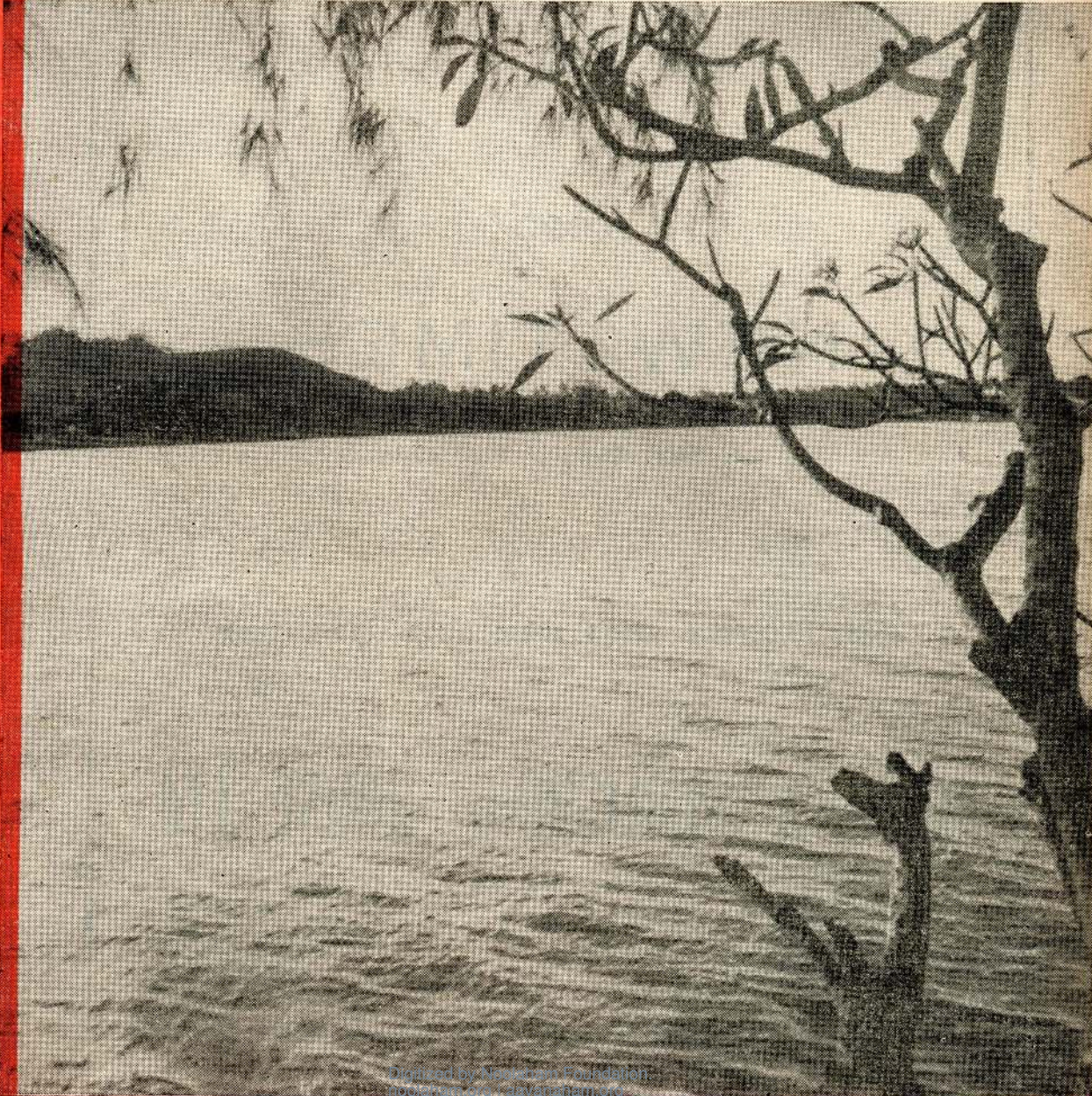


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TRIBUNE



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Letter From The Editor

ON THE COVER we have a scenic shot from the banks of what is classified as a village tank. Our ancients had thousands of them scattered through the length and breadth of the island—and more especially in the so-called Dry Zone, the Wann, the heartland of our agriculture. Unfortunately, with the growth of the monoculture of plantation crops for export, and the expansion of the colonialist cum imperialist economy based on importing food, these tanks went into disuse. Bunds were broken, tank beds were used for seasonal chena cultivation and the silting was permitted to accumulate. Every government, after Independence, has loudly proclaimed that all village tanks would be restored, but only a small fraction has so far been touched. Ministers, politicians, bureaucrats and technocrats get a thrill in doing the big tanks, reservoirs and dams, on the banks of which stone monuments are erected with their names inscribed. Such expensive self-adulatory gimmicks cannot be justified for small, medium or even big village tanks. But it is these tanks that will help to fill the food basket of the common man. And there is a new danger to our agriculture. And if that danger is not overcome most of the village tanks may disappear. There is unfortunately a tendency today to place excessive importance on export-oriented crops and to downgrade food crops which do not fetch high or fancy prices. It is felt that it would be better to import food items which are relatively cheap and concentrate on the cultivation of high priced export items. There is much to be said for getting the maximum out of exports, but it will be suicidal if this is done by neglecting our main and subsidiary food crops. In an unstable world as at present, food items which are cheap may overnight become expensive. Take the case of sugar—the World price jumped from \$ 100 to \$ 700 a ton and Sri Lanka has had to face new problems. When the world price had come down to \$ 100 a ton sometime ago and imports were freely made the interest and eagerness people had shown in growing sugarcane and making jaggery vanished into thin air. Should warlike tensions in the Indian Ocean develop as they well might and our sea and air routes are disturbed, imports would be badly affected (and so also exports). We can do without cranes and big machinery even indefinitely, but we cannot do without food even for a day. And if this country becomes increasingly dependent on imported food, the plight of the people can well be imagined if imports suddenly cease and our exports dry up. We have, therefore, to be self-reliant and self-sufficient so far as food is concerned. This must be considered a matter of national security—to grow all the food we can in this island. We will then not only save valuable foreign exchange for more vital imports, but people will never face the threat of starvation. A great deal has been said about growing more food, but very little has been done.

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GANJA

IN THE COLUMN Letters From The Editor in the **Tribune** of April 26, May 3 and May 10, we have shown that unless the Sri Lankan Government revises some of its basic policies towards agriculture soon, the only profitable crop for farmers will be ganja which also has an extremely high export potential. We have also mentioned that, in the good old days of our kings there were no taboos or laws to prevent anyone from growing ganja and that people had then used ganja sensibly as medicine, or as a tenderiser for meat, and also as a healthy stimulant. But the exploitative commercialism that came in the wake of colonialism and imperialism had changed all that. Ganja was made a dirty word. It was, and still is, classified as a second cousin of dreaded narcotics like heroin, opium, LSD and other devilish preparations and was made illegal and driven to an underground existence.

In America and other countries, a campaign has been launched in recent times to legalise the cultivation, distribution and use of marijuana which is the Central American and Caribbean counterpart of ganja. Experts have also testified that marijuana is less harmful than alcohol and less dangerous than tobacco. An equally strong case can be made for legalising ganja and making it a respectable crop.

Tribune has not (yet) advocated the legalisation of ganja, but had only pointed out that if the UNP government did not amend, change or reverse some of the agricultural policies the IMF has persuaded this government to impose, Sri Lanka will be compelled (like Jamaica) to turn to ganja as a profitable export plantation crop. In Jamaica the growing and export of marijuana has not as yet been given *de jure* legality, but *de facto* it has become an important export crop handled by the business and fund-raising departments of some religious cults.

The impact of our discussions about the IMF and ganja on our readers has been considerable. A large number have raised some valid queries. We shall refer to them in due course.

This week we publish a letter from a long standing **Tribune** reader, Dr. A. Kanakaratanam A.M.A.C., 117, Galle Road, Colombo, 4. He is

well qualified to write on the subject. He is the Retired Secretary Board of Indigenous Medicine, Medical Superintendent and Visiting Physician, Hospital of Indigenous Medicine, Director, Ceylon Ayurvedic Drugs Corporation and Present Member, College and Hospital Board of Ayurveda, and Formulary Committee in Ayurveda, Department of Ayurveda. Below we publish his letter. It will speak for itself. He has also sent us a full extract of what is written in the **Indian Materic Media** about ganja. We shall cite relevant portions when occasion arises.

This is what Dr. Kanakaratanam writes: "I have read the editorials of the past three issues of the **Tribune**, urging the Government to make use of the Ganja plant to make money. I endorse your views and strongly urge you to make known to the government as well as the public the greater values of this drug.

"A few years ago, at a Narcotics Drugs Conference held at the C.I.S.I.R., I had the opportunity to address an audience which included the 'Narcotics Bureau' members of several of our Police, Customs, Health and other departments. I spoke on the medical uses of ganja and mentioned, how from as long ago as 1929 I have been urging the government to lift the ban on the use of ganja in medical preparations. I explained the vital medical importance of ganja to the D.M. & S.S., the Home Minister and the Minister of Health and in 1956 I was asked by the Minister of Health to prepare a Draft Bill on the uses of ganja in medicine. I took great pains over making out my report, and with the help of the late Mr. S. Mahadeva, the Legal Draftsman, I prepared the Bill for ganja. I was aware that this bill was to be presented to the Parliament but unfortunately the Minister of Health had to resign as she had been involved in the inquest into the Bandaranaike assassination case. However M. Jayasuriya who succeeded as Minister of Health, summoned me for a discussion. I told him how ganja is used in India even by religious and saintly Yogis who, by using it were able to elevate their minds to higher planes beyond the Earth. Just when it seemed likely that the ban on the use of ganja was likely to be lifted the government was dissolved.

"I was appointed the Director of the Ayurvedic Drugs Corporation of which Mr. Fernando the former G.A. of Kandy was the

Chairman. We cleared many obstacles and at last when it seemed likely that we would have the ban lifted the Parliament was once more dissolved. I thereafter lost all interest in making any more efforts. But later when I met the new Commissioner for Ayurveda he told me that he was making efforts to make use of ganja in medicine and that he intended obtaining ganja from what was confiscated by the Police Courts. But he too was moved to another post. I was waiting to move in the matter again when I read in the papers of our present Minister of Health having met Doctors and Pharmacists in Germany and his promise to put in one or two of them to sponsor the use of some of our drugs. Nothing however, has been done so far.

Now that you have come out strongly in your recommendations for the cultivation of ganja as a source of income, I could suggest to you to request the government to locate my Report on the ganja ordinance, in the files of the medical department and make use of it for further information. There is more than one variety of the ganja plant and their uses. The chemical properties are mentioned in the enclosed photostat copies of the "Nid-karni" our standard medical text of Materia Medica. There are several medical recipes for the use of ganja in various diseases in our medical works. If we can prepare them and make them popular by getting western pharmacutists to sponsor them, that alone will attract the attention of the medical world chiefly that in the East like Indonesia, Thailand, Burma, China, India and even the WHO which is now taking a great deal of interest in our medicines under the name of "Traditional Medicines" and "Herbal Medicines". Last year there was an international WHO conference on "Traditional medicines" at Canberra in Australia.

"The important point that would be raised against your suggestion is that it is a harmful drug. Ganja is a tropical plant used by the tropical people in tropical diseases. It was in use for over 2000 years right from 400 B.C. There are about 400 of these plants. It is mostly the leaves which are taken for medicinal use. They are taken either afresh and the juice is taken in some preparations or the leaves are purified after plucking

and dried before mixing them with other ingredients. The nuts too are taken and mixed with the other nuts for extraction of oils for other use.

"For exportation we can sell any amount of the purified dried leaves or send the leaves powdered and well packed or tinned. We will require one or two Western experts in pharmicing to monitor our methods of purification of the leaves. These experts, I thought were coming as promised by our present Minister of Health but it looks someone is sleeping over their coming. I am perfectly certain that the pressing editorials in *Tribune* will open the eyes of the Ministry or Ministries concerned and bring this project into fruition.

"In this connection, may I wish the Minister of Indigenous Medicine will appoint a small Committee of experienced Siddha Ayurvedic Practitioners to meet and discuss all these medicines and recipes in which ganja is an ingredient and submit its report to the Minister and the Minister too will immediately get it made in the Navinna Pharmacy and advertise them for sale to the Siddha Ayurvedic Physicians and the public. This would bring some money to the Exchequer."

We would like the views of our readers on the question whether ganja should be made legal. In the kind of export-oriented economy that is being developed by the Government, ganja has no doubt a great role to play.

x x x

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Foreign Affairs

Colombo, May 24,

There are faint indications that the Sri Lanka Government is being egged on to a little activity in the arena of foreign affairs. Towards the end of last year, it will be recalled, the heads of Bangladesh, Indonesia and Nepal paid state visits to the island. There was no formal joint communique with Indonesia, but Bangladesh and Nepal persuaded Sri Lanka to join them to adopt postures on Afghanistan and Kampuchea very different from that of India close to what was then the ASEAN

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line (but some ASEAN countries have since changed their approach).

