

# TRIBUNE



25TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION



# TRIBUNE

## PRICE INCREASE

The price of each copy of Tribune will be Rs. 3/- from the issue of July 19, 1980, i.e. Vol 25 No. 1.

Tribune has resisted a price increase as long as possible, but it cannot do so any longer. The increase of 50 cents a copy is the barest minimum considering the enhanced all round costs of production.

The subscription rates for Tribune in Sri Lanka—with the increased postal charges—will be Rs. 160/- for 12 months, Rs. 85/- for 6 months and Rs. 45/- for 3 months.

There will be no surcharge on existing pre-paid subscriptions, but all new subscriptions and renewals will be at the new rates.

For particulars abouts foreign subscriptions, please contact:

Tel: 33172.

The Circulation Manager,  
**TRIBUNE**,  
43, Dawson Street,  
COLOMBO 2.

# TRIBUNE

## Letter From The Editor

LAST WEEK'S *Editor's Notebook* has evoked a great deal of comment and interest. What came as a major surprise to many was the detailed salary package paid by the People's Bank to its employees. We have not yet obtained the salaries and perks paid to employees of the Bank of Ceylon. Two excuses have been trotted out by defenders of the Bank salary scales—first that the Banks are money earning institutions and second that foreign banks were paying "fabulous" salaries. Regarding the second argument, we will reserve comments on this for a later date, but we cannot refrain from saying that in the 17th-19th centuries foreign invasions were staged by missionaries followed armies. Today, the Banks come first and they prepare the ground by softening the ground with fantastically high-salaries for a small elite of the natives who become the vanguard of a new foreign invasion. More of this later. In regard to the first argument, the banks no doubt make money but this is because of the exorbitant interest charged in an era when people cannot do without banks. The interest rates of the Shylocks (of old) is fleabite compared to what banks squeeze out of the public now. Without going into the pros and cons of present day banking, let us examine the salary scales paid by a major non-banking money earning department of the Government, viz., the Inland Revenue Service. They are as follows: "*Commissioners of Inland Revenue, Class I, Grade I*: Salary per annum, 20,640-3 of 600 and 2 of 960-Rs. 24,240; monthly salary now: 1,720 consolidated salary, 140 Special living allowance, 172 10% of the consolidated salary allowance, 55, 10% of the consolidated salary, allowance, 100 married allowance = Rs. 2,187 plus Rs. 500 professional allowance = Rs. 2,687. *Deputy Commissioners of Inland Revenue, Class I, Grade II*—Salary per annum: 18,840 and 5 of 600 = 21,840. Monthly now 1,570 Consolidated salary, 140 special living allowance, 157 10% of the consolidated salary—allowance, 55 10% of the consolidated salary—allowance, 100 married allowance, 500 professional allowance = Rs. 2,522: *Senior Assessors of Inland Revenue, Class II, Grade I*: Salary per annum 17,040—5 of 6—Rs. 20,040: Monthly (now) 1,420 Consolidated salary, 140 special living allowance, 142 10% of the consolidated salary allowance, 55 10% of the consolidated salary allowance, 100 married allowance, 400 Professional allowance—Rs. 2,257: *Assessors of Inland Revenue—Class II—Grade II*: Salary per annum, 8,160, 8,520, 9,240—5 of 360 and 12 of 480—16,800; Monthly (now) 680 consolidated salary, 140 special living allowance, 68 10% of the consolidated salary allowance 55, 10% of the consolidated salary allowance, 100 married allowance = 1,043 (new recruits). Professional allowance is paid only those who have successfully completed the II nd Efficiency Bar Exam. Normally 5th year in service. 1st to 4 years Rs. 250, 2nd-4th year Rs. 400 and thereafter Rs. 500." Is any comment necessary?

Ceylon News Review

Founded In 1954

**A Journal of Ceylon  
and  
World Affairs**

Editor, S. P. Amarasingam

Every Saturday

July 12, 1980

Vol: 24 No: 52

TRIBUNE

43, DAWSON STREET,  
COLOMBO-2.

Tel: 33172.

### CONTENTS

COVER	
—Hydro-Power	p. 2
FILM FOCUS	
—Best Cinema	p. 4
DECREASING PRODUCTION	
—Who's To Blame?	p. 5
NADESAN CASE	
—CRM	p. 7
FISHERIES	
—Much To Be Done	p. 9
GRAMA SASTRA—20	
—Monk	p. 10
PRESS CURB?	
—New Threat	p. 11
LETTERS	
—Tourist Rest, Carter Milk Cows	p. 12
CABAGES TO KINGS	
—This And That	p. 15
CHRONICLE	
—June 15—25	p. 16
BOOKS	
—Reviewed	p. 21
RAINMAKING	
—Does It Work?	p. 24
FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD	
—President Must Act	p. 27
OIL	
—OPEC's Fines	p. 29
CONFIDENTIALLY	
—Foreign Experts-2	p. 32

## Hydro-Power

**THE EARTHENWARE GOBLETS** on the Cover this week will remind every reader about "water". Sometime ago it was a shortage of water for drinking, washing, bathing in Colombo and the bigger towns Sri Lanka. Today, water means the shortage of hydrel power. This country has to live with electric power shortage for a long time to come, both hydro and thermal. In this connection, we cannot do better than publish a comment we have received from our indefatigable contributor Mr. R. Kahawita.

"Since writing this article, there is a controversy going on between Hon. Minister Gamini Dissanayake and Ex-Minister Maithripala Senanayake, as published in the *CDN*. The gist of the controversy is 'a million dams will not solve the power problems when hydro-development depends on rainfall', the other view is that there should have been better planning and hydro-power development programmes to meet the ever growing demand for power. If cognisance of this were taken, then Samanalawewa project, Canyon project and the installation of Bowatenne turbines should have been given high priorities. We are also not experts like the two controversialists as we are inclined to agree with both views without offending one or the other except we ourselves have been singing the same two songs since we took an interest in using river-flow for hydro-development. We have always asserted that Hydro-power depending on rainfall is undependable. Therefore thermal generation is a must and should be available at the press of a button. Today we know that it is true, to our cost. Step by step we have to face the realities as we stumble into them.

"Eighty five percent of power is from the Hydro in the Kelaniya System, Polgolla Gal-Oya and Uda Walawe. The balance is from Kelanitissa Thermal plant. Present Hydro system is based on low storage and high head—except at Galoya and Uda Walawe where release of water is predicated by Irrigation requirements. Other hydro systems that are almost ready and could have been put into operation early are Bowatenne and Canyon. On the

Boards there are the Samanalawewa, Kotmale and Victoria, almost ready to take off once the technical problems are cleared. There are others to follow in the Kelaniya system and Mahaweli plans.

"I have said that our hydro power is bound to fluctuate due to vagaries of monsoon rains. There are limitations both financial and physiographical to have carry-over storage to meet the deficiencies in rainfall. And when coupled to Irrigation as in the dry-zone systems, priority has to be given to Irrigation, and the conservation of water is dictated by Irrigation seasons, to stretch the storage from season to season and to be in keeping with the issue, control and management of Irrigation requirements. In dual purpose schemes as at the Gal-Oya project, multiple turbine is the answer. In the case of wet zone rivers too, multiple turbines are the answer to build up storage to meet the variations of river flow and at the same time enable peak loads to be taken by hydro power when that is possible. It will make generation flexible as well as to use the residual flow in between the monsoons. We mention this here because of the mistake made at Bowatenne power house.

"In the management of flow in the wet zone rivers repetitive use of stored water at lower points in the river should find a place in the hydro schemes in these rivers. The power potential in the wet zone is much more than in the dry zone rivers. Except for an early study connected with the 'Systematic Analysis of water resources of eight major river basins' no further attention was given to the development of Hydro power in the wet zone river systems—particularly, Kalu Ganga, Nilwala Ganga—these are the rivers in the South West corner of the country where the flow is comparatively regular as these river basins receive the first monsoon rains.

"We are experiencing this today—the Kelaniya system is dry whereas floods are threatening the lower reaches of Kalu Ganga. The Power Minister should set up a unit to study the power resources in these basins. (The trouble is, in true Sinhala character we do not want to continue with what others started. We want to start everything *de novo*. So many a good project have been abandoned half way. We cannot help it, and we cannot

correct ourselves. That is why foreigners had a grip on us for 400 years and today they dominate the financial scene.

"We have set our heart on rapid industrialisation. It is good, but industries, big or small, cannot be started without power. So power development has to steal a march over other activities, except probably buildings. Thus we should have concentrated on projects near implementation as priority one and taken up those yet to be studied and brought up to construction level as the second step. On the basis that we will be having a surplus of power we were negotiating to sell the surplus and also persuaded the processing of tea, rubber and coconut to convert to electricity from their traditional source of energy—firewood. Based on the same line of thinking, there is also a massive rural electrification—programme to link up 2000 villages to the National grid. There may not be consumers in these villages even if we had the power to justify the spread or the expenditure. It is a prestigious improvement to our village life. However it can upset the major consuming centres when electricity is used to light up deserted lanes and roads after dark.

*"Today power is vital to our economic existence. We cannot retract. Therefore, the government must set up a panel of experts to study the river systems for power generation (not the type of experts who are studying to produce power alcohol from sugar cane and manioc as reported in the **CDN** of the 4th). What is required is a group of honest and devoted experts to produce tangible projects that could be implemented, not the multimillion projects, but that of a size which could be constructed and commissioned in a couple of years.*

However these alone will not ward off power crises. There must be standby supplementary sources which should also be planned and commissioned in steps. Till these are put into effect, there should be operating rules formulated to manage the existing hydro reservoirs more effectively. To make such rules effective, there must be some way of determining the quantum of residual flow into the reservoirs from its main feeder systems. There are measuring instruments available where the 'readings can be transmitted to the power house for recording and

to guide the Power house Engineer to balance the inflow with the outflow and determine the lay-by hours of generation. In fact one of these measuring instruments were included in the G.I Oya power house but not adopted due to local difficulties—such difficulties would not be there at Castlereagh and Mousakelle.

"The operating rules may include (1) when the hydro reservoirs are not spilling, there should be four hour shut down from 12 mid-night to 4 a.m. daily, (2) Emergency power requirements like in hospitals, nursing homes must have stand by power generation which can come into the establishment distribution system on a power failure or a shut down; (3) Larger hotels, business establishments, industrial complexes, like Lever Brothers, Tobacco Textiles etc., should have stand by power available; (5) High rise building complexes, hotels and similar large scale grouping of people should have standby power. (The first private sector building that included and installed standby power is Ceylinco House in 1960; (5) Harbours, Airports and main Railway Stations, main Bus Depots should have stand by power. Scattering of such standby power will throw the burden on the individual bulk users of power in a crisis, and such users can meet the cost of installation, maintenance and operation. It also becomes very flexible to operate according to individual requirements. It is cheaper than central thermal generation to meet the hydro power shut down. Each such unit will go into action according to individual requirements and adjust the power needs and utilization accordingly. The control will be under them rather than with a central authority whose decisions and programming of generation cannot be conveyed to bulk users in time to programme their own productions. In industrial development this is a very important consideration.

*"I have said that there will be periodical power crises which cannot be avoided. Incidence of such periods will increase as consumption of power increases. And at the rate we are using power, even going back to the traditional sources of fuel in tea, rubber, coconut, coffee and tobacco industries may have to be undertaken as a statutory requirement in these industries. Intermittent power cuts under the present systems will come to stay. Demand*

for power will grow but we are limited to the quantum of hydro-generation by the water available in our rivers. It is here where re-use of water for power generation should be actively considered and steps taken to implement them.

"The technical studies and development processes are simple compared to massive projects like Samanlawewa, Kotmale, Victoria Randenigala and so on. However, in spite of all such projects we will be faced with power short falls. The way to meet such a contingency is to distribute the standby generation to the bulk consumers. They should be pre-warned so that such power supplies can be included in their planning.

"So if we summarise the points we raised, they are: (a) Better control and management of Hydro reservoirs to stretch storage till the monsoons set in; (b) Regular lay-by of power generation as the storage levels begin to drop below predetermined levels; (c) Inform the consumers of such conservation periods in time and such stoppage should be a regular feature in power supplies until such time the water level begins to register a rise above the pre-determined levels; (d) Monitor inflow to the reservoirs and adjust the outflow accordingly to conserve and build up storage; (e) Standby generation at bulk-private consumer points according to individual consumer requirements; (f) Investigate, study and implement reuse of water now released from the turbines in the Ke'aniya system for cascade power development; (g) Investigate the power potential (medium scale) in the wet zone rivers, Kalu ganga, Gin ganga, Ni'wa'ganga etc., and implement a programme of development— independent of what is being done now in the Mahaweli system; (h) Centralised industrial development areas like the Free Trade Zones, industrial estates, provide large Thermal generation stations with the facility to link up with the National Grid.

"Action, and not arguments as to who is right, is the need of the moment."

There is nothing more that TRIBUNE can add.



