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Letter From The Editor

WE WILL NOT APOLOGISE for continuing to cite extracts from the Report of the Central Bank for 1979 on the question of subsidiary agricultural production. Last week we referred to some comments in the Report which confirmed what *Tribune* has been saying about the decline in the production of subsidiary food crops. In 1978, as we have often pointed out, there was a sharp drop from 1977, in the acreage and production of subsidiary food crops—the decline ranging from about 90% to 1%. Prices obtained by farmers had also recorded a drop ranging from 60% to about 5%. Loan repayments had also fallen from 82% in 1971 to 35% in 1977. In view of this situation the Government took some remedial measures. Below we quote what the Central Bank Report for 1979 says about them: "With the liberalisation of food imports, the demand for and the prices of locally grown minor food crop appear to have declined. The Government policy of selling wheat flour at a subsidised price (and controlling the selling price of bread) contributed to depress the demand for food crops. The government's 'buffer-stock programme' for generous importation of cereals, potatoes, onions, chillies and chicken too had a dampening effect on domestic production. The government introduced a 'floor price scheme' for 8 commodities, viz., maize, blackgram, sorghum, soya-bean, turmeric, unshelled groundnut, gingelly and dried chillies in November. Apparently, the floor prices were fixed higher than cost of production, but just below average open market prices, with a view to assuring the producer of a minimum price, without the government having to get into direct procurement of produce. If that is so, there is a strong case for widening the coverage of the scheme, to include important commodities such as cowpea, green-gram and gram." Some of these crops have now been brought into the floor price scheme. But, in spite of these remedial measures, *Tribune* is convinced that an analysis of 1979 acreage and production statistics will show that 1978 trend in the production of subsidiary food crops is persisting and in fact the situation is fast deteriorating. There is no doubt that whilst a few crops like green gram, cowpea, potatoes and gingelly may have maintained their production levels and shown slight improvement, all other crops will show drastic reductions and had also got much lower prices: that more potatoes, onions and chillies were imported in 1979 than in 1978. *Tribune* does not think that the mere fixing of floor prices for some of these commodities will induce farmers to increase acreages and production. The real crux is that in addition to better guaranteed floor prices, government agencies should purchase a sizeable portion of the crop at the respective floor prices and that they should function efficiently and with a minimum of corruption. Additionally, the Extension Services of the Department of Agriculture should once again discharge the functions expected of them, among them the regular supply of seed material. Unfortunately, the Ministry and the Department of Agriculture do not seem to have adequate realisation of the high priority that must be given to subsidiary food crops because they are important items in the food basket of the common man.

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CEB & WRB

ON THE COVER we once again publish a picture of a small home-made biogas plant with sufficient energy for a cooker and power for a few Petromax lamps. This unit will cost only about a couple of hundred rupees—a bag of cement, half barrel, one length of tubing and a few other odds and ends. A Sarvodaya farm in the South has a biogas plant to serve the needs of twenty to thirty people built at a cost of less than a thousand rupees. We have published this picture only to remind our readers that highly publicised government agencies like the Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) have frightened poor rural folk—who have the cow-dung and other material for biogas plants and who need them most not only for lighting but also to lift water—from building biogas plants because the minimum figure of Rs. 6,000 to Rs. 7,000 has been estimated as the possible cost—for rich clients like the UNDP. The CEB seems to have set in sights at serving the rich and affluent. Something must be done to bring organisations like the CEB to come down to earth—otherwise government must entrust the task of popularising bio-gas power to another organisation or organisations to help rural farmers to build them cheap and quickly. CEB officials probably include high consultancy charges for their services which should be given free to the common people of this country. One does not need supergrade engineers to build and instal biogas plants.

The Water Resources Board (WRB) also suffers from the same malady of wanting fancy prices. Not many months ago, the WRB had half page and quarter page advertisements that it could instal windmills for about Rs. 15,000 a piece (and other unmentioned charges probably consultancy fees, travelling transport etc. etc.) *Tribune* had pointed out that this was wholesale highway robbery. Blueprints were sold at Rs. 50 a piece, but if one went to one of the engineering firms WRB officers recommended, the cost would have been very nearly Rs. 25,000/- and with no guarantee that the windmill will work or that it would not collapse as some WRB windmills have done.

Tribune is aware, and many officials in the WRB are also aware, that some persons

(one of them a high official of the government) have fabricated Windmills to irrigate 3 to 4 acres for about Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 4,000. The shouting *Tribune* has done seems to have had some effect, for a few days ago the WRB published another set of advertisements offering to deliver Windmills at Kachcheries or Railway Stations at "around" Rs. 6,000/- each. It was announced that the units were being fabricated at the Government Factory. Apart from the cost of transport from Kachcheries and Railway Stations, the purchaser will have to bear cost of erection and also the cost of getting the Windmill to work. What guarantee is there that it will work? A private manufacturer or seller of machinery always sets it up and hands it over as a running unit with a guarantee for six months or a year together advise on servicing and maintenance. The WRB offer carries no guarantee that it will work when erected or that it will not collapse with the first whiff of wind at 5 m.p.h. Who will instruct the purchaser on its use, service and maintenance? Will the Corporation insure these units against failure owing to inherent mechanical defects?

If the government is serious about windpower for farmers and others, the WRB or some other institution must undertake to erect the windmills at the site and guarantee its working for a minimum period. Unless this is done the latest WRB offer is plain humbug. The Minister in charge should do something to end this game of bluff carried on by the WRB.

Inspired newspaper items were recently published that some of the top brass of the WRB were "invited" by the World Bank to advise the Nepal government on tube wells and irrigation. *Tribune* had carried this story about the Leslie Herath-Basnayake's holiday in Nepal at World Bank expense in our issue of April 26 (Vol. 24 No. 41), and the news item only tries to make out that a great honour has been bestowed on the head of the WRB.

Everybody knows how UN jobs and assignments are wangled and manipulated, but if the World Bank thinks so highly of our WRB head and other officials, Sri Lanka will be deeply thankful to the World Bank if it takes them over permanently. Government may then be able to reorganise the WRB and make it function properly.

Is The World Heading For War?

Colombo, May 17,

There is still a tendency among some people, suffering from a hangover of cold war logic, to regard anything said about the role played by several American administrations in countries like Iran as being the outcome of bias or leftwing political mental aberrations. They do not seem to realise that the continued attempts to dismiss true historical realities or to ignore valid explanations by conjuring the McCarthyian red bogey will ultimately do more harm than good to American prestige. There is much in the USA to be proud about. It is a country which has evolved a worthwhile civilisation in less than two hundred years that has contributed much to the progress of mankind. *But, the USA has to undergo a further revolution, similar to the 1776 one, in order to purge itself of the exploitative and aggressive greed that has dominated the oligarchic dynasties that now control the destinies of the country.*

The Romans, for a long time, succeeded in maintaining their empire based on tyranny—that had also engendered a lasting culture and civilisation—by making a bogey of *Christianity and Christians* and by throwing many of them to the lions. And history once again repeats itself when the present day masters of the world—Anglo-Saxons, Europeans and their allies—want to save privileges and wealth based on exploitation by raising alarms about *Communism and Communists*. It is well to remember that Christianity and Christians took over the empire of the Romans and called it the Holy Roman Empire and if history does repeat itself, as it must, the future of the twentyfirst century may well be a sophisticated and streamlined version of Communism and Communists.

The current relapse by Carter and Brzezinski into the cold war devilry of Dulles bodes no good for the world or even the USA. One happy feature, however is that in the USA there are honest people who speak their minds freely and are permitted to do so—although the bigtime media does its best to bury such expressions of truth and consign them to oblivion. Fr. James Cooke, O.M.I. from St. Josph's O.M.I. Seminary in Nugegoda,

whose comments and contributions have appeared often in the *Tribune* sent us this note: "Enclosed is an article on Iran by a priest of our Congregation, Fr. Darrel Rupiper O.M.I. Fr. Rupiper spent ten days in Iran from the 6th—16th February this year. He was also one of the three American clergymen who went to Iran to celebrate Easter with the hostages. He was chosen for this probably because of his work for peace and justice in the Diocese of Omaha." Below, we publish in full the statement of Fr. Darrel Rupiper, O.M.I. entitled FROM THE BLOOD OF MARTYRS.

".....'Iran, under the great leadership of the Shah is an island of stability in one of the most trouble areas of the world. This is a great tribute to you, your Majesty, and to your leadership, and to the respect, admiration and love which your people give to you.' This was Carter's New Years' Eve (1978) toast to the Shah. On September 8 that same year, millions of demonstrators peacefully took to the streets shouting: 'Fire, Shoot, these lives are our only weapons'. Six thousand people were gunned down, their bodies bull-dozed from the streets. The next month the C.I.A. filed a report stating that the Shah's regime would be stable for another 10 years. Shortly after the bloody massacre President Carter reassured the Shah of American support. The verbal reassurance was followed by an emergency shipment of anti-riot gear in November. **Within 2 months the Shah was forced to leave Iran promising to return after a much-needed rest. His future and the millions of dollars he took with him remains to be determined. The Shah's ousting was accomplished by a popular uprising perhaps unprecedented in history. Twenty three million of Iran's thirty-five million people took to the streets,**

"The Iranian revolution was and is an Islamic revolution. Dedicated to Allah, guided by the Koran, whose aim is to end the exploitation of man by man, and under the leadership of Khomeini, the Moslem people of Iran fully intend to bring justice and peace to the world. This sounds idealistic, but also familiar. God promised Abraham that he would be the father of many nations which would walk in justice and truth.

"As a member of a 50-person delegation chosen by members of The Committee for

American-Iranian Crisis Resolution and under the sponsorship of Nebraskan For Peace and Pax Christi, I spent 19 days in Iran at the invitation of the students who were holding hostages at the former American Embassy. Intensive dialogue with an eye toward eventual reconciliation between the American and Iranian people was the purpose of our trip. We visited cemeteries, factories, torture chambers, slums, palaces and hospitals. We spoke with Ayatollahs, slum-dwellers, members of the Revolutionary Council and Revolutionary Guard, hostages, persons who were tortured, Khomeini's son, former SAVAK agents, parents who witnessed the torture and death of their children, workers and the unemployed.

"We learned that Khomeini is not a madman, but was chosen as the Imam by popular acclaim based on his personal holiness. We learned that the students are in fact students from several universities whose presence was a constant inspiration to myself. We were able to move freely in Teheran without fear of being mistreated. We were always greeted with smiles and assurance that they love Americans, but hate American government policy.

"The Iranian people insist that the American people come to understand the crimes that our government has committed in Iran during the past 25 years. The imposition of the Shah (replacing a democratic government) on the Iranian people by the CIA in 1953 is not disputed. That the Shah was a regional policeman for the US in the Persian Gulf and a ruthless tyrant in his own country is common knowledge in Iran. Setting up the SAVAK (the dreadfully efficient secret police of the Shah) by the CIA as well as teaching them torture techniques is well documented. The manufacture and export of torture equipment by the US to Iran is well documented.

"Such behaviour is outrageous and certainly needs to be uncovered! The Shah spent millions on public relations in the US. A lengthy list of reporters, recipients of cases of champagne and caviar, was read to us: Barbara Walters, Walter Cronkite, Peter Jennings, David Brinkley, Mike Wallace etc. Arrangements between the US Embassy and Wash-

ington to bring the Shah to the US is also well documented. This, five months prior to any mention of the Shah's illness.

"So it goes. Everywhere we went we bore gifts of tulips. It seemed appropriate as Khomeini has said: 'From the blood of martyrs tulips grow.' When we visited in the home of Ayatollah Montazeri in Qom, we were visited by Khomeini's son. He graciously returned the bouquet of tulips to us asking that we return to the States and become martyrs in our own country in the struggle for world justice. The challenge symbolized by the blood-red tulip becomes less frightened when placed in the shade of the white Easter lily."

HISTORY'S VERDICT will be undoubtedly that the recent US Administrations have played an infamous role in Iran (as in many other countries) and that the retribution that will be exacted from the American oligarchs will be heavy. The USA could easily have made amends *vis a vis* Iran by sending the Shah back to Teheran and also by returning the billions of stolen money the Shah had hashed in American banks. Instead Carter irritated the Iranians by parading the Shah in the USA under the cover of a dubious illness and thereby provoked the seizure of the US embassy in Teheran together with 50 odd diplomats as hostages. Verbal cajolery, threats and blackmail having failed to secure the release of the hostages, Carter introduced economic sanctions with a partial naval blockade. But worse still, he seized Iranian deposits in US banks amounting to several billions of dollars and has disbursed the funds so seized the way he wanted—even to pay for US military operations in the Indian Ocean and the Gulf. Carter seems to think he is teaching the Iranians a lesson, but what he has done is to undermine confidence in the sanctity of international banking. Which country will want to bank in the USA in future? The funds of every country, the US can find an excuse to quarrel stands in the danger of its deposits in US banks being seized? The seizure of Iranian deposits is a threat to other countries not to question any action the US takes. The lesson will not be lost on the rest of the world that the US will commit highway robbery of deposits in US banks if it wants to.

Right from the word go, the US used Dullesian anti-Communist cries to intimidate the new Iranian government to bring it under its control, but Washington failed. After Afghanistan the cry was pitched at an even higher note, but this has also boomeranged. After all these anti-red cries having failed, military operations have been launched, especially after it was found that the pro-US Fifth Column elements inside Iran were unable to subvert or topple the Khomeini regime.

