territorial disputes between Indonesia and Malaysia, Malaysia and Philippines, India and Pakistan, India and China, Iran and Iraq, Yemen Arab Republic and Peoples' Democratic Republic of Yemen are traceable to the old time colonial divisions of Asia.

In 1961 efforts were made by several nations to bring together the heads of states of Asia and Africa at another Asian-African conference. But this did not materialise. It was only possible to hold at Bandung, in April 1961, a conference of representatives from governmental and non-governmental organisations of Asian and African countries. This conference was organised by the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organisation whose headquarters is at Cairo. Several ministers of state attended this conference. From Sri Lanka, Theja Gunawardene, T. Duraisingam and Dr. Kumari Jayewardene attended this conference as delegates from the Afro-Asian Solidarity Association of Sri Lanka. Thereafter, preparations were made to hold the second Asian-African Conference of heads of states in Algiers in November 1965. However, this had to be indefinitely postponed and the Bandung Conference has not had a successor so far.

Thus it can be seen that there are difficulties on the way. To quote from the book entitled "Towards Collective Security in Asia" by Dr. Devendra Kaushik and Satyendra Peerthum, both

Research Fellows at the Institute of Peoples of Asia, USSR Academy of Sciences, Moscow:—

"A system of collective security in Asia cannot be created overnight. It will require considerable time and effort not only by all the Asian states but also by all those who cherish the cause of peace on the continent. Although a solution to the problem of security in Asia has to be primarily achieved through the result of joint Asian efforts and the mansion of peace on the continent has to be essentially raised on Asian pillars, outside powers interested in the stability of the region, too, have an important role to play. In the present Asian conditions and institutionalised form of regional security can only be a long-term goal to be attained gradually through a system of bilateral and multilateral treaties of non-aggression and mutual co-operation. An Asian convention on the renunciation of force in inter-state relations and the neutralisation of trouble spots like Southeast Asia can pave the way to the ultimate realisation of the idea of collective security in Asia. The march of events is pushing to the fore the urgency of convening an Asian Conference to work out a declaration of Principles of Collective Security and Co-operation in Asia."

HERE MAY BE mentioned the development of increasing co-operation and mutually beneficial relations among Asian countries. The Bandung principles of "settlement of all international disputes by peaceful means such as negotiation, conciliation, arbitration, or judicial settlement as well as other peaceful means of the parties own choice in conformity with the U.N. Charter" has been adopted by Sri Lanka and India on reaching agreement on the problem of Kachchativu. All peace lovers welcome this agreement and congratulate the Governments of both countries for the statesmanship and good will shown by them in reaching agreement on this vexed problem.

The Soviet Union, which is both an European as well as an Asian country, is actively working for a system of collective security for Asia. Leonid Brezhnev, the CPSU General Secretary, told the Soviet trade

unions on March 20, 1972, that "the road to security in Asia is not one of military blocs and groupings, not one of opposing the countries against each other, but one of good neighbourly co-operation among all the states interested in such co-operation. To our mind, collective security in Asia should be based on such principles as renunciation of the use of force in relations between states, respect for sovereignty and inviolability of borders, non-interference in domestic affairs and extensive development of economic and other co-operation on the basis of complete equality and mutual advantages."

At the 25th anniversary WPC Presidential Committee meeting, held in Paris on 27th—29th May 1974, one of the subjects on which important discussions took place was that on Asian Security. At this meeting T. Duraisingam, who is a member of the World Peace Council represented, Presidential Committee member T. B. Subasinghe and the Sri Lanka Peace Council. The resolution on Asian Security was moved by the former in the plenary meeting and was accepted unanimously.

THE RESOLUTION stated that the Presidential Committee noted with deep satisfaction the positive developments in Asia. That the events in the Middle East demonstrated the effectiveness of united resistance of Arab nationalism against imperialist designs. It referred to the setting up of the Government of National Unity in Laos which marked a significant victory in the long and determined struggle of the people of Laos against U.S. imperialism. That in spite of the continued attempts by U.S. imperialism and the Thieu regime to sabotage the Paris Agreement, the Vietnamese people have registered further successes in their struggle for national salvation.

