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# Letter From The Editor

IN THIS THIRD part of our analysis of the electoral perspectives for 1983, we propose to deal briefly with the Left and all those who love to call themselves "progressive". This week we will delve into the past, and next week we will endeavour to project the immediately foreseeable prospects of the Left for 1983. There was a time in the fifties and the sixties when the Left in Sri Lanka was regarded as an important political force. It was. And in the first half of the seventies, two Left parties—the LSSP and CP—held Cabinet positions in the SLFP-led United Front Government. In this period, instead of gathering strength, the LSSP and CP weakened and denigrated themselves by the exercise of coalition governmental power. Apart from being guilty of sectarian mistakes of pushing the SLFP hard to adopt ultra radical measures before the people were prepared for them, they have also had to bear a good part of the blame for the sins of the ruling coalition. To go back still more into the past to a few significant landmarks: it was the frustrating disunity in the Left and "progressive" (mainly nationalist) forces that led to the emergence of the left-of-centre SLFP in 1951/52 which came to parliamentary power in 1956; that it was the adventurist strike actions of the Left that weakened S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike's government and contributed to creating conditions for his assassination in 1959. Later, it was the opportunist sectarianism of the LSSP in breaking the May 1963 United Front to form a Coalition with the SLFP in 1964 that pushed Philip Goonewardene into the UNP and disrupted the Left Movement for decades. Finally, it was the euphoric cocksure arrogance of the United Front (SLFP-LSSP-CP) coalition after 1970 that was responsible for the youth insurgency of 1971. And to cap everything, the LSSP and CP, in the period after 1970, became tainted with corruption and abuse of power and thereby lost the respect of the common people who always had the highest regard for Left honesty and integrity. This is the main reason why they were so badly defeated when they went to the hustings alone in July 1977—for the first time since March 1960. Furthermore, the Left in Sri Lanka has from its earliest days been badly divided by ideological differences coupled with personality conflicts. In 1939 there was the Trotsky-Stalin split, and it was followed by many other splits—over the years. Between 1946 and 1953, the LSSP broke and regrouped themselves several times leaving a multitude of scars on the Left movement. The CP which was formed in 1944 had a Maoist chism in 1963, but this Maoist CP splintered quickly enough within two or three years. It is from this crack up in the Maoist group that the JVP had emerged to stage the flash-in-the-pan April 1971 insurgency with far-reaching repercussions on the SLFP, LSSP and CP. With the failure of the 1971 insurgency, the JVP broke up into many Maoist and nondescript factions—and today we have over seven of them only one of which supports the present (Hua-Deng) Peking regime. In recent years the LSSP has had one major breakaway in Vasudeva's vociferous NLSSP. Only the CP has not recorded any formal splits but it is riven with differences that have led to dramatic changes in its top leadership. (To Be Concluded)

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## CONTENTS

### COVER

—Village Re-awakening p. 2

### EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

—June Fifth p. 4

### FOREIGN AID—2

—Who Benefits p. 9

### FILM FOCUS

—No Smoking Ban p. 10

### WHAT IS THE MIND—2

—Where Is It? p. 12

### NGUVU 2

—The Search p. 14

### A REJOINDER

—Singappooru Daruwa p. 15

### VAVUNIYA M.P.

—Milky Mess p. 16

### RANDOM JOTTINGS

—War & Peace p. 18

### SHORT STORY

—Candle Of Understanding p. 21

### MONSOON MONTH

—May p. 25

### CHRONICLE

—June 4—9 p. 27

### CONFIDENTIALLY

—French Connection? p. 32



## Village "Re-awakening" And National Priorities

ON MONDAY, JUNE TWENTY THIRD there was a mighty tamasha at Amparai when Prime Minister Premadasa celebrated the opening of the 56th Model village of what is known as the Village Re-awakening Movement.

The *Sun* which pays special attention to the work and activities of the Prime Minister in a front-page "Focus" on June 19 explained that: "The Village Re-awakening Movement, or 'Gam Udawa' conceived by Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa, by happy coincidence reaches the opening of the 56th model village at Amparai on June 23, on Mr. Premadasa's 56th birth-day. With this country-wide movement, the dynamism of Sri Lankan civilisation once more flows to its original base—the village. Explaining the concept, officials close to the Premier point out that in fact, the influence of the village is so strong that even today Sri Lankans refer to their birth place as 'gama', be it village or town—'gama' thus being the equivalent of the English 'home town'! ".....".

The article went on: "Even today, the officials say, it is the village which has retained and nurtured our traditional, humane values against the onslaught of foreign particularly western commercial influences. For any traditional cultural or religious festival, vast numbers of urban workers stream back to their 'gamas' to celebrate the festival, they point out. While previously the tendency was to concentrate on the housing programmes in Colombo, its suburbs and other major towns to cater to the heavy inflow from the villages, the Government which has now decentralized its development programmes has through the Village Reawakening Movement reversed this trend by striving to uplift the villages, they said."

Meanwhile the big show on June 23 was at: "...Amparai, once a desolate jungle area now a booming agricultural district, is getting ready to host the second anniversary of the village reawakening. Large crowds are ex-

pected to pour into the district to witness the 'Gam Udawa 80' exhibition to be opened by President J. R. Jayewardene on June 23 at the Amparai Esplanade and also the cultural shows which will be staged daily till the exhibition ends on July 3."

The chief characteristic of this Movement has so far been to build model village houses in each electorate and also to provide amenities like water, biogas, solar power, small machines for handicrafts and the like to improve, it is said, the "quality of life" of the rural peasant.'

The *Sun*, also on June 19, endorsed the Prime Minister's movement in another eulogistic piece: "The Village Reawakening Scheme, Prime Minister Premadasa's brain-child, which has brought security and joy into the lives of many hundreds of rural people, has now reached a crescendo. Since its inception in June 1978, when the Prime Minister visited the backward village of Badalgama the project has come a long way. The Prime Minister himself did not imagine that the project would attain such gigantic proportions.

"Many such villages have now been established on a self-help basis. The families which are to be settled provide the labour to build their houses while the government provides the building materials on a loan basis. This way, the estimated cost of each house is reduced almost by half. Besides, the involvement of the families in the construction of own houses makes them appreciate their homes and surroundings. They would also take extra care to cherish and protect their new found stability. Thus self-reliance is cultivated in the minds of the villager."

"Another significant aspect of the scheme is the distribution of large areas of uncultivated land among the peasants. Those lands have now been brought under cultivation by the villagers. Each village has between 50 and 100 houses. When developing a model village care is taken to preserve the village environment when landscaping. While the buildings are being constructed tree planting and cultivation also begin. Once the villagers become self-reliant, their self-respect and self-confidence will also increase."

**Nobody can quarrel with these noble objectives.**



But *Tribune* has always wondered whether the priorities have been properly worked out. There is no doubt that this Movement and the other programmes that come under the purview of the Prime Minister have shown that Mr. Premadasa has the competence, capacity and determination to get things done. And that is why we feature him on our Cover this week.

**BUT AS WE HAVE MENTIONED**, it is our considered view that priorities on a national perspective have been wrongly worked out. What is the earthly use of a few model houses in our villages when agriculture itself is in the throes of neglect? And there are no indications that matters are improving in any way. Except for paddy, production of all other agricultural crops have gone down in 1979 and the drop has continued into 1980. 1978 and This is borne out by official statistics. If the money, competence and determination utilised to build houses in rural areas had, in the first instance, been used to develop and sustain a new green revolution in food production, the vast majority of our population who live in villages would have benefited much more than by seeing model houses come up for a small handful of the rural folk.

At present, owing to the sad default in the management of agriculture, the expenditure on the rural housing programme is aggravating the inflation in the country. A government has collective responsibility for the total outcome of its policies, programmes and strategies—and what does it benefit a village if one villager out of every five hundred has a model house whilst the agricultural pursuits of the five hundred have been cast into the doldrums by the inept and ineffectual policies and administration in that sector. The Government as a whole is responsible for the failure in this crucial and important sphere.

All the good work of Prime Minister Premadasa will come to naught if agriculture continues to be in the shambles it is in today. *Tribune* is also aware that the best men in all the departments and organisations in the agricultural sector are angry and frustrated—that most of them want to quit at the earliest possible opportunity. In the meantime, they are doing no work. They do not want to do any work. *Big talk, bigger reports, and self-*

*praise may impress Ministers and others at the top, but the workers, the experts, the field officials refuse to put up with the treatment that kanjanies meted out to their labourers in the beneficent 'days of the Planters' Raj.*

**IT IS UNFORTUNATE** that a wide gap and gulf has come between the common people and the overwhelming majority of the Ministers. Every Minister in this government, as in all past governments, is already buried in a silken cocoon woven by a bunch of contact-cum-yes-men who not only keep the Ministers happy mesmerised by fairy tales but also succeed in keeping out all those who might say other things and debunk these stories.

Such is the sad state of Sri Lanka today!

The credibility gap which has enveloped the government daily grows bigger. Tamashas and the State Media cannot bridge this gap. The present man-made power crisis, which is not likely to be resolved in the lifetime of this government, is another example where not only priorities have been topsy turvy but also delays in implementation have brought our economy to the verge of a major breakdown. If liberalisation, if development and foreign investment were pushed ahead at a rapid pace, power generation to meet the increased demand should have been pushed ahead at an even more rapid pace.

The entire government is collectively responsible for the delays caused by the hanky-panky and manipulations in the award of the tender for gas turbines from 1978 to 1980—delays which have escalated the power crisis far more than it need have been. The failure to award the tender for gas turbines expeditiously is no doubt the immediate cause of the severity of present power cuts.

What the country needs is not power-consuming tamashas but a re-examination of all priorities. Unless this is done, all our exports from the agricultural and industrial sectors will be so adversely affected that the whole concept of an export-oriented economy will go, to use a Ceylonism, "for a six". The FTZ will soon start wobbling and work in government establishments would come to a virtual standstill. The position is that even if it now rains cats and dogs (and also elephants and buffaloes) in the hydro-reservoir catchment area—we will still face a serious power crisis in the immediately foreseeable period.



## JUNE FIFTH

Colombo, June 22,

The Government will be well advised not to under-rate the protest staged by a number of trade unions (in the JIUAC) on June 5. The protest was not a formidable demonstration but it revealed that there was a deep under-current of discontent which was so compelling that thousands of working people were willing to stand on picket lines in spite of the massive war of nerves the government had unleashed against the Protest Day—together with the calling out of the UNP's strong-arm trade union JSS to stage counter-demonstrations.

The JIUAC, however, had a propaganda bonus in the form of a dead trade unionist viz., D. Somapala, President of the Government Supplies Branch of the Rajya Podu Sevaka Sangamaya (Government General Workers' Union) affiliated to the PSTUF. The *Forward* of June 15 said: "D. Somapala was killed when a gang of thugs hired by the J.S.S. drove up in government vehicles and attacked peaceful picketers outside the Government Supplies Department with bombs and stones. 33 years ago, on June 5, 1947, another trade unionist, Kandasamy, was killed when the Police under the UNP government of the day opened fire on a workers' procession during the historic May-June General Strike of 1947. Ever since then, the workers of Sri Lanka have observed June 5 as 'Kandasamy Day'. From now on, it will be observed as 'Kandasamy-Somapala Day' in honour of the two labour martyrs."

The *Forward* went on to say: "A father of five, D. SOMAPALA lived with his family in a shanty at Narahenpitiya, which he was under notice to leave. An active trade unionist, he was much respected at his work-place and in the area where he lived. On June 5, he was prominent among the workers of his department on the picket line. The UNP and the Lake House press tried at first to make out that D. Somapala died of a heart attack or other natural cause. In Parliament, Prime Minister Premadasa said that he had 'no visible injuries' although the JMO's post-mortem examination revealed that he had

external and internal injuries, including a fracture of ribs and minor injury on the heart. Some UNP circles suggested that he had been set upon by 'Indignant passers-by'. JSS General Secretary, K. P. Mendis, also told the *Daily News* (7/6) that an attempt had been 'made by rival political elements to create a situation by attacking pro-government campaigners.' But the official confidential report sent to Police headquarters by the Police officer in charge on the spot tells a different story. It reveals how peaceful picketers were set upon by people who had driven up in a jeep belonging to Mr. Merril Kariyawasam, UNP MP and joined others who had come 'from the direction of Slave Island' to attack the picketers with 'stones and clubs.'

The *Forward* concluded its piece entitled **LABOUR'S LATEST MARTYR**: "Somapala died in the course of this attack. Several others, including Mr. George Ratnayake, President of the Sri Lanka Jatika Guru Sangamaya, who was speaking at a meeting near the spot, were also attacked and injured. Premier Premadasa told Parliament that after this attack six persons were admitted to hospital and 9 others treated for injuries and sent home. A similar attack (this time from a CTB vehicle) took place on teachers picketing outside the Training College at Maharagama. Several (including women teachers, one pregnant) were struck with clubs and iron rods and had waste oil poured over them. Kuru-negala was also the site of a similar attack. In most cases, the actual attacks were not made by JSS members working in the establishments but by outside hirelings transported to the spot in official vehicles and armed with various weapons. These hirelings of the JSS leaders were giving effect to President Jayewardene's much publicised order to them to take 'suitable steps' to counter the Day of Protest on June 5th.

"Although the police generally stood aside and let the JSS hired thugs take over, in some cases they, too, actively harassed those supporting the day of protest. 12 persons were arrested at Amparai for pasting posters in support of the protest, and 5 persons at Embilipitiya. Arrests took place in other places as well. In some places, posters were torn down by the Police, the JSS and the JVP. In Maradana, a Police Inspector abused and



emptied a bucket of hot paste over Kumar Nimal and 2 others who were putting up posters."