This way of looking at recent developments in Iran will be over-simplistically dismissed by some US and European publicists and their counter-parts in other countries as left-wing intransigence, but sooner or later the USA will discover that the overwhelming bulk of thinking people in the Third World see things this way and more and more of them are now refusing to be frightened or intimidated by anti-communist shibboleths and war cries. It is difficult to know when American administrators and publicists will learn to use a language, idiom and logic based on mutual understanding and a desire for equality in human relations.

There are, and there must be millions of people in the USA who see truth the way Fr. Darrel Rupiper O.M.I. does—he is on the same wavelength as the millions in the Third World. But such voices are buried in the hysterical outpourings of the big media which only reflects the interests of the oligarchic vested interests which had made hundreds of billions from the oil of Iran and want to recapture the goose that had laid golden eggs inland with diamonds.

Unless the USA drops its cold war aggressiveness and threats to teach "exemplary lessons" to Iran, Russia, Afghanistan, Cuba, India and other countries, and unless the USA once again resumes the process of synthesising competing social, political and economic systems through detente, co-existence, panchasila and the dhamma, people in poor underdeveloped third world countries like Sri Lanka cannot but be critical about the Carter-Brzezinski antics that will destroy civilisation as we know it.

Many of those who admire the wonders of American civilisation, the new culture it has introduced and its young and dynamic

literature were happy when the unfortunate cold war atrocities of Truman, Dulles and McCarthy—that had followed the golden age of American liberalism under Franklin Delano Roosevelt—were abandoned and the way made for a new spurt of liberalism under the imperatives of detente. But with Carter and Brzezinski this has gone with the winds. At first there was double talk, but now the decks have been cleared for a new round of cold war with all the preparation for hot nuclear war. And the old Dullesian logic, in more a virulent Brzezinski form, has overtaken the Carter administration, much to the disappointment of the many friends of America in this country and elsewhere.

To cry "Bear! Bear! Communist! Communist", will not help the Carter administration very much at this juncture. Only the powerful groups of American rich, a smaller number of European oligarchs and also their partners-in-exploitation in other countries, will adopt this cry in the hope of frightening the weak and the poor. This cry will also cause confusion for a little while longer among some in the Third World who depend on rich countries for largesse and aid. It will be difficult to hide the truth much longer, but unless the cold war is ended soon, it will mean war and this is just what Brzezinski wants. And the Carter seems willing to go to war alone.

The Non-aligned Movement, unfortunately, beset with divisive forces, is not able to meet the challenge of the times. Sri Lanka is today generally silent about the burning problems that confront the world. And so are many other non-aligned countries.

But silence will not ensure peace either. Equidistance between the super-powers has meaning only in the context of detente and the gradual elimination of the cold war. Moralistic guilt-finding and rhetorical platitudes to justify tough, political, economic, and military measures and operations to teach lessons to other sovereign nations are no substitute for patient negotiations and conciliatory strategies. And the latter is what the world wants.



TRIBUNE, May 24, 1980

● TITO

by R. Varadachari

PTI Correspondent in Colombo

WHILE THE ENTIRE WORLD had mourned the death of President Tito, India's grief was immeasurable. Conceived in Colombo and Bandung, the Non-aligned concept sprouted in Brioni, Tito's personal island resort in the placid blue Adriatic sea. It was in this small island which is Yugoslav nation's gift to their father figure for rest and recreation, Tito, Nasser and Nehru met and decided to convene a conference of Heads of States of countries which were not attached to any of the power blocs militarily. This was the time when the cold war was at its height. With a vision characteristic of the world's greatest statesman of this century, Tito gave shape to the Non-aligned Movement as a salvation to the Third World countries who bear the brunt of big power pressures to toe their line. Under his leadership, and guidance of the late Nehru and Nasser, the Non-aligned Movement has grown into a powerful force to be reckoned in the world arena today. From the first Non-aligned Summit, fittingly held in Belgrade, Yugoslav capital, to the last and sixth one in Havana, capital of Cuba, Tito was the central figure and the towering giant who brought about, with his skill and wise counsel consensus on issues seemingly intractable.

Tito had special love and affection for Mrs. Indira Gandhi. She had accompanied her father Nehru, as his personal aid during his many sojourns to Yugoslavia and elsewhere. After Nehru's demise, at the invitation of Tito, Mrs. Gandhi spent a week in the salubrious surroundings of Brioni to get over the shock. This gesture of Tito is symbolic of his special attachment to Nehru's daughter. This commentator who had been Press Trust of India's Special Correspondent in Belgrade from 1962 to 1967, has had the distinction, among few foreign journalists, of having a press interview with him. He had also occasion to watch closely the active life Tito led, having been to Brioni island with visiting Indian dignitaries five times. This is perhaps still the record for any foreign journalist. Tito was verily

a giant of this century. His foresight, vision, statesmanship and affability were the hall marks of his personality. One should visit Brioni to have a taste of Tito's hospitality. It is unmatched in many respects. One has all the comforts one needs in Brioni. Nothing is wanting and Tito himself personally supervised the upkeep of the island.

A partisan fighter and a valiant hero in the battle field, he is also a man of fine tastes and refinement. With his demise, the Non-aligned world has lost its philosopher and guide and the world an ardent champion of peace and co-existence. India has lost a dear friend, a respected counsellor and a true well-wisher. The entire Indian nation mourned his death in an unprecedented manner and Mrs. Gandhi paid her nation's and her personal homage in Belgrade to one of the greatest men of this century and who shaped significantly the destiny of the world during his long spell as Yugoslav President.

ON HER RETURN TO NEW DELHI from Belgrade, Mrs. Gandhi had before her a momentous Supreme Court judgement invalidating two important amendments which her previous government had introduced in the Indian Constitution. A five-member constitutional bench of the Court, headed by the Chief Justice, Mr. Y. V. Chandrachud, struck down the two amendments which had given unlimited powers to the Parliament to amend the Constitution and invalidated the primacy given to the directive principles of state policy over the Fundamental Rights. The Court has held the view that the Parliament has no right to damage, destroy, amend or alter the "basic features" of the Constitution. It has also opened that barring very exceptional circumstances Fundamental Rights will hold sway over the directive principles of state policy. In other words, directive principles will be subservient to Fundamental Rights which has an entrenched position in the Constitution. While giving this verdict of far-reaching consequences, the Court has declared that it will give its reasoning when it reopens on July 31 after the summer recess.

The relevant amendments to the constitution were made by Parliament in 1976 during the emergency era and brought into force from January 1977. The points contained in the two amendments relate to the political

philosophy of the Indira Gandhi Government and it should be expected that the present government would take all possible steps to restore the earlier position with regard to supremacy of the Parliament in amending the Constitution and primacy of the directive principles over the Fundamental Rights. But it has to await the detailed judgement of the Supreme Court before it decides on how to meet the new situation created by the sensational verdict. Two courses are open to the government to remedy the situation. It can bring in further amendments to the Constitution to restore the original position. But this will not be an easy task since the ruling Indira Congress does not now have a two-thirds majority in the upper house of Parliament. The Party might acquire that strength only in 1982 in the Rajya Sabha. The Government cannot afford to wait till then. The quicker course will be to seek a review of the verdict of the five-member bench of the Supreme Court by a larger bench. This course will necessarily mean leaving the political philosophy of the government to the wisdom of the highest judiciary of the land.

IN A BID TO MOBILISE MORE RESOURCES for implementing the socio-economic programmes, the Indian Government has nationalised six more scheduled commercial banks, thus bringing the total number of nationalised banks to 20. This is beside the government-owned State Bank of India and its subsidiaries. The six banks nationalised, recently by a Presidential ordinance, had demand and time liabilities exceeding 250 million dollars each as on March 14 this year, and the total resources available with them came to about 3,000 million dollars. Under the new guidelines to public sector banks to allocate 40 per cent of their deposits for priority sector lending, the six banks will contribute around 1,200 million dollars for this purpose.

The Presidential proclamation said that the six banks had been taken over "to meet progressively and serve better the needs of the development of the economy and to promote the welfare of the people". The 14 banks nationalised in 1969 had at that time assets exceeding 60 million dollars each. Because of the rapid expansion in banking operations their assets now are well over 250 million dollars each. Criticism of nationalisation was

stoutly repudiated by official circles by the argument that genuine needs of private trade and industry would continue to be met by the nationalised banks and they need not entertain any undue alarm.

Critics are reminded how nationalised institutions had played a key role in reaching out to remote areas. The way the nationalised banks extended their geographical and functional coverage showed that they were guided more by social considerations than by mere profit motives. Figures show that the bank branches grew from 8,262 at the time of the 1969 takeover to 31,557 at the end of December 1979. Having reached the target of leading one third of their total credit outgo in favour of neglected sector, the public sector banks are now set for a higher goal of reaching forty per cent over the next five years.

THE UNITED STATES ADMINISTRATION is now close towards approving India's two long-pending applications for nuclear fuel for Tarapore reactors near Bombay and has recommended to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission that the shipments be approved. The decision to move forward on the applications for 19.8 tonnes of enriched uranium each has been conveyed to Mrs. Indira Gandhi in a letter by the US President, Mr. Jimmy Carter. One of the two applications has been pending since 1978 and the shipments were to have been completed in August last year. The NRC had been keeping in cold storage, well past the 120 days allowed for a decision-asking the US State Department for clarifications on the Government of India's nuclear policy. The Carter administration has now asked the Commission to make a "positive finding" on this application and approve it soon. Otherwise, it has told the Commission, that it would move forward with an executive order authorising the shipments. Such an order will then lie with the Congress for 60 days and would become final, if it is not overturned. The second application was filed last year and the shipments were to begin in February this year. The State Department has now sent it to NRC with a recommendation that it be approved. It remains to be seen whether the NRC will go along with the administration's move to grant the fuel.

The Government of India's stand all along has been that the US should abide by the Indo-US agreement on nuclear co-operation under which it undertook to supply fuel for Tarapur till 1993, and not look at extraneous matters like India's overall nuclear policy which retains the option for nuclear explosions and implosions for peaceful purposes. Under the agreement, the US is committed to helping in the efficient running of the nuclear plants. New Delhi has of late been pointing out that because of prolonged delays, the nuclear fabrication plant in Hyderabad has had to close down. Under the US law nuclear fuel shipments have been barred after March 1980 to any country that does NOT place all its nuclear facilities under international safeguards. However the two Indian applications have been kept alive by an interpretation that the shipments under them were due originally before March 1980 and would not therefore be barred under the law.

THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA has upheld the constitutional validity of the death sentence—a punishment provided under the Indian Penal Code for the offence of murder. The court was disposing of a number of writ petitions from convicts facing the death sentence. Constitutional Bench, by a majority of four to one, has ruled that the relevant clause of the Penal Code does not violate any of the Fundamental Rights enshrined in the Indian Constitution. The court said that neither the death sentence nor the method of its execution namely hanging made the punishment unreasonable, cruel or unusual. The Court however has cautioned against any indiscriminate use of death sentence saying "judges should never be blood thirsty. Hanging of murderers has never been too good for them.

The majority judgement, delivered by the Chief Justice V. V. Chandrachud, said that "it is imperative to voice the concern that courts, aided by the broad illustrative guidelines indicated by us, will discharge the onerous function with even more scrupulous care and humane concern, directed along the high road of legislative policy, namely that for persons convicted of murder, life imprisonment is the rule and the death sentence the exception." Mr. Justice P. N. Bhagwati gave a dissenting judgement, holding the relevant section of the Indian Penal Code invalid on the ground that it did not provide any legislative

guidelines on when death sentence should be imposed. The Supreme Court judgement brings to a close, at least for some time to come, the spirited controversy as to whether any one has the right to take away the life of another. But the dissenting judgement shows that there could be two strong views on the question. —SLBC talk 16/5/80.

Free Verse

FIBRE

By S. M. Rodrigo: watching from a house in Maradana as lorries gathered on a Friday morning with coir-bales piled high, awaiting clearance.....)

Fibre, fibre! Loading might
 Packing power, coir—tight
 What sad-sublime ideas here
 You offer to the one who'd peer.
 You talk of women all forlorn
 Doomed from the time that they were born
 To thrust their fingers, wade in stench
 But then, they condemn: "that poor wench."
 Maimed beggars born from sheer machine,
 While his lesek car has silver sheen.
 Why take a high-road straight to hell
 Reflect: lay-by: make conscience yell
 Behind those hoarded heaps of dust
 ("This week, five lorries, oh, you must")
 Are stories told, heart-break and hands,
 To get exchange from foreign lands
 Beyond Colombo's coastal plain,
 Beyond those coir-mounds, in the main,
 Tiled palaces might rule in glee
 Upon thatched homes. Will (who) be free?
 At Sunday Mass, there signs the Choir
 ("Next week again, it's coir and coir")
 ("their singing tells me, nought for thought")
 For years, Selina's way, she fought.
 Fib e! Fibre, burning bright,
 With you, hell-fire will flame alight,
 If wage meets not the voiceless plight
 If compensation O thought's so light.
 Line, lorries, line. Await your turn
 Deft drivers drain-strain, cig'rettes burn,
 Poor men who go without night-sleep
 While you, your day siesta (ceyesta) keep
 So these and more the thoughts they gave
 On Thursday night, my window brave
 Aft midnight trek from coastal plains,
 Awaiting Hay, lees, sun, or rains!!

HITCHCOCK

The film world has been left poorer by the demise of Sir Alfred Hitchcock, a meek looking and chubby personality who suddenly turned from making sober films to ones that chilled the marrows of many for the last few decades. He picked meticulously on stories that steered between extreme violence and horror, but weaved a web of slow escalating tension that took the audience unawares to leave them limp and cold with shock as the sequence reeled by. Yet people yearned for film fare with the Hitchcock "stamp" and in the fifties, his "Thirty Nine Steps", "North by Northwest", "Dial M for Murder", "Rear Window", "The Birds" and "Psycho" spiralled the mercury for a ride in the box office barometer.

