

TRIBUNE

CEYLON NEWS REVIEW

Vol 19 No. 27

November 9, 1974

Cents 75

• BUDGET ESTIMATES • INTERNATIONAL BACKDROP

OUR PRINTING SCHEDULES are such that we cannot analyse or discuss the Budget which will be presented on November 6 in the National State Assembly in this issue. We can do so only in our next issue of November 16. In the meantime we can set out briefly the highlights for the Estimates for 1975 which were tabled in the NSA on October 29.

The estimates presented reveal of budgetary gap of Rs. 2816 million and this gap between the estimated revenue and expenditure for 1975 will be bridged by the Minister of Finance by means of additional taxation, borrowings, under expenditure and other measures which will be announced on Budget day on November 6.

THE LOCAL EXPENDITURE for 1975 is Rs. 7,341,531, 323. The total revenue estimated is Rs. 4,525,067,000 which is Rs. 116 million more than the previous year.

The main features of the revenue estimates tabled yesterday are a drop in import levies from Rs 214,170,000 to Rs. 200,320,000 an increase in the Ad Valorem tea tax to Rs. 188 million from Rs. 160 million this year; decline in Business turnover tax (manufacturing) from Ra. 473,500,000 this year to Rs. 468,500,000; an increase in the excise on tobacco from Rs. 375 million to Rs. 380 million; drop in import levies from Rs. 214,170, 000 to Rs. 200,320,000; an increase in the gross receipts of trading enterprises from Rs. 382,935,000 to Rs. 397,982,000; a drop in revenue from Foreign Exchange Entitlement Certificates (one of the principal sources of revenue) from Rs. 800 million to Rs. 775 million; an increase in export levies from Rs. 686,704,000 to Rs. 742,314,000; decline in licence taxes from Rs. 58,060,000 to Rs. 50,626,000.

An attempt has been made to channel resources to the

key sectors of agriculture, fisheries and industries. According to a rough break down of the capital budget a sum of Rs. 893 million has been earmarked for agriculture and fisheries, Rs 336 million for industries, Rs. 419 million for economic overheads (railway, transport, buildings etc); Rs. 96 million for social overheads and Rs. 240 million for administrative overheads (which includes a vote of Rs. 125 million for decentralisation of the budget and is for implementing the food production drive).

There is no doubt that this increased allocation of capital expenditure, especially in respect of Agriculture and Fisheries, is a very welcome feature in the new Budget. Considering the amount of foodstuffs and fish products this island still continues to import, all efforts to increase production—for which increased capital expenditure was essential—must receive the whole-hearted support of people.

There is increased capital expenditure for Ministries of Irrigation, Power and Highways, Agriculture and Lands and Transport. Highlights of expenditure in the Ministry of Irrigation, Power and Highways are an investments outlay of Rs. 239,750,000. A big item in this outlay is a sum of Rs. 168, 300,000 for the Mahaweli Development Board.

THE CAPITAL VOTES of the Ministry of Fisheries have been increased by Rs. 25 million to Rs. 67,865,904. The main components of this capital expenditure are Rs. 14,476,200 which is additional

INSIDE:

- TRIBUNANIA
—Iran, India
- INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
—Kissinger, S. Africa, Arabs
- ASTROLOGY
—As Metaphysics
- MYSTERY OF LEMURIA—7
—Proto-Indian Divinities
- A VILLAGE HOUSE—8
—Le Decor
- IS IT TRUE?
—Kalawewa

F O R S A L E

TWENTY FIVE (25) ACRES OF PADDY LAND

under a tank called Vilatikulam in the Mannar district: ideal for paddy two seasons or three for three months' variety of paddy: also excellent for chillies, soya beans and other crops: tank is fed by an Aru that never goes dry: catchment area large: bungalow with three bed rooms, drainage and water service: a diesel lighting plant tractors and trailers and a 3" water pump and other equipment. reasonable price

inspection and offers to:

R. J. Arnolda,

Vilatikulam Paddy Cultivation Scheme,

Madhu Church P. O.