## FILM FOCUS

### Best Cinema

This column stretches out its hand in congratulating the Regal Theatre for feathering itself with the President's Award for the best cinema in the City of Colombo. Although a couple of other cinemas would have given a close run for this award, there is no doubting that with its captivating decor, the Regal Theatre has stood the test of time, being one of the earliest cinemas that was built in the heart of the City, to remain the Headquarters of the late Sir Chittampalam A. Gardiner who pioneered in nurturing the Cinema Industry proper in the nascent years—the Madan Theatres having nibbled at it first—and successfully operated a chain of theatres through the length and breadth of the Island. The well of this theatre together with the richly curtained 'balconies' and 'boxes' looking down on it on either side of the screen, give it a touch of the London Theatre, where members of the Royalty enter it to the general operation of the audience at Command performances. Age has not pulled the Regal Theatre which remains even today, well and truly regal.

As proposed in this column, a couple of weeks ago, I was happy that graded awards were distributed to the Cinemas in the Provinces as well. That these selections were left to the Government Agents of the districts concerned and not to a special team from the State Film Corporation, left a little to be desired. Having patronised many of these cinemas around the island, when on vacation, I had the uneasy feeling that the selections for these awards had been hurriedly made and the bureaucratic 'kiss' had gone more with a touch of favour than merit, which appeared to have been edged out. To avoid heartburns in this matter in the future years I would suggest that the S.F.C. should shoulder the responsibility of making these picks in future. This column will only be too happy to assist, if called upon to do so.

**PARITHYAGA** (Sinhalese): This Diploma award winner of 1980 at the Sixth International Film Festival in TASHKENT, in Eastman colour and directed by H. D. Premaratne, carries in

its presentation an effective cure for the curse of dowry, or donation hunting to put it more piously, prevalent in all stratas of our society. The ills that spring from the avariciousness that one generation inflicts on another heartlessly, before the nuptial knots are tied have seldom been "limelighted" so purposefully. As the story unwinded with technical finesse, there were many among the sniggering audience who would have felt a pang of conscience or two, as the searchlight was being curved inwards on this accepted scourge of our times. In rural settings taken in beautifully by the camera, the story hovers pitifully around an indigent family that had to suddenly find for rupees ten thousand to feed a donation seeking mother-in-law (Denawake Hamine) who sneers at the love of her dutiful but tormented pedagogue son (Tony Ranasinghe) for the pretty village belle Anula (Sriyani Amarasena). The burden and the sacrifice of finding this lucre falls on Anula's younger sister (Vasantha Chaturani) and her fiance (Amarasiri Kalansuriya), with the mother (Shanti Lekha), becoming apathetic to the desperate demand. Sans all unnecessary frills, with appropriate takes and cuts, the Director moved in to squeeze out the best from the artistes, who without exception rise flawlessly to the occasion. Veteran actresses Dinawake Hamine and Shanti Lekha shone to short head the others for acting honours. The vivacious Vasanta Chaturani, who is no longer in films, was as always, a fresh breeze in the rural air, in what was probably one of her farewell performances. Tony, Sriyani and Kalan gave effortlessly excellent portrayals. I would strongly urge every Sri Lankan, be he Sinhalese or Tamil, to see this excellent film and profit by the message it unwraps, to eliminate in all forms—dowry or donation—a disease that corrodes our people, our thinking, and inflicts untold sufferings on the youth of the land. To this extent, the story was not only bold, but conceived so brilliantly, that it had no alternative but to leave Sri Lanka proud at the Tashkent Festival.

**INTERNATIONAL VELVET** (English): With the growing approval of the M.G.M. Lion, actress Elizabeth Taylor was shot into stardom as a teenager in the film National Velvet; and this sequel to it holds out the same

horizons for young Tatum O'Neal (daughter of actor Ryan O'Neal). In the photography of a very rare order, Tatum roles to perfection, the perky Sarah Brown, who emerges from the cocoon of a tragedy-touched home, to regroup her life under the tender and foster care of her mentors, an aunt (Nanette Newsman) an uncle to be (Christopher Plummer) and particularly in the friendship of a horse "Arizona Pie", who takes to her like taking to his oats. With her ambitions eventually set on winning an Olympic Crown for Great Britain, she accomplishes it with the encouragement of a shrewd horse-trainer (Antony Hopkins), who minces no words while on the training track. The equestrian trots were caught up by the camera so brilliantly, that you will live and thrill with the synchronisation of the heart beats of Tatum with the hoof beats of "Arizona". It seems a pity that what is essentially an excellent family treat, has left the City after a comparatively limited run. Perhaps those in the Provinces will make it a must.

#### **WARLORDS OF THE ATLANTIS**

(English): A bathyscape expedition into the sunken city of Troy, now named Atlantis where human life goes on in the bowels of the sea, with class struggles, sea monsters and all that, the piece de resistance being the attack of an elephantine Octopus feeding on ships afloat. Its escapist and mediocre fare, could scare the kids—but worth a visit without them.

#### **DECREASING PRODUCTION**

### **Who's To Blame**

by R. Kahawita

ONE MINISTER in our Government, who paints the gloomist picture of our economy is Minister Ronnie de Mel. He cannot be popular with our spending Ministers, nor can his job be a happy one. He tells the truth and we have to heed to what he says. He is one Minister in the Government who can say how poor or rich we are, or how much he can get from his begging missions, or how much we are producing to earn foreign exchange or to keep our people above the starvation line.

*He knows how much money the country has to spend on projects, services, welfareism,*

TRIBUNE, July 12, 1980

subsidies, so on and so forth to keep our popularity with the unemployed, with the starving masses, with our supporters, wellwishers, "pandankarayas" and stooges. The last four groups are only concerned with how much they can scrape off the country while the masses are scavenging the garbage cans of the affluent.

Minister Ronnie de Mel has spoken again, a day after fuel-oils got another price hike. As on earlier occasions, he says "We will have to put production on a war footing. We will have to increase our exports. That is the only way for Third World Countries to survive in a difficult situation like this." His key note is production and increase of exports. What are we to produce and increase exports?

Obviously, they must be the traditional exports—tea, rubber and coconut products. The country used to earn all the foreign exchange the country needed to import the basic needs of the people. That was when the private sector was the bulk producer of these exports. The Government then had the whip hand to flag the private sector to produce. Since Land Reforms, tables have changed and the Government or the State became the owner of the most productive properties.

The acreage under state control is over 65% of the areas under tea, rubber and coconuts. Who is responsible for increased production? In place of the old Agency Houses, we have a number of Ministers in charge of coconut, plantation industries, Janawasama, Tea industries etc. They are responsible for increased production. But we cannot flog them, all are responsible under the collective responsibility of the Cabinet system. So the exhortations of the Finance Minister to increase production will fall on deaf ears as before. Finding the money is the singular responsibility of the Minister of Finance.

HOW ARE WE SPENDING THE MONEY we get and hope to collect from our begging missions? Minister de Mel answers this himself

(i) Mahawell was started on an estimate of Rs. 47 billion in 1978. Today it is Rs. 120 billions and many reach twice that figure when we get deep into implementation.

(ii) Kotmale was expected to cost Rs. 3200 millions in '78. Today it is going to cost Rs. 8000 millions. Within new problems, technical and otherwise, the cost may double before we start.

(iii) Maduru Oya was estimated to cost Rs. 1200 million. Today it is estimated to cost Rs. 2200 millions. When we suggested an alternative to the designs to save Rs. 100 millions—the authorities laughed at the idea—"What is a saving of Rs. 100 millions on a 2200 million project" was the query? Our point was that with that saving we could import one year's sugar requirements of the starving people.

(iv) Victoria Falls dam was to have cost Rs. 3,482 millions. Today it has jumped to Rs. 6000 millions, may double when the technical problems are solved.

(v) 100,000 houses programme was given Rs. 1,772, now it is going to cost Rs. 6078 millions, but we are racing to complete the 100,000 houses by 1983. By then these houses may cost Rs. 12,000 millions.

(vi) Jayewardenepura was started with an estimate of Rs. 680 millions, now the cost has escalated to Rs. 1,150 millions. We have not struck the bottom yet to stabilize the foundations. No one can forecast what the cost will be when the last tile is placed in position.

(vi) Ruhunu Campus was started with Rs. 100 million—mainly to multiply our unemployable graduate problems. Today's forecast is Rs. 600 millions to produce the same number of unemployable graduates.

"These are only a few examples which prove the general rule", says the Finance Minister. What is the General rule? Of the eight examples selected by him, not one is productive to beat the current inflation trends. They are the local causes of inflation which we are allowing to run away, by putting massive financing into a stagnant economy—an economy that never moved forward since 1970. On the other hand we have done everything possible to stop production. "But we will be compelled to re-phase some parts of our Development programme, to re-order our priorities and give greater emphasis to quick yielding, short-gestation projects" says the Finance Minister again. We have three years to do this.

All these are very good (New Year) resolutions. But how many of the spending and production Ministers will participate to abide by these resolutions and "cut their coats according to their cloth". Our difficulty is we want to cut



a frock-coat with the span-cloth yardage we have. We have been doing this for the last three years.

Are we prepared to stop this today? What will happen to the skeletons rising all over the country? Will they join the many skeletons, memorials and "tomb stones", (necessary accompaniments to inauguration ceremonies) that are seen today every where in the country? Already we have expressed our fears about the future of the several dams in the Mahaweli Complex. Some have become memorials and tomb stones to the follies of a previous regime, others will become so, if we (the UNP) were to be driven out in 1983.

WILL THE SLOGAN—"Produce or Perish" of the Finance Minister and of the financial advisers to the Government become a fading voice in the wilderness? In our enthusiasm "to do or die" targets, let the devil care for the greatest problem facing Lanka—World Inflation? As repeated by the Finance Minister, will we think of re-phasing some parts of our development programme and re-order our priorities to save our people dying under a massive cast of living burden? At the moment this does not seem to worry the Government—except the lonely pleading of the Finance Minister. All others say "we can keep to our targets—100,000 houses by 1983, Mahaweli in five years, new metropolis in three years, GCEC investment seminars in U.K. and West Germany to attract business to Sri Lanka, two hundred model villages, open University and Ruhunu Campus before we depart, Month long anniversary celebrations of our achievements during the past three years, the bureaucracy taking a vigorous part in these celebrations, diverting Government funds for pandals, garlands, buntings publicity and organising whatever possible to detract them from getting down to production. The bureaucrats manage and control 95% of the "productive national wealth."

For all these activities who has to find the money? May not be the Finance Minister, but we presume it is his burden, according to our Constitution, even though the latest price hike in petrol etc. was voiced by the Minister of Industries, bread, flower and sugar by the

Minister of Trade. Of course this is not our concern, pay the price or go without it as many do—particularly the wage earners. They are silent or have been silenced. This is dangerous. Silence is not gold in the present situation. THE EXHORTATION of the Finance Minister is "Give greater emphasis to quick yielding, short—gestation projects. We will have to put production on a WAR Footing." It is a mouthful as well a bellyful. How many will accept this challenge, tighten their belts, put on the armour plates and get into the front line? The lead has to be given by the Ministers, bureaucracy forming the van-guard, because production has become the responsibility of the State as owner of "means of production"—we have to use the hackneyed slogan of the marxist, The State owns the Plantation Industries, Fuel and Transport, Import and export trades, Distribution, Agricultural farms, Live-Stock Farms, even eating houses—name what you may the State has a finger in it.

(To be Concluded)

## CIVIL RIGHTS

### The Nadesan Case

The Supreme Court has ruled that Mr. Nadesan was within his rights in writing what he did in his article on parliamentary privilege. Mr. Nadesan was accordingly discharged by order of the court delivered on 25th June 1980. Mr. Nadesan faced this charge as a result of doing no more than exercising his legitimate right of criticism of the acts of those in the seats of power, something which he has been doing all his life and which CRM has been doing since its inception. Mr. Nadesan's article was written at the request of CRM and adopted by it. As a result of exercising the right of criticism CRM as an organisation, and some of its individual members, have in the past, particularly during the last government, been subjected to sharp attacks and even abuse and vilification by politicians both inside and outside Parliament. BUT this is the first time that the exercise of this right has become the subject of legal proceedings.

TRIBUNE, July 12, 1980

CRM regrets that the need should have arisen at all, in this year 1980, for a court action to have to reaffirm something which the people of our country have enjoyed undisputed all these years. CRM is concerned that the very fear of legal proceedings can itself deter criticism. Not every would-be critic can count on the free legal talent so generously placed at the disposal of Mr. Nadesan both at home and abroad. Not every journalist, who must earn his livelihood and think of his family obligations, can be expected to be as intrepid as Mr. Nadesan, who all along made it clear that there could be no compromise on this issue, and that he would be quite prepared to risk going to jail for the sake of a principle.

CRM calls on all organisations, parties, trade unions, human rights groups, cultural and religious bodies, academic societies and individuals to fearlessly exercise their legitimate right of comment and criticism, and to thus enrich the process of thought and development in our society. CRM is deeply moved by the expressions of support and offers of help it received from many quarters. Particular mention must be made of the legal assistance received from lawyers both in Sri Lanka and elsewhere, and from foreign lawyers associations. An extract from Enid Campbell's work on Parliamentary Privileges in Australia, sent to us by the Australian Bar, has been specifically quoted in the judgement of the Supreme Court.

In addition there were many who helped in inconspicuous ways, performing routine but essential tasks of typing and clerical work. To all these CRM expresses its heartfelt appreciation.

+ + +

### THE POWER TO PUNISH FOR BREACH OF PRIVILEGE

The Civil Rights Movement calls upon the government to repeal the hasty amendment to the Parliament (Powers and Privileges) Act which was rushed through the National State Assembly in February 1978.