And now Bangladesh wants a Summit meeting of six South Asian countries—India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan. Afghanistan which has always been considered part of South Asia, has been left out, no doubt because "Islamic", Bangladesh and Pakistan do not as yet recognize the Babrak Karmal regime. Dacca also wants to raise Nepal and Bhutan to a Summit status. This is understandable, but is not likely to be accepted by India especially after Bangladesh manipulations to bring in Nepal (and later Bhutan, and no doubt China) into its bilateral talks with India regarding river waters. The Ziaur Rahman regime in Bangladesh is the most unstable of the six governments Dacca wants for the Summit. Ziaur has been propped up so far by US and World Bank aid, but signs are not wanting that the honey-moon, so far as aid is concerned, is nearly over. A Reuter report from Paris dated May 14, read: "Representatives of major industrial countries and international aid agencies yesterday pledged continued assistance for Bangladesh but the country's Finance Minister, Saipur Rahman, later described the sums of money they offered as disappointing. He told Reuter the Groups final commitments fell far short of his expectations. The details of these commitments were not made public. Mr. Rahman said several countries declined to make new commitments until their 1980-81 budgets were finalised. Although they agreed to maintain aid at last year's levels this would mean a reduction of assistance in real terms. 'We need a much larger commitment', he said." To get more and more aid without tangible proof that the aid so far received has been well used, Bangladesh had endeavoured to overplay its hand to promote the Carter-Brzezinski game in Kampuchea and Afghanistan and also adopt subtle anti-Indian postures. A South-Asian grouping, against the USSR, under cover of non-alignment is what Brzezinski and Bangladesh have been doing their darndest to get going. Ziaur Rahman no doubt hopes that such a Summit will help him stabilise his own position.

General Zia of Pakistan, faced with growing opposition from the popular Bhutto-led masses and the groups led by Asghar Khan, is also overplaying his hand by raising the

Islamic cry against Afghanistan to get aid and support from some Moslem countries as well as the USA and a few European countries to prop up its tottering economy. King Birendra of Nepal is most uneasily perched on a Panchayat system of bogus democracy, and the very slender majority he obtained at the recent elections is alleged to be a result of rigging (and there are good reasons to think it true). Bhutan is still only an appendage of India—and the efforts of the geostrategists of the Carter-Deng axis to make it an Independent State to be able to tilt the West and China (and therefore became anti-Indira and be part of the *cordan sanitaire* around India) are not likely to succeed in the foreseeable future.

India and Sri Lanka are the two stable democracies in this group of six, and Sri Lanka will be well advised not to fall into the Bangladesh trap of joining an anti-Indira (India) grouping whatever the excuse and whatever the camouflage. India is not likely to fall for the Bangladesh Summit. She is not likely to permit her enemies to weave a halter round her neck. There is little doubt that today India feels that she is practically completely encircled by hostile forces. In the south, large units of the US Navy are concentrated in the Indian Ocean, and about 16,000 American soldiers are stationed on Diego Garcia. China is intensively building military installations on the northern borders of India and has acquired nuclear and ballistic capabilities. Secessionists, armed and trained in China, are intensively infiltrating the north-east of India. Pakistan is arming itself to the teeth and Bangladesh cannot hide whose game she is playing.

India is not keen about a Non-aligned Foreign Ministers' meeting at this stage. New Delhi feels that much more behind-the-scenes consultations have to be carried on before a Summit can be profitably held. It is known that Mrs. Gandhi had persuaded African leaders like Nyerere and Kaunda not to press for such a Summit until the situation has eased in Afghanistan. A Non-aligned Foreign Minister's Summit at this juncture will only help to parade the currently sharply divisive trends in the Non-aligned Movement. Indonesia, however, a member of the Islamic Group, has asked for such a Summit, and Colombo's support has been canvassed. Sri Lanka should step warily in regard to supporting the Indo-

nesian proposal—this country should not take any steps which will not receive the widest consensus or be made a catspaw to further attenuate differences within the Non-aligned Movement.

Whilst it is true that Sri Lanka's foreign policy should promote her national self-interest (or what is often called enlightened self-interest) this country cannot afford to ignore the tensions, disputes and crises now being fought on the international plane—and it will be in our national self-interest to take sides in the pursuit of co-existence, detente and peace. The single distinctive feature of Non-aligned countries is that they are not formally attached to military blocs. Otherwise, they are very different from one another. Many of them are ruled by dictators, most by reactionary capitalist governments and only a few are socialist. There are bound to be major differences, therefore, in foreign policy pursued by the Non-aligned countries. They cannot constitute a well-organised or integrated group to follow a common policy on international affairs. But there is one matter on which all of them agreed that a New International Economic Order (NIEO) should be ushered in quickly—though there are still differences (not as many as on foreign affairs) as to how the NIEO is to be achieved.

In this situation, Sri Lanka should not be made an unwilling tool in the hands of any of the groups in the current rat race of international politics. Some may think that the path of least resistance is to follow the USA—as Sri Lanka's bountiful provider of aid. But it is well to remember that the pressure of American public opinion may compel even the Carter—Brzezinski clique to change the present policies—and this will most probably happen after the Presidential elections in November (even with a Carter victory). Some of the closest allies of the USA—more beholden to Washington than Sri Lanka will ever be—have refused to follow the Carter-Brzezinski line. Sri Lanka can do no better than cautiously watch developments without jumping into international cess-pits in which dictatorial regimes such as in Bangladesh think it worthwhile to wallow.

There is no reason, however, why Sri Lanka should not help in the kind of dialogue India is seeking to establish not only among the

non-aligned but also among the countries most involved in the Iran, Afghanistan, Kampuchea, Palestine and other issues confronting the world. Take the Afghan crisis. The USA does not want a dialogue with the USSR—until the Soviets withdraw their troops from Afghanistan. India has never stopped the dialogue, and now French have had a Summit talk with the Soviets much to the anger and fury of the Carter Administration. No sane-thinking country will want to follow the Carter Brzezinski line on Afghanistan with the double standards applied by Washington to actions by countries like Israel (occupying and settling in Arab lands) or China (developing a nuclear ballistic arsenal, not permitted by USA to India).

The Chairman of the Non-aligned Movement has suggested direct talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan to solve the problem of refugees and the relationship between the two countries. Pakistan has rejected this suggestion. Kabul had also suggested a dialogue with Islamabad but the latter has refused. But the recently concluded Islamic Foreign Ministers' Conference has dropped its earlier ultra hard line and wants a dialogue—not with the Babrak Karmal Government but probably the Soviet Union but this has so far not been spelled out.

The Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee meeting in Colombo last weekend has proposed that a dialogue be initiated between the parties most concerned, primarily Afghanistan and Pakistan and Afghanistan and Iran. According to the New Delhi daily *Patriot* Kabul has suggested a way out to defuse the situation and pave the way for a Soviet pull out. This is what the paper said: "In a major initiative to defuse the Afghanistan situation, the Babrak Karmal Government has put forward a seven-point plan for a political settlement of the problems in the region. The Kabul proposal envisages bilateral agreements between Iran and Afghanistan and Pakistan backed by appropriate political guarantees from both the US and the USSR. The settlement proposal also envisages resolution of the question of withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghan soil on the basis of these 'effective guarantees'. The proposal stipulates that Washington commit itself to halt 'subversive activities' against the Karmal regime."

"The seven points of the programme are:
1. The Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan proposes to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to hold Afghan-Iranian talks in order to draw up a bilateral agreement on the development of friendly relations and all round mutually beneficial co-operation between our two countries. The Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan (DRA) also proposes to the government of Pakistan to hold Afghan-Pakistani talks with the aim of drafting a bilateral agreement for normalisation of relations. Such agreements would contain generally accepted provisions concerning mutual respect of sovereignty and readiness to develop relations on the basis of the principles of good neighbourliness and non-interference in internal affairs, as well as include concrete commitments on non-admission of armed and any other hostile activity from their territories one against the other."

"2. The Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan again calls upon the Afghans, who are temporarily staying by force or some other circumstances in the territories of Pakistan and other neighbour states, to return home, and confirms that under the general amnesty declared in its statement on 1 January 1980 and subsequent statements of this kind, they will enjoy respect, will be guaranteed full freedom and inviolability of person. They will be able to freely choose their place of residence and occupation and will be granted all opportunities with this aim. The Government of the DRA calls upon the Pakistan authorities and the authorities of other neighbour states to contribute to the free return of the above said persons to Afghanistan. If nevertheless, a part of the Afghans do not wish to return, questions in this connection shall also be discussed in the course of bilateral talks with the aim of reaching appropriate agreements."

"3. Upon the attainment of mutually acceptable solutions of the problems and normalisation on this basis of relations between Afghanistan and its neighbours the Government of the DRA would be ready also to examine other issues of bilateral relations, including those, which have long been a subject of difference."

"4. In proposing to hold bilateral talks

with Pakistan and Iran without any preliminary conditions attached, the Government of the DRA firmly proceeds from the premise that their holding shall not be accompanied with a continuation of hostile activity against Afghanistan. Correspondingly, from the very start of the process of political settlement, practical measures shall be taken convincingly testifying to an end to armed and other interference in Afghanistan's affairs on the side of all states involved in this interference."

"5. The Government of the DRA considers that apart from the complex of bilateral agreements between Afghanistan and Pakistan, and Afghanistan and Iran, a component part of political settlement must be appropriate political guarantees by some states, that would be acceptable both to Afghanistan and other participants in bilateral agreements. Among them, in the opinion of the DRA, must be the Soviet Union and the United States. The basic meaning of the guarantees must consist in the fact that the countries giving them will themselves respect and substantiate by their authority Afghanistan's bilateral agreements with Pakistan and Iran. As far as guarantees from the USA are concerned, they must include a clearly expressed commitment not to carry out any subversive activities, against Afghanistan including from the territories of third countries."

"6. The Government of the DRA declares that in the context of political settlement must also be resolved the question of withdrawal from Afghanistan's territory of the limited Soviet military contingents. Putting an end to armed invasions and guaranteeing that neither invasions nor any other forms of interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs will be resumed, would eliminate the causes which made Afghanistan turn to the USSR with a request to bring the aforementioned contingents, into its territory. The question of withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan will depend in concrete terms on the resolution of the question of effective guarantees in bilateral agreements of Afghanistan with Pakistan and of Afghanistan with Iran."

"7. The Government of the DRA declares that in the process of political settlement notice shall be taken also of military-political activity in the Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf area by the states which do not belong to that

area. Sharing the concern of other states over the buildup of the US military presence in the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf, the Government of the DRA supports the proposal for turning that area into a zone of peace, on dismantling foreign military bases there and taking other measure of lessening tensions and strengthening security."

"The statement has made it once again clear that questions related to Afghanistan's interests cannot be discussed or decided without the participation of the Government of the DRA or without the knowledge. At the same time, the Afghan Government has called for useful efforts by other states contributing to the start of talks."

It is strange that although our daily papers publish several columns every week about the Afghan crisis, this important statement by the DRA was not given due publicity. There is no doubt that the USA and some of its pliable allies in client states believe that the Babrak Karmal government could be wished out of existence by refusing to talk to it. For over 20 years the USA had refused to recognize or enter into a dialogue with the Communist government in Peking and had hoped that Chiang Kai Sheik and Taiwan would sooner or later be able to take over mainland China. Though differences can be pointed out between the Chinese communist seizure of power in 1949 and the Saur Revolution in Afghanistan in 1978, there are important similarities in the way the USA and the West have approached the changes in the two countries. For twenty years, the collapse of the Peking Regime was regularly predicted and horror stories were written about it. Today, it is a different story with China.

The same will undoubtedly happen about the new regime in Afghanistan. But it may not take as much as twenty-two to twenty five years as in the case of China. The same high falutin' moralistic rhetoric which had been poured on Mao and China, is now being hurled at Afghanistan. One has to only look through the relevant paper cuttings of the fifties and sixties to realise that the Bourbons never learn. The same kind of stories, the same kind of lies, the same kind of revolts, and the same fabrications about refugees as in the case of Communist China, are now trotted out about Afghanistan. Memories may be short but people do not forget so easily.

FILM FOCUS

Three Films

A very welcome decision piloted at Cabinet level by His Excellency President J. R. Jayewardene, was that the State Film Corporation should enter the colour film era by installing a colour film laboratory at Dalugama at a cost of 7.5 million rupees. With the gradual fading away of black and white films, a saving of 6.2 million which is now spent on processing colour films abroad is anticipated. While overtaking this milestone in the history of local cinema, all picture-goers would be delighted, that with nature's abundant beauty around us, we should be able to, before long, compete with the best cine creations in the world. The directorial and technical talent available to us, had always been stalled hitherto by the non-availability of colour facilities and while Sri Lankans looked on helplessly, foreigners tapped the scenic splendour around us, and exported it back to us at exorbitant prices. A deep debt of gratitude is therefore due to the President for adding splendour to the local cinema scene, which was starved out of it in, the past, this particular mass media being a major relaxation our people have grown to live with.

The Annual Presidential Awards ceremony for the films produced in 1979 is just round the corner and with an expert panel of jurors sifting the relevant films qualitatively, amanimagnanimous and unprejudiced assessment of the best films can be looked forward to this year too. The first awards ceremony was handled to perfection by the State Film Corporation in 1979 and there is every reason to believe, that another colourful occasion worked to precision is on the cards.

ANUSHA (Sinhalese)—This film is a pacesetter and is full of the Tarzan touch—a character creation of novelist Edgar Rice Burroughs and read avidly by school boys. If only it had been filmed in colour which is now in the offing its entertainment value would have been enhanced twicfold. Set in the jungle environments of Sri Lanka, the story revolves around two children—a boy and a girl—who are carried away by the raging flood waters and deposited in the elephant infested jungles, where they

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A Vision Of Freedom

A great, white stallion with flowing mane wanders at his will over rolling hills, down into green fields, past rich valleys and through deep woods, tasting the sweet grass and the sparkling waters of the streams.