Digitized by Noolaham Foundation.
noolaham.org | aavanaham.org

contribution to the capital of the Fisheries Corporation for improvements of fisheries harbours and to Pesalai Canning factory etc; Rs. 7,975,037 for purchase of equipment for Sri Lanka Fisheries Training Institute; Rs. 15,187,500 for purchase of equipment and construction of coastal fisheries; Rs. 7,050,000 for extension, demonstration and breeding centres for inland fisheries; Rs. 1,892,400 for an FAO-UNDP Skipjack fishery development and coastal fishery resources survey; Rs. 1,450,000 for Central Fisheries Research Institute on Crow Island; Rs. 3,583,285 for establishment of a Centre for Development and Marketing of Fish products.

Other capital outlays also seem to be made on healthy and rational lines taking into consideration the priorities in production which are most urgent today.

The government has also provided a sum of Rs. 152,523,420 as investment outlays for projects under the Ministry of Plantation Industry. Chief components of this vote are Rs. 8,306,250 for the Ceylon Coconut Authority which includes a Rs. 3 million subsidy on fertiliser; Rs. 2,325,243 to the State Plantation Corporation; Rs. 5,795,294 to the State Rubber Manufacturing Corporation; Rs. 7 million to the Coconut Research Board; Rs. 2,453,820 to the Sri Lanka Cashew Corporation. Assistance to the tea industry is provided by a vote of Rs. 125 million.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE of the Department of Highways has been upped from Rs. 25 million to Rs. 51 million mainly for continuation works (by widening approaches to New Kelani Bridge).

Under the votes of the Territorial Civil Engineering Services of this ministry there is provision of Rs. 60,722,900 for land, land improvements and structures outlay. These monies are to be used for improvements to roads and bridges in various parts of the island and for bitumen surfacing etc; a sum of Rs. 31 million is provided for improvement to major irrigation works in all parts of the island.

Other allocations are Rs. 700,000 to the capital of the State Development and Construction Corporation; Rs. 10 million to the Capital of the Sri Lanka Electricity Board as capi-

tal for the rural electrification program; Rs. 60,750,000 as contribution to capital to the River Valleys Development Board for expenditure on the Uda Walawe Scheme.

Under the loans outlay Rs. 70,500,000 is provided to the Sri Lanka Electricity Board for financing the Maskeliya Oya Project (which is to get soft loan financing from the International Development Association) and the Bowatenne Project which is being supported by the Asian Development Bank.

The investment outlays provided for the Ministry of Plantation Industry and the expenditure envisaged for the TCEO, State Construction, Electricity and the like are welcome and necessary.

Under the votes of the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands capital expenditure has been increased by Rs. 67,477,214 to Rs. 181,986,398 (Rs. 114,509,184 in 1974). There is an allocation of Rs. 108,144,250 for investments: the principal investments are Rs. 45,150 for the Sugar Corporation's Hingurana project; Rs. 22,193,000 for the Paddy Marketing Board (for construction of 4 silo boxes and a rice processing development centre); Rs. 4,800,000 for a Soya Bean Development Project; Rs. 7,960,000 for the National Livestock Development Board; Rs. 13,784,200 for Indo-Sri Lanka Project; Rs. 1,940,000 for the National Milk Board; Rs. 2 million to the Uda Rata Cooperative Estates Development Board and Rs. 510,000 to a company for Export Promotion of groundnuts.

The food subsidy bill for 1975 has skyrocketed to Rs. 1,092 million—an increase of Rs. 508 million over the current years subsidy (which is Rs. 583,966,000).

The main allotment under the subsidy is that for consumption of rice (free half measure to non income taxpayers) on the ration books. This absorbs Rs. 1,001,000,000 of the vote. The balance is accounted for by the following:—

Subsidy on sugar: Rs. 85 million: in other years sale of sugar yielded a profit to Government but after the cost of sugar imports rose despite Government measures to increase the price to the consumer its sale now is a loss entailing a subsidy.

Subsidy on infant milk foods: Rs. 6 million. The food subsidy has been computed for 1975 on the understanding that prices of sugar, rice, flour and milk do not rise above their present level.

THERE IS A TREMENDOUS INCREASE in capital outlays envisaged for Agriculture, but the cost of food subsidy has outpaced local production. The increased subsidy on locally produced food items like free rice (which are subsidised) will not cause as much worry for the government as the increased subsidy on imported food items (which still includes rice). As long as local production of food lags behind demand, rationing (which induces an inflationary spiral in the non-ration free market) and subsidising of certain essential items (infant milk food, sugar and rice) become inevitable.