This amendment vests in Parliament also the power formerly enjoyed only by the Supreme Court to try certain offences of breach of parliamentary privilege punishable by fine or imprisonment. CRM's position, however,

is that the Courts are the institutions best equipped to perform this function. Cogent reasons for confining this power to the courts alone were put forward and agreed to by all parties in Parliament when our Act was originally passed in 1953 after careful consideration by a joint Select Committee of the Senate and the House of Representatives. These arguments were reiterated and reinforced by Mr. Nadesan in his study of parliamentary privilege and its application in the *Ceylon Observer* case written at the request of CRM in 1978 and published in the *Sun*. Similar views have been expressed in other countries. Indeed in the recent case in which Mr. Nadesan was unsuccessfully charged in respect of his article in the *Sun*, the Supreme Court said that:—

*"It must be borne in mind that the view that the power to deal with offences of breach of privilege should be left to the Court and not be exercised by Parliament has been expressed not only in this country but is one taken by legal experts in almost all parts of the Commonwealth. In 'Parliamentary Privilege in Australia' by Enid Campbell, p. 123, there appears—*

*'On grounds of expediency and convenience, much is to be said for reserving to the Houses power to deal summarily with persons who, by their misconduct, disturb the orderly conduct of proceedings. No more seems to be required here than power to remove and to exclude (forcibly if necessary) persons creating disturbances in the House or in its vicinity and power to suspend or expel members guilty of disorderly conduct or wilful interruption of proceedings. Except in regard to offences of this kind transfer of parliamentary penal jurisdiction to the ordinary courts of law is, in this writer's opinion, imperative if the accepted standards for administration of justice are to be satisfied.'*

The law which served us for twenty five years was thus enlightened and advanced. The 1978 amendment was a retrograde step which should be rectified.

**Desmond Fernando**  
Secretary.

CRM,  
16/1, Don Carolis Road,  
Colombo 5.

27 June, 1980

## Fisheries In Sri Lanka

by Fr. Emmanuel Fernando O.M.I.

FISHERIES IN SRI LANKA had long been a backward sector of the economy. Though its importance and potential for national development had been long felt, it had not received much attention in comparison to other sectors like Agriculture and Industry and had suffered from lack of credit facilities.

Being a country where the majority follow a Buddhist way of life, fisheries could not have got the needed support from the government and semi-government institutions. Another reason may have been the primitive state of the traditional coastal fisheries and the risks involved.

However, development of fisheries began when political agitation was made through the formation of the Central Fisheries Union, a private voluntary organisation in 1937.

Modernisation of this sector began when first attempts were made in late nineteen thirties to introduce a small powered fishing boat. These experiments had to be discontinued because World War II broke out in 1939. Attempts were resumed only in nineteen fifties. The *Vallam* of the Northern coast was the first indigenous fishing craft to be mechanised in early nineteen fifties. Real success in mechanisation of the indigenous craft came at the end of nineteen fifties when the teppam in the Western Coast and the kattumaram in the Northern Coast were fitted with outboard motors. In 1958, 26 ft. boat with inboard marine diesel engines were introduced. 17½ ft. fibre-glass cutboard powered fishing boat was launched in early nineteen sixties.

MECHANISATION and introduction of nylon fishing nets increased the production of fish, improved the economic standard of the fishermen and gave them a sense of dignity. Mechanisation also attracted more youth to engage in fishing. But now with the sudden increase in the price of fuel, many coastal fishermen are cutting down the number of fishing days because the returns do not match even the

operating costs—fuel, maintenance, repairs etc. So what is going to be the future of the coastal fishing industry in Sri Lanka?

The young fishermen in our coastal villages do not want to revert to the traditional methods of fishing. They are neither educated nor trained in other skills to try other occupations. And with the existing unemployment trends, there is no likelihood of their finding jobs in government or private sector in case they give up fishing. So can the fishermen expect a scheme which will enable them to purchase fuel at subsidized rates? Subsidy scheme to purchase boat, engine and gear alone is not sufficient to keep the 75,000 coastal fishermen gainfully employed.

THE UNP GOVERNMENT which was elected to power in 1977 is pursuing free enterprise economic policy. They are giving more incentives to individuals and Companies to invest in fisheries. Development on commercial lines will certainly favour a privileged few and pave the way for the birth of a new capitalist group. And the emergence and growth of exploitative tendencies will destroy the present ethos in the coastal villages and promote individualism, competition, conflict and other imbalances.

The new capitalists will control ownership of boats, determine the type of fishing, wages, price of fish, marketing and distribution of fish etc. They will also eventually own most of the land and manipulate social life in the coastal villages for their own advantage. It will become more an export-oriented industry for the accumulation of more capital by the Rich while the Poor will have to be satisfied with the left-overs.

The government began organising fishermen into co-operatives as part of the post-war food campaign in early forties. In 1942 there was only one fisheries co-operative society. By 1945 there were nearly 30 such societies. In 1968 there were 265 registered societies of which 125 were defunct.

After the UF government led by SLFP came to power in 1970, they amalgamated the existing fisheries co-operative societies into 45 large Primary Co-operative Societies. The period 1970-1977 was noted for the decline of the co-operative system among the fisher-

men, because the government controlled the appointment, the management and administration in the large Primaries. They appointed Managers and Officials who were not familiar with fisheries and the way of life of the fishermen. As a result there was a gap between the officials and the people. The fishermen became a kind of paid workers in the large Primaries. Moreover, they had to pay the salaries of the Officials. It was also a period when thefts of nets and fishing gear increased. Repairs of boats and engines were neglected. Co-operative savings were mismanaged and fisheries co-operatives ceased to be fishermen's organizations.

The present UNP government does not promote co-operative ownership and management in the fisheries sector. Individual ownership is encouraged and financially supported. We are therefore beginning to witness the birth of a class-system and social inequalities in the traditional coastal villages that had long maintained group/cohesion and community relationships.

FISHERMEN IN SRI LANKA have not been a social force. Politically they have been powerless. Their participation in the national affairs have been limited to the casting of votes at election times. They lived in their villages cut off from the rest of the society, grouping themselves according to their castes, clans or ethnicity. Their social leadership qualities have not been developed. They lack contact and communication with the rest of the society.

Hundreds of children in fishing villages do not go to school at all. About 98% drop out after 5th grade for the simple reason that the content and the methods of teaching are not according to their tastes. They are a special social group having specific needs and aspirations. So at the present moment formal education (school system) is of no value to the vast majority along the coastal belt.

In the early fifties a Canadian Fisheries Expert, A. H. Mac Donald who visited Sri Lanka observed that, "there was a correlation between the backwardness and poverty of the fishermen and their educational standards and so no worthwhile progress will be made until the educational standard of the fishing community is raised." This observation is

valid even for the eighties.

A fundamental change in the educational system is needed to raise the quality of life of the coastal fishermen. Till such times, a programme of practical education based on the needs, aspirations and requirements of the fishing communities should be envisaged. Such a programme can be carried out by the extension workers.

X X X X

## GRAMA SASTRA—20

—Scribblings On Uva Villages

### Monk Really Venerable

by Gamiya

USUALLY WE AVOID names in this column but the Venerable Batugammane Pannaratne of Bolgalla, near Araluwinna, is an exception. He may not like it but he must be named. Whether he is named or not, people will make a beaten track to the door of this wise monk. He preached on Right means of livelihood and went ahead and built a *karmantha salava*, for his young working boys, because he said, I must support my word with deed, suit action to teachings.

Our little group wanted to have a map of the area to see the contours and the terrain and the farming area: heavily thumbed they both were, for he said: "I reflect everyday on the habitat and the area of my people, on their lands and cultivation, and their problems. I work on the road with them by being present with them and they like it. Bolgalla is getting a good road. Having sat at his feet and learnt of his deeply devoted help given to persons and people, I chatted with a few others, so did our group of three or four. How many told us stories of his "encouraging presence in this wilderness". At the time of our visit, some of the elephants were being chased out of the southern areas near the Nilgala range and were being driven into a frantic search for food. Sugar cane was about to reign in new areas at that time. More elephants came prowling, trumpeting, frightening the young, the children and the old

ones even. Soon the four-hundred houses were beginning to feel the strain. One by one they started trekking to Illuklande not too far away. Some had even bought land. One night, an elephant came close to the village to frighten away the balance of those who had trekked away. One sneaked out and called the monk to help them. He came and helped chase the elephant, but fell on a stone in the process. He was helped to his feet, and was hospitalised at Badulla for one month. A man proudly said: "I did not miss a single day, every day I went to see him. He is of great help to us." Two months later, the recalcitrant elephants came again. Frantic, the men went to him in delegation: "We want to leave the village altogether. We cannot stay anymore". To which the Venerable monk replied, That does not matter. Even if there is only one who stays back, I stay here to help him, to minister to him: he is valuable."

He is a poet who understands the agony of a people. His is a salutary presence, for quite prepared is he to be with the rank and file, the voiceless, the men and women who seem to have no hope.

An object lesson for all of us who have the interests of people at heart without any strings attached, except wishing people their true good, and working with them (not for them so much, as with them, in their efforts) animating and encouraging them to community action for betterment:

*"sabba papassa akaranam,*

*kusalassa upasampada*

*sacinta pariyodapanam,*

*etam Buddhanusasanam"* (Dhp)

*(avoid every kind of evil, gather good deeds, merits, think kindly thoughts—that is the Buddha's teaching)*

Sri Lanka is blessed with thousands like him.

X X X

## PRESS CURB ?

### New Threat To Press Freedom?

Should the State determine who may publish a newspaper and who may not?

According to a press report it has been proposed that newspapers should be required to provide a financial guarantee that they can pay damages for defamation. The report says that the Press Council has recommended that the Newspapers Ordinance be amended to require all newspapers to provide a bond guaranteed by the Insurance Corporation of Sri Lanka or the new National Insurance Corporation.

An emergency meeting of the Working Committee of CRM yesterday decided that if this report is true it constitutes an extremely grave threat to the freedom of expression and publication and, in consequence, to the democratic system itself. It was decided to make representations to the Press Council and to the government as a matter of urgency, and to alert the public to the dangers of the reported proposal. CRM points out that:—

- \* Nobody contends that a newspaper has a right to defame or to vilify, but the proposed remedy is totally disproportionate and will result in a far greater ill.
- \* The new law would place the monetary interest of a few potential individual victims of defamation above two very much more important interests, namely the RIGHT of the public to receive its news from a wide variety of sources, AND the RIGHT of every person or group, powerful or weak, rich OR POOR to communicate with others by publishing a paper.
- \* To treat every paper as a potential lethal object like a motor car which must be insured against third party risks is a strange idea which is not, so far as CRM is aware, known elsewhere. (Voluntarily insurance practised by some large newspaper concerns is an entirely different matter). This concept ignores the basic role of newspapers in the freedom of expression and freedom

of political activity in a democratic society; they cannot be treated on a par with other consumer goods or business enterprises.

- \* The fact that insurance is a State monopoly in Sri Lanka will give any government a potent weapon to stifle freedom of expression. The State, in the form of insurer, will not only decide on the amount of the premium but also will lay down the conditions with which the newspaper must comply. In effect the State can thus determine who may publish a paper, and who may not. State control of the media thus becomes total.
- \* State control of insurance apart, a smaller paper run on a "shoestring" will obviously find it difficult to insure under any system. Such papers in Sri Lanka already struggle to survive, yet they make a vital contribution in our society where most major newspapers are government controlled. It is such publications which would be adversely affected or even be put out of business. The Newspapers Ordinance covers weeklies too, the definition is very wide. It includes "any paper containing public news intelligence or occurrences printed in Ceylon in whatever way or form the same may be printed or published."
- \* In the case of defamation, several remedies already exist even if the newspaper has few assets. The plaintiff can (a) through the Press Council secure the publication of a retraction and an apology; (b) further vindicate his reputation—which should be his major concern—through a court action if he so wishes; (c) obtain a public retraction and apology through court; (d) have all the personal assets of the writer, the editor, the proprietor and the printer (including the machinery and other equipment of the printing press) sold to satisfy an award for damages. This already acts as an important deterrent; (e) seek the sanction of the Attorney General for a criminal prosecution.
- \* It is one of the hazards of life that a person may find himself with a good civil claim for damages which he cannot recover in full because the defendant is poor. To drastically interfere with the right of every person to freely impart and receive infor-

mation merely to help a few potential plaintiffs to recover large tax free damages is, to say the least extraordinary and exhibits a curious sense of priorities.

- \* The alleged proposal, being an unprecedented and unreasonable restriction on the freedom of expression and of publication, and being furthermore discriminatory against the poor who are entitled to these freedoms just as much as the rich, is inconsistent with not only our own Constitution but also with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which Sri Lanka has just signed.

CRM urges the Press Council to reconsider this proposal, if indeed it has made it. CRM further urges the press Council to resolutely oppose any such suggestion, in pursuance of its statutory duty to "ensure the freedom of the press in Sri Lanka" and to "keep under review developments likely to restrict the supply of information of public interest and importance and developments in the Sri Lanka press which may tend towards concentration or monopoly, and to suggest appropriate remedial measures in relation thereto."