One of the earlier shots that caught me in its grip was the sudden shock shower murder sequence in "Psycho" with Janet Leigh, which made me resolve to forget Hitchcock films for a while. However in later months, armed with a tranquiliser or two, I decided to sweat them out, always taking the precaution to become advised of the shock scenes in advance by someone, to prepare my nerves for the ordeal. Sir Alfred pulled his punches in exclusive style and signed all of his films by his presence in a brief innocuous role. The void created by his death would not be easy to fill.

ADARA RATNE (Sinhala): Directed by K. A. W. Perera, this film so swings to and fro, like an irregular pendulum, moving from the sublime to the ridiculous, that it did not show out this clever director's usual versatility. The story swings around the off duty hours of all those administering a rural school—a Principal (B. S. Perera) with a roving eye, pedagogues at cross "heart" purposes and the minor employees (Joe Abeywickrema and Freddie Silva) always at hand to "blackmail" out a quick penny from those involved in the goings on. The core of the story revolves around the Arts Master who has a penchant for churning out nude paintings with his purely artistic eye, with his love, the Music Teacher, not seeing eye to eye with the ways of his

curvaceous paint-brush! To complicate this alliance between the two lovers (Upali Attanayake and Sonia Disa), quite opportunely moves in another Teacher (Roy de Silva) who has a date to keep at the maintenance courts. So this is the hotch potch menu served, but I particularly liked the acting of Sonia Disa, who has come a long way from her earlier vampish roles to blossom into an actress of merit. You could see the film for her sake without expecting much from the rest of the cast, barring Upali Attanayake and Joe Abeywickrema.

LETS DO IT AGAIN (English): Its the Sidney Poitier fans who are seeing this film with expectations of his talents, which were brought out earlier in films like "To Sir with Love" and "Guess Who Came to Dinner" but he falls somewhat to live up to his reputation, although the film has been directed by him. Together with Bill Cosby who out-points him all the way, the pair are on a mildly crooked trail to replenish the funds of a religious brotherhood named "The Sons of Shaka," and in doing so gamble the available funds by successfully fixing a few boxing bouts by hypnotic means. Spreading out their new rich wits from New Orleans to Atlanta, they close in for better 'kills', leaving behind two shady gangs pauperised by their clever manoeuvres. It was a light and escapist ride all the way, leading to an amusing finale at curtains.

KONGA (English): A Doctor Dacker stumbles on a discovery in one of his excursions to the Dark Continent, that insectivorous plants could be muted into Carnivorous ones, but strays a little beyond by injecting the combined juices of his experiments into his pet chimpanzee. The result is the birth of a "Konga", a modern King Kong who towers over the Tower of London and goes on a rampage of destruction, to be destroyed by a task force with all the modern weaponry. If your kids will not flinch at the looks of Konga, then this is just the film for them. For you grown ups of course it would be a good escape, if the power cut does not catch you half way and leave you kicking your heels, as it did to me.

James N. Benedict

x x x

TRIBUNE, May 24, 1980

COOKED UP?

"...Do You Know That Sri Lanka Is The Cheapest Country To Live In..."

by R. Kahawita

RECENTLY THE PRESS including the *Tribune* carried comparative commodity prices in the South East Asian Countries to show that Sri Lanka is the cheapest country to live among 9 countries in the region. Commodities included in the Survey were Bread, Sugar, Flour, Milk powder, Kerosine oil, and Rice—These constitute the normal daily fare of a worker.

The manner in which the Survey figures were cooked up and brought to the common denominator of the Sri Lanka rupee to clinch the issue is questionable. Yes in that way Sri Lanka is the cheapest country to live in." But how far is this correct? Let us examine this.

The Primitive man expended his energy in hunting, fishing or foraging in the jungle for his food. He got it free except that he had to expend his energy.

THIS WAS SO In every country where man started life; other things being equal, he collected in the chase what energy or labour he put into it. Suppose he converted his energy—his labour to cash, how much of food can he buy with the cash he got for his labour? Not in his primitive way but in the market place where he can exchange his wage to fish meat, vegetables etc.? In this case there are other factors coming into operation, other than his effort.

Here we are relating labour out-put to wages and to price of commodities in the country. A wage—price relation. This is the real way of looking at the C.O.L. problem and not the way the United Nations Organisation has presented. It is just a comparison of commodity prices in the nine S.A. countries. It is just like comparing the price of a lb. potatoes with that of sweet Potatoes, to decide whether one should buy potatoes or sweet potatoes with the premises in hand.

But if we compare the prices of commodities with the wages of a worker in the country he lives and works, then we can find out what

It cost him to live in his country, Just to say that bread is cheaper in Sri Lanka than in America in just begging the issue. And it looks as if the U.N.O. is feeding us with this kind of absurdities to tell us that we are having a grand time. We are not running this country for the benefit of the world community. We are running the country for our people; our concern should be our people and not that of the hippies or their like.

ON THE BASIC OF A WAGE STRUCTURE. For example An American worker, who is paid upto 12 \$ an hour, if he comes to Sri Lanka with that 12 \$, he can convert his 12 \$, wage for an hour, to Rs. 180/- with that he can buy 87 lbs. of bread, 40 lbs. of sugar, 76 gls. of kerosene oil, or 51 measures of rice, or he can spend a whole day in one of our better class Hotels. For all this Bonanza he need work only for one hour. But in his own country it is a struggle for him to live on 12 \$ an hour.

Our worker earns about Rs. 1.87 per hour. What can he buy with this wage. Bread—0.91 lbs., Sugar 0.41 lbs., Flour 0.79 lbs., full cream milk 0.22 lbs., Kerosine oil 0.12 gls., Rice 0.53. Compare these figures with "the American in Sri Lanka" with his hourly wage, then one would realize how absurd this boast "Sri Lanka is the cheapest country to live". Yes for the foreigner, that is why there is a boon in Hippies and the like. If our worker goes to New York with his 1.87 and converts to dollars he will get 0.12 dollars, where the hell will it take him in New New York.

The American worker, working for an hour can eat—a "ponderosa beef steak" a very wholesome dish and as well save 8 dollars; our worker has to work two hours to buy a plate of inferior quality rice (Served to him on the pavement) and nothing left in hand after he has had his plate of rice. We cannot say this is cheap living or an adequate wage.

THIS IS HOW the economy of the Third World countries is interpreted by the U.N. experts and we poor gullibles swallow it bait, hook and line and get caught in a new variety of colonialism, Cheap labour and inexpensive consumer goods. The tragedy is our Politicians believe it and give lip to this kind of piffle may be to cover their own in-efficiencies and mismanagement, and tell the people

"You are having a dammed good time under our management compared to Burma, India, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, and Pakistan."

True if our worker is paid at the same rate of \$ 12 an hour and then freeze everything else at the current prices, it would be grand for the worker. But this is the problem we have without a solution at home, or elsewhere. Do not be taken in by the "Do you know"? Business like that of the confidence Trickster "Do you know that I can convert this waddle of paper to Ten Dollar bills", and disappears with your money.

O O O

LETTERS

A Milk Collecting Centres Struggle For Survival

Sir,

The Milk Collecting Centre at Nittambuwa in the Attanagalla Electorate is the only centre of this nature established by an Agricultural productivity Committee in Sri Lanka.

The dairy Farmers of the area at whose request this centre was established has since been able to get a guaranteed price for the milk they supply based on the quality of the milk. Although the centre was functioning since the latter part of the year 1976 the agreement pertaining to the rates of commissions payable to the centre was signed only in July, 1977, after repeated representations made by the Productivity Committee. The delay in signing this agreement was attributed to the Milk Board's not being able to take a decision in regard to the rates payable till they study the supply position for a considerable period of time.

I reliably understand that although the agreement was signed in the year 1977 no commission has been paid to the milk collection centre up to date. The payment of wages to the staff attached to this institution, electricity charges, chemicals for testing milk etc. involves a considerable amount and so far these expenses were met by the Productivity Committee and its successors from the taxes col-

lected by them. Now I understand that they are not in a position to continue to maintain this centre unless the Milk Board pays the commission which is in arrears since the establishment of this centre.

It is a shame that persons appointed to responsible positions have neglected their duties in this fashion at a time when talent, devotion towards duty and efficiency should be at the highest level for the upliftment of the economy of the country and the nation. Unless the government takes serious cognizance of matters of this nature, though simple, God alone will know how greater programmes launched by the Government with best of intentions would end up.

Dr. T. G. D. Chandra Perera, J.P.

The Dispensary & Surgery,
66, Attanagalla Road,
Veyangoda.
April 30, 1980

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Sir,

Street Name Boards In Colombo

Since of late I have noticed street Name boards in Colombo appearing in Sinhala and English only. In the space which was formerly allotted for Tamil language, an arrow is painted giving the direction of the street or road.

I feel that this change is not in the best interest of 25% Tamil speaking people of our country, and will definitely not work towards racial harmony that the Government and many right thinking citizens are working towards.

Gamini Edirisinghe

*B.O.A. (Disp), S.M.C. (Disp)
F.A.D.O. Dip. Opt. (Vidyodaya)*

292 R. A. De Mel Mawatha,
Colombo 7,
Sri Lanka.
16th April, 1980

O O O

Prospects for Nuclear Power

—Re-evaluating The Risks—

by Charles K. Ebinger and
William G. Young

(Dr. Ebinger is Director of the project on energy and national security at the Georgetown University Center for Strategic and International Studies. He has served as a private International Consultant on Energy and Economic development planning. Mr. Young is a Research Associate on nuclear energy issues at the Georgetown Centre).

IN THE WAKE of the Arab oil embargo of 1973-74, concern over rising dependence on imported oil spurred enthusiasm for nuclear power in the United States as an alternative energy source. Initial optimism faded, however, once projections for nuclear growth were revised downward to reflect the REW 8583 of accelerating costs and political uncertainty. By 1980, licensing delays, power plant construction costs, unexpectedly slow growth in the demand for electricity, concern over proliferation risks and public awareness of what a "worst-Case" nuclear accident might entail had dashed hopes for substantially increasing the use of nuclear power over the next 20 years.

The upper bound of nuclear generating capacity for the United States in the year 2000 will be about 300 Gigawatts (GW) of electricity, according to the Department of Energy's projections in the December 1979 report of the Non-proliferation Alternative Systems Assessment Program. (A gigawatt is 1,000 million watts). This projection is moderately low in comparison to previous forecasts that claimed nuclear power would reach 1,000GW and provide more than half of the nation's electricity at the turn of the century. Nevertheless, 300 GW may still be too high an estimate. Even if construction of the approximately 130 plants already ordered or under construction is completed sometime in the 1990s, the United States will

still have only 195 GW at its disposal in the year 2000. Given the myriad of problems now confronting the nuclear industry, it is unrealistic to assume that nuclear power can satisfy even moderate hopes for more rapid growth. Hence a reasonable, albeit broad, range for projections of nuclear generating capacity in the year 2000 is 165 to 250GW.

What emerges from an analysis of nuclear energy prospects is that definitive predictions are doubtful validity, because they fail to come to terms with a number of uncertainties—including licensing delays and other political and economic obstacles arising from public concern over safety.

Single demand for nuclear energy has decreased, Uranium availability has become a non-issue. Unless demand increases substantially over the next 30 years, uranium supply will not be a constraint on nuclear power expansion. On the other hand, a substantial drop in uranium demand could cause some utilities to abandon exploration and development programs. This might produce a supply shortage in the late 1980s or early 1990s.

THE UNITED STATES had as many as 72 reactors operating before the accident at Three Mile Island in March 1979, counting two non-commercial facilities owned by the Department of Energy. The United States still has 70 reactors licensed for commercial operation representing 51 GW or 12.9 percent of the nation's total electricity. For all practical purposes, however, only 67 reactors representing 49 GW or 10.6 percent of the nation's total electricity, are in operation. This number does not include licensed but inoperative reactors at three mile island, Humboldt Bay and Indian Point.

No new orders for reactors have been placed since the accident at Three Mile Island. Fewer than six reactors have been purchased since 1975 and about 20 orders have been cancelled. In 1979 alone eleven orders for reactors were cancelled and the moratorium on further construction and licensing became effective. Thus far in 1980, eight licenses have been denied by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), eight orders for nuclear power units have been withdrawn for financial

reasons and the commercial operation dates of several plants have been postponed.

Wisconsin and Michigan utilities are the most recent casualties to cite costs and regulatory uncertainties as the reasons for cancelling construction plans after having invested a combined total of 120 million dollars. Though the recent licensing of the Tennessee Valley Authority's Sequoyah Two power plant and the licensing for limited test operations at the North Anna Plant in Virginia are good indications that the NRC is sensitive to the problems of the industry and willing to raise the ban on licensing, the outlook for nuclear power production is still unpromising for a variety of reasons.

THE MALFUNCTION at Three Mile Island, its repercussions and the NRC's stricter regulatory posture are not to blame for the slowdown in nuclear power development in the United States; however, they are certainly responsible for exacerbating the situation. As a result of the accident, the costs of nuclear power threatens to become unmanageable. The General Public Utilities Corporation (GPU), owner of the Three Mile Island plant, has already paid over one million dollars in evacuation and wage loss costs to residents of the area and has 20 law suits pending adjudication; in addition, the utility has restoration costs of 300 million dollars over three years and power replacement costs averaging between 27 and 32 million dollars a month.