This account of the happenings of June 5 may sound a little exaggerated, but most ordinary people and the so-called man-in-the street seems to believe this version and not the obviously slanted and 'managed news' served out in the daily press. The *Forward* also published a photostat of: "The confidential report sent to Police headquarters by the Police officer on the spot during the incident at Parson's Road in which D. Somapala died reads as follows: '**Colombo, At about 12.45 hours on 5.6.80 there had been a crowd of about 100 persons picketing and demonstrating in front of the Dept. of Govt. Supplies. A crowd of about 20 persons had appeared at this time from the direction of Slave Island and had assaulted the persons who were picketing. At about this time, a jeep bearing No. 31 Sri 1111 had come from the direction of Slave Island and had joined the persons who were attacking the pickets. Stones and clubs had been used. There was the sound of an explosion at this time. About 5 or 6 persons were injured and were removed to the Hospital. The jeep was later seen driving away from a point in front of Lake House with the MP for Agalawatte—Mr. Meril Kariyawasam in the front seat. One person has since succumbed to his injuries'...."**

ON A POLITICAL LEVEL, the *Forward*, put its point of view in a front-page piece entitled **OUR TASKS AFTER JUNE 5**. Understandably, it placed the impact of the Protest on the highest level of inflated importance: "The J.T.U.A.C.'s successful day of protest on June 5th has given the UNP government a jolt. For the past 3 years, this government has withdrawn consumer subsidies, imposed a series of price hikes, and curbed hard-won democratic rights—without experiencing any major resistance. As a result, the UNP government had begun to think that it could get away with anything in its efforts to stimulate the further development of capitalism through a sell-out to the World Bank and promoting foreign capitalist investment. On June 5, the working class served notice on the government that it will have to think again. It showed the government that it is ready to fight back and cannot be deterred or frightened by state coercion or JSS thuggery. It demonstrated

that through the JTUAC, it has been able to achieve a degree of unity that has made possible both the drawing up of common demands and the start of common struggles to win them.....

"Although the day of protest was spear-headed by the trade unions, its character and results are by no means confined to the levels of mere economism. Its main aims—namely the defence of living standards and democratic rights—correspond with the most immediate political demands of the people as a whole. The successful day of protest has also achieved useful political results. It has helped to expose in practice the real character and policy of the UNP government and its leaders, to increase its isolation from the people, to sharpen its internal contradictions, as well as to raise the morale and fighting spirit of the working people and convince them that the UNP government and its reactionary policies can be fought back **HERE AND NOW**, without waiting for 1983. It is to the credit of the organised working class that it is has been able both to show the people the need to fight back the reactionary neo-colonialist policies of the UNP government **NOW** and also to take the united first steps to develop such a struggle."

**After getting all this off its chest, the *Forward* went on to preach its sermon: "All Left parties have, therefore, the clear duty to help and support in every way possible the struggle that the working class, through the JTUAC, has unitedly begun. This is all the more necessary because the initiative that the working class has taken through the JTUAC has alarmed all the bourgeois parties—the ruling UNP because its basic policy is challenged, and the SLFP because the struggle shows signs of going beyond the limits to which the bourgeois Opposition wants to confine it. The working class and the Left movement should therefore, be ready to rebuff the attempts that the bourgeois parties will now make to weaken the JTUAC and blame the initiative that the workers have started."**

**BUT, EVEN BEFORE** one had time to fully grasp the implications of this United Left Front strategy, the *Forward* plunged into an attack on the LSSP: "In this connection, what



the LSSP is now trying to do is highly dangerous. Even before Somapala could be buried, the LSSP together with the SLFP, convened a meeting of some Opposition parties to discuss the next steps that should be taken after June 5th. Of course, neither of these two parties saw the need for the Opposition parties unitedly to support the Day of Protest before it took place. If they had, they would not have declined to take part in the effort made by the CPSL in this connection. Their belated realisation of the need for such a meeting at the political level may have been commendable if it was concerned with some matters that arose directly from the events of June 5 or with proposals for new actions in furtherance of the struggle that took place on that day. But the LSSP soon made it clear that all it had in mind was a few propaganda meetings at which different parties stated from a common platform their disagreement with the UNP's economic policies and anti-democratic measures in general. Such a proposal has nothing in common with united action specific issues or in support of a definite struggle. In the first place, it will only deceive the people into thinking that unity exists at the political level when it does not. What unity, for instance, is possible over one of the main economic planks of the government—the Free Trade Zone—which the SLFP supports and the Left opposes? Or over the so-called "anti-Tiger" and other undemocratic laws to which the capitalist SLFP gave either qualified or total support. In the second place, it will sidetrack the actual struggle that has begun into empty rhetoric, and provide parties like the SLFP with a platform from which they can hide their unchanged capitalist position under the guise of 'Left' approval. In actual fact, the proposal of the LSSP will not bring about united action on the political level to defend and advance the interests of the masses. All it will do is to promote the LSSP's current line of a political alliance of the Left and the SLFP—an alliance in which the policies of the bourgeoisie will predominate and those of the working class and Left forces will be pushed down to a secondary and subordinate place."

And the *Forward* concluded: "That is why the CPSL and several other Left parties have declined to go along with this diversionary and

dangerous policy." It did not specify names of the "other Left Parties." Apart from small splintered groups, we cannot figure out which other Left parties the *Forward* had in mind.

The CPSL's weekly in the same article also criticised the JVP: "A similar struggle is also needed against the sectarian policies of the JVP which, as June 5th showed, in practice help the UNP. The need to expose this sectarianism and sterile ultra-leftism and to help the young people under JVP influence at present to see where this really leads, is also an important factor in developing successful mass struggles in the future." The JVP was also damned in a special front page editorial and among other matters it said: ".....In a leaflet, the JVP condemned the Day of Protest as a deception and urged the masses not to support it. While mildly rebuking the UNP

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## POEM

### When The Red Flamboyants Bloom.....

1. When the red flamboyants bloom  
setting the boulevards ablaze  
the sidewalks becomes a mantle  
of glowing scarlet flame  
and the little black koel  
keeps calling to its mate.
2. Then thunder rips the sky  
and bolts of lightning flash  
the sky begins to weep  
pouring streams of rain  
and the streets are all awash  
with the gushing spate.
3. The red flamboyants mourn  
drooping with the rain  
like proud and vibrant heads  
bowed down with the strain  
and the crimson coloured carpet  
no longer remains.
4. The sweet song of the koel  
fades with the wind  
the drenched little creature  
ceases to sing  
and he finds another perch  
spreading wide his wings.

Vinodini Amarasingam

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overnment for being 'capitalist', it volleyed fire and brimstone against the JIUAC and the Left forces leading the protest. Nor was its opposition confined to mere words. Some of its cadre joined the Police and the JSS in tearing down protests posters. University students who wanted to boycott lectures on June 5th were told by the JVP not to do so while those who did were told to go back. Bluntly speaking, the JVP stance gave greater pleasure and assistance to the UNP and the JSS, who were trying to whip up a 'solidarity' campaign, than to the JIUAC and the workers who took to the streets in protest....."

The *Forward* editorial also stated ".... We are glad that many followers of the JVP rejected their disgraceful advice and joined the protest. This was particularly so in the *Jatika Guru Sangamaya*, the only JVP-led trade union of any significance. We can quite understand how these teachers felt about their JVP leaders who wanted them not to protest while JSS thugs assaulted their colleagues with bicycle chains and poured waste engine oil over female pickets. Completely isolated and rejected by many of their followers, the JVP leaders now make feeble attempts to save face. They were not able to get away with their pitiful attempt to lay a wreath by Martyr Somapala's coffin any more than President Jayewardene could get away with his letter of sympathy to Somapala's widow....." and ended with the strategy it proposed to follow to deal with the JVP: "The many undoubtedly sincere young people who have followed the JVP should realise that the isolation and mass hostility they now experience is a direct result of the opportunist and sectarian policy that their leaders follow. They should ask themselves why the JVP leaders consider the JIUAC and the Left movement a greater danger than capitalist parties like the UNP, why they try to make the youth believe that socialism can be achieved without and even against the working class, why they refuse united action with other Left Parties even on specific and limited issues, and why they always shoot away from any confrontation with the UNP Government? Those who try to separate the youth from the working class and even oppose the one to the other do no service to the cause of social progress and liberation, to the advance to-

wards socialism. They are the other side of the coin of those who seek to persuade the workers that their only future is to latch on to the tail of another capitalist party."

The main article concluded with an appeal: "After June 5th, as before it, the main task is to build the unity of the working class and the unity of the Left movement, using common struggles and united actions as the practical means to do so. The fight against thuggery and for the 23 demands are an immediate field of united action. It is on this policy that the workers and the Left movement should concentrate and not only tailing behind the SLFP or following sectarian policies that only help the UNP."

These are the perspectives outlined by the CPSL. But it reveals that there is more disunity than unity in the Left and progressive movement.

The *(UNP) Journal* in its issue of June 13, 1980 viewed the happenings on June 5 in a different light. In a front page lead entitled DEATH OF A TRADE UNIONIST, it said: "D. Somapala, trade unionist, fell a victim to political trade unionism. To the sorrowing wife and the five orphaned children, his death is an irrevocable loss. We join the millions of Sri Lankans, who bemoan the tragedy which deprived a worker his life. Although we do not want to discuss the circumstances which led to the death because it is already under the purview of the judiciary, nevertheless, we consider this an opportunity to discuss the broader issues involved in the so-called protest against the government. Why did so many splinter Marxist groups, with the SLFP trailing behind them, choose to protest and why did they make the trade unions the cat's paw? To the Marxist's, the only semblance of a power base is in the trade union field. The country at large has rejected them even in the traditional pocket boroughs, which a few years back were known as red fortresses. It was not because the people in these citadels of "red power" were convinced that Marxism was the panacea for Sri Lanka's economic ills that the voters returned the individuals with Marxist labels. It was mainly due to the personality of those leaders. After some time, even towering personalities lost their lustre and gradually



the people turned away from them and at last, the Marxists were bundled out, lock, stock and barrel."

"Even after the electorate rejected them, the Marxists had a few pockets of power in the trade union field. This small power base was used for political purposes; mainly to protest against the Government. Trade unionism, when used for political purposes, loses its vitality and only serves as an appendage of political parties. The welfare of the worker is lost sight of. The agitators called the masses to come out in protest against the Government. What was the response? Except in certain pockets where organised sections did picketing, the rest of the populace ignored the call. The hospitals, postal services, transport, school etc., functioned normally as on any other day subject to the usual failings. But there was nothing unusual on June 5. Therefore, we could surmise that the leftists and the SLFPers failed to make it a success."

"Now, they have taken over the unfortunate situation of the death of a worker to attack the Government. In point of fact, one could discern a gleeful note in the speeches of some of the leftists on this tragedy. They say that 'now there is a good foundation' to work against the government. The people will again ignore their call to protest against the death because the people can see that the torrents of tears are of the crocodile brand. The people feel heavy in their hearts over the tragedy that befell one of their brethren, but they, too, can see how the leftists are trying to exploit such sympathies for their political ends. However much the people feel sad about this death, the leftists cannot fool the masses. The least the leftists could do is desist from creating any more provocative situations. Protest meetings etc., are only platforms for the rejected politicians to stage a comeback. Inflation, cost of living, etc., cannot be solved by these cheap gimmicks. It is only determined effort that could bring about a solution to such vexed problems."

The UNP may think that this is the last word on the subject, but it is not.



Govt.



Notices

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

Reference No. ATH 3/644

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. 95 (Part III) of 26-06-1980.

**Schedule**

D.R.O.'s Division : Kaduwela  
Village : Talangama South  
Name of Land : St. Thomas Estate  
Lot No. 1 and 2 Plan No: P.P. Co. : 5260

**M. A. Kularatne**

District Land Officer, Colombo District.  
The Kachcheri,  
Colombo. Date:- 05 June 1980.

**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 609

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. 95 (Part III) of 26-06-1980.

**K. B. Wijekoon**

Assistant Government Agent,  
District Land Officer, Kandy District.  
The Kachcheri, Kandy. May, 1980

**Schedule**

Situation: Bahirawakanda village, Ward No. 4 Bahirawakanda within the Municipal Council Limits of Kandy, Kandy and Ganga-watta Korale D.R.O.'s Division, Kandy District.

Name of land: Premises Nos. 23/3, 23/4 & 23/5 S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike Mawatha  
Plan and Lot Nos.: Lots 1,2 & 3 in P.P. Maha1952



## Who Benefits?

by Prometheus

FOREIGN AID at governmental level, which the western powers refer to as "humanitarian action", to assist developing countries to achieve economic independence, in fact, is aimed at guaranteeing good political behaviour by recipient countries, imposition of arrangements in respect of imports, interference in their economic policy and the preppration of the ground for subsequent private capital exports.

Favourable loans and gifts, like the greater part of other western financial handouts, carry stipulations for the purchase of goods by the recipient countries from the donor countries. These goods are supplied by the advanced capitalist states at prices which are much higher than those on the world market. Early in 1978, the Indian press reported that Britain supplied India, as economic "aid", 6 cargo ships at a price which was 66 per cent higher than world prices. Credits extended within the framework of "development aid", are, as far as about 50 per cent of their volume is concerned, "tied" to the condition that they must be used to pay for goods and services supplied by the countries granting the particular credits. (of, *World Development Report*, 1978, Washington, pp. 29). In short, these "aid" programmes serve to stabilise and buttress the crisis-ridden capitalist industrial economies, which, during recessional periods, operate at a fraction of their total installed capacity and carry heavy inventories of unsold goods. Along with interest rates ranging from 8 to 12 per cent and relatively short periods of amortization, the developing countries also have to bear the brunt of price rises of upto 100 per cent, alongside static or slowly rising prices for their own primary exports.