**Desmond Fernando**  
Secretary.

CRM,  
16/1, Don Caroll's Raod,  
Colombo 5.  
14 June 1980

\*\*\*

## LETTERS

### Tourist Rest, N'eliya

Sir,

I have just returned after spending a few days at the Municipal Tourist Rest, Nuwara Eliya and noted the following shortcomings in which I am certain you will be interested, as this Institution provides a long felt need at reasonable rates which are within the reach of domestic tourists.

(A) 16 new water geysers have been installed in the bathrooms about three months ago—at a cost of over Rs. 3000/- each—but

they have still to be connected. Also I noticed that the geysers have been installed far too high—which would make it difficult for a short person to operate them.

(B) Colour washing has been done recently—but it does not appear to have been done well.

(C) There was no menu card—the only available one having been removed by the Municipality.

(D) The keys of the Yale type locks on the doors of most rooms were missing—and a makeshift arrangement using padlocks has been made.

(E) There are many broken windows panes which have to be replaced.

(F) The floors were not polished. Perhaps an electric floor polisher ought to be purchased.

(G) There is a large front garden which has been neglected. Vegetables could easily be cultivated in this garden—which would present a pleasant sight at the same time being profitable. Even if vegetables are cultivated there would still be ample space for a lawn. Also there is also an area of neglected land on the sides of the building on which also vegetables could be cultivated.

Apart from these shortcomings the N'Eliya Municipal Tourist Rest is quite comfortable.

I write this letter in the public interest so that action may be initiated to remedy matters.

**L. P. Ranasooriya**

Kon-Tiki,  
27/5, Melbourne Avenue,  
Colombo 4.  
23.6.80

x                    x                    x

**Carter**

Sir,

It was thoughtful of *Tribune* (31/5) to have reproduced for the Sri Lanka readers the *New Statesman* article by Christopher Bourne. It shows clearly the hypocrisy of President Carter's "moral" postures in foreign policy as well as his utter clumsiness in handling his country's foreign relations. Despite the British Iron Lady whom somebody described trousers, there is a healthy, robust trend in thought in non-establishment circles

I have before me a copy of a recent *Newsweek* (26/6). The following excerpts from a piece entitled "Striking out on their own" are very revealing:— ".....France conducts an independent foreign policy.....It talks to whom it wants when it wants and needs nobody's permission to do so"—*That is French Foreign Minister, Francois-Poncet's reply to the new US State Secretary, Edmund Muskie....* ".....It is our judgement, not our obedience, that we offer to our allies"—*That is Labour Party's Peter Shore in the British parliament.*

That brings us to the Olympics which has been made an international issue by Carter. *Newsweek* (the same issue) has a table giving the list of countries participating. Among those "staying at home" one finds Britain, China and Chile grouped together. Is one to say—very revealing or natural company? It reminds one of the *Observer* (London) cartoon that depicted Thatcher as running away in a jersey and sports shoes and with an Olympic torch from a guide sign "Moscow" to that reading "Chile"!

Algeria, India, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Sri Lanka and a host of other countries participating in the Olympics reads like a full list of the non-aligned countries. Sad to say Egypt is with Israel in falling in line with Carter's "boycott". According to some sources the boycott idea is not Carter's own. It was floated by the American AFL and CIO and Prime Minister Menachem Begin.

Carter has made the boycott a matter of superpower confrontation. But he seems to have forgotten that it is an international undertaking and is really conducting a tug-of-war with the NOC's of different countries! As many as took part in the Montreal game will go to Moscow.

Surely if Carter's idea of the Olympic boycott is taken to its logical conclusion, what will happen if some countries decide to boycott the UN because its headquarters are located in New York?

Recently a British commentator said that it is a tragedy that the White House has an occupant who acts and then thinks. Does he think at all?

**M. H. A. Lathieff**

Matale.  
7th June, 1980

TRIBUNE, July 12, 1980

## Milk Cows For Butchers

Sir,

I am a regular reader of *Tribune*. I liked it for its varied and interesting features. I am also one of the very few subscribers for this weekly regularly in Trincomalee. I must confess the columns relating to dairy farms, milk etc are my favourites. I am a young pensioner, who retired prematurely availing of the concession under the Sinhala Only bill. Besides, Public Service as a whole has not provided the efficient and the intelligent the proper places and victimization is the order of the day after the successive governments whether S.L.F.P. or U.N.P. I deemed it correct to retire and become an independent soul anticipating to improve and develop my dairy farm. I have been endeavouring to establish a milk collection centre for the last three years without success.

I OWN about 200 animals (milking cows) and as I am unable to market my produce and maintain the animals I have been disposing them to the butchers and the roll on record has come to about 100 or so. There are very many like me at Pankulam who are in my state or rather in worst plight. The Livestock Breeders Association of Trincomalee, of which I am the Vice President had been collecting all the milk at Pankulam and in the vicinity and transported same to Kantatal Milk Collecting centre which is about 50 miles away, adding preservative to the milk in the process. Once the Milk Board stopped the usage of the preservative, the milk collection ceased abruptly causing heavy financial loss to the breeders. During the period the milk was collected, many villagers commenced breeding cattle and the collection exceeded more than 1000 pints per day. The writer himself supplied more than 100 bottles of milk per day. All these quantities are just thrown out or the breeders have stopped milking their cows at present. Some are rapidly selling their animals for meat as they are unable to maintain them.

In collaboration with the Association, I persuaded the then Govt. Agent Trincomalee Mr. Eric Jackson de Silva, presently Secretary Minister of Education to open a Milk Collection Centre at Pankulam. Thanks to the G.A. who took prompt action and got the project

approved at the D.A.C. of 19.10.77 and released funds to supply electricity to Pankulam from the decentralised budget. The supply of electricity had been completed long ago and the Milk Board has not taken any action to establish a collection centre.

In the meantime I sent memoranda embodying the details and urgent need for a milk collection centre at Pankulam to the Hon. Minister of Rural Industrial Development Mr. S. Thondaman and regret to state that I had been receiving stereotype replies, from his Deputy Director of Livestock Development. The minister has been running all over the places and opening collection centres, whereas Pankulam is being ignored or perhaps the Pankulam breeders are stepsons of Sri Lanka. May I recall the fact, on the Minister's maiden visit to Kilinochchi, the people requested for a milk collection centre and same was granted. It would be surprising to learn and at the same time I should congratulate the Minister for his speedy action; that building were constructed and the collection centre was opened by the Minister within short period of three months. He has now opened a centre at Thirunelveli and this week dailies carried headlines about his visit to Jaffna. According to papers he has even promised to grant loans within Rs. 50,000.00 through Banks who owns about 25 heads of animals. I WROTE to your esteemed journal about 'Livestock and Milk' and my letter was published in the *Tribune* Vol. 25 No. 16 dated Oct. 14th, 1978 page 23 I thought that those in power and authority at least after seeing the letter in the Press would take action to establish a collection centre with the least possible delay but nothing has been done. I wrote to the Prime Minister furnishing all details and the suffering of the breeders and the animals, which are gradually finding their way into the hands of the butchers. I received only an acknowledgement in the usual manner after three long weeks.

I now understand that the project has been palmed off to the Ministry of Regional Development, Mr. S. Rajathurai and he had allocated funds. It is not hopeful that a collection centre will be established even this year. I therefore request the Press to assist in establishing a collection centre in the interest of poor breeders. Please detail one of your





June 15-25

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—Chinthaman; WK—Weekend; RR—Riviresa; DK—Dinakara; EN—Eelanadu; IDPR—Information Dept. Press Release.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 15:** The Finance Ministry has strongly urged the scrapping of the resident guest scheme by which Dr. N. M. Perera hoped to attract persons of eminence to live in Sri Lanka. A special team of Customs investigators has blown the lid off a 50 million rupee foreign exchange racket involving the air-freighting of gift parcels from Singapore to Colombo. While airconditioners and electric cookers that have flooded in with the post-liberalisation bonanza are gobbling up the country's critically low power resources, many industrialists have adjusted their working hours to get round the power cut—SO. The private medical college to be established by the College of General practitioners of Sri Lanka will initially take in 100 students and be strictly a non-profit making institution with profits being ploughed back according to the scheme which will be presented to the Government next week. The Wildlife and Nature Protection Society of Sri Lanka has been expelled from the associate membership of the Wildlife Fund—the highly recognized International organisation based in London dedicated to the conservation of wildlife—ST. The Maharagama Teacher Training College which was declared out of bounds for trainees who were on strike will be reopened tomorrow WK. Village Development Advisory Boards will be set up to advise District Development Councils regarding the development of villages; representation in such advisory committees will be given to students in high standards living in the respective villages—CM

banned their women from taking up menial jobs there. Hence the net result will be that most foreign women doing menial jobs will be from Sri Lanka. In the Gulf, the standard of living is so high that even a gardener can employ a maid in his household. It is this category of employment that gives rise to rape and prostitution. The girls employed in Banks, Hotels etc. are comparatively safe. Hence a revision of the type of job will go a long way in arresting this type of abuse and retaining the good name of the country.

**Public Service.** The recent decision by the Government to recruit half the personnel of the Administrative Service by competitive examination is to be welcomed. The discontinuation of the General Clerical Service Exam and substitution of the computer has given rise to abuse. Perhaps even the computer is not infallible. The truth is that our people are so ingenuous that they can even make the computer do what they want for their own benefit. Large scale political interference followed and as a result the standards fell as the individuals felt they could flout any authority as the MP or some politician was thought to be in his pocket. So it is advisable that even the clerical servants are chosen by a competitive examination not only for Depts, but also for Corporations, Boards, etc. whenever possible.

Taking the case of promotions to better positions when several officers are in the same class and same grade, there is definite favouritism on racial, religious, and worst of all on caste grounds. Hence we hope these favouritisms are rectified without delay by the authorities concerned, without displaying an ostrich like attitude towards them.

A. B. SINGH



The student's boycott, satyagraha and strike at the Jaffna Central College has ended and the college will be reopened tomorrow; the students have agreed to end the boycott and to return to classes—EN.

**MONDAY, JUNE 16:** Foreign collaborators had teamed up with local entrepreneurs in building contracts with joint investments pushing the Rs. 300 million mark, an official of the Foreign Investments Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Finance and Planning said yesterday. Commercial banks which have drawn bearer bonds to the value of Rs. 25 million from the Central Bank are coming for more indicating that the bonds are moving satisfactorily, a Central Bank spokesman said yesterday—CDN. Cage culture of fish in inland waters, introduced recently by the Minister of Fisheries Mr. Festus Perera, is catching on fast among farmers and others who live by various inland water bodies. Price hikes in aircraft and ship fuel and on largescale supplies of diesel to industries are being considered by government. A special tender board has been appointed by government for the rapid selection of firms to develop much needed infrastructure in Sri Lanka's free trade zone. Sri Lanka will receive US \$ 100,000 (Rs. 1.5 million) as assistance for the conservation of its dwindling elephant population within the next three years under the action plan of the Asian Elephant Secretariat—SU. Despite heightened vigilance several thousands of persons continue to be fleeced by certain Middle East job agencies a senior Police official said yesterday—CO. It was resolved at a Conference concerning estate women workers held at Kandy that posts of kanganies and supervisors should be given to women pluckers in the estates—VK. The Education Department has decided to appoint 1000 teachers to estate schools; at present there are about 400 estate schools—DV.

**TUESDAY, JUNE 17:** Students of the Ruhuna Medical Faculty will be able to start their para-medical studies at the Galle Hospital by October 1, Prof. Stanley Kalpage, Secretary Ministry of Higher Education said yesterday. Mr. Siva Selliah, High Court Judge, Colombo yesterday acquitted and discharged the accused in the Avro aircraft bomb case, after several days of trial. The massive five-tonne rotor of the Kelanitissa Thermal Power Stations

was air-lifted to Colombo yesterday from London by a British Airways Boeing 747 after repairs; Ceylon Electricity Board Chairman, James Lanerolle gave two weeks time to his engineers to fix the rotor at the power station. Private foreign investment in Sri Lanka with collaboration from the Federal Republic of Germany has totalled Rs. 115.2 million for the first five months of this year, a Ministry of Finance and Planning press release issued yesterday states. The Health Department has recruited 790 male and female attendants to the hospital service. The Co-operative Wholesale Establishment has placed an order for a further consignment of 25,000 "Flying Pigeon" bicycles from China, its chairman R. Zarook said yesterday—CDN. The Open University which will be inaugurated by the President, Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, on June 19, will lay emphasis on courses which would promote the country's economic development. The biggest ever housing project in Colombo City, the Duplication Road Luxury Flats comprising three towers of 17 floors each will be completed by December 1981—CDM. The implementation of all development projects in future will be guided by a national policy for the preservation of the country's fauna and flora, Government has decided. Roadblocks were set up in the Jaffna area by the Police yesterday morning after two armed youths held up a petrol shed owner while he was on his way to the Chunnakam Bank and relieved him of Rs. 26,240 in cash. Former Minister of Power, Maitripala Senanayake, charged yesterday that the lack of foresight, planning and gross inefficiency by the government had resulted in the present power crisis—SU. Some Corporation Chairmen are drawing salaries and perks in excess of entitlements, a report made to government has stated—CO. With aid from Germany, the Fertilizer Corporation will put up stores in many parts of the island, to make it easier for consumers to obtain their supply of Fertilizers—LD.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18:** With no signs of rain in the catchment areas feeding the hydro-reservoir and an increased use of electricity despite the five-hour power cut, the situation was pretty bad, Ceylon Electricity Board Chairman James Lanerolle said yesterday. Two Thai experts will arrive here today to help Sri Lanka induce rain over the reservoir areas, by the technique of cloud seeding.