Then he gallops fast and far..... reaching the Oceans of his dreams, where the great surging rollers crash upon the shore, the wild wind blows free and the golden sands stretch endlessly as far as the eye can see.

Weary, he rests in the evening grazing by the stile, when he senses that a noose may fall upon his neck; his ears prick up, his nostrils twitch and he's off with a swish of his tail.

Freedom, his hoofs beat out freedom cries his heart as he races like lightening with sweating flanks, glittering eyes and white mane streaming free, vanishing into the inky blackness of the night.

When the veils of darkness lift he stands serene, savouring the fresh air of dawn, free once more to roam where he will, lifting high his head, he neighs and melts into the mists.....

Vinodini Amarasingam



grow up, with the beasts as their companions. They swing between trees in true Tarzan manner till intrusion of their jungle peace comes in the form of a search safari that is on their trail. Sebastian Jayasinghe and Sonja Disa take on the main roles, to live it out satisfactorily, while the Pereras—B.C. and Antony—amuse. The children roar at the antics of animals who were caught by the camera in their raw surroundings. Some of these jungle sequences appeared pirated from English films—yet they blended appropriately into the story. With its shortcomings and the temptation to fritter away time—at least 2 reels could have been pruned off, I consider the film a fine first effort in a field that would be covered gloriously by colour in the years to come. Take the children along for their laughter will reverberate to your hearts delight.

EIGER SANCTION (English)—My apologies to *Tribune* readers for bringing off the review of this excellent film rather late, as the cinema concerned is off my beaten track. A Universal release, with the top star Clint Eastwood directing and taking on the main role of a professor, on the verge of retirement, but possessing a persistent penchant for painting and climbing mountains. He is made use of by a gang headed by the "Dragon", to get even and pay off some killers. All this of course is an excuse to get the camera up the Eiger mountain on the Alps range for some breathtaking shots of the heights and the panoramic view around. The peak point of the story is when Clint runs his adversary up an iced peak to carry out the sanction of the Dragon, with nature turning hostile at the crucial moment. The climax is so built that you ride the camera to become a part of the deadly expedition, tied together by tension and tight ropes. The films' educational value behoves that you see this film with the family in spite of a topless sequence or two.

THANGA PATHAKKAM (Tamil)—This is a revival of an excellent film in colour of one of Shivaji Ganeshan's finest films. With that fine actress K. R. Vijaya giving him a helping hand as the loving spouse, he roles a duty conscious police officer who tries hard, but fails tragically to close up the receding gap with his wayward son (Sri Kanth). I saw the film a second time and enjoyed it all the more.

James N. Benedict

Carter Restabilises Khomeini

by Christopher Bourne

The situation in Iran during and after the American fiasco of the commando operation is vividly described in this despatch from Teheran published in the well known London weekly *New Statesman* (May 2, 1980) from which this is reproduced with due acknowledgement —Editor

VETERANS of the Vietnam war now reporting in Iran have been, to say the least, taken aback by Carter's sudden disgust that the Iranians have displayed the bodies of the dead Americans. Nobody can remember protests from Governor Jimmy Carter of Georgia during the Vietnam war when the Americans not only routinely displayed piles of Vietnamese bodies to prove how 'successful' the war was, but actually posed with corpses displayed like hunting trophies, while the notorious Special Forces even wore necklaces made up of human ears.

Americans will probably have to wait through another month of primaries to discover whether the fireball which blew away the American rescue attempt in the Iranian desert last week is also going to blow away Jimmy Carter's chance of staying four more years in the White House. But one thing is certain, and that is that if the Iranian government had planned the whole affair they could not have devised a better scheme for restoring faith in themselves at a time when they seemed determined to alienate virtually every element in their own country except the hardest line Moslem faithful.

Before Friday's fiasco, there is no question that President Bani-Sadr's Government was in deepening trouble both at home and abroad. It has been conducting a brutal little war aimed at smashing Kurdish moves towards autonomy in Kurdistan. It has a border war brewing with Iraq. The economy is in terrible shape and can only get worse as European sanctions begin to bite, and to cap everything, in what appeared to be a spasm of pure masochism, it turned on its own university students two weeks ago in an attempt

to smash left-wing organisations it saw as potential threats to its rule. By last Friday (April 25), the wild-eyed Teheran mob, who are known as the *Hesbollahi*—the party of God—were among the few people in town who could be relied on to do exactly what the President wanted (a loyalty they had proved the week before when they served as government shock troops and smashed through the universities).

GIVEN THESE WOES, it was hardly unexpected that the government, from Imam Khomeini downwards, saw the hand of God involved in the failure of the American mission. The fundamentalist Islamic newspaper *Islamic Republic* immediately drew the parallel of the Great Satan's (Carter's) defeat with that of the Ethiopian King, Abrahah, who as the Koran relates was defeated at the very gates of Mecca when bringing up his heavy weaponry for a final assault. In Abrahah's case, his surprise weapon was elephants but the Koran records that a flock of swallows appeared in the air, each carrying stones, with which they bombarded the tuskers and drove them off.

Swallows had little to do with the dispersal of Carter's force. A reconstruction of the events based on the visible evidence would suggest that good old American incompetence had more to do with the disaster. The official American version of what happened is that the task force of eight heavy Sea Stallion helicopters and accompanying C-130 transport planes had to abort the mission because progressive mechanical failures had reduced the helicopter force below the six needed to carry out the mission and remove the hostages. Then, the official version goes, one of the helicopters, as it was moving across the landing site to refuel, crashed into one of the C-130s, starting the disastrous blaze which burned the chopper and transport and killed the eight crewmen whose incinerated remains were found later on the site.

However the tracks of the C-130 on the packed desert grit, and the fact that the delicate blades of the chopper are unbent suggest a different story. What seems to have happened is that the chopper force reached its rendezvous safely and was waiting for the refuelling C-130 to come into refuel them before they began their dash to Teheran.

The fuel-laden C-130 seems to have blundered in out of the darkness, landed, seen the parked helicopters and while running along the ground, swerved to miss one and smashed into another-starting the blaze which ruined the mission, because the grounded choppers simply did not have any fuel to go to Teheran and back. (Those left intact on the site have almost empty tanks). The virtually undamaged blades of the chopper which can be seen radiating from the nose of the burned out transport in aerial pictures are vital evidence. If they had been spinning, as they must have been if the chopper was moving to the transport as the Americans say, they would have been twisted and bent as they hit the plane.

ONCE THE PLANES WENT UP there seems to have been a hideous scramble in the darkness to get out as soon as possible. No attempt was made to blow up the abandoned helicopters, so that a rich store of evidence of American wickedness was left for the Revolutionary Guards who eventually reached the scene hours after the explosions had lit up the desert. The haul included documents and maps (one of which showed 14 sites marked, including not only the American embassy and the Foreign Ministry in Teheran where the hostages were kept, but also Imam Khomeini's house and an army barrack in distant Qom; of all places). One member of this highly trained team of professional snatchers even left his driving licence behind, and so the world now knows that Stanley E. Thomas, who drives in Virginia has been a recent tourist in Iran.

The team also abandoned a lethal armoury of weapons which make something of a mockery of Carter's claim that the mission was a "humanitarian" one, aimed only at freeing the hostages and with no intention of hurting the Iranian people. If silenced sub-machine guns, Browning automatic rifles and fifty calibre machine guns (to name a few) are not hurtful weapons, it is hard to think what are. Presumably the team would have plunged into the embassy, which is on one of the busiest thoroughfares in Teheran, shooting as they went. It is inconceivable that there would not have been death on a fairly substantial scale, and the Americans were certainly armed to deliver it.

JUST WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED to the several thousand foreigners still living in Teheran if the American attack on the embassy had gone ahead can, fortunately, only be imagined. As it was, the failure was greeted as a great Iranian victory, and the huge crowd, many of them *Hesbollahi* who had marched to the embassy after Friday prayers, were seen at their best, going out of their way to re-assure foreign journalists at the embassy that they welcomed them, and wanted only the blood of Carter. Their behaviour was in marked contrast to that of the week before, when many of them had broken into Teheran University and beaten hundreds of students bloody simply because they suspected them of being "non-Islamic" (which in fact is a codeword meaning left wing).

The result of the American raid was obviously a happy one for Iran, but it means added discomfort for the hostages and may not be to the country's long term advantage. The hostages are now dispersed through various centres in the country, and for simple physical reasons will probably not live in comfort. The blatant American attempt to use armed force to solve the hostage problem has greatly strengthened the hand of the hardline Islamic fundamentalists on the ruling Revolutionary Council who have always said that Carter was a murderer who did not understand reason, and that the hostages are simply a bunch of spies who should go on trial and be punished, even with execution if necessary. They will not be told what happened, in all probability, but will know from the fact that they have been moved out of Teheran that something occurred, and from the fact that they are still prisoners that something must have gone badly wrong. The moderates, including Bani-Sadr and Foreign Minister Sadegh Ghotbzadeh, who want to return the hostages so they can get on with the real business of getting Iran back on its feet, have seen their arguments completely undercut by this latest Carter fiasco. The one wild action of an essentially moderate man in Washington has done nothing to help the moderate men in Teheran.

Nuclear Power—2

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).

SINCE IT IS UNCLEAR at this time what additional regulatory standards will be required in light of the Three Mile Island accident, further development of US nuclear power capacity cannot move forward. Completion in the near future of the 90 plants under construction is therefore unlikely. Moreover, licensing uncertainties mean continued delays, longer lead times and higher construction costs. As a result of mandatory safety adjustments, the completion time for plants under construction already exceeds the 12 to 14 year average of older plants. Because of these problems, it is conceivable that nuclear power could be priced out of the energy market in the United States.

Financial losses, higher capital costs and growing competition from European and other suppliers could hinder investment in the nuclear industry and thereby make nuclear power uncompetitive with other energy sources. Even if some uncertainties are resolved and purchasing resumes, ordering rates for nuclear reactors in the 1980s will probably be no greater than two to eight GW a year—far below earlier rates of 12 to 38 GW per year. Though this is less than optimal, it is sufficient for maintaining the viability of a nuclear equipment and construction industry that otherwise will not be able to survive. If these changes do not occur soon, by 1935 the industry could experience a grave financial crisis.

Fearing that spent fuel reprocessing

would increase nuclear proliferation by making weapons-grade material such as plutonium and enriched uranium more available, the Carter administration in 1977 decided to defer commercial reprocessing and the commercialization of the breeder reactor, which produces both electric power and additional usable fuel from the uranium that is fed into it. The consequences of this policy thus far have been two-fold: nuclear waste has accumulated, and development of the liquid metal fast breeder reactor has been further postponed. *The problem of spent fuel accumulation is becoming acute, because space in present storage facilities is inadequate for longterm needs. If methods for disposal are not tested and implemented within this decade, storage facilities are likely to be filled to capacity and reactors will be shut down.*

In contrast to congressional desires for an immediate storage site—either interim or permanent—the Carter administration is opting for time to experiment and collaborate with state governments in evaluating several possible storage and disposal sites in different geological formations. With this purpose in mind, the President recently appointed a state planning school that will advise the federal government on these matters. Despite previous attempts to postpone power plant construction until an acceptable solution to the waste disposal problem is found, it is likely that congress will impose a ban on further nuclear plant construction if waste disposal measures are not enacted by 1985. Some experts feel that a decision on waste disposal sites is needed now. However, it is apparent from a poll taken at the 1980 national Governors' Conference, that no state executive wants the political liability of having a nuclear waste dump in his state.

ON THE SURFACE, waste disposal difficulties could be mitigated by reversing the administration's decision to defer commercial reprocessing. After reprocessing, some spent fuel could be recycled in the conventional thermal reactors used today. The breeder reactor would not be needed under this option. A decision to permit thermal recycle, however, would be contrary to the Carter Administration's non-proliferation policy, because reprocessed fuel would contain weapons-usable material, such as plutonium. The

economics of recycling plutonium in thermal reactors remains controversial, since it is now clear that uranium supplies will not be depleted in this century by the current light water reactor cycle because demand for electricity has declined.

The administration's position since 1977 has been that the once-through light-water reactor system now in operation is sufficient for near-term needs and is more proliferation-resistant than systems that would use reprocessing and thermal recycle. Furthermore, the administration has argued that there is no significant economic advantage to be gained from commercial reprocessing and deployment of breeder reactors in this century.

Believing that breeders are unnecessary at this time, the Carter administration has repeatedly attempted to terminate the breeder project at Clinch River, Tennessee. Congress has kept the program alive, but the project remains unfinished. The fact that it will take about 40 years to make the Clinch River or any other breeder program commercially successful means that the United States cannot expect adequate deployment of the fast breeder cycle until well into the 21st century—and only then if a decision to proceed with its development is made now.

FROM THE ABOVE ANALYSIS, it seems unlikely that nuclear power will substantially increase in use as a primary energy source in the United States during the remainder of the century. Nonetheless, it is important to note that this situation could change dramatically as a result of rising concern over the dangers of acid rain accruing from enhanced coal-fired electric power generation. Since nuclear power is an alternative to coal for generating electricity in most parts of the nation, a decrease in new coal generation facilities could lead to a renewed market interest in nuclear power. Whether this will be allowed to occur, given rising public opposition to nuclear power, remains problematic.