Let us recall the statement of the West-German Minister of Economic Co-operation who said that out of 2,300 million marks worth of state credits granted to the developing countries by West-Germany in 1975, approximately 80 per cent returned to the FRG in the form of orders at West German Industries.

In 1977, it was a mere 64 per cent. This is no bagatelle. The FRG also receives back 14 per cent or 2,500 million dollars of all repayments made on credits granted by the World Bank, although its share in this bank amounts to but 5.1 per cent. It was such, "development aid" extended by the West-German government which made it possible for SIEMENS to carry out significant projects abroad. Incidentally, SIEMENS has a fifth of its three billion DM turnover abroad. According to Herr Sohn, Chairman of the West-German *Gesellschaft Fur Wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit*, developing countries only receive credits for purchasing new ships if these are ordered from the FRG.

IT IS ALSO GENERALLY KNOWN that about 75 per cent of American loans granted to the developing countries are spent to buy goods and services from the USA. Paul Clark, an expert on economic relations with developing countries notes, "these countries represent a large market for US goods and because, in addition, the Americans can get maximum prices if they concentrate on supplying these markets." The stark facts revealed in this statement has menacing significance for the Third World. The fact that "development aid" to such countries in effect means a plain, business proposition, is perhaps best illustrated by the Vice-President of the US Steel Corporation, Charles Baker: ".....it was largely our foreign aid programme that enabled the steel industry to remain unaffected by the shifting world market patterns. Roughly, 30 per cent of steel exports are now being handled via AID (Agency for International Development). The share of steel shipped is still larger, probably 40 per cent." Thus, US AID "aids" primarily ailing US industry rather than the Third World. It is hypocrisy of a very high order.

*The approach of Great Britain is the same. Every Colombo Plan scholar, for instance, is a potential customer for British industry.*

**To transfer loan capital to the developing countries is more profitable for the monopolies than to invest it in the economy of the advanced capitalist countries. Helen Hughes, Director of the Department of Economic Analyses of the IBRD, admits that the difference in the interest rates, commissions, and**



other payments is very substantial, whereas the likelihood of losses in loaning money to the developing countries is minimal.

The developing countries are particularly concerned that the shares of "tied" aid in the total sum of loans granted by the West is growing. For example, out of 1,028 million dollars granted to India by the advanced capitalist states in 1977, the share of "tied" (or "project") aid made 65 per cent, and out of 5,395 million dollars in 1979, more than 90 per cent. According to the Indian newspaper *Economic Times*, the predominance of "tied" aid makes difficult the possibility of planning its use, which are bound to have negative consequences. The terms of "tied" loans restrict freedom of action for the country which receives aid, not only in the choice of country where the loan money can be spent, but also the goods it must buy, from which supplier, and very often on what ships of a Western company the purchased goods must be delivered. PL 480 wheat has to move on American bottoms—US freight rates are the highest in the world—or not move at all!

IN REGARD to "aid", therefore, it could be seen that western policy is prompted, first of all by the interests of monopoly associations and TNCs. Developing countries are being forced to accept a form of economic development which retains the countries' subordination in the system of the capitalist world economy and perpetuates their dependence on the sources of foreign aid.

In contrast, one has to acknowledge the positive aspects of co-operation, in the economic field, between the socialist countries and developing countries. For example, the economic co-operation between the USSR and the developing countries is effected on the basis of inter-governmental agreements providing for Soviet technical and economic aid in building infrastructure projects or industrial enterprises.

Such co-operation enables the governments of the developing countries to choose projects in conformity with their economic development programmes. Soviet credits are met not by payments in hard currency but by goods made in the recipient country, such as India. The USSR retains no capital shares and draws no dividends but charges minimal

Interest on long-terms for its loans (partly repayable in kind by barter agreements) for the pre-emption of the use of this capital in the Soviet Union itself.

(To Be Concluded)



## FILM FOCUS

### No Smoking Ban

Taking off from my comments in the last two issues of the *Tribune* about "Generators" and the "No Smoking Ban", I am glad, that regarding the former, cineas like Liberty and Central in the city have fortified themselves with generators and a few others are likely to follow suit. The management of many cinemas are however on the horns of a dilemma as to how to enforce the No Smoking Municipal bye-law. Prominent slides and well-lit warnings at entrances, seem to have had very little effect, and those who have objected to errant smokers have been challenged and threatened in return, with some of them nursing injuries in unpleasant diversions, that disturbed the peaceful picturegoers as well. While the New Olympia Theatre displays a prominent slide, that the show would be temporarily stopped unless the persistent smoker leaves the hall—which seems to have had effect—at the Sapphire Theatre for example, its strict enforcement resulted in an ugly brawl. Now then, who is to bell the smoking cat, the Management, the Municipality who legislated in the matter or the Police who have more important duties to do? I think it is about time the State Film Corporation, armed with amendments that are to be brought into force shortly, summon the local bodies concerned, and find an effective cure to end this malady once and for all.

**EXORCIST II: THE HERETIC:** (English) Films that won awards and received public acclaim, like **The Godfather**, **The Omen** and **Exorcist**, besides registering a brimming box office, had tempted the respective producers to follow up with sequels with the same expectations, that have ended however in an anti climax. And so is **Exorcist II**, which is set weirdly on a mission of discovery to



probe the mind of the once possessed girl Regan (Linda Blair)—now free as a lark and happy—as to the happenings when she was under the evil spell of the devil. The story rests tripodwise on the minds of three persons, the Psychiatrist Dr. Mrs. Tuskin roled by Louise Fletcher, who incidentally carried away the best actresses award for a similar role in *The One that Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest*, a catholic priest Fr. Lamont in whose cassock, the versatile actor Richard Burton is in a sea of confusion, and teenager Regan who is made a guinea pig for the scientific experiments set to blood curdling music, blending with the mumbo jumbo from the Dark Continent. While the psychiatrist is set on a scientific course in penetrating the tainted corners of Regan's mind, the priest is on a mission, at his Cardinal's request to probe the death of Fr. Merrick (Max Von Lydow) at her bedside but convinced beyond doubt that the pomps of the evil demon Pazuzu, had not been buried forever. A modern probe finder, tends to link up the minds of this threesome, adding to a maze of mesmerism that runs the whole course of the film, shuttling between Africa and Washington, with swarms of locusts casting their winged shadow at Pazuzu's behest. I felt that what Exorcist I, built up beautifully in a convincing portrayal of the Power of the Cross over the Devil, was whittled down by its sequel to a fictional farce that tried to maintain a losing balance between the psychotic and the Divine. In hoping that an Exorcist III will not be attempted, I am reminded of what the American humourist Josh Billings uttered once—"Give the devil its due, but be very careful that there ain't much due to him."

**THE GREAT GATSBY** (English): That when it comes to loving, man is reduced to the "weaker sex", while a woman could easily live, love and leave the passion of it all behind, with consummate ease, is thrown up forcibly in this excellent Paramount Production based on a well read novel by Scott Fitzgerald. Gatsby (Robert Redford) was a mysterious millionaire of the twenties, whose heart went beserk when he returned from the wars, and found to his utter misery that the love he left behind, Daisy (Mia Farrow), had married a tough tycoon, being infatuated by his immense wealth. Taking No for an answer, Gatsby settles down in a mansion, not far away, but across the

Bay that separates his love. Fabulous parties which effectively captures the times, become his forte, and also the unsuccessful bait to draw Daisy back, till an affluent and accommodating neighbour, Nick Marroway comes unguardedly to his rescue. What follows are the moments of ecstasy and agony in a passionate recapturing of the past romance, steeped though in a bit of implied adultery, which creates a chasm that closes up tragically on the over, but not on the nervous and fickle loved one, for whom Gatsby sacrificed so much for so little in return. Redford acted bravely in a part that did not quite suit him, but it was Farrow who revelled in her role. It did seem a pity however, that this excellent film, though set on sentimental stilts, to the strains of that popular song "What'll I do", did not receive the patronage it deserved. Perhaps Sri Lankans have become too leather bound for romantically escapist themes such as these, caught up as they are, in the twists of a spiralling inflation, that probably deafens the language of true love. A brilliant film however, I must say.

James N. Benedict

#### NEW ZEALAND FARM

Sir,

My wife and I recognised the picture on the cover of your latest issue of the *Tribune* and were able to do so because we had visited the New Zealand Farm just two weeks previously. We fully endorse all that you have stated about the work of the Livestock Development Board in general and the New Zealand Farm in particular. Our 'surprise' visit on a quiet Sunday afternoon was a memorable one and we came away with the conviction that if some of the other enterprises carried out under the auspices of the government followed the example of dedication and motivation evidenced in the working of the NLDB this country of ours would be turned into a veritable paradise.

Dr. R. Pararajasegaram

National Eye Institute,  
54, Dharmapala Mawatha,  
Colombo 7.  
10-6-1980.



# What Is The Mind And Where Is It?

Is it the ghost that resides in the  
bodily machine and animates it?

by Dr. H. D. Wallbeoff Jansz

*This is the concluding instalment of the article which first appeared in the Tribune of 21.6.80.*

*The writer was sometime Associate Professor of Physiology in the former University of Sri Lanka's Medical Faculty at Peradeniya Campus.*

What is the evidence that mental activity is connected with processes occurring in the brain? The evidence, generally speaking, consists of the simple fact that the brain is essential for the manifestations of mind, whether normal or abnormal, ordinary or extraordinary. If brain is absent, mind is absent. When brain develops, mind develops. When brain is disturbed, mind is disturbed. Just as life in general has protoplasm and metabolism for its physical basis, so mind has brain and neural processes for its physical basis.

Noteworthy are the mental phenomena that arise out of stimulation of certain regions of the exposed surface of the human brain. Penfield has shown that electrical stimulation of points over a wide extent of the temporal cortex in conscious epileptic patients arouses recollection of items of past experience. The patient, although conscious of the reality of the present and of his own place in the present, seems to live again momentarily in the past. Visual images of places actually visited and of faces actually seen in the past are beheld again in the present. Complex auditory patterns are also aroused corresponding to previous conversations actually heard and pieces of music actually listened to long ago. It is as if the stimulating electrode has awakened fragmentary memories of the past. The stimulating electrode has in some way activated acquired patterns of neuronal connection. Here then we have definite evidence of cerebral mechanisms being involved in the

registration and recollection of past experience. This is the most striking of the numerous instances of so-called mental phenomena being nothing more than the outcome of changes taking place in flesh and blood.

It is true that there are certain types of mental disorder where the symptoms—some of them unmistakably physical—cannot be attributed to any structural or functional damage to the brain (such as may be caused by serious nutritional deficiency, hormonal insufficiency or excess, faulty metabolism, interference with blood flow, injury, infection, intoxication, etc.) but are traceable to the origination of ideas and the development of attitudes and beliefs as a result of the person's disturbing social contacts and dissatisfying interpersonal relations, either recent or remote, remembered or forgotten. But even in these cases collectively termed psychogenic, it has to be acknowledged that such manifestations of a mind gone wrong are impossible without the existence of a functioning brain.

An individual's behaviour is shaped and governed by the individual's past experience. The so-called psychological factor as a causal agent in producing disease is merely another name for the experiential factor, and the organ which makes experiencing of any kind possible is the brain. So-called psychoanalysis is the exploratory technique of tracing back the patient's present symptoms to unpleasant incidents that have happened long ago, and have been largely forgotten or banished from the foreground of consciousness. So-called psychotherapy—and hypnosis is one form of it—is the introduction by the therapist of fresh ideas to take the place of previous ones that have dominated the patient's life, either consciously or unconsciously, to such an extent as to make him unhappy or unfit or both. But nobody can form ideas and develop attitudes and beliefs, either rational or irrational, without a sensory apparatus and a central nervous system.

Our point is that so-called mental events, such as ideas and beliefs, involve brain as the essential organ. The nature of the complex neural processes, which form the basis of our inner experiences and also of our subsequent outwardly observed behaviour, is at present not understood, but every advance in our knowledge of brain physiology brings us



closer to the day when neurology and psychiatry will merge into one subject.

No discussion on the subject of MIND would be complete without some reference to the phenomena grouped under the term, extra-sensory perception. It has been claimed from time immemorial that some human beings have the extraordinary faculties of telepathy and clairvoyance, whereby it is possible for them to be in communication with other persons and to be informed of events by some means independently of the known channels of sense. Such phenomena have also been called *psi* phenomena—by investigators who have called themselves parapsychologists—in the implied belief that here we have a convincing demonstration of the direct operations of *psyche* without the mediation of *soma*.

Experimental investigation has largely been directed to attempts at guessing the identity of certain cards—with different markings on them—concealed from the view of the guessing subject. Experimenter and percipient have been separated by great distance, and all precautions have been taken to exclude the ordinary means of intercommunication. It must be admitted that under such rigidly controlled conditions the proportion of correct guesses out of the total number of guesses made by some persons is much higher than can be accounted for by mere chance alone. Such persons, however, are very uncommon, and even in them the ability to achieve a high proportion of correct guesses is not kept up consistently. Moreover the percipient is never conscious of his highly successful guessing until subsequent verification.

From such experimental data as have been published and studied, all that we may legitimately conclude is that some rare persons—popularly termed 'psychic'—have extraordinary powers of perception that have so far defied explanation in terms of present-day physiology and present-day conventional psychology. But is it legitimate therefore to interpret such phenomena in terms of an elusive and nebulous *psyche*? Such phenomena most probably depend on the exceptional development of some known sense or on the existence of some sense as yet unknown. We have every reason to expect that an essentially biological explanation will be available in the

future, because no instances are known where minds exist apart from bodies. (There are of course many people who firmly believe in the existence of ghosts, angels and devils, but as yet there is no conclusive proof that will satisfy the sceptic of the independent existence of mind or *psyche*.) Bodies manifesting mind have functioning brains. Extraordinary mental powers most probably have an extraordinary neural or other organic basis that has yet to be discovered.