It also stated that the South Asian sub-continent has registered further successes on the road to mutual co-operation and durable peace. The meeting of the Foreign Ministers of all the three countries of the sub-continent in New Delhi was a development of great significance. The release of all prisoners of war and the mutual recognition of Bangladesh and Pakistan have created a new climate of peace in the sub-continent.

The resolution further stated that "all these developments confirm the conviction that increasing co-operation and mutually beneficial relations among Asian countries open up the path for further advance in their struggle for self-reliance and independent development free from all imperialist interference. They underlined the necessity of strengthening their security and stability in co-operation with all the peace-loving and anti-imperialist forces: the admission of Bangladesh to the United Nations will pave the way for further normalisation of the situation in the sub-continent and will further this process.

"In this situation, the interests of the Asian countries can best be safeguarded by advancing the process of a system of mutual security for the whole continent."

IN COUNTRIES LIKE
SRI LANKA

Engines Run On Sun's Heat

by ROY HERBERT

London,

FLUIDYNE—the heat engine developed at Harwell by Dr. Colvin West—lacks most things. It has no intake or exhaust valves, no solid pistons, no shafts, no driving mechanisms. Yet it works, and it works on heat provided by the sun.

The engine is a variant of the Stirling engine, named after a Scot who designed the first in the early years of the 19th century. This moved two solid pistons by the heating and cooling of a gas. The Fluidyne, first described at a conference in Brighton of the UK branch of the International Solar Energy Society, has no solid pistons. Instead it uses water which moves—or sloshes—backwards and forwards in a U-shaped tube. There are several variations of the basic design. But they all work on the same lines.

The U-tube is pivoted and is connected to another tube of the same shape which is mounted off-centre on a spring. One end of this is open. Both tubes have

water in them, leaving a column above filled with air. One end of the first tube is heated and in the solar energy version this would be done by concentrating the sun's rays on it. The other end is cooled by water in a jacket round it.

THE AIR PRESSURE is increased by the heat so that it starts to drive water in the second tube towards the open end. As this happens the whole assembly begins to tilt in one direction. As it angle increases air is driven back into the cold space. It cools, the pressure is lowered and water flows back. So the second part of the cycle begins, with the assembly tilting again and the air being heated once more to drive the water along. In this simple way, the assembly is given a rocking motion which will go on as long as heat supplied.

Such an engine could be used for many applications, especially in countries with plenty of sunshine. The rocking motion is, too well suited to such things as pumping. The engine, or variations of it, could be a valuable and extraordinarily simple method of pumping water for irrigation. It would be easy to maintain, for there are no moving parts to lubricate and no wear problems. Many countries are beginning to consider solar energy seriously and the Fluidyne could be an important source of power.

—BIS

Homeless Health?

The "International Herald Tribune" reports that on the night of March 4 former Prime Minister Edward Heath found himself homeless and was obliged to stay in a friend's apartment. The change of Prime Ministers proved to be a rapid one. Mr. Heath, being a bachelor, lived in the apartment on the top floors of the official residence at 10, Downing Street. True unlike the 11,000 truly homeless Londoners, he has been helped to overcome the housing crisis: he has been allowed to stay at Chequers, the Prime Minister's country residence near London, until he finds accommodation.

IS IT TRUE?

Sherlock Holmes

Counter-Revolutionary Gimmicks?

IS IT TRUE that there there was an attempt very recently by a governmental authority to acquire the business premises of a big but controversial commercial enterprise together with the residence of one member of the family? That this attempt had been promptly rescinded by a superior authority which had the legal power to do it? That it is not yet certain whether this story which is circulating, with a furious gallop, in political and other circles in Colombo is based on reality or on fiction? That the persons who believe this story to be true assert that truth is always stranger than fiction? That if this story were true it has many political implications of significance?