Although nuclear power will continue to be a necessary part of the total US energy mix, it cannot be viewed as the absolute cure for oil dependence in this century. The longer-term prospects for nuclear power depend on its relative attractiveness as a safe, competitive and secure source of energy. —USICA

Concluded.

OUR DIFFICULTIES—3

Agriculture And Paddy Production

by R. Kahawita

IN OUR LAST ARTICLE we dealt with the three main crops—Tea, Rubber and Coconut, and the step-motherly treatment they get because of our set ideas of an accelerated Mahaweli, Greater Colombo Economic Development, Free Trade Zone etc. Here we will deal with another major crop—a vital crop at that to reduce C.O.L. and contain inflation within reasonable limits—Paddy, a crop we have been cultivating ever since there were a Sinhala people.

Before we do that, we wish to comment on the review of our economy for the year 1979 by the Central Bank—an Institution that keeps track of our economic progress and reports to Government, "how we have fared during the year under review in the financial management of the country." **Of what we said of Tea, Rubber and Coconut, the Central Bank report also says the same thing but in academic jargon which few can understand. The report is meant not to be understood by the average man. If he understood, there will be hell.**

Increase in tea production is marginal, an overall 4% when we desired an annual increase of 15%. Tea plantations are managed by two Public Sector Corporations, JEDB and SLSPC. Between them they manage 62%. It is more according to our figures. You and I can do nothing to increase production. If the Industry is slipping back all that you and I can do is to blame our Government. Of course that kind of protest no Government will heed. But the Government may multiply the Ministries, increase the Corporations, set up Authorities, distribute responsibilities, regionalise management and so on and so forth, that is, any kind of device to say that steps are being taken to increase production.

ALL THESE NEW DEVICES are to manage the same acreage which was managed by a handful of Agency Houses before the State took over. The management then set the

annual targets and if the estates did not hit these targets, some one is going to be on the carpet and at the end, may be without his bread and butter. So the production levels were maintained.

The scenario is different today. There is the weather to blame for all the ills of agricultural decay in the country and everybody accepts it without even a whimper.

In the case of rubber there is marginal reduction of production according to the Report. It says, "This was a rather disappointing performance, when considered in the context of the 7% growth achieved last year." It is the same story with coconut. Apart from the droughts, the coconut industry has many other ills. To deal with the problems, we have a Ministry, a couple of Boards and some authorities. In spite of these the Industry is deteriorating daily and soon there will come a time when we will have to do without coconuts. It may be good for our health.

The Central Bank Report, when the verbal curtains and camouflaging language are removed is a dismal picture of our economy. Production is low and stagnant but prices are good. Our economy is now propped up by money flowing in from labour earnings in the Middle East, loans, grants, aid, gifts etc., and so we are able to float.

Agricultural Sector did well in 1978. In 1979 it has almost collapsed, if we compare the 8% growth with what was achieved in 1970-1972 etc.,. The result of this setback is seen in the increase in the import of sugar, rice, pulses, and other basic food items the 14 million have to live on.

For many of us agriculture means "paddy cultivation". Paddy production figures are only guesses so, no correct figures are ever available. Every year we claim record crops, nevertheless import of rice and cereals also keep on increasing—and the explanation for this is a 2% population increase and inclement weather. Two significant findings in the report are—use of fertilizer has dropped by 37% and the cultivation loans declined from Rs. 448 million in 1978 to Rs. 74 million in 1979. It would be interesting to find out why this is so. We do not believe that the reasons given by the Central Bank are correct. We will explain this later.

IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR dealing with paddy and subsidiary food crops, the report says, there has been a setback since the green revolution of 1970/72. Particularly in the cultivation of paddy. It has lost all vitality, except for Periodical forecasts by the bureaucrats to predict when we would be self-sufficient. But nothing serious is being done to maintain production levels. It is a seasonal crop and unless we keep working at it, season in and season out, the forecasts are mere bureaucratic fancy. Latest is, "we will be self-sufficient by 1981, because a few experimental plots averaged a yield of 160 bushels per acre"—the establishment is so sure of achieving self-sufficiency that it is thinking of winding up the Food Department. What are a few experimental plots when the experiment has to be spread out to 1.5 million acres to reach self-sufficiency? The retrogression has set in—less use of fertilizer and less loans as reported by the Central Bank are good indicators of our effort at food production.

Total aswedumized acreage under paddy is in the region of 1.5 million acres. Out of which 509,000 acres are irrigated from major schemes where two cultivation crop seasons are possible. Another 438,000 acres are under minor irrigation schemes where a single crop season is possible. The balance acreage of 610,000 acres are rainfed over which the cultivator has absolutely no control of effecting a successful cultivation. In a two crop year the maximum cultivable average is about 2.06 million acres. The average success has been around 70/75 per cent of that acreage and the yields average about 43 bushels per acre.

This is where the greatest production effort should be in the fight against inflation. If we can maintain pressure on production to increase yields by 15% say 50 bushels per acre per season at the national level we will be able to fulfil our promise of "eight pounds of cereals" to at least 80% of the population. We promised this when we were opposing the previous government. Now we have to do it. It will also mean the cutting out of imports of rice, wheat and wheat flour.

Instead we raised prices a short while ago and have drawn the wrath of many. Excuse was global inflation. What we should have been

in a position to do was to have totally dispensed with all imports of rice and reduced the imports of wheat and wheat flour to a minimum. This could have easily been done if we had increased the local production of rice and other cereals.

All sections of the people are displeased with the increase in price of bread and flour. Bread is a ready-made food for the morning meal when the head of the family and the children have to be out of the house early morning. If the mother is also a working woman—today many are so—the early morning schedule to the house-wife becomes a nightmare. Early mornings are chaotic and even the mid-day meal is a problem at present day cost of vegetables etc. Bread was a good substitute, requiring little time to prepare the accompaniments for bread. Thus doubling the price of bread and flour is a killer without any other relief.

(To Be Continued)

x x x

JAFFNA 1980

Police Public Relations

by James N. Benedict.

IN RECENT YEARS it had not been often that I turned towards the tension ridden North for a vacation, but I did so a few days ago and the remarkable change in the atmosphere prevailing there now, crept on me as an unexpected revelation, so much so that I decided not to cut short my holiday as I usually do, but to stay on and seek first hand reasons for the transformation that had come about.

I had a decided advantage in having served the Police Department for over three decades, and my initial instincts therefore took me towards the office of the Supdt. of Police, Jaffna—the present S.P. being one whom I had served with administrative pleasure for a brief spell earlier in my present station. I located him without difficulty and persuaded him to squeeze an hour of his valuable time, to get rather reluctantly at first, but more freely later the answers that I was seeking.

Supdt. of Police, Mr. Kingsley Wickremasuriya, was one who always believed that effective Police patrolling was one method that curbed crime to a large extent in all the

Police Districts and Divisions he had been in charge of earlier. When he assumed duties in the North he discovered to his discomfiture, that Night Patrolling was virtually at a standstill and Day Patrolling had become a touchy and martial exercise. Armed members of the Police Service, rather than easing the situation that had prevailed since 1977, he noticed, were adding provocatively to a non-existent need that had worn off, with the gradual healing of the wounds that had been created. After much thought, and in consultation with his D.I.G. Police, Mr. P. Mahendran, he decided to replace this type of patrolling by normal Day and Night unarmed rounds, and an instant and positive reaction from the public became patently evident. The war of nerves and the artificially created hostility in both directions began to wear off, thus firing the first shots in an entente whereby the Police and the Public ceased viewing each other with suspicion and distrust.

THE NEXT STEP taken was to summon a conference of all the leading public citizens in Jaffra together with His Worship the Mayor where the S.P. opened out his heart sincerely with a call for assistance from the public to return to normalcy and leave the untangling of political problems that deserved attention to those who represented them in the Central Legislature. In these regular confabulations, the Lions Club, the Rotary Members, Principals of Schools, Members of Rural Development Societies and Multi-purpose Co-operative Service Unions, Religious Dignitaries, Fishermen's Societies, Theatre Managers and Gentlemen of the Fourth Estate participated and what appeared at first like a bleak exercise bloomed out quickly into a highly motivated one, enriched by the free exchange of ideas, devoid of fear and suspicion. Vigilance and Welfare Groups that proved effective in Colombo during the racial disturbances, were suggested as healthy springboards for filling up the communication gaps that had prevailed, and not much time was lost in building up such groups which are functioning purposefully in the peninsula now.

Those individuals who were keeping the North in their grip, by sporadic robberies, were brought to book from information that trickled into the Police Stations. The public in many instances as in the notorious Kopay robbery case were apprehended by the public

themselves and produced at the Police Station. Many serious crime cases, normally referred to as D Report Cases in Police parlance were solved and the stolen property recovered, on information from Vigilance Groups and the general public. Terrorism and organised crime that were on the rampage slowed down considerably. There were 22 instances to be exact where complaints were filed in Courts on such information. An altogether healthy liaison with the public became established with many youngsters being in the forefront in all activities. Not a single case of Grave Crime was recorded for a week just prior, to and after the Sinhala and Tamil New Year period, which was an all-time record for the Headquarters Police Stations (Jaffna).

THE FIRST FRUITS of this new approach by the Police Administration in the North has been that a two way reciprocation of friendliness between the Police and the Public has opened up. The Supdt. of Police, told me gleefully in this context that during the New Year Festivities, there were so much Kiribath and Sweetmeats received at each Police Station that there was hardly room to keep them in the building, much less in the lock ups that were mainly unoccupied!

The Christmas Carols organised by the Police had drawn unprecedented crowds and added profusely to the Goodwill of the season, while the Hewisi Band that toured the Peninsula had won the hearts of the people by its performance.

As I took leave of the busy hours of the S.P. he walked up to the door to reminisce over a speech that was delivered at a farewell function accorded to him when he left the Mount Lavinia Police Division to take up duties in Jaffna. I was present on that occasion when a spokesman wished that the departing S.P. should conquer the people in the North and return victorious. Mr. Kingsley Wickremasuriya wanted it conveyed to that speaker that "he had conquered not the people but their hearts during his brief tenure of office in Jaffna."

The question of course now arises very pertinently whether this healthy situation would take root and not change with the outlook of new personalities in the Police set up, when transfers take place. I for one feel that the new

approach has taken a firm grip and the camaraderie created would remain unshaken for a long long time, within which period a lasting solution would be found to the gnawing problems that are within human medication, when taken at the tide and channelled in the proper direction, with honesty and sincerity.

While expatiating further on this excellent team work from the D.I.G. Police and S.P. downwards, percolating to the rank and file under them, I would also plead with the people not to forget as reported once in a *Time* magazine that "Policemen do society's dirty work and dangerous jobs for modest remuneration and less gratitude. In troubled times particularly they are trapped in a cross-fire of contending factions, vulnerable to criticism for being too harsh or too easy. They have also become the targets of physical attack and behind their badges, they fear and bleed as anyone else would. The difference is that for them there is no escape from combat."

The public I hope, whether they be from the North, South, East or West will always bear this in mind.

Office of the Supdt. of Police,
Mount Lavinia.
14th May 1980



HISTORY

An Alternate View Of The Independence Settlement

by Arjuna Kannangara

THE PURPOSE OF THIS ARTICLE is to offer an alternative to the commonly held view that Sri Lankan independence was simply a result of the efforts of a few nationalists like D. S. Senanayake and their agitation for the grant of freedom from British Colonial rule. By no means does this writer wish to diminish the role of the national leaders and the contribution made by them to the independence settlement. However, there were other factors which also played an important contri-

butory role to the granting of independence to this island. What this article attempts to do is to indicate some of these other contributory factors.

Contrary to accepted wisdom, the leadership of the Ceylonese nationalist movement did not in any way envisage a severance of the strong links that existed between them and the British; nor did they want to force the British to agree with their position through the use of armed action and satyagraha as the Indian nationalists did. They were more inclined to discuss the possibilities of a future independence settlement in an amicable "civilized" manner. But this did not mean that firm ideas of an independence date deadline did not exist; but this, in the main, was subsumed by a desire to continue the strong bond that had been built up between the two countries.

The British, on the other hand, had very little intention of granting full independence to Ceylon and were happy to leave matters as they were. Early in 1942, the British Government, having the threats from Japan in mind and anxious to retain the loyalty and goodwill of India, sent Sir Stafford Cripps there to discuss with the Indian leaders the terms on which India could be admitted to Dominion status at the end of the war. To the Ceylonese leaders, it seemed very reasonable to ask that, while he was about it, Sir Stafford should be authorised to discuss with them the question of Ceylon being granted similar status. Their request was, however, firmly turned down by the British Government. It was only in 1946, with the introduction of the Soulbury Constitution, that the British Government partially acceded to the Ceylonese request by granting full responsible government in all matters of internal administration, while the Imperial government retained defence and external affairs within its area of control. But still there was no idea of setting a 'deadline' in the near future for the granting of Dominion status for Ceylon.

During the forties there were continuous negotiations with His Majesty's Government (HMG) regarding the setting of a date in the near future to grant Ceylon full independence. But as negotiations went on, it was feared by the Ceylonese leaders, who were conscious of Ceylon's strategic position in the Indian

Ocean and her inability to defend herself that this strategic weakness maybe used (as it indeed was) as an argument against the granting of early independence.