The capital expenditure votes of the Housing and Construction Ministry have been increased by Rs. 22,830,035. The bulk of this increase goes to the Department of Buildings whose vote is Rs. 56,493,530. There is a capital vote of Rs. 17,114,955 for promotion of housing and enforcement of the Rent Protection of Tenants, ceiling on housing property and other acts.

The capital vote of the Ministry of Transport has been increased by Rs. 128 million, the bulk of the increase going to the Railway whose capital expenditure has been more than doubled to Rs. 168 million. Under the railway votes there is provision for Rs. 15,265,000 for local construction of wagons and passenger coaches. In the estimate for the purchase, overhaul renewal, assembly and improvement of rolling stock there is a capital vote of Rs. 125,425,000 compared to a vote of Rs. 36,419,173 for this year. This big increase is chiefly accounted for by the following items of expenditure: purchase of 1,500 horse power 14 broad gauge engines (Rs. 41 million); Rs. 14 million for purchase of railway carriages; Rs. 9 million as an annual payment for purchase in the past of 28 diesel engines from the UK and 45 diesel engines from West Germany Rs. 7,551,900 for purchase of 20 power sets.

The vote for decentransing the budget for implementing the food drive has been reduced by Rs. 50

Budget Estimates

million to Rs. 125 million under the votes of the Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs.

The Capital votes of the Ministry of Industries and Scientific Affairs have been increased to Rs. 331,238,423 from Rs. 123,102,520 provided this year. The main items in this big increase are: Rs. 44 million as additional capital to the National Textiles Corporation; Rs 10,377,010 as additional capital to the Ceylon Ceramics Corporation; Rs. 10,400,000 as additional capital to the Steel Corporation, Rs. 182,398,673 as additional capital to the Eastern Paper Mills Corporation for the second paper factory at Embilipitiya.

Rs. 33,600,000 as additional capital for the Ceylon Mineral sands Corporation for the second ilmenite expansion program; Rs. 9 million as additional capital for the Paranthan Chemicals Corporation.

Such in brief is a breakdown of the Estimates which have been tabled. TRIBUNE has repeatedly pointed out that this year's Budget will be presented in the backdrop of a gloomy international economic situation. US spokesman and officials are striving hard to convince the world that the present recession will not lead to a world slump, but the galloping inflation in the USA and elsewhere is admittedly the worst evil facing the world, especially the capitalist system.

Elsewhere in this issue we have published an article by a US left-wing writer, Harry Freeman, who sees no bright future for capitalism in the USA or anywhere else in the world. We have also published a statement by Kissinger in which he seeks to argue that the present economic troubles of the world stem mainly from the sudden increase of oil prices by the OPEC countries and he points out that the quadrupling of oil prices will mainly hit the smaller and poorer nations.

Whilst US spokesmen still exude an aura of optimism, commentators in Europe are much more pessimistic. In London, Paris, Bonn and more especially in Rome, there are gloomy forebodings about the immediate economic and monetary perspectives for the world. Mr. Michel Jobert, former Foreign Minister in the Pompidou Government and now a highly res-

pected intellectual in France, believes that Western civilisation is changing considerably. "We will not live tomorrow as we have lived for the past 150 years", he points out. Mr. Jobert is convinced that the future of the Western world lies in the relationship evolved between the Western and the developing world—the former represents a highly technical and industrial civilisation.

In this connection it is interesting to recall that at the last annual general meeting of the World Bank and the IMF in Washington, the Iranian Finance Minister, Mr. Hushang Ansary, had advised the industrialist countries to concede that "cheap oil and other raw materials are no longer available". Therefore the developed nations should either change their lifestyles or "do away with social ills and increase productivity". Mr. Ansary yesterday quoted the Shah of Iran's repeated warnings that "permissive societies can no longer hope to maintain their high living standards. They must do away with the symptoms of excessive consumption."

The West complains only about the high oil prices, he said, while "little mention is being made of the staggering impact of the phenomenal rise in the price of food, fertilizers, manufactured products, and industrial raw materials." Mr. Ansary defended high oil prices, contending that the growth of the "handful of industrialised countries" was based on cheap oil and other cheap raw materials. Prices of wheat, sugar, fertilizers, paper and many other products increased between four to 15 times in the 1970s. "It is pointless therefore to ascribe the problems of inflation to the price of oil", he said.