IS IT TRUE that at the LSSP Youth Rally on August 11 and 12 there were slogans which have made many eye-brows to fall off in utter surprise? That eye-brows are said to lift when something of a shock overtakes a person? That in this case eyebrows did in fact disappear? That the slogans called for the exit of the "maithini" and wanted "NM" as Premier? That these slogans were no doubt the work of mischievous elements? That the LSSP has been and continues to be a loyal supporter of the PM and is one of her ardent admirers? That these slogans must have been shouted by UNP elements in the guise of LSSP volunteers? That there is no doubt that these slogans were shouted long and persistently? That diehard elements intent on mischief persist in such slogans? That the LSSP will do well to denounce these elements? That the LSSP has the highest regard for the SLFP Establishment considering the fact that Kumar and Sunethra had graced the Rally with their presence on a special invitation? That it is well known

that it is the UNP which is now seeking to create misunderstandings between the SLFP and the LSSP?

IS IT NOT TRUE that a recent issue of *The (UNP) Journal* had a crack at LSSP-SLFP relations? That this paper set out its mischievous game in this way? That this is what it said: "The LSSP is continuing to snipe at the Prime Minister. Through its daily, the *Janadina* and its Sunday edition *Janasathiya* a quiet campaign is being carried on to undermine the Prime Minister? In the recent past these papers have published reports which reflect incompetence, wilful negligence at the Ministry of Planning. It charges that the Ministry was delaying exchange allocation for industrialists which was threatening the closure of industries. It has editorially criticised the increase of the price of a half measure of rice and blamed the Ministry of Planning for placing this burden on the people. In fact it has charged that there was no planning. The hidden hand of the LSSP in this campaign of trying to smear the Premier is seen clearly when the *Janasathiya* of July 21 called the Prime Minister the heroine of Kachchativu, the Finance Minister the new sun of the dawn and Dr. S. A. Wickremasinghe the man who has not tasted defeat." That though this piece in *The Journal* is not happily phrased in clear idiom, there is no doubt that the intent of this piece was to bring cleavage between the SLFP and the LSSP?

IS IT NOT TRUE that in recent weeks papers in the United Kingdom have paid more-than-usual interest in the affairs within the SLFP in Sri Lanka? That a special correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*, Dobson, had two articles about Sri Lanka? That the story

was written in a way that made it appear that current politics in this country centred around the feud and cold war between Anura Bandaranaike and Kumar Rupasinghe? That a correspondent of the *London Times*, Hornsby, also seems to have approached the political scene in this country in the same way? That what Hornsby said was as follows: "Dark whisperings of an alleged plot by Maoist revolutionaries to complete by stealth what youthful insurgents failed to do openly in 1971 are matched by rumours of a Chile-type threat to the left oriented government from disgruntled army officers. Through it all runs the theme of family discord. Speculation here, of which little appears in radio and press cowed and controlled by the government, centres on the controversial figure of Mr. Kumar Rupasinghe, Mrs. Bandaranaike's son in law, who emerged as a political force after marrying her 31-year-old elder daughter, Sunethra, in 1972."

That Hornsby goes on, after elaboration of the *Janavegaya* to say "What is undoubtedly true among all the rumours is that the Rupasinghes are considered enough of a threat to have aroused the animosity of the more conservative section of the ideologically heterogeneous SLFP. Criticism of the Rupasinghe and their newspapers usurpation of the role of official SLFP organ was openly voiced at a recent meeting of the party's working committee. This moderate group has thrown its weight behind Mr. Anura Bandaranaike, the Prime Minister's 26 year old son, who does not share the radical-left views of his sister or her husband and sees the latter as a potential rival for the succession. As chairman of the SLFP youth wing he competes directly with Mr. Rupasinghe for support of the Island's Jobless and embittered young."

That it is unfortunate that the Anura Kumar feud should be given such importance in local politics by foreign correspondents? That this is probably done to the information and inspiration by local political observers and newspaper commentators?