The hitherto unsolved mind-body problem will continue to remain unsolved as long as MIND is conceived as a non-material entity mysteriously occupying or permeating the body, having the brain as its headquarters and directing operations from there. Even if mind is not thought of as naively as that, yet the notion of spiritual essence or *psyche* lingers in some form or other. The unbridgeable gulf that separates a ghostly mind from a fleshly brain is a problem that man has unnecessarily created for himself through his own imagination.

There is no problem at all if we take the animal organism as we find it, and regard MIND as a mode of behaviour characteristic of those organisms which possess a complex central nervous system. When this organic apparatus is of such a degree of development as to enable the organism to act intelligently, the individual thus equipped may be said to have a 'mind'. For instance, man's ability to anticipate future needs and make suitable provision for them in the light of past experience makes him the most efficient among all the various species of living beings in the competitive struggle for existence.

Viewed from the biological standpoint, therefore, MIND is not the ghost that resides in the bodily machine and animates it, but rather the highest feature of life that has arisen in the course of evolution, the highest organismal function that has been evolved by the necessity for adaptation to changing external conditions. MIND, as conceived here, is something which has no existence apart from a body which manifests it. MIND has made its appearance in the world of nature because of the organic apparatus which has made this possible.



## The Search

by Bwana Rafiki

A wedding anniversary seems a good time to focus attention on the one durable institution in the world—the family. Last week I mentioned Kawalya-Kangwa and his brother, two old Trinities who must have been here about the time of the first World War. Kawalya-Kangwa's son was at Trinity during the Second World War, Michael, who like his father and his uncle, was very good at sports. Michael was also a good cadet. We have our Kaffirs in Ceylon, of course, and Michael in spite of the African physiognomy might have been one of us. His one distinguishing mark I would say was his energy. Today, by the way, is commemorated the Ugandan Roman Catholic Martyrs, killed in the reign of Mwanga on whom Michael's grandfather was instrumental in helping the British to impose their sovereignty. It was done in the name of the East Africa Trading Company, whose responsibilities the British Government took over later. Uganda then comprised a number of kingdoms which Obote recently did away with. The wedding anniversary is in our family, the golden, years ago and now half way to the diamond and there are five children who come and go.

While I was writing that there was rain, a whole morning of it, starting at about 4.15 a.m. when there is some activity on the estate as the milkers have to start work. The herd has to be out in the rain, the dairy cows with the stud bull in one field, and the followers, which are the stirks, the dry cows, the cart bulls, the helpers and the buffaloes, in another. Someone has to be in attendance on these followers when they are loose for the stud buffalo may decide to break out of the estate and go and fight some other male buffalo, and part of the whole herd or even an animal or two may break into an inter-planted area and do damage to the young palms or plantains or the fodder grass. There was so much rain that not one of that category of workers on a coconut estate whom we call labourers and the dairy staff who live away from the estate came to work. Fortunately we were

able to get by with the resident folk. The rain was so heavy the cattlemen decided not to let the young calves out in it. One young man who was out in the rain all the while it rained yesterday had no protection against the elements. He said some of the animals just did not like umbrellas, raincoats or gunnies.

The Editor has asked me how *Nguvu* is pronounced. An explanation first. The accent in Swahili words is on the second syllable. The letter *n* is pronounced *en* by us, but at the beginning of a word here, it is more like *in*, and although it is pronounced apologetically, more *n* than *in*, it is the first syllable, so that *gu* becomes the second syllable, the one that is accented. It is much accentuated as the *n* of the first syllable is said fairly quickly. *M* is sometimes found before a consonant at the beginning of a word, as in *mbichi* which means unripe. Here the *m*, ordinarily pronounced *em* by us is more *um*, and for the rest, as regards this word and others like it, the same rules apply as I have laid down for *n*.

Swahili was never a written language until after 1870, when the Europeans came on the scene with their script. So the people had to carry the whole of their language and folk lore in their heads, which is why the Bantu people have such excellent memories. Talking about 1870, the year that Stanley passed through Stanleyville, that town was a village of mud huts then. When I saw it in 1961, it was an enormous modern city with lakhs of people.

This is a just a note to say that no time is ever really wasted. Even an abortive trip has its lessons. I have sometimes spent a whole night looking for a place and not found it and persisted because the next morning I had to get to work. Of course, a man does not choose to stay up the whole night, it just happens, and he realizes his misfortune usually when it is too late to do anything about it. In England I once slept in a workhouse not knowing it was a workhouse until I was ensconced in a dormitory after having my bath. I think the name for a workhouse in those days was some kind of hospital, unless someone was pulling my leg. A workhouse, in case there are any uninitiated about, is a place where tramps are put up at night at the state's expense in England. They are given a bath



and a bed. On this occasion I was given a whole dormitory to myself, while in the next room, another dormitory, there was coughing and spluttering all night through. This was at Penrith in what is now known as Dumbria. I did not sleep well that night. In the morning we all met at our ablutions. The authorities were very particular that I had no money on me in the dormitory.

Finding a shamba like building a house, when one comes to writing about it, as the late Herbert Keuneman did with his village house, and so brilliantly, can be a very drawn-out affair taking one to the most unlikely places factually and in the realm of ideas. It can be a mosaic in time taking one both forwards and backwards. It will hardly likely be a pure success story but more like an epic full of setbacks. It will be in the main a tale of endurance, and I hope not too painful a one for the reader. The ending cannot be foretold not the many corners. The writer of the tale will have to pick and choose his material while writing about his search. He could scarcely include all that is in his mind. Nor could he just tell the bare tale devoid of all embellishment even if he stuck to facts. Life is not like that, for it is as complex as a man himself. Just look at the world about you to establish that, or look at yourself! They say that only God is simple for the Trinity of Persons in God is the simplest of all relationships when you come to think of it, to try and understand it.

In Ceylon I find that keeping cattle gives one never a dull day. On a coconut estate there are fields planted with young coconut palms which cattle will eat if they get the chance. The barbed wire that encloses these fields has to be constantly repaired. Now and again an animal has to be treated for maggots. In this respect it is rather like a sheep farm in a hill country in England where the same problem occurs. The best medicine for wounds is margosa oil of good quality as the discoverer of the source of the Nile, Sir Samuel Baker, found with his hunting dogs when he kept a farm for eight years in Nuwara Elyya. In fact I found this out by reading his book. I say good quality for not always does a village shop sell the best. Curing a wound is largely a matter of keeping flies away until nature does its work. If maggots have been laid by the flies you just have to clean the maggots out, and

put camphor balls into the wound to seek out and kill any maggots you may have missed. You fill in the rest of the wound with cloth soaked in margosa oil. I once had to push a cart bull's stomach back through a wound with my hand and then stitch the wound up with ordinary needle and thread. Not a fly got in, not a maggot was formed. A stud bull had horned the cartbull at tying up time.

## A REJOINDER

### SINGAPOORU DARUWA

**SON OF SINGAPORE TRANSLATED INTO SINHALESE.** A review of the Sinhalese translation of the SON OF SINGAPORE appeared in the *Tribune* of May 10th. Probably by a bona fide error the learned contributor had mistaken it to be a novel and even attempted to comment on characterisation.

Actually SINGAPOORU DARUWA—as the translation is called—is the autobiography of Tan Kok Seng of Singapore. The English original forms the first volume of a trilogy published by Heinemann & Co., Ltd. It tells the true story of a boy who extricated himself from poverty by self-reliant hard work. He had never sacrificed the refinement that develops from conforming to the Buddhist principle of supporting aged parents.

After leaving school at the age of 14, Tan Kok Seng became a junior salesman in a vegetable dealer's boutique. In course of time, he went on to do similar jobs under other such businessmen. He regularly sent home part of his monthly income. His leisure (which was mostly after sunset) was spent in studying physical culture under Mahayana Bhikkus.

Later he joined a Driving School and learnt to drive motor cars. The instructor gave him lessons at night when he was free. Tan Kok Seng paid for the lessons from his income as a vegetable salesman and before long became proficient in driving. Thus instead of depending on relatives he cultivated self-help and acquired a skill which society needed.

Soon afterwards he met an official of the British High Commission in Malaysia and became his chauffeur. When the official retired from service he helped Tan Kok Seng to take to writing as a career. This he became an author and is now making a success of it. Even the Singapore *Sunday Times* has taken notice of his achievements.



SINGAPOORU DARUWA is an excellent presentation of the original. It is written in a lucid style with adequate attention to idiomatic Sinhalese. The Sapumal Foundation deserves praise for bringing out this autobiography of a working class boy who switched on to writing and overcame the limitations of his environment.

Laxman Devasena

VAVUNIYA M.P.

## Slates The Milk Board

Last week a Quidnunc posed some questions about some hardhitting comments about the National Milk Board (NMB) made by the M.P. for Vavuniya, Mr. Sivasithamparam. This week we publish the entirety of his speech as reported in the *Hansard* of June 4, 1980, Vol. 10, No. 17 at pages 1554 to 1558 and again the reply of the Acting Minister at page 1567.

*Tribune* has over the years, under several governments, pointed out many shortcomings and malpractices in the NMB. Matters have gone from bad to worse—and today, the NMB is on the brink of total collapse with corruption at its peak when the government and the people are compelled to pay for adulterated milk (about 50% water) most of which goes down the drain. A mafia which has existed in the NMB for years collects (on the guess estimates of our investigator) about a million rupees a month (the difference of what the operators in some high yielding centres, who add water collect from the NMB and what they pay the producers). The shareout of this booty is so generous that silence is ensured. Donations to certain organisations ensures immunity of a special kind. No one has been able to break this Mafia in the last fifteen years. This vast quantity of black money in the hands of the top operators, we understand, has been turned into gold ingots—that is the only way of keeping so much black money. Can this mafia be broken or will the NMB break down completely? It seems to be a tale of Gold in Milkland—not Alice in Wonderland.

—Editor

**Mr. T. Sivasithamparam (Vavuniya)**  
I have given notice of a question about the milk collecting centre at Vavuniya. This centre was inaugurated in 1976 and there are over 210 registered dairy producers who sell milk to this centre. For the last 41 days, Rs. 53,298 worth of milk has been thrown away because the bowser had not called at the centre to collect the milk. As a result, the MPCU Union which was managing the centre has incurred a loss of Rs. 16,927, the value of 7,657 litres of milk purchased from the producers, and the producers have lost Rs. 36,376 the value of 16,460 litres of milk.

This centre is equipped with three farm tanks and the capacity of two of them is 1,760 litres and that of the other is 2,373 litres. In the last 41 days, the bowser from the National Milk Board at Polonnaruwa had not come there for six days and on eight days it had come there after noon. As a result of this, the quantity of milk has gone to waste, causing so much of loss to the dairy producer. These dairy producers bring their milk from distances of about 30 to 35 miles and I know that about 700 litres are brought from Killinochchi, which is about 55 miles from the milk collecting centre.

I have sent telegrams to the National Milk Board and also a telegram to the Hon. Minister. I have received copy of a reply sent by the Chief Engineer of the National Milk Board to the Secretary to the Ministry of Rural Industrial Development. The copy of that letter is with me. In that the engineer refers to the low voltage and about the motor getting burnt. The capacity of the three farm tanks at the collecting centre is 5,893 litres.

One of the motors which had been installed at the cooling plant of the farm had got burnt. This was rewound abroad and installed but on the second day after the installation one of the belts coupled to the motor had broken. The Milk Board has given clear instructions to the co-operative movement that nobody should go near the motor or the plant. The co-operative had sent a telegram to the National Milk Board seven days ago but up to the date I left Vavuniya no one had come to repair the motor.

The chief engineer spoke about the low voltage and the motor getting burnt out. That is not the problem here. This milk col-



lecting centre purchases a minimum of 3,500 litres of milk a day. The capacity of the bowser that comes to collect milk from this centre is 5,300 litres. This bowser has a capacity of 5,300 litres, but it has never taken a full load from Vavuniya. The maximum load this bowser has taken away is 2,300 litres. Every day a quantity of more than 1,500 litres of milk is left uncollected at the milk collecting centre. The capacity of the three farm tanks installed at the milk collecting centre is 5,300 litres. Within five days the farm tanks get filled up and the milk collecting centre cannot buy any more milk. That is the position.

There is another problem here. Although the capacity of the bowser that comes from Polonnaruwa to Vavuniya is 5,300 litres, it collects only 2,300 litres, and it runs from Vavuniya to Kekirawa and Anuradhapura to collect the milk from those centres. It is not that anyone grudges the bowser going to Kekirawa and Anuradhapura to collect the milk there. But it must not be forgotten that milk is something which cannot be kept for long without refrigeration, and if there is no regular transport provided to transport the milk collected in Vavuniya, what is the good of our speaking about doing our best to increase milk production and going to New Zealand to get down cows of better breeds? Without any effort the milk production can be increased if you collect all the milk that is collected in the various milk collecting centres.

I realise that the problem actually is that the National Milk Board does not have proper transport facilities. Well, if that is the position and they do not have proper transport facilities why do they continue to open up new milk collecting centres, encourage people to produce more milk and force them to lose thousands of rupees daily by not collecting the milk from the milk collecting centres? If the National Milk Board finds that they cannot cope with the milk that is being produced now, that they do not have the facilities to transport the milk that is being collected at the various centres, they must restrict the production of milk. Producers who bring their milk from as far as 30, 40 and 50 miles to the centre have to wait hopefully looking in the direction from which the bowser comes. During the last 40 odd days the bowser had not called on six days and on eight days the

bowser had called late. By the time the bowser went to the milk collecting centre thousands of litres of milk had got spoilt and had to be thrown away.