According to Sir Charles Jeffries (Oliver Goonetilleke's biographer), "From the point of view of the British government the question was not simple. There were the defence interests of Britain and her allies. Ceylon was a vital point. If independence were once granted there would be no going back". Also by the mid-forties, the uncertain implications of India's independence had enhanced Ceylon's already important strategic value for the Imperial-Commonwealth defence system in the Indian Ocean region.

ACCORDINGLY, the centre of the problem of Ceylon's independence focussed on Britain's defence interest in the island. It was this aspect, despite advances made in the governance of the country after the introduction of the Donoughmore Constitution in 1931, which stifled progressive Constitutional advancement towards full independence. In a policy declaration made by the British Government in 1943 (known as the 1943 Declaration), it was stated that the post-war examination of the reform of the Ceylonese Constitution would be directed towards the grant of fully responsible government under the Crown while laying down detailed conditions related to defence and external affairs. The resulting Soulbury Commission, which was appointed immediately after the war, accepted that the goal of the people of Ceylon is Dominion status. But largely because of defence considerations, the commission reported that it was clearly not possible to reach that goal in a single step.

In the summer of 1945 Mr. D. S. Senanayake, (for an interesting analysis of D. S. Senanayake see, J. R. Jayewardene, "D. S. Senanayake: A study of his Foreign Policy" in *The Ceylon Historical Journal* Vol. 5, Nos: 1-4, 1955) was invited to London by the Secretary of State for consultations, just prior to publication of the Soulbury Commission report, where he made a strong case for Dominion status. Naturally enough the Colonial Office rejected this claim. However, in a statement of policy made in September 1945, the British government stated that it was in sympathy with the desires of the Ceylonese

no advance towards Dominion status and was anxious to co-operate to that end. Further, the hope was expressed that the new constitution proposed by the Soulbury Commission based on the Westminster Mode would be accepted by the Ceylonese and that from there onwards, provided it works, Dominion status could gradually be evolved, but no dates were set. In November 1945, the Ceylon State Council accepted this statement with an overwhelming majority.

IN FEBRUARY 1947, when the whole question of Indian and Burmese independence had been virtually settled, Senanayake made another attempt to secure immediate Dominion status. He wrote a letter to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr. Arthur Creech-Jones, with the apparent approval of the Governor General Sir Henry Moores, and authorised Sir Oliver Goonetilleke to act as his personal representative in pressing the matter upon the British authorities.

When Sir Oliver entered into negotiations with the Colonial Office during the early part of 1947, there were three new factors which added a new dimension to the negotiations and probably contributed to a change in attitude by HMG. First, there was the introduction of a 'new chip' onto the bargaining table in the form of Mr. Senanayake's willing offer to negotiate an agreement covering defence and external affairs which would leave a British presence on the island after independence. Secondly, there were the problems created by the series of strikes on the island, inspired by the Marxist Opposition, which began in October 1946 and gradually acquired the character of a general strike by early 1947. In an external environment harassed by the supposed activities of stalinist agents in Europe and elsewhere, this took on an importance greater than it merited in reality. Thirdly, there were the economic problems being faced by Britain in the aftermath of an expensive world war which diverted attention away from the external environment to the internal problems of national recovery.

This writer would submit that it was the collective influence of these three points which became the main contributory factor in creating the necessary conditions for the British government to consider a definite date in the near future to grant Ceylon full Dominion status.

Concerning the first factor, the most important point to note is that the Ceylonese political elite envisaged continuing close collaboration with Britain. But although everyone in the Colonial Office was prepared to trust Mr. Senanayake, an Independent Ceylon (according to their thinking) might well at some future time come under control of a Government which was not friendly to Britain. What safeguard could there be against that? "This was fair enough" notes Sir Charles Jeffries, "but Sir Oliver could reply with equal fairness that the British and other nations were continuously having to entrust their defence interest to foreign countries over which they had no control." With the offer of Senanayake to sign suitable agreements on Defence and External Affairs came the turning point which made it easier for the British Government to contemplate immediate granting of Dominion status. Additionally, in the eyes of the Ceylonese political leaders the Agreement would act as a counter-weight against any acts of aggression by the new State of India. (This misconceived notion of Indian aggression played a prominent part in foreign policy planning during the first decade of Independence). In an announcement made by Mr. Arthur Creech-Jones, in the House of Commons on the 18th of June 1947, it was made clear that the Agreement to be concluded on terms satisfactory to HMG and the Ceylon government were a condition precedent to the granting of fully responsible status within the British Commonwealth of Nations.

Concerning the second factor, both London and Colombo were worried by the political situation created by the activities of the Marxist opposition in Ceylon. Both the Governor General and Mr. Creech-Jones saw clearly that "the effects of further delays could only be disastrous." Accordingly, the Secretary of State for the Colonies continuing his speech on Ceylon to the House of Commons (18 June 1947) stated that, "immediate steps will be taken to amend the Soulbury Constitution so as to confer upon Ceylon fully responsible status within the British Commonwealth of Nations."

The Agreements on Defence and External Affairs (there was a third Agreement on Public Affairs too) were signed by both parties on

the 11th of November 1947 and thus paved the way for independence on the 4th of February 1948.

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VERSE

Whither Honesty?

1. On lord, what is our good world coming to,
I am at loss to understand
Enlighten me, I know not what to do,
Before I go beneath the sand.
2. Oh how can a man be "honest",
When all about him, thieves abound
He that tries to be upright and modest,
Ends trodden on the ground.
3. "Honesty" has lost its meaning,
All around the honest are scheming
In days of yore they stood upright
Today a losing battle they are
forced to fight.
4. Will the world ever come to understand
And give the honest man his place
to stand?
Not expecting him to move with the tide,
Which to him will be next to suicide.
5. All media call for honesty—
"hard work",
In practice the motive is "shirk",
The call to be upright
Is plain lack of foresight.
6. The coconut tree some do say,
Stands upright however the wind
may blow
But the crown is not safe and will one day,
Swept be by gale on to the floor.
7. Some say be like the Bamboo tree,
Swaying from side to side
you'll never fail to feel the glee,
Of moving with the tide.
8. Enjoy free air, hold yourself straight
Let every one laugh at you and
your behaviour
Will come the day to calculate the freight,
And there by your side will be the Saviour.

9. Treachery, Corruption are all temporary
Which despite knowing men still
act contrary
Never living by a standard
Till one day they will be strained.
10. Please keep in mind,
there is one above watching you,
The blowing, the coconut tree,
and the bamboo,
He will know ultimately what to do,
And then to cleanse you
there won't be enough shampoo.
11. Honesty will always have its return,
You don't have to be feeling bad,
You'll see the dark clouds burn,
And bring you results glad.
12. Honesty, Honesty may you
everyday thrive,
Please read this and make this a drive
If discipline, honesty is made to survive,
The world will flourish and
good results derive.
13. Like gold that to attain,
Its lustre and its gleam
Takes burning, beating and great strain
So honesty, a burned and beaten beam.

Lucy Clotilda Fernando

Paththalagedara.
28/4/80

GRAMA SASTRA—18

—Scribblings On Uva Villages

Jamanarang, Noses And Vitamin C

by Gamiya

HOW LOVELY to be able to see jaguar-like the underside of history in ruralia. To think rural, to think "gammy", is a great help, for there, despite the charges brought against the poor, despite the charge of romanticising the village, truth and simplicity and our humble beginnings are intermingled.

I recall old Dunugollegedera, 97 according to his horoscope, seated sideways, patiently waiting, waiting. "Today, they call it vitamin

B, my son says, but in our time, it was Kurakan, that lovely snuff-brown colour brought joy to my heart and strength to my veins. I worked nearly all day in the fields, tirelessly. Today, my son-in-law's son, can't stand the sun, and cannot work for more than an hour or two. Malnourished they say."

Then, what about Vitamin C? Heen Banda had just returned from the chena. Short of stature, he had a great-heartedness beyond compare, looked the world squarely in the eye, with that simple banian and cloth, and towel — inseparable companion — on his shoulder. The bashful wife was busy helping in the preparation of the simple meal and an infant daughter hung away in a hammock, an occasional push given by her passing sister. The eldest girl was about twelve years of age, and she was of a previous marriage. How longingly he spoke of his first wife and who had died long since.

THE CHILDREN five of them in all, had running noses, Yet, out in the garden, there seemed to be no lack of Vitamin C, in loaded lime trees, and believe me, lemon trees! Peasants need not only our curative care but also preventive care, and when they do not know the uses of some kinds of fruit, how glad they would be when they do learn of the properties of lime and other citrus fruits which mudalalis load into lorries and take away for a tiny sum so they can get a tidy sum.

Heen Banda's garden, small as it was, bursting with lemon, lime, jamanarang (tangerines, mandarines, 'loose jackets' as S. Indians call them), and jambola. One of our small group asked: "Can I buy an orange or two?" He picked ten or twelve, handed them to us and answered: "No prices. I won't charge anything. People are more important than money, isn't it true?"

Who will help? "Come over to Macedonia and help us!" says the holy Book somewhere, when some holy men were invited (called, or *vocation* as the christians say, and the religious men and women always repeat). Can there be selfless persons who will chart them the uses of fruits, help them to use them, and help them market the rest, or train them to make bottled juices for local schools, rather than pander to the "cola" instinct of getting for 3/50, what a big company makes for 13 cents a bottle? Can we really believe in the

saying: "not minding high things, but consenting to the humble"?"

How many do coast-hugging, while professing to be of service to the people! They seem never to be able to launch out into the deep. But it is true: Only those who have the courage to leave the shores will see new horizons. The people wait till you finish your sophistication and your flirting with technology and come back. Will it be the twentyfifth hour? Is there no second chance?

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ECONOMIC EMBARGO

Will Iran Collapse?

by Aries

CARTER APPEARS to have had his way with E.E.C. in that they have decided to back U.S. with their decision to impose a limited economic embargo against Iran. There was a general consensus among international observers that at least saner and mature counsel may prevail among the members of the E.E.C. on the hostage issue. No one condones Iran's actions for keeping the hostages for such a long time; it was certainly against all ethics of international behaviour. But the measures taken to free them should not be equally immoral to the extent of clouding the original provocation.

On the other hand it is doubtful whether the limited economic embargo will bite Iran immediately. The experience of such sanctions of the recent past would convince anybody that they are not easily enforceable and could be easily evaded by the very same people who wish to do so—The sanctions imposed against South Africa, Rhodesia and Cuba never had the expected impact.

It is a fact that the E.E.C. countries have cut down on import of Iranian oil this year—Holland 6%, Belgium 10%, Italy 1%, France 4%, Britain 3%, Denmark nil, but Germany still depends on Iran for 12% of the oil imports. The 1978 figures for the above countries were 55%, 29%, 15%, 10%, 13%, 9% respectively and Germany the figure is the same. It is also a fact that E.E.C. exports to Iran has hit very low since the 1979 revolution. But

Germany simply cannot overlook these export bans, because nearly half of the E.E.C. manufactured exports to Iran (£3 billion) originated from Germany. It is also a matter of consideration whether all these would not affect the E.E.C. Countries un-employment easing contracts that normally came from Iran.

In Britain, for example, the Talbot Car Company will be badly hit. This company had been supplying car kits for Iran National Car Corporation and in 1978 exported goods worth £104m roughly half of her exports. If a strict embargo is imposed, it would mean lay off of at least 2000 of the 40000 strong work force at Stoke, Coventry.

Another strategic and tactical blunder the E.E.C. countries will commit, if they persist in their sanctions, was that they will be just throwing Iran into the hands of Russia and the Socialist bloc of countries. Iran will completely transfer her trade relations to the Soviet bloc countries, as she has been already doing. Oil is equally a precious commodity for East European countries. By using the big whip "oil" Iran could still obtain her requirements through third parties, the way South Africa circumvented the UN arms embargo and others.

Iran is not in a hurry to recover her seized assets in U.S. She claims to have non-dollar foreign reserves to the tune of US \$15 billion. And even if she exhausts all that, she can certainly count on the support of other rich Muslim States despite of the religious differences. For most of the Muslim States, just now what is happening in Iran is an Islamic Revolution—As a correspondent in the *Guardian* aptly pointed out recently "The Islamic Revolution is a revulsion by Iran, and potentially by other Muslim States against the Consumer Society of the West; and more generally against Western materialism of which the United States is seen as a symbol. Ayatollah Khomeini and his followers reject the policy of growth and industrialisation pursued by the Shah because it produces the kind of society repugnant to Islamic fundamentalism. A period of austerity would therefore be welcomed by Iran's present rulers.

On the other hand it may also help to boost the popularity of the present rulers despite their mismanagement of Iranian affairs.

Carter, it appears, is still under the thumb of the hawkish Brzezinski and the national security adviser may still go hunting. It is pertinent to recall at this juncture as to what happened to America by listening to Brzezinski and ignoring the advise given by Vance during the 1979 revolution in Iran. As the Shah's rule slipped to an end the State Department advised Carter to make overtures to the Iranian Clergy who would certainly succeed Shah. But Carter, stuck to his National Security Adviser, when there was no national security at stake for U.S. Carter appears to be adding to his blunders.

As the Editorial of the *Economist* suggested "The right Western Strategy is therefore to pay the hostage question long; to make no concessions; to maintain international bombardment of disapproval; but meanwhile to regard the unhappy diplomats as the equivalent of prisoners of war. A great power does not shape its strategy around the release of 50 prisoners of war in a minor theatre of war. The fact that Carter is just doing that suggests that he is letting his policy be dictated by the frustrations of election year American public opinion; which does not add to one's confidence in Mr. Carrer."