At the same meeting, the West German Finance Minister took a contrary view—a view espoused by most Western economists and political leaders. Mr. Hans Apel, in his speech, urged the oil producing countries to use their immense wealth without endangering the "political and social structure" of nations affected by the increase of oil prices. Carelessness might boomerang, and "chaos and economic anarchy" which might occur in some countries could not be isolated, Mr. Apel said.

"The desire of oil-producing countries to invest their surpluses profitably and safely must be reconciled with the legitimate need of the international community to ensure sound and stable capital flows and to keep political and social structures intact", he said.

"Those who create chaos and economic anarchy intentionally or by ignorance should not believe that their particular interests and their future will remain unaffected", Mr. Apel said.



Founded in 1954

**A Journal of Ceylon and
World Affairs**

Published Weekly
Every Saturday

NOVEMBER 9, 1974
Vol. 19 No. 27

SUBSCRIPTION

RATES

One Year	Rs. 37-50
Two Years	Rs. 62-50
Three Years	Rs. 87-50

Write for particulars:-

For surface and air mail rates
to foreign countries

Post Free in Sri Lanka

TRIBUNE,
43, Dawson Street,
Colombo-2.
Telephone: 33172

Reports from West European capitals continue to be gloomy. France, Germany and the United States, yesterday provided sombre forecasts about the scale of world recession this winter. Fears that the American recession could even turn into a slump have led to big falls in prices on Wall Street. There is a great deal of panic selling in the foreign exchange markets in Western capitals and both the dollar and the sterling have lost ground.

In West Germany for the first time, Government forecast one million unemployed towards the year end, inspite of the fact that thousands of "guest workers" are leaving Germany every month. Such signs of a developing world recession again provided the sombre background to yesterday's call by the French President, Mr. Giscard d'Estaing of international action to prevent "a catastrophe". In France as in other countries, unemployment is rising rapidly and an increasing number of commercial bankruptcies is being reported in U.K. and Germany.

The decision of the West German central bank to cut two key interest rates by one per cent yesterday reflects the growing concern at the slowdown in West German industry—mainly because of the recession in export markets. In France, unemployment figures may cross the half a million mark by the end of this year. In Italy the situation is "almost hopeless" and there are now fears about the financial stability of some Italian banks which has led to Government boosting the prime bank deposit rates by one per cent to an all time record of 18.5 per cent to-day.

The new labour Government in Britain, with its paper-thin majority faces a grave economic situation. After making what to British Labour was extremely leftwing statements during the elections, Harold Wilson on assuming power has sought to veer to the Right by promising to assist the private sector "in the mixed economy" that prevailed in Britain. Britain's economy is in an chaotic predicament and all hopes here are pinned on the new budget on November 12. The number of companies with laoge work force needing financial support is growing at an alarming

rate. The situation on the industrial front is equally hopeless. Right now Scotland is paralysed by a number of strikes. Wage increases are inevitable and no one is sure how to combat inflation and growing unemployment.

It is also interesting to note that western countries had placed a great deal of hope on the Arab summit which met in Rabat recently. In fact, this meeting was considered so important (especially in regard to the stability in West Asia) that governments in Europe had delayed some import policy decisions pending the outcome of the Rabat meeting. European leaders had great fears for the future if the summit was not able to work out a "durable formula" for peace in West Asia.

In the meantime, the French President, Mr. Valery Giscard d'Estaing, has called for the convening of an international conference early next year to solve the world economic crisis by guaranteeing the income of oil producing countries. Speaking at a news conference that the world was heading for economic disaster, Mr. Giscard demanded that the conference be limited to ten to 12 nations, representing in equal number the three groups of nations: oil producers, industrialised consumers and developing countries. "The conference would determine the guarantees which might consist of pegging the level of oil prices to the level of economic development and set up the threshold at which the guarantees would be applied", he said.

He warned France would continue to boycott the U.S. sponsored 12-nation western energy group because it feared it would lead to a collision with the oil producers.

In the meantime, inside the OPEC there is growing antagonism between Iran on the one side and the Arab Countries of West Asia on the other. They fear the dominant military position now being assumed by the Shah in the Persian Gulf—and this has fateful consequences for the Arab States which border the Gulf.