Moreover, general insurance rates for reactor accidents have risen 63 percent. As a result of financial losses arising from the accident, GPU is suing the reactor manufacturer (Babcock A.D. Wilcox) for 510 million dollars in damages. The utility is charging the manufacturer with "Gross negligence, strict liability for equipment failure, intentional breach of contract and breach of express and implied warranties." For many of the same reasons, the NRC is proposing a 100,000 million dollar fine against Babcock and Wilcox. Any reasonable interpretation of these figures shows that the potential financial damage to the industry is massively disproportionate to the actual harm done to the environment and the public, the potential hazards of a serious accident are, of course, indisputable.

IT IS ALSO INDISPUTABLE that the accident and the conclusions of recent reports by President Carter's Kemeny Commission and the NRC's Rogovin Commission have gravely impaired public confidence in the industry and its regulatory mechanism, the NRC. According to both commissioned studies, control room design and operator training and management inadequacies caused and perpetuated the problems at Three Mile Island over the three-week period of the emergency—thereby giving the public a valid cause for remaining non-complacent about the safety of nuclear power. Consequently, the recommendations of the studies emphasize the need for human as well as mechanical modifications.

The NRC has resumed licensing on a cautionary basis and is considering new emergency criteria calling for evacuation within a ten-mile radius of each reactor. In addition, it is investigating the dangers of present power plant siting near population centers, while evaluating the practicability of more acceptable siting in remote areas. The Commission is still drafting proposals for over 100 reactor safety improvement—for example, design changes for better radiation containment.

In conjunction with these ideas, and in response to the recommendations of the Kemeny and Rogovin commissions, the Carter administration in March proposed creation of a five-member Presidential Advisory Panel to monitor the NRC's efforts to upgrade reactor safety. In an effort to centralize managerial authority, the administration plans to consolidate NRC offices and give the Chairman of the Commission executive powers in an emergency.

Meanwhile, the nuclear industry—electric utilities, reactor manufacturers and plant construction firms—has also begun to take action. In light of the Kemeny and Rogovin findings, increased insurance and capital costs and public clamour, the industry has established the nuclear safety analysis center and the Institute for Nuclear Power Operations. At a cost of 22 million dollars a year, these organisations will study methods for managing financial risk and improving design and reactor performance..

—USICA

(To Be Concluded)

x x x

Carter, Castro And Solid Shield 80

WHILE THE ATTENTION of this part of the world was concentrated on the happenings in Afghanistan and Iran, the Cubans passed through a much more dangerous month in their brief revolutionary history. The planned exodus of Cubans into the Peruvian embassy compound and the so called *Solid Shield 80* manoeuvres were aimed at disturbing the peace and tranquility of Cuba, caused certain amount of panic in the Caribbean.

To start with, the sudden rush of Cubans into the peruvian Embassy compound in Havana in early April, started with a sprinkling of six or seven Cubans gate crashing into the embassy (while killing a Cuban police guard in the melee) has now reached many thousands. It is reported that nearly 14,000 have sought asylum in US alone, while Spain, Venezuela and Peru have offered to permit a small number. The reasons for the sudden influx appears to be a mystery to many. US publicists have argued that this is a "starck evidence of the oppressive conditions under which the Cubans live" and therefore they have decided to take in those refugees seeking family reunification and former political prisoners and their families. It gives one the impression that Cuba is making it intolerable for those dissident groups to live in Cuba.

BUT THE EVIDENCE culled from other sources points to an entirely different conclusion. There are in Cuba today lumpen elements, declassed and anti-social individuals and even opponents of the revolution. The Cuban government was aware of this. But they were not considered to be traitors who should be expelled from Cuba. Actually all those who wanted to leave Cuba were those attracted by the lustre and charm offered by the capitalist world. This is not the first time that Cubans decided to leave their country. For the last 21 years, i.e., since the Revolution several opponents of the Revolution were given permission to leave the country. Landlords, bourgeois and petit bourgeois were allowed to leave the country. More recently, nearly 3,000 counter-revolutionaries were

allowed to migrate and naturally as patron-saint of the counter revolutionaries, the US offered sanctuary for all of them as it was her moral responsibility to support them. It is also interesting that Cubans mostly seek asylum in Peruvian and Venezuelan embassies and not in the embassies of other Latin American or Caribbean countries, simply because they were not in anyway interested in interfering with the territorial sovereignty and dignity of the Cuban people.

IN SPITE OF THE PROPAGANDA BARRAGE of US and Western media which tried to paint a picture of confusion, Cuba does not seem perturbed over the emigration of those lumpen elements. They were not political prisoners nor were they wanted for any political crimes. Nor does Cuba label all those who were opposed to the revolution as enemies. Cuba from all accounts certainly appears to be happy that these elements are leaving the country voluntarily enabling Fidel Castro to consolidate the revolution. It was not a "purge" but a voluntary purification of the revolutionary society.

But what disturbed Cuba was the course she should adopt (or for that matter any other country) to contain the sort of diplomatic behaviour of the Peruvian and Venezuelan embassies. There is always the possibility of criminals attacking embassies or entering them by force, and it was the responsibility of the accredited country to provide guards?

While encouraging the Cubans to leave the country US also planned the *Solid Shield 80* an operation threatening military manoeuvres against Cuba, the landing of marines and soldiers at Guantanamo Naval base, mining the seas from air etc. The timing of this was pre-meditated—just as the epidemics and blights which affected Cuban pigs, tobacco and sugarcane were planned ones. If the planned rescue operation of the American hostages in Iran had succeeded, US may have gone ahead with the occupation of Cuba, in order to have a bargaining stick with Soviet Union over Afghanistan issue. The Iranian fiasco appears to have militated against any such action. Furthermore, the Cuban "refugees" problem did not meet the kind of crises the US may have wanted because Castro permitted all who wanted to leave the island to leave.

One cannot also rule out the possibility that Cyrus Vance may have resigned over the Solid Shield 80 issue rather than on the Iranian rescue operation.

—Tribune Correspondent

VOA COMMENTARY

Cuban Refugees

IN ONE OF THE MOST extraordinary episodes in recent history, more than 20,000 refugees fleeing Fidel Castro's Cuba have poured into Florida—the nearest United States landfall—in recent days. They come by boat across Hazardous waters, their voyage is the result of two realities which have converged. First, the fact that Fidel Castro has decided, for his own internal political reasons, to get rid of as many Cubans who oppose his regime as possible. And, second, because large numbers of Cubans are determined to attain the freedom to share their own lives in ways unavailable to them in their homeland.

Against this background, more Cuban refugees arrive in Florida every day, and no one quite knows how many will have arrived when this latest exodus ends. In the meantime, the U.S. government, working with Florida State and local authorities is doing what it can to feed, house, and facilitate the resettlement of these thousands of men, women, and children. But serious questions of responsibility persist, questions the United States is trying to pursue with Castro's government. While Cuba's apparent wish to relieve itself of what it considers an internal social and political problem may be understandable in Castro's frame of reference, it is harder to understand why Havana continues to resist arrangements that would assure an orderly exodus. Indeed, after the horrors that occurred at the Peruvian Embassy when more than 10,000 Cubans wanting to leave suffered for days from overcrowding, and lack of food and sanitation, to the certain embarrassment of President Castro. One would have thought orderly arrangements and decent treatment of emigrants would have become, at the very least, an international

public relations necessity for Havana. Yet one aspect of the current drama is the Cuban Government's insistence that all the men in a group of some 400 Cubans now sheltered in the U.S. Mission in Havana—people previously assured they could leave—be turned over to Cuban authorities. The United States cannot meet that demand. And another aspect of the Drama is Havana's pattern of pushing on to refugees' boats an unknown number of common criminals. Cuba seems determined to export to the United States, as part of its price of letting political refugees leave.

Are there solutions to the human and political dilemmas occasioned by the current flight from Cuba? Certainly, no perfect solutions. But, at minimum, there are two necessities. First, that Castro in a humanitarian context, permit orderly procedures and methods of departure for those of his fellow Cubans he is allowing to leave, and second, and equally important, that the Cuban refugees problem be accepted as an international responsibility. In that connection, the United States fully supports and will take an active part in the conference on that very question that opens May 8 in San José, Costa Rica. The United States hopes that, at the very least, a start can be made at that meeting in the direction of sharing, by many countries of the Cuban refugee problem.

—USICA

HAVANA

Fidel Castro

Havana, May 2,

Cuban President, Fidel Castro declared today that the suspension of the United States military manoeuvres at the Guantanamo navy base represents a success in the struggle of the people and for international solidarity. The Cuban leader spoke at a huge May Day rally of more than a million people in Havana's Revolution Square. Fidel Castro announced that the Cuban government for its part decided to call off army manoeuvres in the eastern part of the country that had been announced in response to the rehearsal of an invasion of Cuba scheduled to begin inside of a week under the name *Solid Shield 80*.

Everything indicates, said Castro, that they will shift their manoeuvres to US territory. He said that the popular mobilisation will take place nonetheless, and that on 17 May, a huge march of five million people will be held all over the country to demand the end of the US blockade, the return of the Guantánamo base and the suspension of the SR 71 spy flights over Cuba.

But we must not brag about this success, added Fidel. Our enemies harass and threaten us and we can't lower our guard. We need to remain alert and much more, because we find ourselves on the threshold of the cold war and the arms race. He announced that instructions have been given for the creation of a "Territorial Militia" of men and women who do not belong to the regular armed forces reserve units. If the imperialists dare invade us, he warned, they should know that not only will they have to wage regular warfare, but also stand up to a people's war, and that we will know now to defend every bit of our territory.

The Cuban President also announced the preparation of plans for resistance and survival in case of total blockade, pointing out that the "Solid Shield 80" manoeuvres included the study of ways to mine the Cuban ports. He charged that Republican Presidential hopeful Ronald Reagan had declared he favoured a naval blockade of Cuba. Castro added that a response is needed for each of these problems.

The Cuban leader stated that the international situation tends to grow more complicated. He stressed that the US imperialists are trying to drag the countries of Western Europe and Japan into a total economic blockade against the Iranian people, who they are attempting to starve into submission. In Iran, he added, a genuine revolution has taken place and our duty is to support it and stand alongside it in solidarity.

Fidel Castro called on the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to support Iran and warn the western countries that if they attempt to starve the people of Iran, they would not receive shipments of oil "so they can ride around in their cars". This is a time of trial for the Non-aligned countries and the peoples of the Third World, he stressed. Castro also referred to the con-

flict between Iraq and Iran and urged that it be solved through diplomatic means, since it "merely plays into the hand of imperialism."

In regard to the Peruvian embassy situation and the departure from Cuba of anti-social individuals, Fidel Castro declared that the whole thing is the logical upshot of the CIA-organized provocations against Cuba. The embassies of Venezuela and Peru refused to grant them visas through legal channels and received as heroes those individuals who forced their way in, he explained.

Our long years of patience came to nothing. They went ahead with their policy that came to a head on April first with the death of a Cuban guard at the Peruvian embassy. That marked the point at which we declared that the revolution was prepared to put an end to such incidents regardless of the price. That is why we withdraw the guards from the embassy. We were well aware that it would become filled with "Lumpen", said the Cuban leader. Then they unleashed a vast campaign of insults in the press media, but propaganda doesn't scare us, he added. In regard to the departure of those persons from the Port of Mariel, Castro said the initiative cropped up spontaneously in Florida. The Cuban government simply stated that those who arrived would not be greeted with cannon shots.

Other Latin American issues discussed by Fidel Castro in his May Day speech were: El Salvador, he denounced the genocide there and called for putting a stop to the imperialist manoeuvres. ANDEAN pact, he scored its passivity in the face of the El Salvador happenings and denounced its failure to issue any statement against the United States manoeuvres in the Caribbean. Venezuela: he scored Venezuelan government support to the genocide-committing junta in El Salvador and to reactionary forces against the Panaminian government. The Havana May Day Rally was also addressed by Grenada Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega of the Nicaraguan Reconstruction Movement.

Dominian former President Juan Bosch, World Peace Council President, Romesh Chandra and Enrique Pastorino, Secretary General of the World Federation of Trade

Unions, also spoke, while a message was read from Colombian writer Gabriel Garcia Marquez, who was present on the speakers' platform. The rally was one of the largest in Cuban history.....

—Prensa Latina

OO OO OO

IN HAITI

Foreign Domination

by Prometheus

NEWSWEEK (April 28th) had a characteristically distorted piece on the so-called refugee problem, with special reference to refugees from Haiti. It referred to, inter alia, the fact that 1000 Haitian "boat people". (The US govt estimates that there are over 100,000 Haitians who are refugees), who were fleeing "Haiti's poverty and political repression" and had been picked up off the Florida coast. To quote:

".....the Haitian boat people are given less than a wholehearted welcome—Many of them suffer from venereal disease, tuberculosis, and other ailments. And at the moment, the Haitians are entitled neither to food stamps nor other public assistance and may not even, hold jobs until a US District Court in Miami renders a judgement.....The issue there is whether the Haitians are fleeing their island for economic reasons, or whether they are political refugees and therefore entitled to asylum....."

What NEWSWEEK, has suppressed from its readers is the fact that the US has a bad record in Haiti, with its support of the Duvalier dictatorship and thereby subjecting the Haitian people to abject poverty.