Colombo.
19-05-80



WHY DELAY

Irrigation For Coconut?

by A *Tribune* Investigator

It has been brought to our notice that in regard to our comments about irrigation for coconut (vide *Tribune*, Vol. 24 No. 41) the Ministry of Coconut Industries has taken action to get foreign assistance to provide irrigation facilities to coconut lands. The ministry, it is reported, had learnt that the Netherlands Government would be in a position to finance a project of this nature. Accordingly through the Director/External Resources a request has been made by the Ministry to the Netherlands Government in February this year, to secure the services of a specialist to prepare a feasibility report on irrigating the coconut lands in the island. The Ministry

had prepared a note on this subject. Below is a concise gist of the Ministry's memorandum on the subject.

BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION

Rainfall is the most important climatic factor for the cultivation of the Coconut palm. The palm can be cultivated with a well distributed rainfall of 40 inches per annum. However for profitable cultivation an annual rainfall of 40 to 90 inches, evenly distributed throughout the year appears to be necessary. The palm stores little moisture and has little or no capacity to tap moisture from deeper layers of soil. Thus growing coconut is not profitable in regions with long and pronounced dry spells during which the water table goes down considerably.

There are about 1.15 million acres of coconut in Sri Lanka distributed in agroclimatic regions which are both very favourable as well as not so favourable for the cultivation of coconut. Considering the importance of this crop in the agricultural economy of the country and more importantly as a popular dietary constituent, the cultivation of it even in regions where climatic requirements are not ideally suited for its Commercial cultivation appear to be amply justified.

Apart from this, there are a number of other reasons that justify the cultivation of coconut in such suboptimal agroclimatic regions. Some of these reasons are: (a) the prevailing high price of coconut both in the internal and the external markets; (b) scarcity of cultivable land and the existing demand for cultivable land from a large number of crops and (c) importance from a national point of view to salvage a fair quantity of coconut after fulfilling the needs of domestic consumption for the purpose of earning much needed foreign exchange.

The distribution of coconut in some of the low rainfall areas and other details were set out in two Tables. These would be for the specialist or the student but for the layman it is enough to point out that coconut under irrigation has not yet been adopted on a large scale in Sri Lanka.

EXPERIENCE OF IRRIGATED COCONUT—Experience of irrigated coconuts in Sri Lanka is very meagre. Since irrigation of coconut in the past has not been a serious

possibility, not much of experimentation on this aspect has been conducted in Sri Lanka. However in an experiment at the Coconut Research Institute of Sri Lanka yield increase as high as 42% have been obtained by providing 124 gallons per palm per fortnight during the dry months.

It is premature to arrive at any conclusions based on this experiment. A reasonable expectation however would be that correct irrigation might double production or more optimistically even treble it where presently lack of water is the main limiting factor.

REQUIREMENTS—The production of coconut can be increased in at least 451,300 acres in the intermediate zone and 197,877 acres in the dry zone if supplementary irrigation can be made available for 5-6 months and 6.5-7 months.

Towards this end it may be necessary to investigate into the following aspects: (a) the frequency of watering required in each agroclimatic sub zone; (b) the quantity of water required in each agroclimatic subzone per month; (c) the depth of water table in each area; (d) economic feasibility of irrigation system with and without intercrops in coconut lands; (e) basis on which irrigation facilities should be distributed among coconut farmers.; (f) suitability of adopting the experience and the findings from India where irrigation of Coconut is practised.

Tribune hopes that this well-intentioned memorandum of the Ministry of Coconut Industries does not remain a paper effort, and that something is done about irrigating coconut lands.

Tribune, however, feels that it is not necessary to wait for experts from Netherlands to have a feasibility report (there is enough expertise in Sri Lanka)—unless this is only a bait for aid. And aid is really not necessary to sink tube wells in the coconut triangle. Investigation has been done a long time ago and this are available.

For a fraction of the money wasted by government on useless tamashas, on cars and vehicles, foreign trips for Ministers and bureaucrats and the like in the last three years a few hundred tube wells could easily have been sunk and they would have saved several millions of trees in the coconut triangle.

There is really no need to have waited all this time to start the work of sinking tube wells at least in a major part of the coconut triangle. Foreign aid is useful and perhaps necessary, but this could have been used for extending the work to the Dry Zone area. Waiting for reports from foreign experts and aid can be an excuse for procrastination and in-activity.

* * *

POINT OF VIEW

The Way The Cookie Crumbles

by Jayantha Somasundaram

ONE MUST OF COURSE GUARD against the danger of drawing ultimatic conclusions from the results of bye-elections. Yet, Anamaduwa is trying to tell us something. Something that we can epigramatize thus: Reformism is perhaps dead!

What role has Reformism played in Sri Lanka's politics, and why might we conclude that it is dead?

The inability of successive Governments, which have to greater or lesser degrees permitted market forces to dominate economic life, to meet the aspirations of rising generations whilst protecting their living standards have all created their own tensions. Radical opposition has been the outcome of this process. Yet at crucial junctures Reformism has served to deflect this radicalism and thus preserve the *status quo ante*.

The first challenge of radicalism was witnessed in August 1953 during the Hartal. The Hartal was an indictment of the first half decade of UNP post-independent rule.

The demands as well as the radicalism of the Hartal were skillfully contained within the Reformism of 1956. Bandaranaike's policies were reformist to the extent that they shrank from making meaningful inroads into the existing property system.

Thus economic power remained in the hands of an elite who made decisions in their own interests and to the exclusion of the vast majority of the people. At most the elite was now Brown, spoke Sinhalese and wore cloth and banian.

The second marshalling of radicalism centred around May 1963 when the three Left Parties—the LSSP, CP and MEP positioned themselves within a United Left Front whose platform made confrontation of a radical nature inevitable.

Once again the SLFP shuffled itself into a Reformist posture. A posture now legitimized by the LSSP, and later the CP, who went into alliance with it in 1964 and 1968 respectively. The highwater mark of this trend was May 1970, when the United Front of the SLFP, LSSP and CP swept the elections.

However, as soon as the Reformist alternative took state power, as in 1956, their bankruptcy became evident. Thus the radicalisation of the opposition would be accelerated. And so we have the April 1971 insurrection.

This time the radical opposition was different in character to the Hartal of 1953, which was a mass movement in action led by the working class, and 1963, which was an assertion of leadership by the Working Class. This time the leadership was in the hands of educated-unemployed-youth. But that did not diminish its threat.

On the ashes of the JVP in the post-1971 period grew a New Reformism—the UNP of J. R. Jayewardene. The people were in dire straits—as they had been in 1956 and in 1970—and J. R. Jayewardene had all the right slogans. And so the landslide of July 1977.

Reformism in power is predictable—living standards, assuming that such things still exist today, continue to be eroded. Three years of it and the stage seems set for a return to a Counter-Reformist alternative. And the SLFP seems the ideal candidate; though the JVP would also now like to be considered for the role.

After generations of this Reformist game, the people at Anamaduwa, Galle, etc, seem to have got tired of it. Even in Parliament the SLFP is ceasing to be an opposition of any consequence. Not even the encouraging presence of the LSSP and MEP and the CP waiting in the shadows seems able to get the show back on the road again.

J. R. Jayewardene with his enigmatic smile was the one person who foresaw and feared the death of reformism. That was why

he regretted aloud the absence of skilled reformist leaders like N. M. Perera and Colvin R. de Silva in the Republic's Second Parliament.

Reformism in the person of the alternative national party has been there all along to syphon off disaffection and thus stabilise the system. If Reformism is dead—then that's the time that the cookie begins to crumble.

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90TH ANNIVERSARY

Ho Chi Minh

The ninetieth anniversary of Ho Chi Minh's birth was celebrated this 19th May. The Vietnamese people are redoubling efforts in study and work to commemorate the occasion and to express their gratitude to the President. On the same occasion, the World Peace Council convened an International Seminar in Hanoi on "Vietnam and the World". The Conference will deal among other things with "President Ho Chi Minh's contribution to the *Struggle for Independence and Peace*". A founder of the Communist Party of Vietnam, (3rd February 1930) and the father of independent Vietnam (2nd September 1945), Ho Chi Minh devoted his whole life to independence and peace, and made outstanding contributions to this cause.

The first aspect of his greatness was his finding of Vietnam's way to independence. Independence had to be complete; freedom not only politically but economically, freedom from both colonial and neo-colonial domination. This way has now been chosen by many Asian, African and Latin American countries. When the twentieth century dawned, Vietnam was groaning under the burden of French imperialism. Vietnamese patriots were searching for an escape for their country; some wanted to learn from the Western bourgeoisie; others from Japan, a feudal country which had just modernized itself along western capitalist lines; others from China, a neighbour which was also trying to oppose partition and imperialist domination. All these patriots, however, failed in their aspirations. Ho Chi Minh prized the patriotism of his predecessors but did not agree with their ideas on how

to proceed. He went abroad and was struck by a gap between the oppressors and the oppressed. He saw great exploitation in France. He concluded that the struggle for national liberation had to go together with the struggles for the emancipation of the labouring masses.

Lenin's thoughts and the Great October Revolution in Russia showed him clearly the way to liberate his country. There was no other way than proletarian revolution. He took a step forward from patriotism to scientific socialism. The Vietnamese revolution emerged from its crisis of which line to follow. There was now a firm foundation for the independence and socialism. From his observations of life abroad and his study of Marxism-Leninism, Ho Chi Minh drew guidelines for action to link the Vietnamese revolution with the world revolutionary movement, to integrate patriotism with proletarian internationalism, and to oppose racial prejudice and chauvinism.

The Vietnamese people still remember his Teaching during the resistance wars against the French and the American imperialists to distinguish between the rulers in Paris or Washington and the French and American peoples. And today we are careful not to confuse the reactionary rulers in Beijing with our close neighbours, the Chinese people. "Proletarians all over the world are brothers and sisters". At a time when so-called "socialists" are working with imperialists to oppose the socialist countries, this saying of Ho Chi Minh is all the more significant.

The thesis of Ho Chi Minh on national liberation have not only lighted the way for the Vietnamese revolution over the last fifty years, but have also greatly contributed to the national liberation movements. They help national liberation movements to escape from blind alleys on to which they may be led by great-nation chauvinists putting themselves forward as Marxist-Leninists. It is worth recalling a basic point of President Ho Chi Minh: to bring the national liberation revolution into the orbit of the proletarian revolution, the leadership of the working class has to be established from the beginning. When he founded the Communist Party of Vietnam, he stressed time and again that it was the Party of the "proletariat" (e.g. Appeal on the occasion of

the founding of the Party 1930) Later said, "To win victory, the revolution has to be led by the working class, for this class is the most advanced, conscious, determined, disciplined and organised."

He also pointed out the role and strength of the peasantry in the Vietnamese revolution, regarding it as "the main and most reliable ally of the working class". However, it is a mistake to over-estimate the role of the peasants as Ho Chi Minh said at the Peasant International Congress in 1923, "In our time, only the working class has the historic mission of leading the revolution to final victory in alliance with the peasantry. The opportunist tendencies which wrongly regard the peasantry as the 'Nut and Bolt', the sole main force of the revolution, and the most revolutionary force, only lead to adventurism, extremism, anarchism and chauvinism.....".

This anniversary is an opportunity for the Vietnamese people to learn again the teachings of their great leaders: "Creative applications of Marxism-Leninism to Vietnamese concrete conditions."

—Information Dept. Vietnam Embassy.

TOPICAL

Re-evaluating Trees

by Ranil Senanayake

DURING THE COURSE OF THE LAST FEW MONTHS, most of the large trees that border the Weerawila-Wellawaya road have been cut down. This action has been initiated by the Electricity Board in order to make way for the new power lines. Notwithstanding the curious aspect of trees on both sides of the road being cut (especially the valuable satinwood), the action seems to be justifiable. It fulfils the need to attain the goal of a spatial pathway for power lines. It also exemplifies unidirectional thinking.

Unidirectional thinking long demonstrated to be detrimental in matters of social content, still seems to prevail in many public institutions in Sri Lanka. The defence of such thought has largely resided in the argument "I am only responsible for the fulfilment of

the goal defined by my discipline and no other." The social irresponsibility is demonstrated by the cutting of roadside shade trees.

The process of rural electrification fulfils a valid need. To attain this goal, power lines have to be laid. Roadside power lines are the most economical. Thus, the felling of the trees that obstruct the lines is justified. Logical, in an unidirectional sense but hardly democratic, and certainly irresponsible in a social sense. When we transgress on the collective property or collective good of members of a democratic society, it is customary to record input from the members of that society. Often, such input provides perspectives usually unperceived by individuals outside that society. These inputs may contribute greatly to the design of the final plan.

During a period of interviews with the people who lived by the roadside where the trees in question were being felled, a notion of non-involvement was prevalent. "No one asked us if these trees were of any good to us." The next logical question was "are these trees any good?" The answer was almost universal "Yes, they give shade". On initial perusal this may hardly seem to be an asset of any significant importance, but on reflection one is struck by the importance of shade trees to the community.

THE WEERAWILA - WELLAWAYA ROAD is hot and sunny for most of the year. It is typical of most dry zone roads and serves as the major thoroughfare for pedestrian as well as vehicular traffic. The lack of shade makes many sections of such roads inhospitable to pedestrians during mid-day hours. One effect of the removal of shade trees from the side of public roads is to penalize pedestrians, animal drawn vehicles, etc., and to restrict the hours of use by that segment of society.