If the National Milk Board does not have proper transport facilities, they must call for tenders from co-operative societies that have such facilities or from the private sector, or enter into contracts with people who can manufacture tanks, with cooling systems installed, that can be used for transporting milk from distant places to Polonnaruwa. The other alternative is they must restrict the opening of more milk collecting centres. What is the purpose of allowing thousands of litres of milk to be poured out at Vavuniya, or bowsers running half empty from Vavuniya to Anuradhapura collecting milk on the way leaving part of the milk uncollected at Vavuniya to be thrown away when spoilt?

I am afraid that we are not giving any sort of encouragement to the producers. We can open more milk collecting centres in areas like Vavuniya. The country is in need of more and more milk. We are importing millions of rupees worth of milk powder from foreign countries. We talk of giving encouragement to dairy producers to produce more milk but actually what is happening? The National Milk Board is unable to cope with the purchase and transport of the milk that is now being collected at the milk collecting centres. It is no joke to pour out 24,117 litres of milk within 14 days!

On a part of the milk purchased by the Milk Board, the Co-operative Movement is losing. Dairy producers bring the major part of the milk to the collecting centre and when they see that the bowser has not come, they throw away the milk on the compound and it runs through the drains. This is a very serious matter. Let the National Milk Board tell us clearly what they propose to do. If they cannot purchase the milk, let them openly announce to the dairy producers, "Do not bring your milk to the collecting centre. We are unable to purchase the milk because we do not have the required transport".

Regarding the question of the voltage drop, I want to read the relevant paragraph—I do not want to read the whole of it—of the letter sent by the Engineer to the Secretary, Ministry of Rural Industrial Development. A



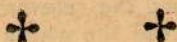
copy has been sent to me. He says a voltmeter and a selector switch will have to be installed to observe the voltage drop. Why had this not been installed earlier? It is a layman's argument. They are three pumps and three motors installed for the tanks. The capacity of one of the tanks is 2,780 litres and of the other two, 1700 litres each. The motor failure, is in respect of the tank with the capacity of 1,700 litres and not in respect of the tank with the capacity of 2,700 litres. How is it that the heavy motor of the 2,780 litre-capacity tank is not getting burnt but that of the one with the smaller capacity of 1,700 litres is getting burnt?

There are about 25 to 30 rice mills in the area working on motors. Each of those motors is about 40 to 50 h.p. It is surprising that none of those motors is getting burnt because of the drop in voltage in Vavuniya. It is surprising that only this particular motor is getting burnt frequently. The reply given by the Chief Engineer is hopeless; it is not going to help the dairy producers at all. The true position is that they do not have bowsers; they do not have transport facilities. If you do not have transport facilities, please say so openly. Stop or restrict the purchase of milk. Purchase only what you can or ask the Co-operative Movement to provide the transport and send the Milk to Polonnaruwa. You cannot allow the producers to lose like this. I want a reply from the Hon. Deputy Minister.

**Mr. S. K. Piyadasa** (Acting Minister of Rural Industrial Development). Mr. Speaker, I am not able to answer the questions raised by the Member for Vavuniya (Mr. T. Sivasithamparam) today. If he gives me time we can give him the replies.

**Mr. Speaker:** You may note all the matters he raised just now and give the replies on a subsequent day. Is that all right by the Member for Vavuniya?

**Mr. T. Sivasithamparam:** Yes, Sir.



## RANDOM JOTTINGS

by Rambler

### War & Peace

PRESIDENT CARTER seems to have a supreme capacity to 'put his foot in' both in domestic matters as well as foreign relations. But his wild west Buffalo Bill rodeo shows seem to win favour with a sizeable number of Democratic Party voters—he has been sweeping the primaries. But this kind of stuntism can land the world into war. As the presidential election draws nearer, he has to think up new gimmicks not only to keep the jingoistic fervour of American patriotism on the up and up, but also to keep the manufacturers of armaments (who are a powerful force in American politics) and the multinational corporations (which have the biggest say in matters economic) happy.

The latest "I'm tough" gimmick of Carter was disclosed from Bonn. Our daily papers published a Reuter report on June 17 that Carter had warned Chancellor Schmidt not to discuss NATO (i.e., not to call its policies into question) in his talks with the Soviet leaders: "A West German news magazine reported yesterday that President Carter had written to Chancellor Helmut Schmidt warning him not to call NATO policy in question when he meets Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev later this month. The weekly magazine Stern said Mr. Carter had asked the Chancellor not to call in question during his talks in Moscow last December's NATO decision to deploy new medium-range nuclear weapons in Europe. A West German government spokesman confirmed the existence of a letter but did not disclose its contents and said it was wide off the mark to describe it as a warning. There were no differences between the two Western leaders on the need for all members of the alliance to stand by the NATO decision, government spokesman Klaus Boelling said.....".

On the next day June 18, our daily papers published a report from Washington denying that Carter had issued a warning: "Both the United States and West Germany denied yesterday that President Carter had warned Chancellor Helmut Schmidt not to deviate



from NATO policy in his dealings with Moscow. President Carter said he was not angry over Chancellor Schmidt's decision to visit Moscow this month and White House spokesman Jody Powell denied that a letter Mr. Carter had sent the Chancery contained a warning".

Earlier, it will be recalled that Carter had asked the Western European countries not to take any policy initiatives in regard to the Middle East contrary to Camp David policies. The Western European countries although they tilted heavily in favour of the Palestinians stuck very closely within the Camp David "autonomy" formula. There is no doubt that US still has tremendous clout—economic, political and military—and her European allies cannot afford to go outside the pale of US policy imperatives.

IN THIS CONNECTION it is interesting to note that not very long ago the US lent Bonn 1 billion dollars. A report from Bonn in the *International Herald Tribune* dated April 8 stated: "West Germany will borrow one billion Deutsche marks from the United States, a Finance Ministry spokesman said today—a sharp reversal of roles as the United States itself was forced to borrow billions of marks last year when the dollar was under attack. The spokesman said he was unable to give the form or terms of the loan and said no further details will be available until tomorrow. The transaction was agreed upon 'over the weekend,' officials said, without disclosing further details. The loan would be used to help finance this year's budget deficit, officials said. The federal government is budgeting a deficit of 24.2 billion DM this year, down from 26.1 billion DM in 1979 and 26.3 billion DM in 1978. Official sources in Washington said on March 24 that the US Treasury was consulting with West Germany on a possible loan. The officials said the loan would presumably come from US Treasury DM deposits at the Bundesbank, then standing at about \$ 300 to \$ 500 million. Because of the recent weakness of the mark on the foreign exchange market, the United States has accumulated excess marks—bought in support of West German currency. Washington's DM balances at the Bundesbank earned a return of roughly equivalent to the official discount rate of 7 per cent, sources said. Investing those marks with the government would enable the Treasury to get a more

market-oriented return of 8 to 9 1/2 per cent they added.

"West Germany has also sold government paper for marks to the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency to counter the ill-effects on West Germany's payments balance from the fact that the nation's current account had switched from a surplus of 17.6 billion DM in 1978 to a deficit last year of 9 billion DM. A current account deficit of 20 billion DM is forecast for this year. While the Finance Ministry has not disclosed the amount of paper sold to SAMA, it is reliably understood that the amount involved is 6 billion DM. Earlier today, West Germany reported a provisional current account deficit of 2.12 billion DM in February, slightly better than January's shortfall of 2.41 billion DM but well below the surplus of 1.1 billion DM in the year ago month. News that the measure of merchandise trade and so-called invisibles—tourist spending, freight and insurance costs and the like—remained in deficit had no apparent effect on the foreign exchange market, as the figures were in line with expectations. The Bundesbank said the cumulative current-account deficit of 4.54 billion DM in the first two months of this year compares with a surplus of 1.16 billion DM in the year-ago period.

"The overall balance of payments—including trade, services and capital transfers—showed a deficit of 3.39 billion DM after January's 3.88 billion DM and a deficit of 3.03 billion DM last year. The trade surplus widened to 460 million DM in February from 342 million DM in January, but fell far short of the year-ago surplus of 2.4 billion DM. Bundesbank analysts attributed the growth of the balance-of-payments deficit primarily to the narrowing of the trade surplus. Although exports rose a healthy 27 percent on a year-to-year basis in February to a total 29.5 billion DM, imports grew an even faster 40 percent to 29.1 billion DM."

This report shows that the "miracle" in West Germany is temporarily a little thin—and has had to turn to the US for a loan of a billion dollars. This will no doubt explain how the "Independence" (vis-a-vis the USA) Bonn had displayed last year has now almost disappeared.

INSIDE THE USA TOO, there is growing criticism about Carter policies. His Republican



rival seems to take delight in talking even tougher—not to be outdone by Carter. In a speech on June 5, Cyrus Vance, Carter's former Secretary of State who resigned recently over serious policy differences with his boss—with the disgrace of the abortive military landing in Iran serving as the last show—had stated, according to N. Ravi, *Madras Hindu Correspondent* in Washington: "It is far too easy, in election year, to let what may seem smart politicians produce bad policies noted Mr. Vance contexting this within the overriding imperative of ratifying the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty before the year is out. It is time to set and stick to basic goals, neither we nor the world can afford an American foreign policy which is hostage to the emotions of the moment, observed Mr. Vance in a veiled reference to President Carter's current foreign policy. But the implicit contempt for the world view and strategy of Mr. Ronald Reagan was withering indeed.

"Mr. Carter froze SALT II on the shelves of a blustering but indecisive foreign policy. But President-in-the-making, Mr. Reagan, actually wants it to be scrapped in the absence of what he believes to be a genuine reduction of strategic nuclear weapons as opposed to a Soviet game. For Mr. Vance, perhaps the principal architect on the American side of the complicated accord, this type of stance clearly represents the summit of irresponsibility or simple-minded ignorance. Describing the treaty as standing at the very heart of a sensible and far-seeing American foreign policy, he warned that without it a dangerous nuclear arms race would break out in the 1980s."

Ravi went on to report: "Even while acknowledging that Afghanistan and the presidential elections have constituted real enough obstacles, he feared: 'If we fail to act, we will some day ask ourselves why we were blinded by considerations of the moment and lost a vital long-term opportunity'. The keynote of the carefully worked upon address was the necessity, from the standpoint of US interests, to see the world outside blinkers and 'illusions' abjure the 'self-indulgent nonsense' of 'simplistic solutions and go-it alone solutions', originating from emotionalism or plain ignorance—a clear hit at Mr Reagan and probably certain elements of Mr Carter's current foreign

policy—and chart a coherent and determined course. The illusions that Mr Vance listed for explosion in the interest of working out such a policy were: (1) the concept of a grand strategic design magically yielding solutions for US policy-makers in a complicated and pluralistic world; (2) A 'fear of negotiation' that assumes that the US is bound to come out behind a diabolical Soviet Union in any international bargain, whether it be the issues underlying the Panama Canal treaty or the strategic arms limitation treaties; (3) the 'myth' of incompatibility between pursuing US interests and the pursuit of human rights and other foreign policy 'values' including backing 'constructive change' that was neither repressive nor radical; (4) The 'dangerous fallacy of the military solution to non-military problems', which tends to be prominent in periods of frustration or seemingly tedious negotiation; (5) And the 'obsolete idea' that the US somehow transcending the 'essential equivalence' of the Soviet global position, can dominate the Soviet Union and wrest 'the power to order the world just the way we want it to be'

"In Mr Vance's considered assessment 'positive incentives' had to be combined with military deterrence in managing growingly difficult relations with the USSR. His view of the way the US should order its foreign policy given the problems, the pitfalls and the priorities of the eighties, and especially given the unprecedented Soviet 'projection of power' hardly sounds liberal." Ravi concluded his despatch with a comment of his own: "Senator Edward Kennedy on his present platform would have serious problems concurring with it. Much less is the view radical. But in the background of the acrimony and the cold war stridency that is reigning in the present political tumult in the US they seem stylishly and soberly out of step."

THE COLD WAR STRIDENCY that prevails in the US today spells great danger—whatever excuses are trotted for harbouring and promoting it. It is well to remember long before the Afghan crisis Carter had launched his new cold war—Afghanistan was really an outcome of Brzezinski-Carter policies to ignite an arc of crisis round the Soviet Union and keep Arab and Iranian nationalism under control.



In another speech on June 7, according to a Reuter report: "Former US Secretary of State Cyrus Vance has described as 'disgraceful' the decline in US assistance to the Third World. Mr. Vance told the Harvard convocation gathering that the American assistance to poorer nations had declined by 25 per cent over the past 20 years. 'It is disgraceful'. Mr. Vance said the UN global negotiations between North and South opening in August offered a prime opportunity for the US to demonstrate leadership. He made the plea forcefully while strongly criticising Republican presidential candidate Ronald Reagan's 'obsolete' concepts about the US foreign policy role, calling it unrelated to present-day realities. Mr. Vance resigned as Secretary of State in April conscientiously objecting to military plans for release of hostages in Iran.

"Neither Mr. Reagan nor any other presidential aspirants made utterances of developing countries in the primary campaign. Mr. Reagan talked about asserting US military superiority in the world while Mr. Edward Kennedy of the Democratic Party confined his speeches to domestic economy. In a forceful speech at Harvard, Mr. Vance noted that the US which had occupied the first rank in providing developmental assistance had gone down to the 13th among 17 industrial powers helping poor nations. 'It is not enough to strengthen our defences,' he said. 'We must also increase the resources needed to support our diplomacy, a diplomacy designed to reduce the chances our military forces may be needed.'

And so the debate goes on in the US.