The Government of Denmark has informed the Government of Sri Lanka that it has accepted the invitation extended by Minister of Finance and Planning, Ronnie de Mel, to the Danish Government to become a member of the Sri Lanka Aid Group—CDN. Sri Lanka will supply to the Maldives the bulk of her requirements in terms of a trade pact which will be signed shortly between the two countries. Booksellers have once again pushed up the selling price of imported books and magazines by almost 25 per cent—CDM. State financial assistance will be given to all political parties for the next parliamentary elections at the rate of 50 cents for every vote polled by them at the July 1977 general elections, government has decided. The take over of lands by Government for urgent purposes will require the prior approval of the President before a vesting order is made, according to a report prepared by the Law Commission. The Ministerial level meeting of the Non-aligned Movement is very likely to be held in New Delhi this year and not in Havana as suggested by the Chairman Cuba a few weeks ago—SU. Five US nationals including a professor of the Department of Religious Studies of the American University, Washington D.C. were this week required to leave Sri Lanka by the Department of Immigration and Emigration who withdrew their visas—CO. Coconut production in the South has reduced considerably due to the insufficient application of fertilizer—DV.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 19:** Government yesterday approved a proposal to separate the Department of Posts and Telecommunications into two different departments in an attempt to provide better postal and telecommunication services to the public. The services of Sri Lankans employed abroad in specialised fields are to be obtained by the Government on a short-term basis under a scheme prepared by the Ministry of Plan Implementation; the scheme to be known as the "Transfer of Know-how through Ex-patriate Nationals" (TOKTEN) for which Cabinet approval is to be sought shortly, is to be implemented with the assistance of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). President J. R. Jayewardene inaugurates the Open University of Sri Lanka at 3.30 p.m. today at the BMICH, Colombo. Rice and flour, several years old, stacked roof-high

in gunnies were discovered in a number of stores at the Chalmers Granaries when two members of the Special Investigation Committee appointed by President J. R. Jayewardene visited the warehouse complex last afternoon. Two experts from Thailand who arrived here yesterday to help Sri Lanka induce rain over the hydro-power reservoir areas, will leave for the catchment areas today by air to study the cloud formation—CDN. To ease congestion at main exchanges the Cabinet yesterday decided to reduce by fifty per cent the direct line telephones in the Ministries and Government Departments. The customs have decided to reintroduce a Customs road check point at Elephant Pass, because of the reported movement of contraband into and out of the Jaffna Peninsula—CDM. The *navaratne*—nine varieties of precious stones—will be deposited in the New Parliament building at Sri Jaywardenapura on September 22, Cabinet decided yesterday; the new parliament building is expected to be completed in 1½ years after that date—SU. 50,000 American dollars have been received from the UNICEF for aid for the Open University, the Ministry of Higher Education has announced. Parents who don't give their children the necessary vaccinations for Polio will be charged there after the Ministry of Health has said—DV. Price Controller Mr. M. Ramalingam has decided to increase the price of Masoor Dhal to Rs. 6.05. Today the final decision will be made whether to cut electricity in the night or not—JD.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 20:** The estimated demand for English stenographers and typists in the next three years will be around 14,000; the Ministry of Plan Implementation, which makes this forecast says the new economic policy of the government has accelerated the expansion of the private sector in national and non-national investment areas; that in turn has created a demand for a certain category of workers, such as secretaries, stenographers and typists who can handle work in the English language. Only one third of the machinery in the state sector is in working order an Inter-Ministerial Committee headed by the Secretary to the Ministry of Plan Implementation, Dr. Wickrema Weerasooriya has said. The Ceylon Petroleum Corporation yesterday announced increases in the price of petrol by Rs. 2/50

per gallon, kerosene by Rs. 1/50 per gallon and other diesel and furnace oils by Rs. 7/50 a gallon—CDN. Entrance to Open University will be Irrespective of age, school, academic qualifications, wealth or residence; so said the President Mr. J. R. Jayewardene when he inaugurated the Open University at the BMICH yesterday—CDM. Several leading religious leaders and professors from India have been invited to participate in the Swami Vivekananda celebrations to be held in Jaffna from today. The seeding of clouds to induce rain over the hydro-power generating reservoirs of Mousakelle Castlereagh will be carried out on an experimental basis tomorrow, a Government spokesman said. Opposition Leader A. Amirthalingam yesterday charged that democracy in the country was facing a serious crisis—SU. Head of the CWC and Minister of Rural & Industrial Development S. Thondaman was given a tumultuous welcome in Jaffna today on his first official visit to the Peninsula—DP. The District Development Council B II which will be presented in Parliament next month will bring under these Councils land settlement, education, cultural affairs, housing, small and large-scale handicrafts etc.—EN. Minister of Transport M. H. Mohamed is making plans to put private buses in the interior areas—DM. The Asian Development Bank has given 1 million dollars to develop Industrial Education in Sri Lanka—LD.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 21:** Rural Industrial Development Minister S. Thondaman told the Indo-Ceylon welfare Association at the Navalar Hall, Jaffna on Thursday that the question of statelessness would soon be eradicated in the country; President Jayewardene was keen to settle this issue, once and for all, he said. World inflation was the greatest problem Sri Lanka was facing today, Minister of Finance and Planning, Ronnie de Mel said yesterday; outlining its harsh effects on the economy, Mr. de Mel said inflation had raised prices for the ordinary man and caused great hardship; it had also raised the cost of government's development schemes beyond recognition. Operation Cloud-seeding gets under way at 9 a.m. today, when the Sri Lanka Air Force's Dakota aircraft, carrying the two Thal experts, leaves for the Mousakelle and Castlereagh catchment areas, to induce artificially the country's long-awaited rain—CDN. The Leader

of the Opposition Mr. Amirthalingam welcoming the Minister of Rural Industrial Development Mr. S. Thondaman at the Special District Council conference at the Jaffna Kachcheri said that he pledged his fullest co-operation on behalf of the TULF MPs present in the Minister's efforts to develop the Jaffna district. Sixteen Deans and Heads of Departments of the Arts Faculty of the University of Kelaniya resigned on Wednesday on the eve of the University Grants Commission's recommendation to substantially increase salaries of all categories of university staff—CDM. Cash prizes up to Rs. 150,000 will be awarded to any nationally produced feature film that gains top honours at foreign film festivals, President J. R. Jayewardene said yesterday. "What is wrong with the United Nations today is that it faces a crisis of Ignorance—ignorance, especially in higher circles, as to the aims, achievements and limitations of the UN", the Honorary President of the World Federation of UN Associations, Horace Perera told a public meeting at the YWCA yesterday—SU. An Island wide protest campaign is to be launched on June 24 when a protest meeting is to be held by opposition groups; salary increase for all categories of workers and repeal of urgency loans are some of the demands to be put forward—VK. Legislation is soon to be brought preventing examination of houses, shops and other private organisations at night; Customs officers will however be able to do it with a writ from a magistrate—CM. Mr. Kumar Ponnambalam, General Secretary of the Ceylon Tamil Congress has stated that a solution to the Tamil problem, can be achieved only through a round table conference; if this doesn't work independent "Tamil Eelam" was the only solution—EN. The Petroleum Corporation has decided to take action against anyone using kerosene oil for industrial purposes or for any machinery for factories and against the suppliers of Kerosene to these industries—DV.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 22:** Colombo based foreign currency banking units (FCBUs) have already recorded a turnover of around 100 million US dollars financing among other ventures a power project in Manila, chemical exports in Poland, construction in Iraq and on lending in South Korea. The Government will not issue new resident guest visas in the future

unless under very special circumstances in effect suspending the scheme which has now brought in about 80 people to spend their retirement in Sri Lanka. After a long spell of silence the Massachusetts-based Ealam Tamil Association of America has resumed its campaign to whip up political support for the Tamil cause in the United States. The water level at the Castlereagh hydel reservoir recorded an improvement of eight inches during the 24 hour period ending 8 a.m. Saturday with a fair amount of rain experienced over the catchment areas—SO. Legislation will be introduced shortly to set up a Commission to counter the domination of trade and industry in the private sector by multi-national organisations. Heavy rains in the Castlereagh and Mousakelle catchment areas brightened the hopes of the Electricity authorities yesterday—ST. Sri Lanka will shortly enforce a mid-sea "traffic separation scheme" to guide the large number of ships on the major world sea lane passing our southern coast. A large number of people braved the weather to line the Galle Road as the motorcade carrying the ashes of King Dutugemunu started its journey from Colombo to Anuradhapura yesterday morning—WK. A trawler belonging to the Pasale Fisheries yesterday morning was sunk at sea; the cost of this trawler is Rs. 20 lakhs—RR. The Department of Labour has taken steps to send Flying Squads to offices and factories to ascertain whether Provident Fund is paid to employees—SM.

**MONDAY, JUNE 23:** The two Thal rain-maker experts have helped Sri Lanka to break the back of its worst drought this century; since their two sorties on Saturday, spraying the clouds with rain-inducing chemicals sodium chloride, ammonium nitrate, urea and calcium chloride—rain has been falling in the hill country catchment areas of the hydro-power reservoirs; there was rain on Saturday afternoon and again in the evening. Justice Minister Nissanka Wijeyeratne has said that while recognising the right of the State to acquire land it is essential that the rights of the individual are also protected. Sri Lanka's first mobile eye operation unit, gifted by the World Health Organisation, began work at Elpitia on Friday; at the eye camp organised by Eye Care Sri Lanka, at the Elpitia hospital premises—CDN. Processions and public meetings will be banned for the entire week Imme-

diately following the General Elections under the proposed new election laws to be introduced in Parliament next month. The Second Anniversary of the Premier's Village Re-awakening scheme will get under way on a grand scale when President J. R. Jayewardene and Mrs. Jayewardene visit the special "Gam Udawa 80" exhibition at Amparal today. The prospective Sri Lankan trade and investment promotion delegation to Japan was told by Trade and Shipping Minister Lalith Athulath mudali last week to discourage the sale of finished Japanese goods to Sri Lanka—SU. The government is making plans to modernise the slums and other under-developed areas within Colombo and the suburbs, a Rs. 45 million plan has been worked out—DV.

**TUESDAY, JUNE 24:** Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's controversial and powerful son Sanjay was killed yesterday in a plane crash that was expected to send shockwaves through Indian politics; Mr. Gandhi, 33, was regarded by most Indians as his mother's most likely successor after meteoric rise to political stardom—CDN. Britain will be giving Sri Lanka a further outright grant of Rs. 88 million following an agreement signed in Colombo last week—CDM. Airlanka is likely to take another Lockheed Tristar on lease for its operations in April next year. The re-awakening of our villages is a primary step by the Government towards eradicating the gap between the city and the village and the continuing exploitation of the village by the metropolis, Prime Minister R. Premadasa said yesterday. Sri Lankan voters will enjoy the facility of hearing future Presidential candidates debate national issues on State television and radio as provided for under the proposed Presidential Elections Law to be introduced shortly—SU. Many countries have come forward to give aid to develop under-developed villages and put up houses for the village folk; and also improve roads—LD. The President has called for a report from the Minister of Rural Industrial Development S. Thondaman asking why there is a delay in taking over estate schools—DV.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25:** A new computerised international telephone exchange

which will enable direct dialling from Sri Lanka to 20 countries will be opened by Posts and Telecommunications Minister D. B. Wijetunge on Saturday at the Overseas Telecommunication Building in Colombo. Minister of Lands and Development and Mahaweli Development Gamini Dissanayake has decided to set up a Sri Lanka Surveyor's Service. The United States emerged as the biggest market for Sri Lanka's export last year; the value of Sri Lanka exports to the US reached Rs. 1,585.2 million last year out of a total export bill of Rs. 15,228 million according to a People's Bank study—CDN. The University Grants Commission has tightened the regulations governing the admission of students to the universities on the district quota system—CDM. Thousands of workers in Sri Lanka's garment industry face the threat of retrenchment due to the limited export quota to the United States allocated to local manufacturers. Sri Lanka's quest for petroleum, resumes once more with the initiative of an American oil company; Cabinet has given its approval for the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation to enter into a contract with the US-based Cities Services Company to prospect for off-shore oil deposits in the waters round the island. Sanjay Gandhi was cremated yesterday amidst outpourings of national grief unseen since the death of his grandfather Jawaharlal Nehru who was independent India's first Prime Minister. Three British officers from the Women's Royal Army Corps have arrived in the country to assist in the establishment of the Sri Lanka Women's Army Corps—SU. According to the Department of Education 11,000 more teachers are wanted for the year 1981; 4 million rupees are needed to employ these teachers; 3 lakhs of new students will be selected for schooling. The government has sent food stuffs to Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa in connection with the Poson celebrations. Special buses and trains will run in these places on poson day—DV.



## PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

### ● Olympics ● Reflections

**MOSCOW — READY FOR OLYMPICS**  
By Elmo Rodrigopulle, ART PRINTERS,  
P.P. 106, Price Rs. 5/—

DESPITE THE FUTILE ATTEMPTS of the USA and some other countries, to mix sport and politics: the 22nd Olympiad will open at the Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow on the 19th of July. And from all accounts, it surely will turn out to be one of the greatest pageants of sports of our times. It has been unfortunate that for us in Sri Lanka, the mainstream press has been unable to present a balanced view regarding the whole controversy of the boycott issue. Certainly there are a few notable exceptions, where the slanted news of the powerful transnational news agencies have been treated with the contempt it deserves.

Against such a background, one must welcome Mr. Rodrigopulle's book as a gust of fresh air. Of course the writer is a well known sports writer in Sri Lanka (Sports Editor *Mirror* and *Sunday Times*). Elmo has also reported on the Munich Olympic Games in 1972.

In this book, he first deals with the theme of the Olympic Games. In the chapter titled "O Sport Thou Art Peace", the author first traces the history of the Olympic Games from ancient times. A great number of fascinating details, particularly of the ancient games is given. To quote "the wars between the states had destroyed the country's unity. It was the King of Eleia, who decided to consult the Oracle—to hold the Games at Olympiad—in order to find peace". The events in the ancient Olympiads have been briefly but adequately dealt with. Interesting facts such as the training and diet of the athletes of that time is placed before the reader. Then, coming onto the modern Olympics, due acknowledgement is made of Pierre De Coubertin, that great humanist and lover of sports who quite rightly has been called the father of the modern Olympics. The author says that the modern Olympics is not only a chronicle of outstanding results and competitions marked

by great sportsmen and sportswomen, but that it is "also a history of great friendships, a chronicle of understanding among the peoples, of a great contribution towards peace and co-operation. In fact the opening chapter of the Olympic Charter says that the aims of the Olympic Movement are to promote the development of those physical and moral qualities which are the basis of sport, to educate young people through sport in a spirit of better understanding between each other and of friendship, thereby helping to build a better and more peaceful world, to spread the Olympics principles throughout the world thereby creating international goodwill." The author has quoted Lord Noel-Baker, who has stated that "The Olympic movement and the struggle for disarmament, for peace in the world one cannot fail to see the connection between these two processes.....The noble mission of the Olympic Games is to promote mutual understanding and rapprochement of the peoples."

THE SECOND CHAPTER deals with the Soviet contribution to Olympics. And here, we see the reason behind the Soviet Union's phenomenal success in the sphere of sports. The USSR first participated in the Olympics in 1952, and since then their achievements have become legendary. In a very exhaustive manner, Elmo shows how this has been made possible. Details—such as the right of the Soviet people to participate in the Olympics enshrined in the constitution, the role of the trade Unions in developing sports, physical culture clubs—have been given. For instance we learn that every Soviet citizen who would like to take up a sport which he or she likes pays only a token fee of 30 kopecks. We learn that Moiseyev pays only this token sum for his motorcycle, and so does the Olympic Champ Mankin for his yachts! In the USSR, since sport is regarded as a means of education, of building up health, and not of making profits, you will not find professional sports. One of the most interesting sections here is the chapter on scientific basis of Soviet Sports, which reflects the fact that ever increasingly today sports records are born not in stadiums but in science laboratories. Of special interest to those in developing countries such as Sri Lanka is the information on the role of the USSR and the setting up of the Olympic Soli-

darly programme, which, aims at supporting sports activities in Third World countries. THE THIRD SECTION deals with MOSCOW, as hosts of the 22nd Olympic Games. From a description of the sports facilities for the Games (which the author himself had visited) to explanations of how the anti-doping centre works, this section gives a panoramic view of the Games and gives us the atmosphere at least, since we will not be all privileged to be in Moscow in July.

*One might note that the controversy regarding the boycott is not even mentioned by the author. Since the whole tenor of the book is devoid of politics, perhaps this is desirable.*

*Of course one would wish that the Americans, Japanese etc., would have been there in Moscow. But despite this, the 22nd Olympiad will be a grand and spectacular festival of sport. The world's best sportsmen will participate in Moscow in a wide variety of sports. In track and field, for instance, the USA had won only 6 gold medals out of 38 at the Montreal Games, having suffered setbacks in all the non-hurdle races and all the women's events. The athletes of the GDR, for instance, performed much better winning 10 Gold medals for this section. Participating in the World Cup Competition last year, the USA won only 9 finals out of 35. This year too the tone is being set by European athletes. All the world records registered this year have been established by the sportsmen of Poland, the GDR, Hungary, USSR, Great Britain and France. The Americans have lost their leading position in the pole vault and decathlon—the events which they always dominated. All the best weightlifters will come to Moscow. The athletes who will be there won 28 out of the 30 medals awarded at the latest world championships. The best oarsmen will be there and the same goes for free-style and Greco-roman wrestling, fencing, and cycling. Unfortunately, the Japanese will be missed at the Gymnastics, but even here, Gymnastics has not been faring too well in the land of the rising sun. For the first time in many years, there was not a single Japanese among the 6 gymnasts placed at the top at the world championships six months back.*

*And so, the "boycotters" have been beaten, and the author has intelligently anticipated this in his book by assuming (at the*



time of writing) that Games would take place in Moscow this year.

D.G.

• • •

## THE KINGDOM OF TRUTH, PEACE, JUSTICE, FREEDOM AND LOVE.

By Tissa Balasuriya OMI (Centre for Society and Religion, Colombo 10.)

PUBLISHED in March 1980 this booklet contains the *Reflections* of Rev. Father Tissa Balasuriya. He needs no introduction. The publication is especially for parish use, for lay leaders, for prayer and action groups. Thus it can be assumed that the publication is primarily meant for those who profess and practice the Christian faith and committed to the spreading of the message of Lord Jesus Christ.

I am a Christian myself. Among the Christians (as among others as well) there sometimes unhappily exists an arrogance far removed from the humility which should be the hall mark of the Christian. They are inclined to believe they have the whole truth. They often offer fellowship but not true love or friendship or concern. They offer, with alacrity, solace to the soul but ignore the starving body and tortured mind. The dignity in humility was movingly demonstrated by Jesus Christ himself when he washed the feet of his disciples at the Last Supper. This is what Swinburne probably had in mind when he sang "Thou hast conquered O Pale Galilean: The world has grown grey from Thy breath." This publication, in its totality, is a discourse on how a Christian "can bear witness to the authentic discipleship of Jesus Christ, the poor man of Nazareth."

WHAT FR. BALASURIYA has to say on Life Style is of special importance and relevance because of the ostentation that is increasingly becoming evident day by day. "Jesus calls us to be poor in dress, in food, in mode of travel, in our housing.....though follower of the poor fishermen, we have turned ourselves into princes and leaders of society wherever we are" worries the reverend. True, Jesus Christ consistently exhorted the wealthy to disposses themselves and give to the poor. The poor were given a place even in the paintings in the Sistine Chapel by Michaelangelo.

When these painting were uncovered in 1512, Pope Julius is reported to have had this conversation with the artist:

"It ought to be at least touched up with gold" said the Pope

"I do not see men wearing gold" replied Michaelangelo

"It will look poor" said the Pope

"Those who are there represented were poor" replied the artist.

With deep understanding Fr. Balasuriya discusses the subject of Universal Redemption. Who among us is not a sinner? There is hope for "since we believe in the universality of the redemption of Christ, we must try to understand these forces, and appreciate the good in them and correct the bad.....if there is original sin in all through Adam, original goodness is still more powerful in all through Christ.....Love is the essence of the message of Jesus Christ". This basic tenet of the Christian message is all too often forgotten, not even remembering that Christ himself did not shrink from the anointing hands of the woman whom all universally spurned. There is no point in shouting damnation at a human being who is already walking himself to it on his own two feet. Even if we do not stretch out our hands to raise the fallen, we have the assurance that the hand of God reaches down even into the private hells we make for ourselves. This is the message found here.

At page 76 he makes reference to Jesus Christ as "born as an unwanted child as no one would give shelter to his mother even when she was in the last stage of expectancy." Even in this contest would "unwanted" be an appropriate reference?

IT IS NOT POSSIBLE to comment on the other *Reflection* in this brief review. Life is a riddle without an answer. Like pilgrims in search of the shrine, we are at times at the edge of a precipice looking into a valey which is flooded in darkness. We find the valley empty and soundless; but that is the price we have to pay for joining the pilgrim train. This is the real terror of the human conditon. And if we in this bewildering dilemma want to experience God we must first find our brother.

These *Reflections* unquestionably will help in this quest.

Devaratnam Danforth

## DOES IT WORK?

# Rainmaking

by V. Buvanasadaram

TO THOSE WHO BELIEVE- no explanation is necessary. To those who do not believe, no explanation is possible. The sceptics would say, "Had you left those clouds alone they would have rained!" and then that quotable quote, "Can any one make rain fall from a blue sky." Kattadiyas have claimed to our Prime Minister that they can. Our Prime Minister should take that challenge like Abraham Kovoor and they will vanish. Churchwardens of Europe rang their bells to rain out the clouds before hail formed in them. Hail stones would damage their vineyards. Rainmaking is to induce the clouds to give up their water, which they are holding back from wetting the earth, or being wasted away at sea.

Among the four Vedas, Rig, Yasu, Yama, Athiravana, the last two are said to contain manthrams. Chanting specific manthrams, before a fire of many woods and ghee was believed by our ancients to bring down rain. Smoke from the fire would increase the condensation nuclei in the atmosphere, as it happened a few years back, behind the Observatory. It was a morning during monsoon time and the firm of Socoman were burning their worn out tyres. The winds were light and the clouds from the sea were idly passing over. The smoke from the fire rose vertically up into the base of cauliflower shaped cumulus clouds. Within an hour, a heavy shower came down into the Observatory. Was that fire necessary for this shower? That's the rub.

In one of our early lessons in the study of sound, we are taught that troops marching over a bridge are made to break their steps, lest the bridge collapses vibrating in resonance with their steps. Perhaps, that's why, tenants living upstairs are not permitted to pound. Thanks God! in our case, it is the next block that vibrates. Paul Robeson broke glasses with his singing. Rats and children followed the Piper of Hamelin. Elephants worshipped Tansen and Ambikapathy, son of Kamban. More things happened, when Orpheus struck

his golden lyre. Such is the power of sound in music. Ringing of church bells and the firing of cannons in Europe to bring down rain and the chanting of our manthrams for the same purpose, all perhaps belong to the power of sound to resonate cloud drops to coalesce.

It happened at Thiruketheeswaram on Maha Sivarathri day. February and shallow clouds were drifting from the northeast to Mannar and the Gulf beyond. Loud Nagasuram music was piercing through many loud speakers. It is said that Nagasuram music is the music of the Gods and when Rajaratnam pillai, its most famous exponent died, all lovers of this music mourned, "Whom the Gods love die young". This music was so loud, that it could have vibrated the surrounding atmosphere to well over cloud base level of 2,000ft.

I went in to pray, leaving the O.I.C. Mannar, Mr. Sabapathypillai, to watch the clouds. When I came out, the music had stopped and he told me that the cloud had turned black at the base and a few large drops fell on him. That evening, Mr. Fonseka, observer on duty at Mannar told me that the base of the fair weather cumulus that passed over were the blackest for sometime but he got no drops on him. Little drops had resonated with the sound of music and coalesced to form large drops. Perhaps, if the music had continued for some more time, more larger drops would have formed and there may have been, at least a slight shower.

SCIENTIFIC SUSPICION that clouds could be induced to give up some of their water began in 1938, with a German cloud physicist Findelissen. His theory was based on a peculiar property of water. The saturation vapour pressure over a water surface is more than that over an ice surface, in other liquids it is the other way round. At -10c, it is 2.86mb over water and 2.60 over ice, so that air saturated with respect to liquid water will be 10% supersaturated with respect to ice at -10c ( $2.86/2.60=1.1=110\%$ ) At -20C, it is 21% supersaturated. So that if ice crystals are introduced into a supercooled cloud (portion of cloud above freezing level) water will evaporate from water droplets and sublimate on ice crystals. This process will con

tinue till all water has turned to ice and the snow flakes so formed are heavy enough, to fall through the updraft and reach ground, melting on the way if the atmosphere below the cloud is warm enough.

In 1946, the war was over. The world had gained much knowledge of the atmosphere, by planes flying in it. However, it was an accident when in July 1946 Schafer working with the General Electric Company in U.S.A. dropped a tiny fragment of dry ice (solid carbon-dioxide) into a cloud chamber filled with super-cooled cloud and found several millions of ice crystals formed. A piece of dry ice, no larger than a pinhead will produce a million ice crystals.

In 1931, Veraart of Holland introduced many substances into clouds to produce rain. His sweeping claims that he had produced rain was discredited. Europe at that time was in no mood to believe him as Sri Lanka is now. He must have dropped dry ice among several others and must have on several occasions produced rain.

Dry ice is at  $-32^{\circ}\text{C}$  and is much colder than ice. Its function is to chill supercooled water droplets to ice. Then sublimation starts and the ice crystals begin to grow. When heavy enough, will fall out of cloud. If a portion of the cloud, like ours is above  $0^{\circ}\text{C}$ , then it will melt within the cloud and grow considerably by coalescence with other water droplets in the cloud, before falling out of cloud. The rain drops in our thunderstorms are much larger than those of colder climes. This mechanism was first suggested by A. Wegener in 1911 and developed later by T. Bergeron in 1933.