In 1964, Papa Doc Duvalier, having proclaimed himself "President for Life", installed a quasi-monarchy, which was backed by the terrorist repression of his elite guard, the Ton Macoutes. Papa Doc Duvalier died in 1971, and his son, JEAN CLAUDE DUVALIER inherited the title—The new "President for Life", following his father's example, threw open wide the door for TNCs capital to enter Haiti and for the unemployed to leave the country by the thousands.

A report title "*Industrial Change in Haiti*" put out by the US Embassy in Haiti, reveals the total control over the island's economy held by the US. In the period 1970-1976, US joint ventures established 230 plants producing small manufactures, minor replacement parts, and textiles for the US market. Of them, 150 are fully US owned and 80 have local capital participation. (Haitians owning less than 20 per cent of the stock). Although such assembly plant production has created some 25,000 jobs, foreign penetration has been enormously enhanced by it. *Haitians are paid starvation wages, with skilled workers earning between 45 and 50 dollars a month and the minimum salary at 35 dollars for at least a 45-hour week. The population's average per capita income is 100 dollars per year.*

These assembly parts spring up like mushrooms, taking full advantage of the cheap labour. This local exploitation goes hand in hand with that of the Haitian workers in sugar cane plantations of the Dominican republic. Thousands of Haitians cross the border for that purpose annually under an intergovernmental agreement which tantamounts to a 20th century slave trade. In mid 1978, hundreds of Haitian workers paralysed the La Esperanza sugar refinery in Santo Domingo in protest against physical abuse, disregarding and violation of contracts, lack of transportation to work areas, deduction of 5 per cent of wages for the Haitian government, lack of drinking water and basic sanitary conditions in quarters, etc.

Hardly anything has changed since the death of Papa Doc Duvalier—The country continues to live under a reign of terror, with the instruments of repression being in the hands of the same mercenaries who served Papa Duvalier. The ruling clique carves up the national territory and sells it off in chunks. Tortuga Island in the Canal del Viento has been leased out for 99 years to the DUPONT CARRIBEAN COMPANY, as US transnational, and the country's beaches are being sold off to foreign investors.

With Doc duvalier's death in April 1971, the U.S. Government "officialised" and expanded its support of the dictatorship which they had been giving since 1957. From 1963-

1967, US support was in the form of discreet "donations", around 30-40 million dollars annually. As a reciprocal measure, Washington applied pressure for certain guarantees, politically. Papa Doc responded eagerly and went on to eliminate all his political opponents and violently repressed the country's organizations that were fighting for radical socio-economic transformations. Perhaps the most notorious example, in this regard, was the murder in 1969 of 300 members of the Unified Party of Haitian Communists, the country's leading militant organization at that time.

Under the mask of Human Rights, the US has sought to portray Haiti as a better place, since the death of Doc Duvalier. Washington script writers attempted to project a new image of Haiti. What really happened was that a corps of 1,200 rangers known as the "Leopards" was organised whose aim was to make the Haitian Government even more financially dependent. In April 1978, the new "President for Life" received a confidential memo from US Ambassador William B. Jones. This contained a US offer of 25 million dollars in "donations" over a 5 year period and a promise to intercede with AID and IMF for credits. In its turn, Haiti was to support Carter's "Human Rights" campaign and announce an industrial development programme which should provide additional funds to Ministries such as Health, Public Works and Education. The memo also urged Duvalier to use his "great personal prestige" to convince the people of the importance of family planning. With the announcement of US Aid, Canada announced an additional loan of 13.7 Million US dollars with a promise of another 15 million for developing electrical power. Of course, such financial assistance for the dictatorship was nothing new; in 1970, France, Canada and the World Bank pumped in aid, along with West Germany.

Gradually, the US "donations" that represented 90 per cent of foreign assistance were cut back to give way to loans which by 1976 constituted 49 per cent of total aid as against 51 per cent donations, mainly in the transportation, communications and energy sectors.

According to the Latin American Information Agency (LAI), illiteracy in Haiti stands

at 76 per cent. Educational facilities for the training of technicians in certain areas of industrial development is favoured over general education. The people must be prevented at all costs, from thinking generally about their economic plight: their thinking must be broad in narrow channels to suit the objectives of the international bankers and entrepreneurs who had invested in Haiti.

The election last year of Alexandre Lerou an independent candidate, to a seat in the congress by a 90 per cent majority, despite government fraud, is symptomatic of the widespread unrest and discontent that exists.

Both at home and in exile, opposition forces are rallying and demanding an end to dictatorship, the holding of general elections, and the restoration of individual freedom which has been cruelly suppressed for 22 years.

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LETTER FROM U.K.

● Islamic Conference

● Moscow Boycott

London, May 10.

The meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the World Islamic Conference, (WIC), now known as Islamic Conference Organisation (ICO), originally scheduled for last month will take place this week in Islamabad on May 17. On April 9, a brief message from Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia, announced that the long prepared Conference of Islamic Foreign Ministers, scheduled to commence in Islamabad on April 16, had been put off till May 14. (later it was put off till the 17th) The reason advanced for this postponement is that it was meant "to give some members a chance to attend the Zimbabwe Independence celebration on April 19 to be followed by a meeting of the Organisation of African Unity (CAU) from April 21 to 28." Were these the only reasons for the postponement?

It is known that many Muslim countries, after the lopsided resolutions adopted at the last sessions in January in Islamabad, were reluctant to attend the April sessions on the agenda that had been prepared. These coun-

tries felt that they had been stampeded into adopting unnecessarily aggressive resolutions against the USSR under cover of sustaining a simultaneous anti-US posture (on a much lower key though). Few Muslim countries want a simultaneous confrontation with both super-powers—the USA and the USSR. And they specially do not want a further aggravation of the relations between the Muslim world and the USSR at a time when there was a growing threat from the United States which had made it clear that it wanted to utilise its economic power and armed forces to inflict "exemplary punishment" on Iran, and to compel the Muslim world to accept the Camp David agreement.

THE HASTILY CONVENED emergency session of the ICO in January had very different objectives from those of the previous meetings of the ICO. Actually the sponsors of this Islamabad Conference were Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, although the formal proposal was made by Bangladesh. The January ICO meeting was specially convened to condemn the regime of Babrak Karmal in Kabul and the introduction of the Soviet troops into Afghanistan. Such a condemnation was intended to be the first step of collective action against Afghanistan to cover up the further efforts of Pakistan's military regime to oust the pro-socialist government set up in Kabul in April 1978.

But the January session brought out sharp differences among the participants which did not want the session to turn exclusively into an anti-Afghan anti-Soviet exercise. The sponsors were forced into discussions on the Palestinian question and problems of eliminating the consequences of the Israeli aggression, and appropriate resolutions were adopted. In actual fact the Islamabad session undermined the ICO from within. The ICO which was originally set up in 1969 to activate the struggle for the liberation of the occupied Arab lands, and above all Jerusalem, it was felt, was being subverted to get involved in sitting in judgement over the affairs of one Islamic country and refusing to recognize the Government in power there. Ironically, this concern for the Muslim brothers in Afghanistan and refusal to recognize the Karmal Government in Kabul were registered at a session hosted by Zia's military government which was itself the off-spring of a coup and had never dared

to seek legitimacy through the mandate of an election. Apart from Afghanistan, the countries that were absent in Lahore were Guinea Bissau, Syria, South Yemen, Upper Volta and Uganda.

The Pakistani military regime which received little support for its hectoring stand against Afghanistan from most of the Muslim States regarded the January session a "reconnaissance flights". It was Pakistan, using Bangladesh, that had wanted a fresh session of the ICO, again in Islamabad, in April (this was postponed to mid-May). The Saudis and Pakistanis, it is believed, intended to put up a major fight at the session to push the US-China line on Afghanistan. They have been at pains to impress upon other Muslim countries the need for unreserved condemnation of the Karmal regime as anti-Islamic, while plans for toppling that regime were constantly being worked out. According to the plan a more or less firm unification of all groups of Afghan rebels into one organisation had to be achieved. Leaders of such an organisation were to constitute an "Islamic Government of Afghanistan." It was also planned that in the area east of Jalalabad a so-called "free territory" would be established where this so-called Islamic Government could function.

BUT THE PAK - SAUDI AXIS is faced with the growing antagonism between Washington and the Islamic countries. The manner in which the Carter Administration has been backing Israel to the hilt—nullifying within 48 hours the US stand itself in the UN with regard to the Israeli-occupied territories on Palestinian soil—has further undermined the position of the most loyal camp-followers of Washington in the Arab world. The latest Carter gamble to blockade Iran, the commando raid to rescue the hostages and the threats of further armed action against Teheran, have made a total mockery of the role earlier assumed by Carter and Brzezinski as the defenders of Islam. The Islamic fundamentalists, like those in Iran and Libya, do not at all share the pro-US stance of Presidents Zia of Pakistan and Ziaur Rahman of Bangladesh or the Royal family of Saudi Arabia now in a state of shock after the realisation of the dimension of the revolt in Mecca.

In the meantime, reports reaching London from neutral unbiased sources, show that the situation in Afghanistan has changed for better

The Barbrak Karmal government has adopted a number of laws and measures that are slowly but surely winning over the masses of Afghan people. The repressive measures Hafizullah Amin had enforced have been repealed. Life is coming back to normal in Afghanistan in spite of all the provocations, sabotage and conspiracies engineered by the Carter regime with the help of Zia. This has driven the US-PAK organised saboteurs to more and more desperate acts. There is also no doubt that the western press continues to carry a mighty propaganda barrage against the Babarak Karmal regime in a bid to divert world attention from Washington's aggressive intentions against Iran and the Muslim countries opposed to Camp David and Imperialism.

The extraordinary session of the ICO held last January had sharply condemned Moscow whilst indulging in mild criticism of American actions against Islamic states. This was intended to create the illusion among the European allies of the US that the majority of the Muslim world were not strongly against "Imperialism"—even if the US escalated hostile actions against Iran. It is believed that Carter was emboldened to take military action to release the hostages because of the ICO resolutions in January and also the agenda prepared for the April meeting. It is admitted that Sadat's Egypt has been most vociferous in demanding that the ICO should devote sole attention to the Afghan problem—no doubt to divert the attention of the Muslim world from the Camp David deal. But it could not prevent the January session from condemning US policies and actions in the Middle East.

Will this week's session of the ICO be a repeat of the January meeting?

The Co-ordinating Bureau of the Non-aligned Movement meeting in New York on May 7 decided that its Chairman, Cuba, should not accept the invitation extended by Pakistan to attend the ICO meeting at Islamabad. Though Pakistan and a few other countries wanted the Chairman to attend the ICO meeting as an Observer, the overwhelming majority felt otherwise—and in the end the consensus was that Cuba should not accept the invitation. There is a strong under-current of opinion that the reactionary regimes in some Muslim countries want to use the ICO to split the Non-aligned Movement, to wreck

its initiatives idrected towards the normalisation of the situation in South Asia and the Indian Ocean region.

IN THE MEANTIME London is still laughing at the fiasco that Carter's men made of the military adventure to rescue the hostages. There is another matter which has caused even greater amusement.

It is well known that ever since Thatcher became the Prime Minister last year, the Palace and No. 10 Downing Street, were not always on the same wavelengths. There have been many instances where these differences have surfaced. And the latest is the most amusing. It is no secret that the British Prime Minister wanted to prevent British sportsmen going to Moscow for the Olympic games. Crude pressure, threats, moral exhortations and much more, have been used to persuade the sportsmen to pull out even after the British Olympic Committee by an overwhelming majority had voted in favour of participation, though three sports groups have opted out of the Moscow Olympics—among them the British equestrian team. However, Prince Phillip, who is president of the International Equestrian Federation, attended the Lausanne meeting of the international sports federation on May 6. The meeting had passed an unanimous resolution criticising boycott of the Olympic Games. It was reported that Prince Phillip, who announced at Lausanne that though he would not be going to Moscow, he was not in favour of the boycott and indeed, according to Thomas Keller, the Swiss president of the general assembly of the federation, added "the finishing touches" to the unanimous statment.

This appears to have incensed Margaret Thatcher and there were sharp telephone calls from No. 10 to Buckingham Palace to get "clarification" from the Duke of Edinburgh as to what exactly he had been up to. Eventually a clarifying statement depreciating boycott of the Moscow games was issued from the Palace denying that he had been the mover behind the statement depreciating boycott of the Moscow Olympics. The Palace statement said that "the Duke of Edinburgh used his best effort to modify the statement (criticising the boycott) on which there was no vote and no signature for that matter. The Duke has never personally criticised the position taken by Her Majesty's Government." All this is in-

incontrovertible. However, what also remains true is that of Prince Phillip has never actually criticised the Thatcher administration's frantic efforts to declare Moscow Olympics out of bounds to British athletes, he has never shown any enthusiasm for the Olympics boycott movement.

The statement of The International Sports Federation in Lausanne at which 26 national federations were represented, in its final phrasing is categorical enough and declared: "A boycott of a sporting event is an improper method to use in trying to obtain a political end." It protested "energetically" at the pressure being put on national Olympic Committees to boycott the games, and said such measures "could have disastrous consequences for the future of world sport." If that is what the toned down statement says, one wonders what the original draft must have said. Meanwhile, it is being pointed out by the Prime Minister's office that "the Government can only advise the monarch, not the consort; and however delicate it is to have a member of the Royal Family contradicting government policy, especially abroad, there is little the Government can do except mutter."

And there are many matters on which the Thatcher Government cannot do anything but mutter—on the recent American fiasco in Iran for instance.

Tribune Correspondent

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BOOK REVIEWS

• Czechoslovakia • Bangladesh

On the occasion of the publication of the Czech translation of the French book **IN THE HEART OF EUROPE**, its author, Robert-Jean LONGUET, outstanding French publicist and great grandson of Karl Marx explained to the press in Prague his aim in writing the book as finding the truth and tell it to readers in France and other countries.