In the meantime, the new Secretary of State Muskie wants to resurrect SALT 2 and bring it before Congress for ratification—perhaps after the November election. *This is no doubt intended to rope in the votes of those who favour SALT 2.* AP reported as follows: "US Secretary of State Edmund Muskie has hinted that President Jimmy Carter's administration will try to revive the SALT II treaty this year, perhaps after the November Presidential election. Mr. Muskie said Salt was 'separable' from the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan the event which caused Mr. Carter to ask the Senate to defer indefinitely its consideration of the treaty. 'The fact that we are engaged in this kind of confrontation in Afghanistan,

to me elevates the question of arms control as an important security issue. If we were at total peace with the Soviet Union, arms control wouldn't be as important,' Mr. Muskie told reporters. The SALT question arose because of a speech by Mr. Muskie's predecessor, Mr. Cyrus Vance, at Harvard University last Thursday. Mr. Vance urged ratification of the treaty regardless of the Soviets in Afghanistan. 'If we fail to act, we will someday ask ourselves why we were blinded by considerations of the moment and lost a vital long-term opportunity', Mr. Vance had said."

Some commentators in the US have hinted that Muskie can land the US into war—even more quickly than Brzezinski. This is a sad prospect before the world. The increased arms expenditure of all the leading powers in the basic cause of global inflation—and small countries like Sri Lanka have to pay the price for the sins of others.

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## SHORT STORY

### The Candle Of Understanding

by Sita Selvadurai

The stark white walls stared down at Grandma as she lay on the solitary bed by the window, in the dreary confines of the little hospital room. The music from the cassette radio by her bed, rose in rapturous swell, to scatter away the monotony. Her favourite tune was playing.

"Some peopl run," it sang

"And some people crawl,

But some people don't even move at all."

Grandma shifted her frail body underneath the soft white sheet, and was all ears. How true she thought as she contemplated the words of the song for the umpteenth time. She had pondered more deeply on this question during the three weeks that she had been confined to this hospital bed than she had ever done before. The infinite diversity of human nature.

Grandma had spent the greater part of her three score and ten years, among the simple people that lived around her village. They were largely good-hearted folk, but



being steeped in tradition they tended to be rather self-centred, and viewed anything unfamiliar and unconventional with skepticism and scorn. Civilization had still not touched this little hamlet situated south of the border, down Galle way.

The suspicious glances and looks of the village at her first appearance as a bride at the Walauwe, she had not taken too seriously. After all it was the natural resentment that followed the disappointment of the elders the maidens alike, that Ratemahathaya's only son should have married an outsider from the metropolis and not one of their own. "She may be accomplished with an English education and all that, but she won't fit in here", they gossiped among themselves. But the animosity had come hot and heavy two years later, when her father-in-law had been killed instantaneously, a coconut tree having crashed on him. "The witch, she had brought ill luck." They said maliciously. An year later when her mother-in-law had followed suit by pining for him, the suspicions of the village had been confirmed. The whole village looked askance at her as though she was the devil itself. Even the village children around were reprimanded if they entered the precincts of her Walauwe. Grandma, then young and inexperienced had been bewildered by this sudden surge of hatred towards her. She had confined herself to the house and busied herself with the household chores and the care of her husband and only daughter Sriya. As the years passed gradually her home was transformed into a haven of beauty and elegance.

Whether "Times change and people change with them" or whether "Time was on her side", Grandma couldn't well say. Perhaps it was both in this particular instance. Slowly the ill feeling of the village towards her began to thaw, and the neighbours began to visit her. Out of curiosity at first, and then with a growing friendship and kindness. With Sriya away at boarding school, and with her husband absorbed in his vocation as Her Majesty's Headman and Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Grandma had the opportunity to get familiar with her surroundings and neighbours. The older generation had died and gone, and the younger more flexible ones seemed to accept her uncritically, and she made many friends.

Now, even as she lay in hospital with a mended hip bone in plaster, surrounded by kindly nurses in crisp starched uniforms and sympathetic doctors, she looked forward to the visits of her friends and neighbours. They came everyday, at least a couple of them bringing her the news of the village. "Mary's daughter Anula is to marry a Tamil boy she had met at the University. As though she couldn't have chosen Ranjit or Sunil from among her own kith and kin", Magilin Nona had announced yesterday, as she unwrapped a bunch of plantains she had brought. Anula had come to her for painting lessons during the holidays, and Grandma had got rather fond of her. "I am sure Anula would have chosen wisely," cut in Grandma, much to Magilin's disappointment, and she had been forced to abandon the subject. Later Girlie from the Rubber Estate Walauwe and Caroline from the House by the River had come with more news on the same subject. "Heard about Anula?" they asked talking breathlessly, almost together. "Mary has been ill ever since she heard the news, vomiting non-stop. There is to be a devil dancing ceremony soon. As we passed Gregoris's house now we saw him airing his masks and cleaning his numerous pads and jingling bells in preparation for the ceremony." Grandma who never approved of devil dancing in any form listened in silence choosing discretion as the better part of valour. Why only three weeks ago when she had been taken ill, the village had come to the conclusion that it was the work of the devil, and had started organising a devil dancing ceremony with the fervent hope that it would dispossess the devil. But Grandma had put her foot down with a firm hand. She would have nothing of the sort she had said, and they had been reluctantly forced to abandon the idea knowing well that Grandma was not one to be coaxed.

The visitor that Grandma looked forward to most eagerly, was her little grand daughter Nilu. Nilu had lived with her Grandma ever since she was an infant in arms, four months old. Grandma had brought the baby with her one month after her father's funeral, when Sena, Nilu's father had died in a motor accident leaving Sriya widowed 8 years after marriage with four young daughters. "That unlucky child," the village had begun to whisper, but Grandma with her wisdom and experience



had quickly silenced their wagging tongues. As the child grew up, her bright eyes and incessant chatter had made her well loved in the village. Now at 12 years, she was the apple of Grandma's eye and the village as well.

Nilu came to see Grandma twice every day. In the morning, on her way to school with a bunch of wild flowers which she arranged tastefully in a vase by the bed, and again in the evening, when school was over. When she came in the evening she brought her books with her and stayed till nightfall, when Roslin Grandma's servant came to fetch her. Nilu had got used to the new routine now and did not seem to mind much, though she sometimes lingered long, affectionately hugging Grandma and asking her when she was coming home. She had adjusted well considering that she hurt. "I suppose you keep those wretched earrings for Nilu. You cannot take them with you." was what she said as she got into the hiring car that took her to the station.

That day, long after Manel had gone, Grandma sat ruminating—dazed by a sudden sorrow that enveloped her utterly. She so wanted her grand-children to live in a spirit of companionship and love. In fact she had seen to it that Nilu spent at least a week during each vacation with her mother and sisters, for despite village upbringing Grandma had not wanted the child to be a stranger to city life and to her family. Somehow, Grandma felt of late that she had not many more days to live. An intuitive inner sense seemed to tell her so. Then last night she had heard the hooting of the owl in the distant thicket. Not that she was superstitious. Why she used to even reprimand the rest of the village when they tended to be so, for wasn't she more educated than the others of her age group? But she couldn't get over the fact that the same owl had hooted in the thicket when her husband lay dying of mouth cancer due to chewing excessive betel, and then again when her son-in-law was killed in a car accident 12 years ago. Even before Grandma had opened the telegram conveying news of the tragedy, she had known that it most certainly must contain news of a death. The owl had not hooted in the thicket since, and now it had come again with a dark message. Perhaps it was not she it had meant.

Grandma had pulled herself together and tried to appear normal when Nilu returned from school that evening. She listened attentively while Nilu told her about the new science teacher, and the concert they planned to have at school soon. Then Nilu had washed, had her meal, and run off to play with the village children. As Grandma watched her prance across the fields trailing a skipping rope in her hand, she felt a gentle gratitude for the love the child had brought her. The twelve years that Nilu had spent with her were the brightest years of Grandma's life, for they had given her a glimpse of what she had once known—youth and innocence, laughter and happiness. That night as she had tucked Nilu to bed she had told her, her plan. "Tomorrow I am going to town to sell the diamonds on my earrings. I will put the money in the bank to pay for your studies." "But your ears will be bare without them, Grandma." Nilu had protested. "Glass stones will replace the diamonds." Grandma had assured her. But Nilu had been doubtful. "Will they look as nice?" to which Grandma had been positive. "No one will be able to tell the difference my dear" had been Grandma's unequivocal reply. The next day Grandma had set out early and carried out all her plans as intened. It was with a happy heart that she had returned and left the new pass book on Nilu's table and gone to the well for her bath. Two hours later Roslin and Nilu had found her unconscious near the well and rushed her to hospital.

Grandma had regained consciousness a few hours later that night, and the doctors said that her condition was since improving steadily everyday. But Grandma wondered. She had never felt as weak in her life. She had always been in comparatively good health and active, and it was she had sobbed her eyes out and refused food for two days when Grandma had first entered hospital. Sriya had come to see her as soon as she had heard the news with her two girls Mala and Priya, stayed a week and returned, for she had her job to do. But it was Manel who had failed to come yet and it was Manel that Grandma waited to meet.

Manel the eldest of Sriya's daughters had married last year, and Grandma had borne the brunt of all the expenditure of the wedding, which was held in western style with wedding



cake and cocktails in Colombo. Manel had wanted it that way and Grandma had no heart to refuse such a request from her eldest grand daughter. In fact, it was Grandma who had borne the burden of finances for them all ever since Sriya was widowed. Four children in eight years, and the high cost of living had been a drain on their finances. When her husband had died Sriya's coffers had been almost empty, and Grandma had stepped in to breach the gap. She had sold her estate for a modest sum of money and bought Sriya a house on the outskirts of the capital, where she could live and educate the children. The rest of the money had sufficed to see Manel through a secretarial course, pay for Priya at Law College, and Mala's accountancy at a private institute. It was little Nilu that Grandma had yet failed to provide for. Though rich in spirit, Grandma had little left now in the way of material wealth, except the pair of diamond earrings she wore on her ears. They had been handed down to her from her mother and should fetch a good price in today's market. This was what she planned to give Nilu, and Grandma hoped it would see her through Medical College, for little Nilu cherished ambitions of being a doctor someday. More recently, Grandma had felt an urgent need to convert her precious heirloom to cash, and put the money in a Savings Account in Nilu's name. In that way she would be doubly assured that Nilu's future was well looked after. It was while she was contemplating this action that Manel had paid Grandma her last visit.

It was a fine sunny morning, and Grandma had just finished trimming her roses and watering them, and gone into the house to help Roslin with the cleaning when Manel burst into the room. Dropping her bag on the floor she had hugged and kissed Grandma on both cheeks. "Surprised to see me?" she asked, and though Grandma did not say it aloud, surprised she had indeed been for Manel rarely came to see her without prior notice. Grandma wondered what had brought her. Manel had seemed quite matter of fact, though. "Mother sends you her love and a parcel of cooked fish," she said handing the plastic box to her—and then proceeded chatting about her new bed-sitter flat, and job. It was only later on at lunch that she had really come to the point. "Transport is what we lack now, Grandma,"

she had said, "And if you could only let me have those earrings of yours to buy a scooter with—", and Grandma had seen stars. Nevertheless she had learnt from the inevitable vicissitudes experienced during the struggles of life that at times there was 'No wisdom like silence'. So after she had recovered from the initial shock of the request, Grandma proceeded to tell Manel the news of the village. But Manel seemed disinterested and left earlier than usual, and what's more had flung a parting remark that had the first time that she was confined to bed for so long.

Today, her third week at hospital and Manel had informed her of her intended visit. At four o'clock Manel came, dressed in a batik Maxi frock her hair let loose. Manel was the most attractive of her grand daughters and Grandma had not been surprised when she had found a partner at 18 years on her first job as secretary. She hugged Grandma and apologised for not coming sooner. After a while Grandma unscrewed her earrings and gave them to her, and Manel's face immediately broadened into a smile. "Oh Grandma! that was generous of you," she cried in glee. She proceeded to take off her own pair and put on Grandma's while little Nilu stood by and watched in silence. After admiring herself in the mirror and chatting a while longer Manel left happily, promising to come again soon.

That night Grandma hugged Nilu tighter than usual as she kissed her good-night. Then she watched her walk bravely down the hospital corridor and out into the hostile world.

The night was wonderfully silent, and Grandma looking out of the widow saw the full moon, fiercely brilliant sail majestically across the cloudless sky. There was not a breath of wind but a wonderful balminess in the air. Now and then a patient gave a mournful cry. The coconut palms silhouetted against the night sky seemed to be listening, when suddenly out of the thicket, loud and plain, came the ominous hoot of the owl again.

Grandma turned on her side, stretched out her hand and pressed the button on the cassette player by her bed. A smile of contentment softened her features and she looked lovely, as she drifted into a deep sleep. From the side of her bed, filling the room momen-



fairly with its meaningful words, came her favourite tune for the final time.

"Some people run", it sang

"And some people crawl,

But some people don't even move at all."

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## MAY

### Monsoon Month

by V. Buvanasundaram

WHEN MOON is in any of its nodes (points in space, where Moon's orbit cuts the plane of the ecliptic), it is on the plane in which the earth and the planets revolve round the Sun. On 24th/25th April, Moon was in its ascending node in line with Jupiter and Mars. They were under Leonis Regulus (Makam), the brightest star in the constellation of Leo. They all pulled together at our atmosphere. On the 26th at 20.00 hrs, the Moon was at apogee (the furthest point away from earth), however, it was directly under Saturn and these two could now tug together. The highest rainfall in Sri Lanka recorded at Nedunkerni was when Moon was under the same Leonis Regulus.

This upper cyclonic circulation formed by this pull, aided by the condensation nuclei thrown out—with the exhaust fumes of jet aircraft at the airport gave to Horogahalanda, a few miles southeast of Katunayake, its heaviest fall ever—45.72cm in 48 hours, 20.09cm on the 25th and 25.63cm on the 26th. The latter fall of over 10 inches nearly beat its previous best ever of 10.92" on the 9th of the monsoon month of August 1939. April is an intermonsoon month and this upper cyclonic circulation came in from the east. The condensation nuclei from the airport moved southeast carried by northwesterly winds. Vincit estate, equidistant from the airport and east of Horogahalanda had 12.57cm on the 25th, Katunayaka had that record breaking fall of 14.87cm on the 26th. This beat the previous best for April of 14.43cm on 22.4.61.