The first field trial of Schafer's discovery in the cloud chamber was conducted on 13th Nov. 1946, watched by Dr. Irving Langumir from the ground. Three pounds of crushed dry ice was dropped along a line of about 3 miles in altocumulus cloud, at a temperature of  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$ . These are roll shaped medium clouds of little vertical development. Dr. Langumir saw snow fall to a distance of 2000ft, before evaporating in the dry atmosphere below cloud.

The most spectacular seeding with dry ice was first performed by Kraus and Squires working in Australia. A cloud with base

11,000ft and top 23,000ft was seeded with 150lb of dry ice. In 5 minutes, radar echo appeared indicating that precipitation had started within the cloud. In 13 minutes, the cloud grew to 29,000ft and after 21 minutes, heavy rain fell. No other place within 100 miles had any rain.

FIELD-EXPERIMENTS in which a few pounds of dry ice are crushed into pellets of  $1/2''$  diameter and dropped into tops of cumulus clouds, have been performed in many countries like Australia, Canada, England, South Africa and U.S.A., All agreed that there is a high probability of inducing precipitation with dry ice, if the temperature of the cloud top is below  $-7^{\circ}\text{C}$  and the super-cooled portion of the cloud exceeds 4,000ft. One hundred such seedings were done in Australia and the following conclusion was arrived at "With cloud summit temperature of  $-7^{\circ}\text{C}$  or less, there is a 100% chance of producing rains. At temperatures between  $-7^{\circ}\text{C}$  and  $0^{\circ}\text{C}$ , chances of success fall off progressively tending to zero at  $0^{\circ}\text{C}$ ". Our clouds of that type would have rained, anyhow, some would say but we need not helplessly watch them rain into the sea or in a places, where rain is not needed.

That same month of Schafer's accidental discovery of the nucleating properties of dry ice, Vonnegut discovered that minute crystals of silver iodide acted even at  $-5^{\circ}\text{C}$ . It could be that nature is being deceived by the crystalline shape of silver iodide, which is hexagonal like an ice crystal. Water-vapour unable to "see" the difference between its own ice crystal and silver iodide crystal starts sublimating on it. One gram of silver iodide dissolved in acetone and vapourised with a flame will provide crystals of the order of 10 multiplying itself 15 times. Such small particles cannot be pushed about by the wind. They will remain in the area and will be pushed up into the higher atmosphere by convection currents. It is therefore more suitable for seeding from ground generators. There's a hitch. The ice nucleating property of silver iodide tends to decay with strong sunlight and those made by warning in kerosene flame retain this property a little longer. However, silver iodide seeding is best done by aircraft. In Australia, 72% of the clouds seeded in this manner yielded rain in these experiments. Cloud thickness ranged from 4,000

to 17,000ft and cloud summit temperature from -2.5 to -16c. The precipitation usually occurred within 20 to 25 minutes of seeding.

Ions are more stable than silver iodide and smaller too. They can never be pushed about by winds. They will always remain in the area, going higher and higher up with convection currents. Disintegration of radioactive substances produces ions and there are radio active impurities in the mineral sands at Pullimoddi in the Mullaitivu district. This should account for those record breaking falls at Nedunkerni and Mullaitivu and those heavy falls at Kanakarayan kulam and the recent 24" fall at Mullaitivu that baffled our forecasters. It rained nowhere else that day. According to the famous experiments carried out by C. T. R. Wilson in 1897, it requires a rapid expansion of the atmosphere, resulting in 3 times the normal saturation for water vapour to condense on ions. Wilson found out that when even ions were not present, it required 8 times the normal saturation.

ALL THESE SEEDINGS require the cloud tops to be above the freezing level. This in the tropics varies between 14 to 17000ft. Our normal monsoon clouds do not rise above 7 to 10,000ft. Their tops are limited by the trade-wind inversion, which acts like a hood. The most vigorous among these fair weather trade wind cumulus may rise a little above this hood but during disturbed weather, this inversion completely disappears. Clouds that reach above the freezing level are found here only during the times of disturbed weather and during the Intermonsoon months of March, April, October and November.

On the forenoon of 23rd May 1952, a cyclonic storm had entered India, weakened into a depression and was lying close to Masullipatam. A Himalayan Airways pilot flying from Calcutta to Madras reported that the cloud tops did not extend beyond 11,000ft. He flew at 10,000ft in and out of cloud tops and in clear weather the entire route. An Airways India pilot followed him half an hour later on the same route, flying at 1,200ft. He met with a heavy rain belt of 40 miles near Masullipatam. Did the hum and the exhaust fumes of the first aircraft initiate the rain met by the second aircraft?

R.A.F. pilots flying in our region for the

first time, have often been surprised at the low level of cloud tops from which precipitation occurs. Once a pilot coming from Butterworth in Malaysia to Katunayake saw rains over Trincomalee and when he got there, he found himself 4,000ft above cloud tops, at his flight level of 10,000ft. Next day, the rainfall report from Trincomalee came as having had over an inch of rain. During the war years (1944-46), meteorological flights were organised by the R. A. F. at St. Thomas Mount Airport, Madras, twice daily, once in the morning and the other at moon. These flights were during their northeast monsoon season, October to December. The smallest cumulus from which rain fell was of base 2,300ft and top 4,300ft at a temperature of 15c. A cloud of thickness 2,000ft and the rainfall was only a trace. The maximum thickness of cloud below freezing level from which rain fell was 12,00ft. The temperature at the top of this cloud was +02c. On one occasion, there was heavy rain from a cloud of thickness 11,700ft and there too the cloud top was at +02c.

EXPERIMENTS to seed these tropical clouds with large water droplets had begun even before the coalescence theory of tropical rain formation was thought of. Large drops of water were found to coalesce better with smaller cloud-droplets than the small drops in their career up and down with updrafts and downdrafts in a cloud. Later it was found that hygroscopic nuclei were more efficient. A small dry common salt crystal of 10microns (1 micron=1/1,000th of a millimetre) will more than double itself in size, absorbins water, when being carried through the first few hundred metres in a cloud.

Dr. B. J. Mason's table of collection efficiencies for large drops of radius "R" colliding with droplets of radius "r" at 0c and air pressure 900mb.

R.	'r' in microns					
	1	2	4	6	8	10
30 microns	0	0	0	6	32	58%
50 microns	0	0	5	27	55	78%
100 microns	1	3	18	47	67	83%
600 microns	1	17	54	74	85	91%
1.0 mm.	1	15	52	74	83	90%
1.8 mm.	0	8	45	68	80	86%
3.0 mm.	0	2	33	55	71	81%

Seeding with salt particles have been carried out in East Africa. Bombs containing gunpowder and salt particles, carried aloft by balloons were arranged to explode near cloud base and disperse salt particles of diameter 5 to 100 microns. For the 38 days salt particles were released, the total rainfall in an area of 6 to 12 miles downwind of the release point was 6" in excess of that for unseeded days and an area 5 miles upwind was also 2 to 3 inches in excess. Perhaps the tiny particles moved upwind.

The case against rainmaking was best argued by comedian Krishnan in a Tamil film. He was watching a farmer go to a temple of Ganesh and promise to break 5 coconuts for rain. The farmer was followed by an open air circus owner and he promised 7 for no rain. Krishnan found the answer, why Ganesh is granite. Recent drought in Jaffna gave "karutha kolumban" in plenty. I went up there after a long time and ate it. What is hawked in Colombo must have grown in Puttalam. They are not so sweet.

—X— —X—

FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD

## President Must Act

—dark clouds over JEDB And SPC—

by Grassroots

WHILE THIS GOVERNMENT TALKS of Accelerated Mahaweli Development, the Free Trade Zone (GCEZ) and the Urban and Housing Development Programme (with the Kotte Parliamentary Complex thrown in) we can never forget that the country's largest Foreign Exchange earner is the Tea industry. Tea alone contributed over 40% of Sri Lanka's total export earnings for 1979. In this background, the attitude of the Government towards the Tea industry has been unexplainable. To use some common phrases it is like "killing the goose that lays the golden eggs" or "Like Emperor Nero playing the harp while Rome was burning." (We hope that Messrs. Ken Ratwatte and Pemsith Seneviratne understand what these phrases mean).

No one is saying that the UNP Government did nothing for the Tea sector. Tea

estates of the sterling and rupee companies were nationalised in October 1975. Then came the Trusteeship period by the Agency Houses followed by the take over by State institutions like The Usavasamas, Land Reform Commission, the Janawasamas, the Janatha Estates Development Board and the State Plantations Corporation. Even District Development Councils (DDCs) took over and ran some estates. When the SLFP Government fell in July 1977, the estate management was in a state of shock, chaos and confusion. The real effect of the Land Reforms on the Tea Industry were being felt. What saved a total disaster was the increase in tea prices in the London and World markets as a result of the coffee blight in Brazil etc.

Moreover, even before 1970 the Agency Houses and tea estate owners—the sterling and rupee companies—knew that their days were numbered. Although nationalisation of tea estates was never inserted in the Manifesto of any major political party at that time, tea estate companies began to cut back on development. Tea factory modernisation, uprooting, re-planting, fertiliser application, upgrading of estate dwellings—ALL slowed down. Expenditure was kept to a minimum. "Take as much as you can from the land," was the motto—and "take it quickly while the going lasts." (Mr. Ken Ratwatte the present Secretary/Chairman of the State Plantations should know this very well because he himself was a boss in one of the Agency Houses)

*This being so, the Tea sector economy that the UNP Government inherited was worse than the problems of say the Ceylon Transport Board which needed 4000 more buses in July 1977 and the petrol prices to remain low.*

In 1977 and until about mid 1978 the festering wound in the Tea sector which was caused by Land Reform did not show up with all its puss because as stated earlier the Tea prices in the world markets held. But when the Tea prices plummeted down and kept on declining and stagnating, the wound opened up and is getting worse and worse without proper treatment—curative, preventive or surgical.

THE MAIN CRITICISM of the UNP Government in its attitude towards the Tea Industry is

TRIBUNE, July 12, 1980

the MEN who were put in charge. As for the first Minister of Plantation Industry—Mr. M. D. H. Jayawardene, no one will doubt or question his integrity and gentlemanly qualities. He was a good and able Minister in his younger days but at his age in July 1977 he could not cope with the vastness of the subject entrusted to him. What the UNP Government failed to realise is the vastness of the Estate Sector.

Even under the SLFP two Ministries overlooked them.

Next, even in the choice of a Secretary, the wrong choice was made. Mr. Bradman Weerakoon as a Secretary and senior Civil Servant, is undoubtedly one of the best—but he was lost among the plantations and never made an impact. And as we pointed out in an earlier issue of *Tribune*, the Government seems to have underestimated the responsibility of the Plantations Secretary and permitted Mr. Weerakoon to function for over 6 months as Secretary to the Prime Minister as well—in addition to his normal duties. This was the attention—the step-motherly treatment—that was meted out for the plantation sector.—The goose that is laying the golden eggs—the industry that is our largest export earner and the sector that is our largest foreign exchange earner. It's Secretary was available and dispensable for other work—and working for the Hon. Prime Minister is no joke.

Two good choices for appointment of Secretary, Plantations at that time could have been Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne, himself a Senior Planter who later became Chairman of the Agricultural Development Authority and who now functions as Secretary, Agriculture. The other name that people mention is that of Mr. C. Chanmugam, presently Deputy Secretary of the Treasury. Mr. Chanmugam is said to be very knowledgeable on Tea having served as Tea Controller for a long period. Unfortunately, these selections were not made. The Reasons are unknown.

Next, when we come to the appointment of the two Chairman of SPC and JEDB, a bad choice appears to have been made. People yet ask how and why, Kenneth Ratwatte and Pemsith Seneviratne were chosen. No doubt they were both planters but if the selections was made only on planting experience and professional aptitude and recognition, then

the choice was bad. There were others who were more qualified and more suited both from the point of view of efficiency and temperament. On the other hand, if the two selections were made for political reasons, then all that can be said is that the plantation sector was and is too important to play about with for political favours and knock backs. Ambassadorships and even Directorates on Corporations can be given as political favours but not the Top Management of such an important sector as the Tea Industry.

NO ONE IS TRYING TO PUT ALL THE BLAME for the plantation woes on the Two Chairmen. There have been other Problems. For example, *Liquidity* problems. The export duties and taxes levied by the Government has bled the two Corporations. They have little or not money to implement their annual programmes. *Overstaffing* in the supervisory and clerical (not labour) grades has been another problem. Every Member of Parliament in the Plantation areas, looked to the Estates to solve his employment problem. (It is said that *Haputale* is ideal for a case study). *Trade Unions* have also asserted their strength and have flexed their muscles as never before and with Mr. Thondaman in the Cabinet, Planters have to take a different view of Trade Union demands. (Even if a water tap in a line room goes out of order, a strike seems to be now justified). This may be an exaggeration but the anecdote shows the atmosphere and tension which prevails between the planters vis-a-vis the Trade Unions. Wages on estates have also gone up and up and this invariably affects costs of production. The Trade Unions also see to it that the maximum amount of work is made available to estate labour. *Social and other Infrastructure* developments has been given high priority (quite rightly of course) unlike in the Agency House days when little attention was paid to living conditions of the estate workers prompting even British T.V. to show that the chimpanzees drinking Tea to advertise Lipton's Tea on Television were better off than "Worker-bees" that produced the tea on the estates in Ceylon—known in better days as "Lipton's Tea Garden."