This is only part of the backdrop in which the next Budget of Sri Lanka will be formulated and presented. The economic situation in

the world is uncertain and unstable. This world wide instability geared to a galloping and uncontrollable inflation, has permeated into the economic life of Sri Lanka. Our economic troubles are, no doubt, partly due to the uncertainties which prevail in the world today, but they are accentuated by domestic and parochial factors peculiar to Sri Lanka some of which arise from the policies followed by governments from Independence in 1948.

Tribunania

- PM's Success in Iran
- India-Bomb Outrages

PRIME MINISTER SIRIMAVO BANDARANAIKE'S visit to Iran, on the basis of the joint communique and the reports from Tehran has been most beneficial to Sri Lanka in the current situation. The joint communique did not mention the amount of aid or assistance obtained, but news agencies reporting from Teheran had stated that the amount involved was \$ 67 million. This has now been confirmed by the Prime Minister herself in interview published in the *Daily News*, 4/11/74. (This was also broadcast over the SLBC)

This is what she had said: "we have returned with a commitment of 67 million dollars or Rs. 435 million. It is for the people to say whether it is substantial or not. About specific items, you have seen that project aid is pledged for the fertiliser industry. This has of course a direct bearing on our present needs and our agricultural program. The rest is commodity aid and down payments on Iran's imports from us."

There is not the slightest doubt that the aid is most substantial—far more than had been envisaged even by optimists. Estimates anticipated in the political corridors of pro-governmental lobbies and in diplomatic circles had put the amount of aid that might become available from Iran at anything from 25 million dollars to 50 million dollars. The aid that has been

obtained is nearly 33 percent more than the highest amount that had been envisaged.

Part of this aid is project aid: for the fertilizer project for which aid has already been promised by the ADB and India. The amount which would come from Iran would naturally depend on what the ADB and India finally provide. After this comes out of the 67 million dollars, the balance would be reckoned to be commodity aid and also cash down payments for goods Iran would buy from Sri Lanka. Already it has been noted that Iran will buy one million tons of cement from this country. The fact that Iran has been willing to make cash advances in foreign exchange for goods Sri Lanka will supply her is clear indications that Iran is willing to help Sri Lanka meet her foreign exchange gap difficulties. With Iran being so generous about making cash advances for goods to be bought, there is no doubt that the details about interest rates and terms of repayment would be equally generous in regard to the amounts for project and commodity aid.

In her interview published in the *Daily News*, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike had rightly emphasised that such aid had been forthcoming from Iran because of the policy of non-alignment this country had followed. "By following a genuinely non-aligned and independent foreign policy we have been able to win, I believe, the respect and friendship of all countries. I think our readiness to help all our people in their time of difficulty is a sign of this friendship that we have earned through the pursuit of a correct foreign policy."

Her answers to two other questions set out the position of Sri Lanka on significant foreign policy matters.

(Q.) On the political side the Shah's declarations on regional co-operation in economic affairs and defence especially on his eastern tour in September have attracted great international interest and speculation. What are your impressions?

(A) We found that basically these ideas are by no means in conflict with our own thinking. In fact, on regional economic co-operation, the people of

this country will remember that it was an idea very close to the late Mr. Bandaranaike's thinking. Not only did he speak on this subject several times in our Parliament and develop them into concrete proposals but he did discuss these ideas with other leaders like Mr. Nehru. In my talks with both the Iranian leaders and Mrs. Gandhi, I mentioned this fact. And it is possible that Sri Lanka, at some convenient date in the future will support some invitations in this regard.

(Q.) On the Indian Ocean, there is your proposal accepted by the United Nations and there is the recent declaration by the Shah....

(A.) From the beginning, Iran has supported our idea of eliminating tensions in this area caused by big power rivalries. This is necessary for the protection of our independence and sovereignty: and for the stability that is essential for our peaceful, internal development that is, the economic development of our people, the peoples of all these Indian ocean states. The Shah's idea of a nuclear free zone is also aimed at the same objectives and therefore there is, as the joint communique said, a close similarity of views between us.

SRI LANKA'S PRIME MINISTER had stopped over at New Delhi on her way back and she had a 80 to 90 minute private talk with the Indian Prime Minister in which she probably apprised Mr. Indira Gandhi of her talks in Islamabad, Bonn, Bucharest and Belgrade, and Iran. The Indian PM is believed to have discussed the Kissinger visit. Whilst the two Prime Ministers had been engaged in discussing these matters, privately between themselves, the officials had gone into conference updating pending bi-lateral matters. It was thought that joint power grid venture was going a little slowly and a team from Sri Lanka is expected to go to India shortly for discussions.