Another unrecognized use of roadside shade trees is their function as omnibus shelters. The public transport system has not provide shelters for commuters on many routes. Often, the construction of shelters is impracticable due to the random nature of the stops. The commuter however uses the shade trees as shelter and such trees provide a wider, more comfortable shelter than any metal or concrete structure. Trees then, appear to be the most economical omnibus shelters

for many routes. It is also salient that three recent studies done on the cooling aspect of trees, conclude that an average tree provides a cooling factor that would be equal to five to seven room size airconditioners working 20 hours a day.

The example above illustrates the external benefits to the economic reality of the village community. Such external benefits are uncomputed in the assessment of the cost/benefit ratio of the construction of a roadside power line. It also exemplifies unidirectional thinking. To be fair by the organisations concerned, it should be stated that present economic assessments are still rooted in redundant economic theories of a decade past and thus are not sensitive to such economic realities, and external cost/benefits. A recognition of externalities and a sensitivity to the inter-relatedness of processes will create policy more sensitive to long term needs and social stability

ress existing injustices, make it possible to eliminate the widening gap between the developed and the developing countries and ensure steadily accelerating economic and social development and peace and justice for present and future generations.....”.

This “solemn” undertaking by member countries of the UN was backed up by twenty principles which form the basis of the NIEO. Among them the following are important: the sovereign equality of states, the inadmissibility of the forcible seizure of territories, territorial integrity and non-interference in the domestic affairs of other countries; the right of each country to embrace the socio-economic system that it regards as being the most appropriate for its own development and in consequence of which it should not be subjected to any discrimination, the complete and permanent sovereignty of each state over its natural resources and its entire economic activity, including the right to nationalisation; the right of all states, territories and peoples under the yoke of foreign occupation or foreign and colonial domination or apartheid to restitution and full compensation for all damages caused to their natural and other resources; control over the activity of transnational corporations by measures in the interests of the national economy on the basis of the full sovereignty of each country; the granting of aid without any political or military conditions.

SEVERAL PRINCIPLES were related to the problems of external economic exchange, including the equitable correlation of prices between primary and industrial products; the preferential treatment of developing countries in all fields of international economic cooperation, where possible; the restructuring of the international monetary system in such a way as to ensure the influx of real resources into developing countries; the facilitating of the activity of producer associations; assurance of the developing countries’ access to the achievements of modern science and technology, encouragement of the transfer of technology.

A PROGRAMME OF ACTION to establish a NIEO was adopted along with the Declaration. It set out measures designed to deal with a new regulation of primary markets, the international monetary system, the carrying out of industrialization, the transfer of technology and control over the activity of

TOWARDS

A New International Order

by Prometheus

AS EARLY as October 1964, 40 leaders of Non-Aligned countries declared during the course of their second Summit Meeting in Cairo:

“.....it is the duty of all countries to contribute to the rapid evolution of a new and just economic order under which all nations can live without fear or want or despair, and rise to their full stature in the family of nations.....”.

ONE of the direct consequences of this led to, on May 1, 1974, the Sixth Special session of the UN General Assembly approving resolution 3201 Titled Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order. That resolution noted, in particular: “We, the Members of the United Nations, solemnly proclaim our united determination to work urgently for the Establishment of a New Economic Order based on equity, sovereign equality, interdependence, common interest and co-operation among all States....
....which shall correct inequalities and red-

In December 1974, the 24th session of the UN General Assembly approved the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States by an overwhelming majority. One of the major features of the Charter was the confirmation of the integral connection between the democratisation and progressive development of political relations and the restructuring of international economic relations. The fifteen basic principles governing international economic relations formulated in the first part of the Charter included the principle of peaceful coexistence, the elimination of injustices depriving a people of the necessary natural resources for normal development, promotion of international social justice the inadmissibility of attempts at hegemony or at creating spheres of influence.

THE SECOND AND MOST IMPORTANT part of the Charter includes among its 28 points devoted to the rights and duties of states many provisions which have provoked a negative reaction in the West. The policy of the socialist countries won a considerable victory with the adoption of Paragraph 15 which read: "All States have the duty to promote the achievement of general and complete disarmament under effective international control and to utilise the resources released by effective disarmament measures for the economic and social development of countries, allocating a substantial portion of such resources and additional means for the development needs of developing countries." Attempts by Western representatives to exclude this para from the Charter proved unsuccessful.

An important feature of the entire document was the clearcut and precise formulation of many provisions relating both to monetary and commercial spheres as well as to the procedures governing foreign investments and technology transfers.

On the whole, it was three documents — the Declaration on the Establishment of a New Economic Order, the Programme of Action, and the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States — that constituted the foundation of what is now referred to as **THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER**.

Ever since the adoption of the NIEO Declaration, an unrelenting struggle has been going on around the problems involved in

comprehending the essence of that order and in finding ways to put it into effect. The outcome of that struggle is crucial not only for the Third World, but for all mankind. The outcome of the struggle will decide whether mankind will relapse into a new barbarism or go forward into a new humane and just social order.

It must be stressed that the demand for the NIEO is political action. The underprivileged peoples who are fighting for a new order have neither the military nor the economic power to match the dominant forces in the present world.

In the next few articles, we will examine some aspects of the problems in achieving a NIEO for developing countries, the present international economic order with particular emphasis on areas such as Debt, Trade commodities and prices, foreign aid, foreign investment, transfer of technology, the reverse transfer of technology, etc.....

SRI LANKA CHRONICLE

May 12 — May 18

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—Davasa; DP—Dinapathi; CM—Chinthamani; WK—Weekend; RR—Riviresa; DK—Dinakara; EN—Eelanadu; IDPR—Information Dept. Press Release.

MONDAY, MAY 12: The Government this week launches a top priority program for training young people, whose participation is urgently needed in the country's development program during the next few years; this follows acceptance by Minister of Youth Affairs and Employment Ranil Wickremasinghe of the recommendations of the Corson Report

on the development of needed human resources. About 2,500 early school leavers will be given jobs this year under a program initiated jointly by the Minister of Education and the National Apprenticeship Board. A Consumer Advisory Service to educate the consumers about the international and local market conditions and to tell them the prices, qualities and quantities of competing articles in the local market would be started soon, Trade and Shipping Minister La'lith Athulathmudali said on Saturday—**CDN**. One of the reasons for the delay in eliminating malpractices in the co-operative sector is that arbiters themselves are up to corrupt practices; this is stated by the Minister of Food and Co-operatives Mr. S. B. Herath in a report to the Government in regard to malpractices in co-operative societies. Five tons of maldivian fish, manufactured locally, are being released to the market every month now; the maldivian fish is manufactured under the brand name "Sea Lak" at Palliawasathurai, Kalpitiya, in the Puttalam District, as a joint venture sponsored by the Industrial Development Board—**CDM**. Government will strictly enforce regulations governing air charter companies in a bid to curb various irregularities committed by these companies which could harm our booming tourism industry. A top level CID team was yesterday assigned to investigate the circumstances as to how an Indian national had attempted to enter Sri Lanka on a Sri Lankan passport. The State Mortgage and Investment Bank will shortly raise its interest rates on loans in line with the general increase in interest rates by other banks—**SU**. The MP for Nallur and head of the TULF Mr. M. Sivasithamparam said that differences of opinion which could be talked over and settled within the party should not be brought out in the open as it will be beneficial to opponents—**VK**. About 5 lakhs of acres of land which were granted under colonisation schemes will soon be owned by the cultivators; deeds will be given instead of permits—**DP**. The Youth Wing of the TULF has rejected overtures made by the Party that a peaceful settlement of their differences of opinion should be brought about by holding discussions—**EN**. Two top officials have warned parents and teachers to keep vigilance on students most of whom are deeply involved in horse race betting. More than 150 Sri Lankan women who had gone to Middle East for employment

are now in the Jails of these countries for charges of theft—**DM**.

TUESDAY, MAY 13: Police detectives investigating the spate of robberies at co-operatives during the past few weeks believe that most of them are inside jobs, a senior official at Police Headquarters said yesterday; about Rs. 50,000 worth of goods, including rice flour and textiles were stolen when 10 co-operatives were burgled during the past four weeks. Former Prime Minister Sir John Kotelawala yesterday laid the foundation stone for the Alice Kotelawala Residence at the Women's International Club, Guildford Crescent, Colombo in memory of his mother who was one of the founder members of the club—**CDN**. Rupees two and a half lakhs in cash which was a production in the Homagama Bank robbery case has vanished from a CID safe. The Prime Minister, Mr. R. Premadasa, yesterday outlined a new policy of financial self-reliance for the public sector; Mr. Premadasa declared that instead of looking up to the Treasury all the time for financial aid, the public sector should exploit its own resources to finance its development projects. Two Ministers—Mr. Ronnie de Mel and Mr. La'lith Athulathmudali—yesterday welcomed American business entrepreneurs to come and invest in Sri Lanka; "we offer you stability and hospitality from one of the most literate nations in the developing world", they told the high-powered team of US businessmen from the Overseas Private Investment Corporation—**CDM**. The government has rescinded a gazette notification which provided for the payment of enhanced incentive rates for exporters of packeted tea and tea bags. The filling of the Parliamentary seat of the Eastern Province electorate of Pottuvil appears to have now led to a legal and constitutional tangle; the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) is contending that the vacant seat should be filled by the TULF as the late Mr. Canagaratnam whose recent death caused the vacancy was not a member of the ruling United National Party when he crossed over to the Government benches in 1978. The director of a local travel agency was yesterday questioned for nearly four hours by detectives probing the Sri Lankan connection in the plot by hired mercenaries to assassinate Maldivian President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom and oust his Government. Trade and

Shipping Minister Lalith Athulathmudali, while holding out a politically stable Sri Lanka to visiting American Investors yesterday, told them in no uncertain terms that "we can only give you the stability of a democracy and if you want more you won't get it." President J. R. Jayewardene will shortly appoint a special commission to examine the conditions of workers in the plantation sector and make recommendations to improve their position—*SU*. 3000 lower grade police officers have resigned from the police force in 1977—*ATH*. Investigations have revealed that Maldivian Students studying in some top schools in Colombo are involved in the recent attempt to overthrow the Maldivian government—*LD*. A recent survey has revealed that the vegetable production in the island is falling by 3689 tons annually; the survey conducted by the Agrarian Research and Training Institute has revealed the increased expenditure of vegetable cultivation is one of the main reasons for down fall of production—*DV*.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14: Finance Minister Ronnie de Mel said yesterday that the government's intention was to make Sri Lanka a centre for a fully-fledged off-shore banking service and an international financial centre. Bangladesh has proposed a Summit meeting of six South-Asian countries, including Sri Lanka to discuss ways of promoting co-operation among them, informed sources said yesterday; the proposal was made by Bangladesh President, Ziaur Rahman in a special message sent to President J. R. Jayewardene last week. Investigations have revealed that no foreign power was involved in the recent abortive coup in the Maldives, Fathulla Jameel, the Maldivian Foreign Minister said yesterday. Rev. Mathew Peiris and Mrs. Dalrene Ingram appeared before the High Court of Colombo yesterday and accepted indictments which were served on them; the accused who will face a trial-at-bar were refused an application for bail made by counsel on their behalf. A security operation aimed at keeping at bay foreign gun-runners and narcotics smugglers has been launched by the police, on instructions from the Ministry of Defence—*CDN*. The government will provide electricity to 1500 villages during this year under the multi-million rupee rural electrification scheme with funds from the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries and the Asian Develop-

ment Bank; the Governing Board of the OEC Fund has agreed to make available to the Government of Sri Lanka a loan of 6 million US dollars (Rs. 97.5 million) for the Rural Electrification Project. The Kotelawala Defence Academy and Aquinas University College will be recognized by the University Grants Commission to prepare students for University examinations from next month. If the southwest monsoons expected to come next week, breaks with force the villagers living in the southern coastal area fear that angry seas would roll and create much havoc because of the massive destruction of the coral reefs—*CDM*. The Maldives is making preparations to appeal to Premier Lee Kuan Yew's Government of Singapore to make available Maldivian ex-President Ibrahim Nasir, to face charges in Male courts for attempting to overthrow the lawfully elected Government of Maumoon Abdul Gayoom. There will now be instant inquiries into complaints against state officers; this will precede disciplinary action in the form of transfers and other measures. The country, specially the western coastal belt is experiencing a tremendous heat spell; the Director of the Meteorological Department K. D. N. de Silva speaking about the conditions said that the main cause is the heat waves from the sea drifting inland—*SU*. 4 1/2 lakhs of government servants will be able to go to their work places from their homes from next year when the new transfer scheme comes in to effect; government servants will be transferred to the closest offices to their home towns—*DV*. The Department of Immigration and Emigration has got to know that a group of racketeers are playing round the world using 75 passports that disappeared from the Department; one person who was coming with one of these passports was taken into custody recently at the Airport—*LD*. The government had decided to increase the price of a pound of sugar to Rs. 6/—*ATH*.