*POLITICAL INTERFERENCE* in the running of the estates grew since Land Reform and continued even after July 1977. There was almost daily

interference in appointments, transfers, promotions and even in the sale of estate equipment (gunny bags, old machinery etc.) and produce (refuse tea). As an Election stunt, the SLFP had appointed a number of youth (both boys and girls) as *Trainees*. These appointees stayed on and UNP MPs added on to their numbers with their own favourites. Some of the Estates do not know what to do with these "Trainees" many of whom are not genuinely interested in a planting career.

**LETTERS OF APPOINTMENT AND TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT** have not yet been finally spelled out for the planters, since Land Reform. The stock joke is that they are still "casual employees" of the two State Corporations. This has led to a considerable degree of frustration among the individual planters.

These are some of the Major Issues that have seriously affected the plantations economy. But coming back to the Two men at the top, the Chairman/Secretaries of JEDB and SPC can it be truly said that they inspire the confidence and trust of the 1000 odd estate Superintendents who manage our plantations? In all professions whether it be Medicine, Law, Engineering, Architecture and even Planting, respect and leadership qualities must be EARNED in the profession itself. This is the simple psychology in all professions. This applies to the Public Sector as well. Secretaries of Ministries from outside the Public Sector must come "to be accepted" by the Public Sector. Otherwise they will not get the necessary support and co-operation.

In this background can it be said that Messrs. Ken Ratwatte and Pem Seneviratne will be recognised by the planters and the planting community as fit to hold their present jobs? Why not take a simple secret ballot? The result will be obvious. It is not like appointing anybody as Chairman of an industrial Corporation. You can put anyone as Chairman of say the Tractor Corporation or Tyre Corporation or Plywoods or Timber Corporation and the corporation will still run. The "psychology of professionalism" is not involved in such cases. But in this case with what regard do the planters hold these two individuals? Mr. Ratwatte was no doubt the boss of an Agency House, but what about the estates that this Agency House ran? How well run

were they and were there no problems relating to this Agency House? Mr. Seneviratne (so it is said) was never regarded as a very senior planter. His promotions (prior to July 1977) came slowly with the passage of time and not on Merit. In these circumstances these two gentlemen must know the difference between *Commanding* respect and *Demanding* respect. They must seriously reflect on this difference and ask themselves whether they should not improve their own attitude towards those working for them and under them. Additionally, in this background, these two gentlemen must at least learn to delegate responsibility to their regional boards and their chairmen and directors and not cling on to their estates, their empire like a little child clinging on to and not parting with a new toy just given to him.

Now that the Plantations are under the President, he can ensure that this is done. The Personnel and Personal problems in the Plantations must first be solved before the Policy issues are tackled. Why not have a one-day Seminar for all the PDs and SDs and let's hear their views—but on the assurance that those who may criticise the present set-up will not be identified for "the works".

*The clouds are gathering and they are dark clouds. They are not rain clouds but clouds foreboding doom for our most important sector of the economy, the Tea Sector. Something must be done. The President must act.*

## OIL

### OPEC's Fines

by Boris Rachkov

Moscow, June 24,

Two extremely important decisions have been taken at the 57th Conference of the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in Algiers—the official OPEC price of oil will go up from 28 to 32 dollars a barrel, and oil production throughout OPEC will be cut from 28,000,000 to 25,500,000 barrels a day. This measure will raise the market cost of OPEC oil over a year by 60,000 million dollars, whereas exports will decline by 75,000,000 tons over the same period.

TRIBUNE, July 12, 1980

Both measures should be seen as fines which the oil-exporting countries have levied against the Western monopolies for their inability to straighten out the capitalist economy and their attempts to transfer most of their economic difficulties onto the developing countries—the OPEC countries included.

First, it is a fine levied against the unbridled inflation in the capitalist world which is depreciating all the Western currencies, including the American dollar, the main money unit used to pay for oil. Since January 1974, when the OPEC countries began setting their own oil prices, the dollar has depreciated by more than 80 per cent. Inflation went wild in 1979—when the dollar lost about 12-14 per cent of its value—and looks to do the same this year. So OPEC countries are forced to raise the price of oil so they won't see their oil revenue dwindle in value.

Second, it is a fine levied against the Western monopolies for steadily raising the price on their manufactured products which the developing states, the OPEC countries included, buy. UN figures indicate that machines and equipment from the West cost over 50 per cent more than they did six years ago. The price of food, which the OPEC countries also buy from the West, has risen considerably. A ton of wheat cost 60-80 dollars in 1972; the price now is over 200 dollars. So the oil-producing countries have paid neo-colonialism in kind by raising the price of the oil they produce and the West buys.

Third, it is a fine levied against the Western monopolies for their attempts at price-gouging with the oil they buy from OPEC. Washington's sharp aggravation of the situation in the Persian Gulf area made dozens of oil-importing countries apprehensive that oil supplies might be interrupted. Oil monopolies, especially those with head offices in the United States—which are the "middlemen" or most of the Persian Gulf oil—immediately cashed in on the panic. They swelled their tankers with oil at previous official OPEC prices (from 18 to 28 dollars a barrel) and sold it to West European countries and Japan at 40-45 dollars on the spot. Financial

reports from the five largest American companies show that oil price-gouging netted them 3,500 million dollars last year alone. Now the OPEC countries have narrowed down the opportunities for profiteering by raising the price of oil.

Finally, by cutting down oil production, the OPEC countries have ostensibly made it harder for the hoarders to buy up oil to build up their "strategic reserves", which are primarily intended to be used for blackmailing the OPEC countries themselves.

The West European countries have already imported 100,000,000 tons of oil, while the Carter Administration has made the monopolies pump about 140,000,000 tons of OPEC oil into worked out salt mines in Louisiana and other southern states. OPEC's decision in Algiers to cut oil production by 75,000,000 tons tells the West that it can buy oil only for ordinary economic needs, not for building up stocks so that the West can act against the producers.

The oil producing countries made sure that their actions would not harm the developing countries that import oil. Shortly before the Algiers Conference, the OPEC members decided to put a further 1,600 million dollars into the fund for assisting the world's least developed countries, swelling it to 4,000 million dollars.

—APN



---

## NEXT WEEK

- + UNIVERSITY TEACHER'S SALARIES
- + THE SANJAY STORY
- + IRAQ—ELECTIONS



Govt.



Notices

My No: LA/1631

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

**Notice Under Section 7**

The Government Intends to acquire the land described in the Schedule below for a public purpose. For particulars please see Part III of the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, No: 97 of 11-07-1980

**Schedule**

Name of land: Koddadi—Assessment No: 285 & 289 (part) Alval Road

Name of Village: Karaveddy North, Ward No: I, Vathiry within the Town Council limits of Nelladdy

DRO's Division/AGA's Division: Vadaamarachchy South & West

Lot No: I

Plan No: P.P. Ya 1466

**A. M. M. Kulanayagam**

Asst Govt: Agent, Jaffna District

The Kachcheri,  
Jaffna. 19 June 1980

**OFFICIAL EXCHANGE RATES**

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

CURRENCY	PER 100 UNITS	
	Buying Rate	Selling Rate
U.S. Dollar	Rs. 1604.50	Rs. 1607.50
Sterling Pound	Rs. 3786.00	Rs. 3792.00
Deutsche Mark	Rs. 911.10	Rs. 912.70
French Franc	Rs. 392.55	Rs. 393.25
Japanese Yen	Rs. 7.3175	Rs. 7.3325
Indian Rupees	Rs. 206.30	Rs. 206.70

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

Reference No 3/2/5/6/33/76

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 97 (Part III) of 11-07.1980.

**Schedule**

A.G.A.'s Division : Wattala  
Village : Thimbirigasyaya  
Name of Land : Kopyiwatta  
Assessment No. 110,  
Canal Road.  
Lot Nos : One (1)  
Plan No. P.P. Co. : 5021

**A. L. S. Malwenna**

District Land Officer of Gampaha District,  
The Kachcheri,  
Gampaha. Date: 23.06.80

**Notice Under Section 7 Of The Land Acquisition Act, (Cap. 460) As Amended By Land Acquisition (Amendment) Act. No. 28 Of 1919.**

Reference No. 3/2/5/6/40/76

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. 97 (Part III) of 11-07-1980.

**Schedule**

A.G.A.'s Division : Wattala  
Situation : Wattala  
Name of Land : Asst. No.42 of Railway Station Road, Dimbulgahawatta allas Kekunagahawatta, Iriyagahawatta and Kahatagahawatta.

Lot Nos : 1  
Plan No. P.P. Co. : 5108

**A. L. S. Malwenna**

District Land Officer of Gampaha District,  
Kachcheri,  
Gampaha,  
Date: 23 June 1980

# Confidentially

## Foreign Experts—2

IS IT NOT SIGNIFICANT that many readers have already sent us comments on the revelations in this column last week about the salaries paid to foreign experts from UN and C-Plan? That we had cited a few extracts from a Report issued by the Ministry of Plan Implementation in April this year? That extracts had shown that minimum cost of such an "expert" was US \$ 4000 a month? That "...hence a the cost of the 224 U.N. & C. Plan Experts in Sri Lanka works out to US \$ 10,752,000 per year or Rs. 172 million per year. This figure is based on the assumption that there were on 1,7.79, 224 UN and C Plan Experts as reported by the UN & C Plan offices in Colombo and not 79 reported by Ministries"? That the report goes on to say: "Experts provided by Foreign Governments / Agencies generally get paid less than UN & C Plan Experts. Foreign Governments and Agencies have been reluctant to furnish information relating to salaries and allowances paid to such experts. The figure of 88 such experts as reported by Ministries does not appear to be correct for the reasons explained in paragraphs (2) and (3) above. The total number of Foreign Experts recruited direct and paid for from Sri Lanka Government funds has been reported as 48 by ministries. The payment made varies from expert to expert. The highest paid expert gets US \$ 5,000 per month (about Rs. 80,000). Here again the figure of 48 experts falling under the category as reported by Ministries cannot be accepted as correct as some British Council Volunteers, who are paid allowances of about Rs. 700/- to Rs. 850/- p.m., have been classified as Experts recruited and paid for from Sri Lanka funds?" That the report thereafter stated: "The statements of Experts furnished by the UN and C Plan offices in Sri Lanka can and for this study has been taken as correct viz., 180 UN Experts and 44 C Plan Experts, making a total of 224. Allowing for double counts etc., the total in respect of categories (iii) and (iv) of paragraph (i) (i.e., 'Experts provided by other

Foreign Governments/Agencies" and 'Experts recruited direct and paid for from Sri Lanka funds') which has been given as 136 by Ministries, may be reduced by 25% or 34 to 102. Some of these experts are paid salaries as high as US \$ 5,000 p.m. Others get as little as Rs. 750 p.m. Assuming that the average cost of experts falling under these two categories is about US \$ 1500 per month, the cost of the 102 experts falling under these two categories works out to US \$ 1,836,000 per year or Rs. 29,376,000 per year. Hence the total cost of Foreign Experts of all categories stationed in Sri Lanka and estimated at 326 experts in all works out to about Rs. 201 million per year."

That among the annexures to the report are a series of photostat advertisements in the classified columns of our daily papers which indicated that house-owners in Co'ombo were only willing to let houses to foreigners? That these advertisements reflected only one of the many sordid consequences of the invasion of this country by foreign experts and also by FTZ and private sector foreign tycoons and executives who think nothing of paying Rs. 15,000 a month for a biggish house which only a couple of years ago would have been hard to let at Rs. 2,000 a month? That houses that fetched Rs. 500 to Rs. 600 a month are let to foreigners for Rs. 6,000 a month? That this rent-hike has not only led to a horrendous shortage of houses for upper middle class people whose joint family income is in the region of Rs. 2000 to Rs. 5000 a month? That this group has had no alternative but to grab houses which lower middle class and even working class families had earlier rented—and pushed up the rents for these semi-slim and near-shanty houses ten times or more? That apart from this, this highly paid bunch of experts are an ubiquitous lot and they not only haunt the cocktail circuit but have begun to pervade social life in Co'ombo as well as in many outstations? That their spending habits and their "extravagance" has disrupted the way of life Sri Lankans have known? That for foreign experts with Rs. 70,000 a month income to pay Rs. 35 for a pound of prawns or Rs. 10 for a pint-sized pineapple is only fleabite, but can ordinary Sri Lankan family afford these prices?

IN SRI LANKA

- FOR A LONG TIME, only an overdoze of interpretative analyses of international news from one standpoint was available to the reading public.
- NOW, it is possible to know the other side as well.

Read

# NEW TIMES

—a Soviet Weekly of World Affairs—

0/35 cts. per copy

Rs. 18/00 one year's subscription (post free)

**PEOPLE'S PUBLISHING HOUSE Ltd,**

124, Kumaran Ratnam Road,

Colombo 2,

Telephone: 36111.

For Liberalisation

To Succeed



# **SMUGGLING**

**MUST BE STOPPED**

Why Let The Treasury

Be Robbed of Billions?

SPACE DONATED