Workers day (May 1) too pulled out good rains for us. Mahailuppalama headed the list with 8.25cm, followed by Ratmalana 6.97, Anuradhapura 5.31, Kandy 5.09, Kurunegala 5.03 and Colombo 2.14. These rains were

from intermonsoon thundershowers that developed in the region of the North Central Province and moved to the southwest coasts. The monsoon was yet to come.

Monsoon begins after mid-May, in the solar month of Valkasi or Jyeshtha, which begins the two months summer of the six seasons of the Hindus. The Sun then enters the constellation of Taurus, under the powerful, ever expanding crab Nebula, the most copious radiator of all types of radiation including the high energy cosmic particles, those of the solar flares are of much lesser energy. This nebula is covering 160 angular seconds in Taurus and is expanding at the rate of 0.18 angular seconds per year.

LAST YEAR, the monsoon rains failed us. It is uncommon to fail in two successive years. Colombo Fort's Monsoon (May to Sept.) average is 32.78" Monsoon falls 1976-19.24", 77-51.35". 1973-20.82", 74-38.28", 1967-14.51" 68-28.03", 1956-16.66", 57-28.66", 1890-13.90" 91-38.10", 1872-16.15", 73-31.84". Besides, the two major planets have much to say in the affairs of our Solar System. Jupiter takes 11.8 yrs to go round the Sun and Saturn 29½ yrs. In 59 years Jupiter would have gone round the Sun 5 times and Saturn twice. Last year was 59 yrs after 1921 (inclusive), this year would then correspond to 1922. In 1921, the monsoonal rain at Colombo Fort was 13.57", in 1922 it was 25.71". This monsoon should not fail us as badly as the monsoon of last year.

Sri Lanka has no definition of the Monsoon. Long years ago Dr. Bamford defined it as an established southwesterly wind stream over the island to a depth of over 10,000 ft. He, perhaps was guided by the derivation of the word Monsoon from the Arabic "Mau-sin", meaning reversal of winds. This is not quite correct since the Monsoon is usually associated with heavy rains as well. India defines its Monsoon in terms of successive days of rainfall at stations along its west coast. Even by the end of May, Bombay had not got the monsoon. It has had its pre-monsoon showers.

Southwesterly winds from the surface to about 8 or 10,000 ft had come into Sri Lanka



with the entry of Sun into the constellation of Taurus, the rains were yet to come. They were there at Maldives not budging towards us. "Only God can save us" said my morning walks companion. C.E.B.'s prayers went up to heaven and from there came the answer over the Bay of Bengal. A rotating column of air between 700mb (10,000ft.) and 500mb (20,000ft.) Its anticlockwise rotation sent the air within it up and up, while winds rushed in from all directions to fill the void. South westerly monsoon winds too rushed in dragging with it the rains from Maldives. Kalutara district was the first to meet it on the 26th, for it rained there everyday from that day till the end of the month. *Raygam estate-0.06, 5.97, 5.23, 3.76, 5.03, 3.71cm. Forecester estate-0.58, 2.49, 21.10, 5.71, 2.44, 3.91cm. Bandara-gama-0.11, 0.25, 8.40, 1.82, 4.00, 3.80cm.*

By the 27th, it was dragged along the coast up to Chilaw and over land into Kegalle district. *Colombo-2.39, 1.78, 3.93, 1.06, 2.09cm. Katunayaka-0.99, 0.75, 1.40, 1.07, 0.10cm. Chilaw-0.08, 0.05, 1.27, 0.38, 2.16cm. Vincit estate-0.38, 0.48, 1.22, 1.47, 7.06cm. Yogama estate-1.27, 0.76, 0.89, 1.52, 3.81cm.*

By the 31st, the Monsoon was well established over the island. At Labugama it rained every day from the 27th. *0.50cm, 6.13cm, 4.43cm, 4.85cm, & 2.30cm.* At Norton bridge, it rained everyday from the 25th; *0.40, 0.25, 0.10, 0.43, 0.96, 0.53, 2.74cm.* yet the total rains were only 25% of its average for May. Kandy had more than its average, while Nuwara Eliya had only 50% of its average.

**THE FIRST SIGNS OF THIS CIRCULATION** was a fall of 3.26cm at Mullaitivu. It moved northwest, working itself up and down. It reached down to 5,000ft at the base and 30,000ft at the top. Its significant falls were:— 28th, Mirusuvil 8.20, Murungan 6.40, Kilinochchi 4.60cm, Akathimuripu 4.34cm Chavakachcheri 4.31 and Muthu Iyan Kadu, close to Mulaitivu 3.23cm. 29th, Periya Madhu 6.10 Thikkuvilu, 5.55cm, Kundathanai 5.16cm, Ambal Perumal Kulam 4.32 and Cheddikulam 4.31cm.

There was a second spell of rain that started on the 30th, with a heavy fall of 11.05cm at Chavakachcheri. On the same day, Ambal Perumal Kulam had 4.70cm and Pavatkulam 3.96cm. Nainativu missed rains from the first spell but this spell gave quarter inch each

day on the 30th and the 31st. From the 28th it was good rains for the north, some of them like Murungan and Chavakachcheri beating their May average with a single day's rain but Veppakulam as its name signifies had not a drop of rain and Mannar on the first day only had half a centimeter. They lay on the periphery of these circulations. Subsequently, two upper circulations were identified, over land, north of Madras. These two circulations pulled us our Monsoon.

**TWENTY SEVEN DAYS** after April 25th, on the 22nd May, Moon orbited back into the same position in the heavens. By that time, the node had moved out. Jupiter and Saturn were stationary and Mars between them racing away from Jupiter towards Saturn. Stationary pulls are always stronger and the pulls were still not much out of the plane of the ecliptic. Jupiter and Saturn could have each given a pull to our atmosphere, in combination with Moon, when it passed under them causing two separate cyclonic circulations.

Between longitudes 90 and 92 east is the favourite place for such pulls on our atmosphere. Between these two longitudes, there runs an ocean-bed ridge longitudinally from Bangladesh to Sumatra and almost over Andaman Islands, perhaps the meeting point of the Indian and Asian tectonic plates. In the upper reaches of the atmosphere is a trough formed by the westerly jet rounding the Himalayan range. These two would assist the pull to form cyclonic circulations. It could be that these two circulations pulled the Monsoon into Andamans on the 25th and into Kalutara on the 26th and then floated into our region to give good rains to the North.

Buddhists go by the Lunar year and Hindus by the Solar year. Wesak this year was on the 29th but according to the hindu way of reckoning events, the anniversary of Buddha's birth, enlightenment and death would have been on the 28th. Moon on everyone of these occasions was transiting the asterism of Visakam. The last quarter of this asterism extends into Scorpio, where are found a double star and a double nebula. Nebulae are powerful radiators of all types of cosmic radiation, particularly cosmic particles, which are the simplest hydrogen atoms stripped of their single electron. On entering the atmosphere, they would react with the oxygen and Nitrogen of the



higher atmosphere and fall into the lower atmosphere as nuclear debris. These are suitable nuclei for ice formation at high levels. On the day of the Wesak, Moon was moving under the Red Giant, whose size is equal to our earth's orbit round the Sun. These two cyclonic circulations developed in our region. It could be that they developed, when Moon was passing under them. Where Moon is, there Earth is, in our Milky Way.

There is now a belief among ecclesiastic astronomers, that like Comets blazing forth the death of great men, bursting stars herald the birth of Great Men and the star of Bethlehem was one such exploding star. Copernicus's proof that Jupiter, Saturn and Mars were in exact conjunction at the time of Nativity is now set aside. It could be that within

### U.N.P.'S CHANCES

Sir,

Your expose of the chances of the UNP returning to office in 1933 (vide *TRIBUNE*, June 14, 1980) was fair, candid, and accurate up to a point. But, Sir, you missed out so much.

The more important issues which drive even the most faithful UNP town supporter to despair and desperation are: (a) *Mosquitoes, Flies, Dirt, Filth*—have you tried to do a day's work after a sleepless night aided and clouted by bowel diseases; (b) *Health Services*—non-existent and so to private hospitals which means distress loans; (c) *Transport*—the less said the better; (d) *Birth Certificate*, or for that matter any copy or document from any government office—a one-way ticket to Angoda is guaranteed; (e) *Common Courtesy*—What is that?; (f) *The Telephone Service*—a perpetual visit to Angoda.

These and so many other basics. The rural folk have a longer list. For me, Sir, no vote for anybody in future. They are all just as bad.

TOWN UNPer

Colombo 10.  
June 16, 1930

the first 3 to 4 degrees in Scorpio, there were two double stars instead of the present one, we see. One of them exploded and was seen as bright as the star of Bethlehem, or even brighter since it was a double star, at the time Buddha was born. This, the diffused double nebula, we see now.



## SRI LANKA CHRONICLE

### June 4-9

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 Lanka-dipa; JD—Janadina; SU—Sun; DV—Davasa; DP—Dinapathi; CM—Chinthamani; WK—Weekend; RR—Riviresa; DK—Dinakara; EN—Eelanadu; IDPR—Information Dept. Press Release.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4:** President J. R. Jayewardene told the Government Parliamentary Group meeting yesterday that certain trade unions of the opposition parties were planning a campaign on June 5, to show opposition to the Government by resorting to stoppage of work, picketing and holding meetings during lunch intervals; the trade unions supporting the government would however, also do peaceful picketing and hold lunch hour meetings, to show solidarity with the government, the President said. A high level policy announcement is expected to be made by the government shortly on the high priority accorded to water management; a project for water management in 22 major settlement schemes will be undertaken by the Ministry of Lands and Land Development following the report of a committee appointed by the Ministry, Secretary to review policies and



programs of the Ministry. Trade and Shipping Minister Lalith Athulathmudali told a meeting of the Overseas Development Institute in London this week that Sri Lanka did not appreciate the rising tide of protectionism of the industrialised world. The power cut hours will be reduced from five to three a day with effect from today. Police will set up youth safety clubs throughout the country to popularise safety measures in crime prevention, motoring, at home, in sports and industry, police sources said—*CDN*. A student in the Open University will cost the government only one-third of the money spent on training of a student in any of the traditional universities; at present it costs the government approximately Rs. 20,000 for an arts student, Rs. 40,000 for an engineering student and Rs. 50,000 for a medical student—for a full course of study. Picketing is legal only in relation to a place of work where there is a strike; that is from the ILO Convention and that is the view of the Government too; in any other respect picketing is illegal; this was said by the Prime Minister, Mr. R. Premadasa in reply to questions raised by Mr. S. D. Bandaranaike, (SLFP-Gampaha) at adjournment on the Opposition TUs protest tomorrow. The Minister of Finance and Planning, Mr. Ronnie de Mel has decided to grant a ten year tax holiday only to new tourist hotel projects, whose investments exceed Rs. 500 million—*CDM*. A comprehensive revision of the country's election laws, setting out the procedures for the future election of a President and Members of Parliament has been recommended by a Parliamentary select committee. The Ministry of Industries and Scientific Affairs has drawn up a comprehensive report to government on the escalating price of crude oil in international markets which is exerting tremendous pressure on Sri Lanka's balance of payments—*CO*. The Government has decided to increase the price of flour, kerosene oil and diesel this month under the agreement signed with the IMF and the World Bank—*JD*. Four new five-star hotels are to be constructed in Colombo; each of these hotels will have 300-400 rooms—*DV*.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 5:** The Government decided yesterday to cancel leave today of all officers in the Public service, corporation sector and government boards; this follows plans by the Joint Trade Union Action Com-

mittee to conduct a campaign today to protest against the government's policies. Government yesterday decided not to allow certain categories of teachers to go abroad on no-pay leave for purposes of study and employment; the Minister of State and Cabinet spokesman Anandatissa de Alwis said that on a proposal made by Minister of Education Ranil Wickremasinghe the Government decided that teachers of aesthetic studies, commerce and technical subjects should not be allowed no-pay leave for study or employment abroad due to the shortage of teachers in these categories. A recently released study by the Plan Implementation Ministry of last year's performance in the sector of subsidiary food crops, has indicated a deteriorating situation with an overall decline in production, acreage and selling prices. An action was filed in the District Court of Colombo yesterday by President J. R. Jayewardene claiming Rs. 2 million from the Independent Newspapers Ltd., of Gunasena Mawatha, Colombo 12, for alleged defamation. The price paid to the farmer for sugar cane is to be increased to Rs. 400/- per ton, from Rs. 300/- per ton, with immediate effect; this price increase has been sanctioned by President Jayewardene, on the recommendations of the Minister of Agricultural Development and Research, E. L. Senanayake; on an average 20,000 tons of sugar are produced in Sri Lanka, annually—*CDN*. The Government has decided to take over the 366 estate schools and incorporate them into the national system of education; majority of these schools are ill-equipped and understaffed—*CDM*. The ban placed on all forms of picketing by government in late January this year stands, according to a spokesman for the Ministry of Public Administration. Service personnel will soon receive honours and awards for heroism, bravery and distinguished service. Rapacious exploitation of the chain of coral reefs around Sri Lanka has opened the way to massive erosion of our coasts by the invading ocean—*SU*. 30,000 bags of rice imported more than 3 years ago are still in the warehouses in Trincomalee and are now unsuitable for human consumption—*DV*. Large number of Trade Unions have decided not to support the day of protest today called by the JTUAC—*DM*.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 6:** The Customs Officer's