THURSDAY, MAY 15: The Government yesterday decided to pass legislation to restrict the purchase of land by foreigners; announcing this decision Cabinet spokesman Minister of State, Anandatissa de Alwis said it had been brought to the notice of the Government that land in Sri Lanka was being advertised in foreign countries, mainly West Germany

and Scandinavia. Sri Lanka's national carrier Air Lanka, which commenced operations in September last year, is well on its way to being a viable venture with passenger and cargo revenue exceeding estimated earnings after only seven months of operation. The Civil Flying Academy which was closed two years ago, will start functioning again in September under the management of the Sri Lanka Air Force, Air Vice-Marshal Harry Goonetilleke said yesterday. President J. R. Jayewardene genuinely felt that most of the grievances of the minorities would disappear if the districts were developed; that was why he decided to set up District Development Councils, A. C. M. Ameer, former Attorney-General and vice president of the Presidential Commission on Devolution of Power said. Government yesterday accepted a proposal by the Minister of Power and Energy to revise the existing electricity tariffs, because of the sharp increases in costs of generation, transmission and operation as well as maintenance—CDN. A unique feature in the political history of independent Sri Lanka was the continuity of a stable foreign policy through the changes of many governments; this was said by President Jayewardene yesterday evening at a convocation ceremony of the Bandaranaike Centre for International Studies which was held at the BMICH—CDM. Air Lanka will purchase two Boeing 707 aircraft from the Lockheed Aircraft Corporation through a 40 million US dollar loan from the Chase Manhattan Bank, Cabinet Spokesman Anandatissa de Alwis announced yesterday. A project to expand the telecommunication network in the country at a cost of 30 million US dollars will be undertaken by the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications—SU. The price of sugar has gone up in the world market, a ton which was 523 American dollars has risen to 700 dollars—VK. Interpol has informed the Defence Ministry that an international terrorist organisation comprising of murderers, thieves and smugglers is to establish its headquarters in Sri Lanka—DP. The majority of female Arts graduates have not passed the G.C.E. (O/L) examination according to a survey conducted by the Women's organisation of the University of Sri Lanka—LD. The construction of the Moragaskande reservoir which comes under the Accelerated Mahaveli Project has been stopped because the expected

Japanese technical aid to draw up detailed engineering plans for the project is not forthcoming—ATH.

FRIDAY, MAY 16: An agreement for the establishment of a \$ 7 million project to manufacture rubber canvas footwear at the Katunayake Investment Promotion Zone (IPZ) was signed yesterday between the Greater Colombo Economic Commission and Asla Limited, a Sri Lanka and foreign joint venture an official spokesman said. There is a fear among parents that their children who have been admitted to the Medical Faculty of the Ruhuna University College may not be able to complete their studies satisfactorily owing to lack of facilities, staff and hostel accommodation. A team of foreign experts now in Sri Lanka has told the Government that the Kotmale Reservoir Project is technically and economically feasible and has advised that construction of the project be continued. From Monday May 19, two pounds of sugar per week will be issued through co-operatives and authorised dealers on the householders' card at Rs. 4/50 a pound. The Government of Japan will provide the services of young Japanese volunteers to assist in development activities in this country, under an agreement signed here yesterday by the Japanese Ambassador in Sri Lanka Mr. Keisuke Ochi on behalf of the Government of Japan and Dr. W. H. Tilakaratna, Secretary Ministry of Finance and Planning on behalf of the Government of Sri Lanka. Most schools in the Jaffna District do not teach the Link language because principles are taking no interest in it, an Education Ministry spokesman said yesterday—CDN. Dr. Stanley Kalpage, Chairman University Grants Commission yesterday assured that the fourth medical faculty in Galle will be started by the end of June; there might be minor deficiencies where buildings were concerned; he was commenting on the fears of parents of medical students enrolled with the Ruhuna University College, in a memorandum sent to the authorities, stating that the Galle hospital does not measure up to the standards of a teaching hospital—CDM. A top level police team will fly to Male next week to conduct further investigations into the Sri Lanka connection in the plot to assassinate President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom of the Maldives and topple his government. Detectives investigating the forged passport racket run from an

establishment in Pettah have now discovered that the group involved had also been carrying out a similar operation in respect of forged National Identity Cards—*SU*. The government is taking steps to bring new changes in commercial laws to deprive traders guilty of hoarding, profiteering and adulterating from civic liberties—*DP*. A University for subjects concerning development is to be set up in Kotte; this university will be set up on a profit earning basis and those who study will have to pay fee; agriculture, production methods, management, imports, exports methods will be some of the subjects taught in the new university—*DV*.

SATURDAY, MAY 17: Stern measures will be taken against unscrupulous traders who resort to hoarding and profiteering in sugar, Commissioner of Internal Trade, M. Ramalingam said yesterday; the Commissioner said that all hoarded stocks of sugar would be confiscated while those who refuse to sell or resort to profiteering in the commodity would be prosecuted. The American Investment Mission here on a seven-day visit was interested in exploiting the country's ilmenite reserves. Mission leader, Alfred N. Beadleston told a press conference here yesterday. The budget for 1981 will lay stress mainly on development, a high Treasury official said yesterday. Government has decided to introduce legislation to control the hire-purchase business—*CDN*. The President, Mr. J. R. Jayewardene has written to the heads of states of member countries of the "Aid Sri Lanka Club" requesting a continuation of assistance for the current year; although this is a normal practice this year it was significant in that the donor countries like Germany, Japan, Canada and Sweden were facing economic problems in their own countries, Mr. Ronnie de Mel, Minister of Finance and Planning, told a Press Conference yesterday. Mr. Ronnie de Mel, the Minister of Finance and Planning is suing the Independent Newspapers Ltd. of Colombo 12, for one million rupees for alleged defamation. According to the CGR's own "Train Delays" chart issued each month to its officers, the main reason for delays is due to operational defects; this is also the constant complaint made by railway commuters—*CDM*. President J. R. Jayewardene last night ordered a halt to government's decision to ration sugar from Monday; the move, follows representations

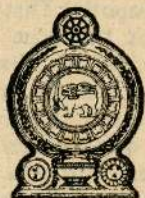
made to him; the government is today likely to announce a new price at which sugar will be made available in the open market—*SU*. June 5, the day on which the Opposition trade unions will observe "National Protest Day", the government trade unions will celebrate "National Unity Day"—*DP*. Air services from Colombo to Jaffna, Trincomalee and Batticaloa will be resumed within the next two months; this comes in the wake of an American airline service coming here to help improve our domestic air services—*VK*. Students of the Jaffna Campus yesterday boycotted all lectures and did not attend the opening ceremony of the campus sub post office; they also surrounded the Senate room where the University Council meeting took place; they claim that they did this because the good news of the opening of the sub post office, a long standing demand of the students, was not conveyed to them by the authorities—*EN*. The Department of Railways in a secret circular has said that not a single train goes in time—*LD*; the government is taking the problem of deciding whether to go ahead with the accelerated Mahaveli project or to use foreign aid for other development projects; aid giving countries have said that they cannot give for both Mahaveli project and other usual projects—*ATH*.

SUNDAY, MAY 18: In what economic circles believe to be the most practical effort yet made to persuade holders of "black money" to disgorge their hoards which are exerting tremendous pressure on prices and fuelling Sri Lanka's galloping inflation, the government yesterday announced a "bearer bonds" scheme effective from Wednesday. The government yesterday said that the sugar rationing scheme announced on Thursday had been abandoned and that sugar will be retailed from Monday without restrictions at Rs. 6 a pound. Food Ministry sources said yesterday that prices of all commodities had gone up in the international market; the sources added that when 30,000 tons of sugar produced in Brazil and Kenya were purchased in March, the price—cost and freight—was 523 US dollars a metric ton and 220 pounds sterling without freight; on May 13, the price—cost and freight—was 725 US dollars a metric ton and 330 pounds sterling without freight; the price had gone by 202 US dollars. The Managing Director of the local travel agency which handled the

travel plans of the team of mercenaries plotting a coup in the Maldives has told police that neither he nor his firm had any knowledge of the conspiracy against the Maldivian government—50. The government has decided to issue bearer bonds from tomorrow in a bid to flush out hoarded money so that it could be used for the country's economic development; the bonds will not be reveal a persons' identity. The foreign currency banking unit of the State Bank of India has successfully arranged the first ever syndication of a foreign currency loan for a GECE enterprise in Sri Lanka by signing an agreement to extend comprehensive credit facilities aggregating US 4.8 million dollars to Asia Ltd., a Free Trade Zone project to be set up for the manufacture of canvas sports footwear—57. The Swiss national wanted for questioning by the

Sri Lanka police about his role in hiring mercenaries for the coup plot in Maldives, and his international consultancy firm based in Basle, Switzerland, which he used as cover were in 1977 involved in an unsuccessful attempt to assassinate President Ghassinghe Eyedema, head of the West African State of Togo. A major slice of the Chase Manhattan Bank's US \$ 40 million loan to Airlanka will be used to set up a 500 room five-star hotel in Colombo Assistant Government Agents serving in difficult areas are to be given a special allowance by the Government—WK.

Govt.



Notices

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

Reference No. LL/A 7404

It is intended to acquire the land described in the schedule below. For further particulars, please see the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, No. 91 (Part III) of 28-05-1980.

Gananatha Abeygunawardana
Assistant Government Agent
Ratnapura District.

Land Branch, The Kachcheri,
Ratnapura, 13th May, 1980.

Schedule

Name of lands: Sudu Thiriwanaketagoda deniya-
Sudu Thiriwanaketagodahena

Situation: In the villages of Delgoda and Thapaswarakanda, in Meda Pattu, Kalawana D.R.O.'s Division, Ratnapura District.

Survey References: Lot No. 1505 in Supplement No. 32 to F.V.P. No. 1 and Lot Nos. 314, 315, 316 and 317 in Supplement No. 11 to F.V.P. No. 248.

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

Notice Under Section 7(I)

Reference No. LD/F 590

It is intended to acquire the land described in the Schedule below for a public purpose. For further particulars please see the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka No 91 (Part III) of 29.05.1980.

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

The Kachcheri,
Kandy. 08th April 1980

Schedule

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

Name Land: Andi Anga, Wewa-angewatta, Arambegodahene, Egodawiannewatte, Arukange Kumbura, Wewa-ange Kumbura, Mulmediyahene, Pissekotuwa, Udagedarawatte

Plan and Lot Nos.

Lot 1 in P.P. Maha 1904	
Lots 2 & 3 in P.P. Maha 1904	
Lot 4	do
Lot 5	do
Lot 6	do
Lots 7 & 8	do
Lot 9	do
Lot 10	do
Lot 11	do

Confidentially

• One Million

IS IT NOT TRUE that the *Sun* in its issue of Tuesday, May 20, had a sensational tid-bit in its frontpage boxed column *Sunstroke* entitled *RS. 1,000,000 AND MR. FIX - IT?* That the item read as follows: "The new Foreign Bank Manager had just finished his bacon and eggs and was getting ready to go to his plush city office. He had an early morning caller. Annoyed, he raised his eyebrow. The visitor, used as he is to calling on big-wigs on early mornings, did not flutter an eye-lid. He was bringing presents. Wasn't he? 'Good morning', he said. I have come to make a fixed deposit of a million rupees with your bank—and this for starters only. The banker in him was not prepared to discourage a thrifty customer and though not impressed with the amount offered for starters, yet like Barkis he was willing'. 'Meet me at the bank' he said. His customer being a lord among men wanted to do it his way. 'I don't want to see the vault of your bank', he said. 'But I must take you to the actual party who wants to make the deposit. You know he is a close relative of a politico and if you come with me, I will introduce you to persons who matter'. Being a persuasive man the banker boy gave in. And off they went first to one politico's house to say 'how do you do' and then to another where the actual future constituent of the bank lived. The deposit was handed over and the grateful banker thanked this Mr. Fix-it. How was he to know that Mr. Fix-it had a proviso. He wanted a cut as his fee for this million rupee introduction. Other Bank Managers please copy"? That Colombo is a small city (as far as cities go) and gossip gets round the bazaar quickly? That in a matter of hours everybody (usually in the know of things) had plected the cryptic j-g-saw puzzle together and knew who the dramatic personae were in the melodrama (for the sensation loving) and a tragedy (for the nation)? That the identities were established? That the million rupee

depositor was allegedly a government Corporation that dealt in many many millions every week? That the order for the deposit was allegedly made by the politico VIP who has the final say in the affairs of the Corporation? That the million rupee deposit was also allegedly made within an hour of the order being given? That it is now whispered in the bazaar that the million rupee deposit was withdrawn within the next 24 or 48 hours? That the reason for the alleged withdrawal is that the Bank Manager had refused to pay the "cut" or "kickback" the go-between had wanted saying that Banks were not "commission agents"? That he had also stated that a million rupees was chicken feed to the Bank that dealt in billions of dollars—not devalued Sri Lanka rupees? That presumably the order for the withdrawal (so the bazaar gossip goes) was made by the VIP who gave the order for the deposit? That it is therefore further alleged that the "cut" or "the kickback" was not for the Mr. Fix-it who is reputedly one of the richest and one of the greatest lords in the fast growing universe of smugglers and quick-money experts (and who would not even sniff at a 1% of one million bucks)? That this story about the million rupee deposit, even if not complete in all its details, is a pointer to something really rotten in the State of Denmark (or Sri Lanka)?



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. 1593.50	Rs. 1596.50
Sterling Pound	Rs. 3789.50	Rs. 3793.50
Deutsche Mark	Rs. 902.35	Rs. 903.95
French Franc	Rs. 384.20	Rs. 384.90
Japanese Yen	Rs. 7.3020	Rs. 7.3170
Indian Rupees	Rs. 208.25	Rs. 208.65

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(2 wheel Tractors) H.P. 6

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