Mr. Longuet has fought against social injustice and fascist regimes and for democracy, peace and socialism throughout his life. In 1930 he represented Moroccan patriots.

In 1936 he defended Ethiopia against Mussolini's onslaught, later he stood at the side of Republicans in the Spanish civil war and took a firm stand in support of fighting Vietnam against French as well as American aggressions. Mr. Longuet has gained first hand knowledge about the situation in the socialist countries where he had the opportunity to see the practical implementation of the ideas of Karl Marx.

In his book he describes, from Marxist positions, the events in Czechoslovakia in 1966 and 1969, their causes and consequences. An intensive study of materials and several stays in Czechoslovakia during which he talked to workers, farmers and officials preceded the writing of the book. After the 1968 events, bourgeois propaganda focussed its attention on Czechoslovakia, but western readers were presented nothing but attacks on the Czechoslovak people, and not a single line about those who wanted to continue steering the socialist course. Mr. Longuet observed, "I experienced very intensively the Munich Dictate period in 1938. At that time the French and foreign press proclaimed: "We are not going to war (against Hitler) on behalf of some tribe on the Vitava river in Bohemia. Yet in 1968 the same press all of a sudden discovered that Czechoslovakia was a remarkable country with a high cultural standard. This simple truth indicated to me on whose side the truth is, on whose side the truth must be."

Longuet's book presented a realistic view and was therefore boycotted, just as other truthful information. *In the Heart of Europe* was published four years after the author had finished it; moreover, it did not appear in France, where the big publishing firms had no interest in the book, but in Luxembourg, by the small working-class publishing house, COPA. "I believe that the lesson from the 1968 events in Czechoslovakia is relevant even today. I tried to generalize the experiences from those developments, and to point out the methods by means of which capitalism attempts to penetrate the socialist countries, methods whose substance remains unchanged," Longuet said.

The relevance of Czechoslovak experience has gained importance because in certain circles, even in Marxist circles, an elitist theory is being propounded which becomes a breeding ground for

counter-revolutionary forces. Mr. Longuet recalled the situation in France in this connection, he said, "quite recently we found evidence in France of the pitfalls of elitist theory. For the past three or four months an elitist theory is being pushed in France about people who are superior to the masses. In contrast to the Prague elitists the French are more sincere or cynical in calling themselves the New Right. And so, with a few friends in France we are drawing attention to the experience with this elitist theory gained in Czechoslovakia. We are calling for vigilance."

Because there can be no doubt that for years before 1968 the first intellectuals who wanted to advocate this idea used to meet with indifference. That was perhaps due to a certain defensive, not altogether wrong attitude of the people towards intelligentsia, or rather towards the fantasies of intellectuals. "I am therefore saying together with my friends in France: look out because these theories tempt certain young members of the bourgeoisie to imitate such attitudes. University students who are being trained for top positions in the state administration in France usually come from families of grand bourgeoisie and have a natural inclination to regard the people as inferior. That was in fact, what the Prague revisionists used to say."

He noted that enemy propaganda gives publicity to certain dissatisfied people in the socialist countries, particularly intellectuals and artists, wishing to form in this way a "fifth column" in these countries. Information that the publication of the book, *In the Heart of Europe* was delayed in the West not through the fault of the author, was suppressed by the Western press. "Attacks against your country are a favourite subject in the Western media", he said. The "free" bourgeois press suppresses all that is positive about it. After all, this could be seen in connection with the recent demonstrations in support of socialist Czechoslovakia, held in London, and in France, he remarked. The prestige of the socialist countries in the West is growing, especially since the Helsinki conference, and the public in the West could at last read and hear the truth that the socialist countries are really for peace, detente, peaceful co-existence and co-operation, he said.

Joseph Dvorak

MEET BANGLADESH: Published by Department of Films and Publications, Government of Bangladesh.

"The price was heavy but the prize was priceless. A new independent state was born". The Peoples Republic of Bangladesh which formed the eastern wing of Pakistan became independent on 16 December, 1971, Bangladesh is a deltaic region of 55,598 square miles with a population of 84 million and an annual growth of 2.80%.

Bengal's supreme gift to the world was Rabindranath Tagore whose song to Bengal is the country's national anthem. This is printed at the third page of this book in a most appropriate setting—a village. It was Tagore who wrote that in the keeping of the village is the cradle of the race. I would have liked to see a picture of Dr. Tagore included in this publication.

There is a brief reference to the government of the country pointing out that the President is the Chief Executive of the Republic who appoints the Vice President, Prime Minister and the other Ministers. There is provision "for one fifth of the Cabinet members may not be members of parliament", the article states. Local government is "being strengthened as a means to decentralising administration and preparing the local authorities to shoulder greater responsibilities in respect of rural development". There is a separate section on rural development. An overwhelming share of the country's GDP grows out of its rural sector. Thus rural development occupies a key position in the country's planning strategy.

The section on Economy sets out achievements in the exploitation of the natural resources of Bangladesh, on flood control and irrigation (Bangladesh receives every year about 5.25 million cusecs of water and two billion tons of sediment during the rainy season while it faces acute shortage of water during the dry months) transportation and agriculture. Let's take agriculture for instance. Bangladesh has 68,000 villages in a predominantly agricultural country. Agriculture alone is stated to provide 5 per cent of the national income and sustenance to about 85 percent of the population. "Real development of the country therefore presupposes development of its agricul-

ture" the report adds. The government of Bangladesh is giving the highest priority to this sector as a national development strategy.

What is stated about the Railways will be of interest to us in Sri Lanka. The railway in Bangladesh is the country's single largest transport agency having 60,000 employees and a network of 1,786 miles of track. It operates 335 passenger trains and 54 goods trains per day with an annual turnover of about 100 million passengers and 3.6 million tons of freight. "Attention is given to providing more amenities to passengers in the shape of clean well-lighted coaches, pure drinking water, punctuality of running schedules, more waiting rooms and platform sheds and security of life and property. . . . Despite high rise in operation costs, the railway has kept its fare reasonably low" the report points out.

I am not commenting on the other sections in this publication but they provide much useful information that will be of interest to tourists intending to visit Bangladesh, on the work of the Family Planning agencies and about the work in respect of Education, Labour and Social Welfare. I must not fail to mention that the book contains a fine picture of a formidable Royal Bengal Tiger. It is stated that an estimated 400 of them live in that country at present, and are fully protected by government's strict wild life regulations.

Devaratnam Danforth

APRIL SHOWERS

When Will The Drought End?

by V. Buvasundaram

ON NEW YEAR'S DAY, April 15, the sun moved into exaltation in Aries. The lotus and the jasmine greeted that splendour with abundant buds. Morning showers of April returned from the sea into south-western coasts. Seeds sprouted, weeds grew and rains increased, yet the drought of previous months remained unquenched. Daffodils had bloomed, but "The darling buds of May" waited. The tourists were still coming in and filling our hotels. The rose-buds will bloom when they return home.

Workers' Day was fast approaching. Katunayake airport is the only place, where workers ate by the wayside, while smugglers and swindlers ate in air-conditioned splendour, with three martinis to soothe their ulcers. For many years, I have stood in the rain, eating out of "Vatti Ammahs" in the company of brain brawn and drain workers. The administrators, not all but some, had their free meals in their rooms—free because they could put the caterer out of business by refusing permission for planes to land or delaying the beef permit till the beef got rotten. No one ever told the caterer that a meteorologist too can crack up his business using the wind and the weather to overfly a plane. There never did exist such difference between Master and Man and Brain and Cunning as at Katunayake airport.

It is this Airport, which some Neros of the past had fashioned into punishment transfer reserve of workers, that recorded the highest rainfall so far in this period of drought that began in mid-December 1979—14.89cm on the 26th April beating the previous best of 14.04 cm at Kanakarayan Kulam. Colombo Observatory received half of it 7.09cm, Colombo Fort half of that 3.55cm and still less 2.79cm at Ratmalana, the land of factories.

On the 25th and 26th, an upper cyclonic circulation passed over Sri Lanka from east to west. On the 25th, Trincomalee recorded its highest fall for this drought of 6.50cm and when the cyclonic circulation reached Katunayake Airport, the westerly winds associated with this circulation kept the condensation nuclei thrown out by the planes over land and gave those fantastic falls. Mr. L. B. de Silva, a very senior observer reports that it rained heavier at Ragama than at the airport. Possible, the strong upper winds of this circulation would have carried these nuclei further inland.

Revised W.M.O. statement on weather modifications—8th July 1974: "In view of the high correlation between the size of convective clouds and the rainfall from them, the seeded clouds presumably give more rain than if they have not been seeded." This is why it rained so heavy in and around Katunayake Airport and in its neighbourhood, where the condensation nuclei were blown away by the winds.

WESTERN AUTHORS OF METEOROLOGICAL TEXT BOOKS call this upper cyclonic circula.

tion "Waves in the Easterlies" for they more often come from the coast. When they come from the west, they have been traditionally referred to as "Monsoon disturbance" or if it happens in May as the "burst" of the monsoon. It happened that way at Rasagala Estate, Balangoda, when it recorded 29.76" on 17.5.1940, when there were floods up-country and even in Colombo. The older people will remember it, just like the Octogenarians still talk of the January floods of 1913, when the waters came up to roof level in Thimbirigasyaya, (our Director's father says that). These floods were due to a series of cyclonic circulations that came in from the east. The rains were heavier in the east than elsewhere.

The ultimate cause of these upper circulations and waves should be the pull of planets. Sri Lanka is directly under the zodiac, which extends to about 8 to 9 degrees on either side of the equator. The planets (in Greek meaning wanderers), all wander within this zodiac. When Sun moved into exaltation on New Year's day, it got into trine position with the major planets, Saturn, Jupiter and Mars. A trine aspect, according to western astrologers, is the best in planetary conflagration. If they pulled out the rains, will they not pull out something for the worker too?

Sun stands for the Government and Saturn its child, for the worker. The puranic story goes that when Sun found his child ugly and lame, it flung him far out into the cold. Saturn is twice as far away as Jupiter, 1,427.7 million Km away from the Sun and its temperature is minus 179c. The puranic story of the creation of Saturn only agrees with the old theory of the creation of the Solar System, where pieces flew out of the Sun and condensed to form the planets.

WHATEVER IT BE, on May Day this year, there was a hopeful echo of the prophetic song of Subramaniya Bharathi, the Burns of Tamil poets in whose honour Russia issued a stamp.

*"No longer shall we worship anyone but God
No longer shall we pay obeisance to anyone
but the worker and the farmer....."*

We shall spurn the idler, who feeds on the

f act of the land and the plunderer of the poor".

Leaving the worker with his stars and planets, let's return to April showers. On Fool's Day, every place was in drought except Kanakarayan Kulam, which had a heavy fall even in March. The heavy falls in February in Kekanadura, Tangalle areas had been evaporated away by the overhead Sun of March. Vavuniya was the worst in drought, not recording even a millimetre for the entire three months preceding. Puttalam recorded a millimetre, Mullaitivu, 2 1/2, Trincomalee 4.4 and KKS 5.6. In January, it rains best at Batticaloa and Hambantota but this year for the first three months, an inch each was all they could do. Though well below drought level, Anuradhapura 11.85cm, Mannar 7.30cm and Jaffna town 4.67cm fared the best in the dry zone, beating even Colombo Observatory 3.92cm and Fort 2.56cm. Among the main stations, Ratnapura as usual recorded the highest total 28.55cm for the three months. This is only 50% of its average for the three months. Galle followed with 19.49cm and Badulla 16.08cm...

FROM THE START, in April, Puttalam was reviving rapidly from the drought. It rained there almost everyday and by the end of the first week it had recorded 12.48cm, even more than Colombo 6.69cm, where too it rained everyday. Maha Illupalama got into this race to end the drought on the 9th, with a heavy fall of 6.11cm on the 9th. Kanakarayan Kulam's fall of 14.04cm was on the 6th, when it rained everywhere except in the extreme north. The highest among the main stations on that day was at Puttalam, 3.40cm. That day too, an upper cyclonic circulation passed Trincomalee giving 2.34cm, through Vavunia (2.98cm) and Anuradhapura (2.68cm). A similar circulation passed through on the 17th, when it rained everywhere except in the extreme south. The highest on that day was 2.80cm at Colombo, followed by Puttalam 2.44cm. The way it rained appears more in keeping with a wave in the easterlies than an upper cyclonic circulation. It began on the 16th with heavy falls at Badulla 6.47cm and Hambantota 6.11cm. On the 17th, it rained everywhere except at Galle and then again on the 18th, Hambantota had a fall of 7.93cm.

April rains against average and drought % up to 1st May.