Union has proposed to the Principal Collector of Customs H. B. Dissanayake that another small ship should be operated between Talaimannar and Rameshwaram for passengers and cargo. President J. R. Jayewardene said yesterday that the Government had increased salaries on three occasions; "we intend giving another salary increase but this has to be done according to the monies available," he said. Yesterday's lunch-hour demonstrations by rival trade unions, some condemning the UNP government and others expressing their wholehearted support for it were marred by a few ugly incidents but none of the essential services was disrupted, police said. Several people were injured when rival factions clashed near the People's Bank in Sir Chittamp'am Gardiner Mawatha yesterday; eye witnesses said the clash was sparked off by an attempted attack on four UNP MPs who were returning after addressing pro-government unionists outside the Bank; following the clashes, several persons were admitted to hospital; one man was found dead on admission; Police said he had no injuries and that he might have died of natural causes. The Foreign Minister of Yugoslavia and Sri Lanka held wide-ranging talks yesterday on bilateral relations and international issues; the Yugoslav Minister Mr. Josip Vrhovec, who arrived here on Tuesday on a three day official visit, had two rounds of talks yesterday with his Sri Lankan counterpart, Mr. A. C. S. Hameed; they will continue their talks this evening after which a joint statement is expected to be issued. A nine-member Parliamentary delegation from the Netherlands will arrive here on Sunday on a five-day visit for discussions with Sri Lanka authorities on aid provided by the Netherlands—CDN. The Deans and the head of departments of the Faculties of Arts, Education and Law of the University of Colombo resigned from their posts as deans and heads of departments yesterday; However, they have assured that they would continue their work in the field of research and teaching. Peaceful counter-demonstrations by pro-government workers overwhelmed sporadic picketing by opposition trade unionists at several points in Colombo yesterday; pro-government demonstrators outnumbered the picketers both in strength and enthusiasm; the placards that the pro-government workers carried called for "hard work for the good of the country"

while the picketeers held up placards which merely stated "protest day"—CDM. Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa promised in Parliament last evening a full inquiry into the death of an opposition trade unionist allegedly killed in an incident during yesterday's trade union protest campaign. The lack of any official stand so far by the Non-aligned Movement on some recent world developments was noted with serious concern by visiting Yugoslav Foreign Minister Josip Vrhovec and Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Shahul Hameed when they held official talks yesterday in Colombo—SU. The government has authorised the Ceylon Electricity Board to commission the well-known British firm of Preece, Cardew and Rider to immediately undertake a detailed study of Sri Lanka's growing electricity demand; the data obtained from this study will enable a decision on whether the country will be compelled to further augment the thermal back-up which is now being beefed up with the installation of three gas turbines which can add 60 megawatts of power to the national grid—CO. The M.P. for Vavuniya Mr. T. Sivasingham stated in Parliament within the past 6 weeks 24,117 litres of milk were thrown down the drain at the Vavuniya milk collecting centre, due to insufficient number of bowsers for transport, thereby incurring a loss of Rs. 53,000—DP. The day of national protest passed without any incidents in Jaffna and Batticaloa—EN. A survey has revealed that the purpose of the Land Reform Commission Act has not been carried out; the main reason for this is, political interference in taking over Land and in redistributing it—DV.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 7:** Sri Lanka will commemorate 50 years of universal adult franchise in June next year on a national and international level, Secretary to the Prime Minister, Bradman Weerakoon said yesterday; celebrations on the international level will not be confined to Commonwealth countries, he said; a Sri Lanka exhibition will be held in July and August next year at the Commonwealth Institute in London; the exhibition which will later move to Paris, will be a blend of Sri Lanka's religious, cultural, traditional, historical and political heritage. The present schedule of power-cuts will continue through next week, the Minister of Power and Energy said yesterday. The visiting Foreign Minister



of Yugoslavia, Josip Vrhovec had a final round of talks last night with his Sri Lankan counterpart, A. C. S. Hameed at which they discussed mainly bilateral relations and agreed that the future was bright for economic co-operation between the two countries. The Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Construction has drawn up an emergency plan to carry on the essential services of departments, corporations and other agencies under the ministry, in the event of a complete ban on oil imports following a world war or any other catastrophe. Prof. Stanley Kalpage Secretary, Ministry of Higher Education and Chairman of the University Grants Commission, has been invited by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of UNESCO to serve on the Council of the United Nations University—CDN. There will be no political interference in teacher transfers, the Education Services Committee of the Public Service Commission, has decided; the new transfer scheme would be effective from January 1, 1981. District Development Councils elected by the people will be established before the end of this year, declared the President Mr. J. R. Jayewardene at a seminar attended by party and government representatives consisting of officials of Ministries and Departments on the escalated development programme for Anamaduwa—CDN. Sri Lanka's thermal power needs will be studied by a British consultancy firm engaged by the Ceylon Electricity Board; this move by the CEB to assess as to what extent the country's main source of power, hydro electricity, needs to be supplemented by thermal generated electricity, comes in the wake of a recent critical shortage of hydro-electric power. Prime Minister R. Premadasa told Parliament yesterday that investigations conducted into the death of a trade union member during the picketing last Thursday had revealed that his death was apparently caused following injuries received during a stampede along a narrow and restricted passage—SU. With a view to increasing sugar production 18,000 acres in the Hingurana and Kantalal areas will be planted with sugar cane—DP. The public sector employees will strike on Monday and participate in the funeral of D. Somapala who was killed by union thugs when he was picketing—DK. A secret police report on the incident in which D. Somapala died has said that the MP for

Agalawatte Mr. Meril Kariyawasam was in the front seat of the jeep in which thugs who attacked the picketeers was transported; this report has been forwarded to the President and the IGP among others—ATH.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 8:** Further rises in petrol and kerosene prices are highly unlikely despite the substantial increase in the price of crude oil in international markets authoritative government sources said yesterday; these sources said that the Minister of Industries and Scientific Affairs, Mr. Cyril Mathew, had recently made a comprehensive report to government about the increase in crude oil prices. The rain is not falling over the Castle-reagh and Mousakelle catchments and the rate of recharge of these reservoirs is dropping while power use is climbing, Mr. James Lanerolle, Secretary to the Ministry of Power and Energy said last night. President J. R. Jayewardene said here yesterday that he and his Ministers will start going to the people rather than wait for the people to come to them; he was speaking at Res Vihara in the Galgamuwa electorate. The Bearer Bonds scheme which became effective a fortnight ago has been slow in getting into swing; Central Bank sources said that up to now fewer than twenty of these bonds, each worth Rs. 5,000 have been sold at the bank; this represents a total collection of under Rs. 100,000—SO. Dr. Stanley Kalpage, Secretary to the Ministry of Higher Education, has reported to the Government that he has found no evidence of discrimination against any of the candidates who were interviewed for merit promotions to the Sri Lanka Administrative Service last year—ST. A massive narcotics abuse problem—such as that existing in Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia—threatens to engulf Sri Lankan society if present trends are not arrested within the next 18 months a Colombo Plan Bureau survey has revealed, Police investigators probing the alleged attempt on the life of a top government politico at an estate in Tebuwana now believe that the "target" that the two intruders were after may have been someone else. A high powered Parliamentary delegation from Netherlands will arrive here today on a six day official visit to discuss development assistance, with the Sri Lankan Government. Two major train disasters one at Angulana and the other



at Katukurunda, were averted over the past week—while reports of track damage kept pouring in from all parts of the island. Government has agreed to call for an urgent study of the judicial systems of socialist and communist countries with a view to adopting possible advantageous features of those systems in the revision of Sri Lanka's legal structure—WK.

**MONDAY, JUNE 9:** A 28-member private sector delegation from Sri Lanka interested in investment, joint ventures and trade with Japan and six government representatives will meet with Japanese entrepreneurs and businessmen in Tokyo from July 1 to 3, Secretary-General of the Sri Lanka-Japan Business Corporation Committee A. K. Nesaratnam said yesterday. The Secretary General of UNCTAD, Dr. Gamani Corea has been appointed Chancellor of the Sri Lanka Open University by President J. R. Jayewardene; the Open University will be inaugurated by the President on June 19, at the BMICH Colombo; Dr. Corea will however continue to be Secretary-General of UNCTAD. A nine-member Parliamentary delegation from the Netherlands arrived here yesterday on a five day visit for discussions with Sri Lanka authorities on aid provided by the Netherlands. The management of the five state owned textile mills was taken over from the managing agents by the Competent Authority of the National Textile Corporation on Saturday—CDN. The government has decided to give a better deal to a large number of graduates who were recruited by the previous government to non-teaching posts; these graduates were appointed to clerical grades in government departments. The Minister of Rural Industrial Development S. Thondaman, yesterday accepted in principle a silver-ware project recommended by the Finish Company Joenkulta; the project is to float a Rs. 5 million company in the Free Trade Zone for the handicrafting of silverware—CDM. An American style "primary election" system may be introduced in Sri Lanka for the selection of candidates of political parties for both Parliamentary and Presidential elections. Coconut production in the Southern Province has been declining steadily due to lack of general maintenance a spokesman for the Coconut Industries Ministry said yesterday. Security precautions are to be

taken by Police today to ensure that the funeral of trade unionist Deduwege Somapala who died in an incident during the mass picketing in the city on Thursday, will be free of any untoward incidents; members of trade unions affiliated to the JTUAC are expected to stage a walk out today, in order to attend the funeral—SU. Fourteen children have died of polio between January 1 and June 5 this year, according to the health authorities—CO. A final decision regarding the now suspended members of the TULF, Koval Mahesan and Eelaventhan will be taken when the working committee of the party meets in Colombo; most probably they will both be dismissed from the party—VK. Mr. Ranil Wickremasinghe Minister of Education and Youth Affairs has obtained government permission to include even those who have not registered with Job Banks into work training schemes—DP. The Chairman of the Paranthan Chemical Corporation has warned that the country would face a severe shortage of necessary chemicals in the next few years; the existing chemical factory will not be able to cope with the increasing demand and the factory itself will come to a standstill as the necessary spare parts for machines which are over 29 years old are not being produced any where in the world now—DM. The government has decided to spend Rs. 350 million to provide Health and other facilities for the 140,000 Mahaweli settlers; the plan will be carried out under the 5-year plan Mahaweli plan and Rs. 98 million out of the Rs. 380 million will be from foreign sources—DV.

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### 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. 1606.50	Rs. 1609.50
Sterling Pound	Rs. 3757.00	Rs. 3765.00
Deutsche Mark	Rs. 906.15	Rs. 907.75
French Franc	Rs. 390.45	Rs. 391.15
Japanese Yen	Rs. 7.4095	Rs. 7.4245
Indian Rupees	Rs. 204.70	Rs. 205.10



# Confidentially

## French Connection?

IS IT NOT TRUE that the present power crisis has focussed attention on what has come to be known as the "French Connection"? That it was the *Ceylon Daily Mirror* that first drew attention to this? That this was over six months or more ago? That (reduced to simple terms) the allegation is that a big French combine, *Cogalex* by name, has been able to obtain more than its due share of the purchases (by tender and otherwise) of the CEB for the last seven, eight or even ten years? That it is said that this *French Connection* has had a capacity to survive changes of government? That the first *French Connection* in tenders and contracts took root in this country way back in the early fifties? That thereafter for nearly three decades the *French Connection* has persisted—a connection that has given a pre-emptive option to certain French combines to win contracts and tender awards even though some of their offers were neither the lowest nor the most advantageous? That *Coglex*—undoubtedly one of the best known manufacturers of electrical equipment in France and Europe—had come into the scene much later but it has figured prominently in CEB purchases in recent years? That other European manufacturers mainly from West Germany and Italy are known to have protested that they had been denied contracts and tenders even when they were the lowest—and that *Cogalex* had "heads I win, tails you lose" advantage over all competitors?

WHILST IT IS TRUE that no detailed investigative study has been made of the business activities of *Cogalex*, since it came into the tender business in this island, it was pashed into the lime-light only when the turbines (100mw) it had installed at Laxapana did not function up to expectations? That the turbines had suffered and still suffer from a perpetual oil leak (entailing repairs ever so often)? That one turbine has also developed a wobble that might result in a shut down for weeks? That an even more interesting *French Connection* in this game of contracts and tender awards is an exclusive

organisation called (subject to correction) The Franco-Sri Lanka Technological Association. That it has a high-sounding name but the simple fact is that most, if not all, its members have position in the many Technical Committees attached to various Ministries which make high-cost (in millions) purchases of machinery and other equipment or award construction contracts? That whilst this government has raised a hue and cry about Friendship Associations on the political front, no-attention has been paid to the Technological Societies and Association that seems to have swallowed up at our technocrats? That the first step to end the French or Italian or Indian, or Jap or German connection is to ban technocrats from becoming members of these Technological Friendship Societies or Associations? That technocrats and bureaucrats who enjoy hospitality in some countries (especially from the big manufacturer or multi-nationals) must not be taken on Technical Committees to evaluate Tenders? That the *French Connection* in the CEB is only the tip of a big ice-berg? That one Connection spawns other Connections? That the government must take this matter about "Connections" seriously if it wants to contain corruption to minimal limits? That these Connections already have an octopus-like grip on the political and economic life in Sri Lanka? That Cabinet decisions reach them even before the official spokesman briefs the press? That there is nothing called a Cabinet secret for them? That photostats of relevant Cabinet papers are available in the offices of certain big operators who also manipulate these technological Associations? That the common people of the country are kept in the dark about many matters of vital national importance because of a supine fourth estate in this country—but these foreign Connections know everything? That someday, the common people will learn about these dark secrets, and that will be the day of reckoning, the day of revolution, the day of liberation? That if such emancipation is to come through the ballot box, the press must make known the truth in the normal way? That when people are denied full information of all the facts, when information is slanted, suppressed or hidden, when scandals are hushed to prevent constitutional redress for grievances, then people turn to revolution?





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