	Rains	Average	%
Anuradhapura	30.20cm	18.69cm	64
Badulla	49.01cm	19.66cm	72
Batticaloa	6.13	7.24	10
Colombo	26.79	25.48	48
Diyatalawa	30.59	21.01	53
Galle	16.24	25.25	60
Hambantota	29.19	10.90	92
Jaffna	4.51	7.01	37
Kandy	18.20	18.06	34
K.K.S.	5.51	5.11	32
Katunayake	26.63	28.35	66
Kurunegala	13.49	29.44	31
Mannar	7.30	8.84	65
Mullaitivu	9.84	7.06	36
Nuwara Eliya	17.19	15.37	57
Ratmalana	18.05	28.10	41
Ratnapura	39.32	34.06	68
Trincomalee	12.75	7.67	30
Vavuniya	13.54	14.33	34

A THIRD OF THE YEAR is gone and Batticaloa is hopelessly in drought. The southwest monsoon to come, may wipe away the drought in the south-west and the hill country but holds no hope for the north and the east. Kachchan in the east and the cholam in the north are dry winds. The only hope for Batticaloa now is a cyclonic circulation before the monsoon sets in. Though it happened in 1907 it is highly unlikely this year. The average, for May at Batticaloa is only 3.12cm. In 1930, a maximum of 22.40 was recorded for May. Even this record fall cannot pull Batticaloa out of this drought. Its total average up to the end of April is 61.46cm, while it has received so far only 6.13cm. This deficit of 56cm cannot be made up in May, June, July or even August. It appears that besides Batticaloa, all other places will get rid of their drought before September, but these are the ones that have clustered our drought tables, year after year, month after month with all rainfall.

Kanakarayan Kulam in the dry zone has got out of drought. It is close to Nedunkerni and Mullaitivu. On December 15, 1897, Nedunkerni recorded 31.72". This is still a 24 hour rainfall record for Sri Lanka. The then Surveyor General thought it incredible and sent Mr. Taylor an irrigation engineer to investigate. The rain-gauge was in the hospital

and the measurements were made by the Apothecary and the orderly, supervised by the Doctor, pouring into hospital basin every-time the gauge got full. Mr. Taylor's conclusion was that the fall may have been more than that measured. Then on December 18, 1911, closely Mullaitivu recorded a fall of 31.18", once and for all removing any doubts that, when it rains, it rains heavy in the north-east of the island. The Observer in charge of the newly established station at Mullaitivu says that the Cumulus clouds there are dark and "thick" and when it rains, its drops are large. This needs investigation.

1911 was a year of records, the 20.00" at Kanukerni and 12.28" at Kilinochchi on the next day, 19th have still not been broken, 12.10" at Franklands Estate on October 14 of that year is still the record for Veyangoda. On July 14, of that year, the world record of 46.00" was established in Bangio, Luyon, Philippines. Dr. Fordyke, a colleague of mine of two decades ago, in his latest book "*Weather and Weather Forecasting*" mentions that this record has since been broken at Gilaos, Reunion Island on March 1, 1972 with a fall of 73.62". He has also mentioned that the maximum fall in 5 minutes of 2.5 inches recorded at Panama in 1911 is still unbeaten. All things terrestrial and celestial being equal in Lanka, it rains heaviest in the north-east.

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POINT OF VIEW

My Laugh Comes Last

by Jayantha Somasundaram

THE SANCTITY OF THE MARKET is a faith that is antiquarian to our generation, since it was formalised as early as 1776 by Adam Smith. The sovereignty of market forces is a doctrine that is foreign to us, since its temple is the University of Chicago where Milton Friedman teaches. Yet in our day a new prophet, J. R. Jayewardene had enthroned the supremacy of market forces over the nation's economy.

Before we even begin an argument concerning the economic niceties of laissez faire, it is more pertinent to examine the immediate impact of competition on a society with our

history. Last week we went to great lengths to explain that one of the primary considerations of post-independent governments in Sri Lanka has been the manipulation of economic competition to assist the majority.

ONE THOUSAND DAYS AFTER the election to office of the Jayewardene Administration and the surrender to market forces, we have already begun to see the trend. And we can safely begin to predict the future.

All the rigging that went on to foster the success of Sinhala entrepreneurs has now been swamped by the new competitors. These are not only the earlier Moor and South Indian businessmen. Today, in the Investment Promotion Zone and elsewhere, commercial life is being cornered by North Indian and Chinese business.

One is almost tempted to look back on the JVP's admonitions on 'Indian expansionism' as prophetic. No Ceylonese, let alone Goigama-Sinhala-Buddhist, commercial class stands a snowball's chance in hell against the outsiders. Its no good saying nice things about Upali Wijewardena. He blossomed in the restriction days—the heyday of the majority community. And his progeny of the nineteen eighties, are licked before they start.

IN THE LABOUR FIELD the majority have spent the best part of the last thirty-five years trying to get rid of the Indian Tamils. And whilst they are packing the ferries at Talaimannar, a new set of competitive labour have slipped in behind their back. The South Korean construction workers and the Chinese have a universal record for productivity. One that leaves Ceylonese and Indians standing.

So we see that the supremacy of the market has opened up a floodgate of competition in a society that has been spitting on competition for the last quarter century. Proficiency in Sinhala, a return to Buddhism, the right caste and the correct connections were the keys to success in the World in which our generation grew up. And all of that has just flown out of the window.

Suddenly English is no longer a dirty word. Entire communities of skilled people like the Sri Lanka Tamils and the Burghers had left our shores when language and race were the priority. The Burghers have since become naturalised citizens abroad. The Tamils whose blood is a

darker shade of red were waiting in the wings. In the last thousand days some returned, bringing back their skills, their proficiency in the Queen's language and the experience they have accumulated in the intervening years.

In the heyday of its bankruptcy the UNP under Dudley Senanayake went around counting Chinese. They kept telling us that the Chinese are coming: the Chinese are coming. At the 1965 elections, they told us that there were something like 4,321 Chinese slinking around. The Chinese are back, but this time they are from Singapore, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

Been to the Katunayake Airport? There are more Chinese there than chairs. The Ceylonese are the dumb guys—you know, they stand around in Air Force uniform nursing submachine guns. But its the Chinese of Air Lanka who are active. Fifteen years ago the UNP told us that the Chinese were coming. Bulls eye. The Chinese are here.



TEENAGE SECTION

A Bus Ride

Tribune will in future publish articles, stories and other contributions from teenagers. This is to encourage writing among the young in English. This week we publish a story from a student in Ladies College, Colombo.

"Phew it's hot. I wish I had worn something cooler. We have been standing here for over half a hour, and my legs are beginning to ache, and my hands are....."

"Oh shut up!"

"I beg your pardon?"

"I said shut up."

"Hrumph."

The scorching sun beat down with fury on the crowd waiting impatiently for the bus bound for Wattala. I shifted my weight from one foot to the other, scanning the road for the welcome sight of a bus. I could

feel the sun as much as my companion Dushyanthi, and I didn't need to be reminded of how long we had been standing at the bus halt.

"You are not the only one who travels on the CTB buses". I reminded her, "we all do, and we all feel the same."

"But I was only voicing a general opinion" Dushyanthi protested.

"I have a voice box myself So I don't need you to voice my....."

"All right, all right. I know that you have a temper, and I don't want a taste of it here. So for God's sake don't erupt like a volcano".

I bit my lips, and looked around at the other people standing at the halt. Just in front of me stood a boy dressed in faded denims, and a checked shirt. His hair was cut in the latest style and he was chewing gum. His head was tilted backwards and I had a remote suspicion that he had been listening to our conversation.

A bus appeared around the bend and there were sighs of relief from all four corners of the bus halt. The bus was almost empty, so Dushyanthi and I moved to the front. The 'checked shirt guy' was seated on the railing near the driver. Seeing us approach, he turned around and gave us one of those 'cool stares' his mouth working full time on the gum.

"What's wrong with that fellow?" muttered Dushyanthi. "Why the hell is he starting at us like that? Have we grown beards?"

"Why not ask him" I replied. Dushyanthi realising that my temper hadn't improved, resolved to be silent. More and more passengers boarded, and when the bus began to move it was packed. Those familiar words, "Go forward, go forward" rang from the conductor's lips.

The bus ate up distance with surprising speed, but the driver didn't forget to give us an occasional bone shaking jerk. People were talking to each other, and a baby was crying in the rear. Suddenly there was a loud resounding slap that echoed all over the bus. People stopped talking and stared. Even the baby, sensing that something was afoot stopped crying.

"What's the matter? What happened?" inquired an old gentleman.

"He.....that rascal, he tried to be funny," cried Dushyanthi.

"What did he do?"

"He.....he.....just tried to be, funny, so I slapped him."

I knew that Dushyanthi was very near tears, but I felt quite helpless. All the passengers seemed interested. Some gentlemen smiled; some ladies gave the 'checked shirt guy' a hostile look. The boy, his cool stare gone, seemed embarrassed and distressed. People began to talk all at once. "Girls shouldn't go about unaccompanied." "I wonder what he did to her." "Really these boys nowadays.....not like those days."

The conductor shouted from the rear, "What's the matter? Have you all caught a pickpocket?" Someone replied, "Not a pickpocket, we have caught a girl chaser". People laughed, and the boy turned red. He bit his lips and glared at Dushyanthi. The driver seemed to be enjoying it all.

"Well", he drawled, "am I to turn around and drive to the police station?" His question was received with protests and laughter. In spite of it all, I couldn't help feeling sorry for the boy. The bus screeched to a stop at our halt.

"Come on, let's get down", I said. Once we had got down from the bus, I urged Dushyanthi to tell me what had happened.

"What did he do to you? Come on, tell me. I won't tell anyone. Please Dushy, am I not your best friend.

"He.....he (sniff) he asked me the time!"

"Asked you the time, and you slapped him! My God Dushy, are you mad! Everybody was against him. The poor chap, and just because he asked you the time!"

"But you don't understand", protested Dushyanthi. "He had a big Seiko watch around his wrist, and it was ticking!"

B. Buvanasundari
C.M.S. Ladies' College

21B, Summit Flats,
Keppetipola Road,
Colombo 5.

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May 8 — May 11

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

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

THURSDAY, MAY 8: The United National Party captured Anamaduwa, the rural stronghold of Mrs. Bandaranaike's Freedom Party at the Parliamentary by-election with a comfortable majority yesterday. Former Prime Minister Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike yesterday withdrew from the proceedings of the Special Presidential Commission when it commenced the inquiry into the ten charges served on her; in a lengthy statement made before the Commission Mrs. Bandaranaike refused to be tried by a special tribunal selected by "my chief political opponent"; Mrs. Bandaranaike said that if she had committed any offence she was prepared to face charges before the established courts. Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike left last night for Yugoslavia to attend the funeral of President Tito; she was accompanied by her daughter Mrs. Sunethra Rupasinghe—CDN. The United National Party increased its tally in Parliament today when its candidate Asoka Wadigamangawa won the Anamaduwa by-election with a majority of 1767 votes; this brings the UNP strength in Parliament to 144. "In the eyes of the law, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike was a person who had a matter to explain and if that explanation was not given, then the presumption was that she had no explanation to give", said the Deputy Solicitor General Mr. Sunil de Silva before the Special Presidential Commission yesterday. The Minister of Education, Mr. Ranil Wickremasinghe, has asked the ministry to draw up a scheme for government teachers

to take three years no-pay leave to work abroad. The LSSP's Politbureau is sharply divided on the party's policy on the question of the Tamil speaking people, according to certain members who have defected from the party—CDM. Sri Lanka is facing a major new health threat—polio; according to the Health Department, Deputy Director of Public Health Services, Dr. V. D. T. de Silva, normally 10 to 15 cases of poliomyelitis also known as infantile paralysis are treated monthly; however in April this year alone this figure had shot up to between 50 to 60 cases. 30 persons have been taken into custody for pasting posters expressing support for SLFP leader Mrs. Bandaranaike—DK. The completion of the Victoria Project is expected to be delayed by a number of years because the transportation of equipment and heavy machinery to the worksite have been delayed as the present roads are not capable of transporting heavy equipment—ATH.

FRIDAY, MAY 9: Prime Minister R. Premadasa, Fisheries Minister Festus Perera who led the UNP by-election campaign, Lands Minister Gamini Disanayake and several other UNP leaders all said yesterday that the UNP's victory at the Freedom Party's stronghold on Wednesday was a clear endorsement by the people of the party's policies and programmes. Spelling out the government's thinking on setting up a tea blending industry in Sri Lanka, Trade and Shipping Minister Lalith Athulathmudali said yesterday it was keen on promoting its establishment. An armed gang of six or seven people entered Indigenous Medicine Minister Dharmasena Attygale's residence at Madapatha, Piliyandala at 10.30 on Wednesday night and got away with cash and jewellery after threatening the Minister with a shotgun. More than half a million Yugoslavs and leaders from all over the world today paid an emotional final homage to President Tito at a huge funeral for the 1st of the giants of World War II—CDN. Over the last thirty years nearly two and half million acres of forest have been completely destroyed by chena cultivation; this is revealed in a reference to Sri Lanka's environment in the United Nations Environment Programme's Asia Report (1979) just released. Yesterday the new member for Anamaduwa M. Asoka Wadigamangawa was sworn in before the Speaker in Parliament by the Secretary General

Mr. Sam Wijesinghe—CDM. The government will despatch two CID officers to the Maldivian capital of Male to probe what is believed to be a multi-million rupee racket in cigarette exports; the move comes on the orders of President J. R. Jayewardene who has asked for a full investigation into this racket which is believed to have gone on for a long time. Trade and Shipping Minister Lalith Athulathmudali yesterday threw his weight behind moves to strengthen the local tea packeting industry by allowing the blending of imported teas. Top police detectives yesterday moved into Piliyandala for investigations into the robbery at the house of the Minister of Indigenous Medicine, Dharmasena Attygalle—SU. Worldwide inflation is sending up tea consumption in traditional markets like Britain, where beverage prices are shooting up helping tea to be the cheapest drink next to water; the Colombo tea trade noted that the latest figures coming in from Mincing Lane indicate substantial increases in tea consumption in Britain with imports moving up 20 million kilos during last year—CO. Vice Chancellors of universities will henceforth be elected through the ballot and will not be appointed by the Minister of Higher Education as at present—DP. The security and administrative work of the Colombo Municipality has been handed over to a private company at an annual fee of Rs. 5 lakhs and 70 thousands. The Joint Action Committee of Trade Unions has unanimously decided to organise an Islandwide day of protest against Government policies on June 5th—ATH.

SATURDAY, MAY 10: The Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Construction has begun a large-scale slum and shanty upgrading program in six urban outstation areas in conjunction with the respective municipalities; the areas selected for this project are Kandy, Galle, Jaffna, Trincomalee, Nuwara Eliya and Dehiwela-Mt. Lavinia; work has already commenced in most of these areas. The foreign service will be reorganized; this decision has been taken by the government to introduce much-needed reforms in this elite sector of the public service. Sri Lanka will hold a mini Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference here in July next year as part of the celebrations of 50 years of adult franchise, Secretary-General of Parliament Sam Wijesinghe said yesterday.

The National Savings Bank Employees who have been working to rule for about two months to press a demand for bigger pay packets, agreed to call off their campaign after a meeting with Finance and Planning Minister, Ronnie de Mel yesterday—CDN. Science and mathematics teachers will not be permitted to go abroad on no-pay leave; the Minister of Education has taken this decision because of the acute shortage of this category of teachers—CDM. Transplanting or grafting of human organs and tissues is to be permitted in Sri Lanka under a new law to be introduced by the government; the proposed law will provide for the removal, after death, of parts of the human anatomy on an oral deathbed statement or after obtaining the permission of relatives of the dead person. Singapore and Sri Lanka today signed an agreement providing reciprocal promotion and protection of investments. Indian estate families being repatriated to India will in future be given the travelling costs of their journey up to the transit camp at Mandapam on the Indian side; the full payment will be met by the estate managements. Tamil United Liberation Front President M. Sivasithambaram has told Elections Commissioner M. A. Piyasekera that it is his legal obligation to request the TULF to nominate a person to fill the vacant Pottuvil seat in Parliament. The flagship of the French Navy's Indian Ocean Fleet is now in the Colombo Port for repairs. The first ever rally for conservation will be held at the Night Bazaar, Galle Face at 6 p.m. today—SU. Distribution of mail is to be decentralized to expedite the delivery of mail; as a first step sorting out of mail will be instituted in nine regions—DP. Millions of rupees worth of uncut gems are smuggled from the country daily even though the export of uncut gems have been banned; the smuggling of uncut gems has now become one of the biggest rackets in the island according to top police officials—DM. A massive amount of flour and rice is wasted because of unplanned imports; more ships with rice and flour arrive in the island though the warehouses are full. The President has ordered the Minister of Transport to report why there is an attempt to import new locomotives when the old locomotives can be used after repairs—DV.

SUNDAY, MAY 11: Letters of Intent went out from the Ministry of Trade and Shipping

to two shipyards in Argentina and South Korea last week indicating that Sri Lanka will shortly award them contracts to build seven new ships which will nearly double the Ceylon Shipping Corporation's existing fleet. Some of the world's best names in geo-technical investigations, dam designing and the connected sciences have been commissioned by the Ministry of Mahaweli Development to review the siting and design of the Kotmale dam. The customs have seized the unaccompanied baggage valued at rupees half a million of non-resident Sri Lankans returning on short holidays following the baring of the latest racket by gentlemen smugglers to profit by generous duty-free concessions available to residents returning home after spells abroad—SO. Private recruiting agencies have been banned from advertising jobs in the oil-rich Middle East without clearance from the Foreign Employment Division of the Labour Department; this step has been taken in order to ensure that offers of jobs are genuine. The internationally famous tyre company Dunlop, is likely to commence production of tractor tyres specifically for export, at the Ceylon Tyre Corporation factory at Kelaniya in August. The master police dog that formed the police team investigating the armed hold up at the Piliyandala residence of Mr. Dharmasena Attygalle, Minister of Indigenous Medicine has been able to supply vital clues that can lead to the arrest of the culprits—ST. The plot to assassinate President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom of the Maldives and topple his government was almost entirely a Lanka based operation. The Government will soon introduce fool-proof passports in a bid to prevent the production of forged passports. Indiscriminate ravaging of Sri Lanka's ecology threatens to turn this lush, tropical island into a harsh environment hostile to life through disease and increasingly sterile land; while zealous industrialisation efforts are liberally sprinkling a cocktail of various pollutions into our immediate habitat on the one hand, equally frenzied efforts at agricultural expansion have resulted in our "development" machine cutting a relentless swathe through the few remaining belts of the country's forests, on the other. More than a thousand people die each year and nearly 15,000 patients seek medical treatment for pesticide poisoning annually, according to a survey conducted

by the Occupational Health Division of the University of Colombo—WK. The leader of the opposition A. Amirthalingam together with Mr. M. Sivasithambaram has requested the government to immediately stop the import of chillies and onions in the interest of the farmers—VK. The Minister of Rural Industrial Development S. Thondaman said that the long-standing problems of the "stateless" will soon be permanently settled with a firm and final agreement which will soon be concluded between the Indian and Sri Lankan governments—CM. 300 acres of land have been allocated for the establishment of faculties of agriculture and engineering, regional agricultural research, national youth service organisations, People's Bank, Bank of Ceylon etc., of the Jaffna Campus—EN. Sri Lanka has been chosen to set up the headquarters of the International Environment Protection Organisation—SLDP. Queen Elizabeth and P.M. Thatcher are expected to pay official visits to Sri Lanka before or after the Commonwealth Summit meeting to be held in Australia in 1981; meanwhile majority of Prime Ministers of the Commonwealth have agreed to participate in the celebration for 50 years of democracy in Sri Lanka which falls next year—RR.



OFFICIAL EXCHANGE RATES

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

CURRENCY	PER 100 UNITS	
	Buying Rate	Selling Rate
U.S. Dollar	Rs. 1598.50	Rs. 1601.50
Sterling Pound	Rs. 3649.00	Rs. 3655.00
Deutsche Mark	Rs. 896.45	Rs. 898.05
French Franc	Rs. 382.55	Rs. 383.35
Japanese Yen	Rs. 7.0190	Rs. 7.0340
Indian Rupees	Rs. 203.45	Rs. 203.85

Govt.



Notices

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

Reference No. LD/F 377

It is intended to acquire the land described in the Schedule below for a public purpose. For further particulars please see the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka No. 90 (Part III) 23-05-1980.

K. B. Wijekoon

Assistant Government Agent,
Kandy District.

The Kachcheri,
Kandy. 28 April 1980.

Schedule

Situation: Balana village, Kandupalata Korale, (Yatinuwara) Yatinuwara D.R.O.'s Division, Kandy District—Sup. 12 F.V.P. 27
Maliyadde village, Galboda Korale, Galboda D.R.O.'s Division Kegalle District Sup. 2 F.V.P. 179

Name of land: Mottanawatte alias Goodview watte,
Malatuwawewatte alias Mottana watte
Goodview watte

Plan and Lot Nos:

Lot 105 in Sup: 12 F.V.P. 27

Lot 106 do

Lot 81 in Sup. 2 F.V.P. 179

NEXT WEEK

- ALTERNATE VIEW OF SRI LANKA'S INDEPENDENCE SETTLEMENT
by Arjuna Kannangara
- AGRICULTURE & PADDY CULTIVATION
by R. Kahawita

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

Ref. No. 24/5/329

It is intended to acquire the land described in the schedule below for a public purpose. For further particulars please see the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka No. 90 (Part III) of 23-05-1980.

S. Panditha

Land Acquiring Officer,
Galle District.

Kachcheri,
Galle.

25th April 1980.

Schedule

Name of Land: Delgahakoratuwa alias Gandel gahawatta Assessment No. 25, Pannamgoda Meda Para

Situation: Village of Pannamgoda (Ward No. 5 Wawulagoda, Pannamgoda, withing T.C. Limits of Hikkaduwa) D.R.O.'s Division of Wellaboda Pattu (South) in Galle District.

Plan and Lot No: P.Plan No. Gaa/1508-Lot No. 1
Extent: 21.8P.

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

Ref. No. 24/3215.

It is intended to acquire the lands/land described in the Schedule below. For further particulars please see the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka No. 90 (Part III) of 23-05-1980.

Schedule

Situation of Land: At Welegoda (pt.) in Ward No. 8 Issadeen Town and Nupe within the U.C. limits of Matara, D.R.O.'s Division of Wellaboda Pattu (West) and Four Gravets, Matara Districts.

Name of Land: Kahampala Kurunduwatta Pattuwa Walauwe Mandiya Asst. No. 57 Sri Ratnapala Mawatha.

Lot & Plan No: Lot No. 1 in P.P. in P.P. Mara/960

C. D. Vidanapathirana

Acquiring Officer,
Matara District.

The Kachcheri,
Matara. 6th May, 1980.

Confidentially

Is Rome Burning?

IS IT NOT A FACT that over the years the papers of the political parties have exposed happenings that have brought major shake-ups in the administration? That in the *Forward*, the fortnightly English paper of the CPSL of May 15, 1980, there is a stunning story, which if true, should make the Government sit up and take some action? That as it is a matter of the highest public interest involving the foreign relations of this country, *Tribune* publishes what the *Forward* has written? That if there are any errors or mistakes in the *Forward* story, *Tribune* will publish all further information, corrections, and explanations sent to us? That *Tribune* spotlights this story in the public interest in the hope that Government will refute these allegations if untrue? That this is what the *Forward* said in the column *So They Say* by Gadfly? That the piece is entitled ROME IS BURNING? "The goings on in Sri Lanka's embassy in Rome are, to put it mildly, without precedent. The Ambassador is none other than UNP ex-Minister A. F. Wijemanne, whom our sister newspaper, *Aththa* dubbed as 'Black Coat' in 1965. Ambassador Wijemanne makes no pretence about the fact that he has gone to Rome to have a Roman holiday. Whereas the former Ambassadorial residence was a stone's throw from the legation, Ambassador Wijemanne has chosen to shift his residence to a place at least one hour's drive away. As a result, he rarely spends more than a couple of hours a day at the embassy. Ambassador Wijemanne has nevertheless, been able to find time for other activities—even though they can hardly be described as strictly diplomatic. In December 1978, for instance, he personally ran a trade stall at the prestigious Nataleoggi fair. He was getting ready to repeat this performance in 1979, but had to give it up when the fair was cancelled owing to a strike. Sri Lanka circles in Rome tell a tale about the widow of a former Sri Lanka Minister (also UNP) who wanted the Ambassador to buy a tombstone for her late husband in a special stone

available in Italy. The bereaved lady was aghast when she was told that this would cost her two million six hundred thousand (2,600,000) lira. After pursuing the matter later through a private source, she was able to buy the identical stone for 450,000 lira..... During the lengthy absence of the Ambassador, the embassy is in fact run by a Mr. Rajalingam, who is a frequent talking point in Foreign Ministry circles, Mr. R. certainly does things in style. In the past few months, he has changed his cars thrice. First he had a Ford Capri and then an Audi 80. The latter has been shipped to Colombo and Mr. R. now goes around in a Fiat 131 TC 1600 aircon and all. His connections with some circles in Rome could do with a cold, hard look. What, for instance, was the bill he paid to *New Creation Exports* in Hongkong? What is his connection with *Interdean*, an Italian firm managed by a Sri Lankan? Also worth looking at are the number of passports issued and taken. Sri Lanka's trade and foreign exchange are also not getting much help from our embassy in Italy. As is known, many international trade fairs are held in Italy, where each country can have its own national stall. Such stalls are usually run by a businessman or firm in the country's name. This year due to the bungling of our embassy—Sri Lanka had no stall at the prestigious Florence fair. The correspondence relating to this matter dates back to October 1979. The participation of a Sri Lanka firm was approved on 3.1.1980. But just before the fair was due to start, the embassy found some technical reason to prevent the firm from taking part in the air. What is now being asked is whether the embassy's real reasons were more substantial than technical. Another fiasco took place at the Milan Fair. Five Sri Lanka businessmen took part in the EEC-sponsored pavilion. One was a lady who owns an institution called Ramya Batiks from Kurunegala, Her husband, Mr. Shelton Alwis, is the representative of our Tourist Board in Frankfurt. Mr. Alwis was also at the fair helping his wife with her sales. But when everything was over, no new orders were brought back to Sri Lanka, although a sum of Rs. 400,000 in foreign exchange had been spent on Sri Lanka's representation at the fair.....? That the Government must tell the people whether all this is true or not?

* * *

"Insurance Industry should attract some of our best brains from the Universities in order to raise its standard to that of a long established and recognised profession such as Medicine, Law, Engineering, Accountancy, etc..."

So said Dr. Linus Silva, President of the Insurance Institute of Ceylon, at a Seminar conducted by the Post-Graduate students of the Institute at the University of Colombo on 3rd May.

As pioneers in the field of Insurance Education in Sri Lanka on a non-profit basis, we offer constructive criticism and technical advice free of charge for the benefit of the Insuring public of Sri Lanka and the Insurer. His Excellency the President has always invited constructive criticism and assistance from the public.

Post-Graduates with Insurance Qualifications and Experience available. The Insurance Institute of Ceylon, established in 1956, has rendered this valuable service in the national interest free of charge —24th year of service.

Insurance Institute Of Ceylon

P. O. BOX 1342,
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THIRD FLOOR, Y.M.B.A. BLDG.,
FORT,

Telephone: 29118

Sri Lanka

Voluntary Family Planning Services

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

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

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

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

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

RELEASED BY THE MINISTRY OF PLAN IMPLEMENTATION