All reports from New Delhi indicate that the relations between the two countries are being maintained on a high level of cordiality, understanding and friendship. Reports in political circles in Colombo also confirm this view.

In this setting the two bomb incidents in Madras, one at the Deputy High Commissioner's Office and the other at the Maha Bodhi

Society's buildings are no doubt aimed at disturbing this growing friendship between the governments and peoples of the two countries. A flag of the TUF had been planted at the Deputy High Commissioner's Office, but whether this was an act of provocation or was intended to mislead the investigators is not known.

But whoever was responsible for these outrages, they must condemned as deplorable acts of incipient terrorism. Though amateurishly conceived and executed, wittingly or unwittingly, without doing any damage to life and person, the fact that the attempt was made at all is a warning to all who have the interest of both countries at heart that that there are forces at work which seek to undermine the growing friendship between India and Sri Lanka.

If an underground militant wing of the TUF was responsible for this, then the leaders of the TUF must sit up and take notice that their own position is being seriously undermined by such stupid terrorism. It is one thing to agitate and fight for legitimate grievances and demands in a constitutional and democratic manner and a totally different thing to

Delhi Curb on Pan Shops

New Delhi,

The functioning of "pan", cigarette and aerated water shops in the capital after 11 p.m. has been banned by the authorities for a period of two months. In an order issued under Section 144 Cr.PC, the District Magistrate, Mr. V. K. Kapoor, said that reports had been received that pan, cigarette and aerated water shops, which were kept open till late in the night, attracted gatherings of persons, who often were a source of annoyance to the neighbourhood and indulged in quarrels.

These quarrels, the said had the potentiality of escalating into riotous situations causing disturbances of public tranquillity and endangering human life. The order comes into force with immediate effect.

resort to such terroristic blackmail to achieve political ends. TUF leadership will do well to investigate on its own whether some of its youthful supporters—many of them may be students in Tamilnadu—were in any way even remotely connected with these outrages, and if they were the TUF must take immediate steps to shed itself of any taint which will stem from such terrorism.

The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, Mr. M. Karunanidhi, has deplored the explosions in the premises of Sri Lanka Deputy High Commission and the Maha Bodhi Society in Madras and warned that the Government would come down heavily on those indulging in such violent activities. These incidents deserved to be condemned, he said.

Mr. Karunanidhi told reporters that the DMK Ministry's sympathy towards the cause of Ceylon Tamils was a different matter. But, at the same time, the Government would not tolerate violence on the part of anyone to settle issues.

According to a news report from Madras, the Chief Minister had said "the police were already investigating into the incidents. As a precautionary measure, the Government had instructed the Police to provide guards at the premises of Sri Lanka Deputy High Commission, the Maha Bodhi Society and other institutions connected with Sri Lanka, he said.

"The City Police, who have registered cases under the Explosives Act in connection with the incidents, suspect the hand of the 'same agency' in the two blasts. The modus operandi in both the cases appeared to be the same and the intention did not seem to kill or harm anyone, according to them.

"Explosives experts appear to feel that the blast in the two cases were caused by high explosive bombs. The explosives used in both the places are considered to be similarly, containing nitroglycerine or nitrocellulose in a container wrapped in jute fibre and triggered from a distance through a fuse.

"The one-foot-wide crater in the Maha Bodhi Society building and the shattering of doors and win-

dow panes could have been caused only by a high explosive bomb and not by a crude country bomb, the experts feel. Chemical analysis of the debris also seems to have confirmed this view. No metal fragments were found on the scene and the experts ruled out a time bomb which required an elaborate mechanism and metal parts.

"A man dressed in dhoti and jubba, who was found moving about suspiciously near the Maha Bodhi Society last night, has been detained by the Police for interrogation."

The DMK Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has very correctly and properly condemned these acts. Tamil leaders in Sri Lanka also have a duty to condemn these bomb outrages. Whether the perpetrators of these bomb explosions were TUF sympathisers or not, such terrorism can only arise from a misconceived approach to politics which will damage the cause such elements seek to espouse.

The outrages could have also been caused by dangerous or mischievous elements who do not want India and Sri Lanka to maintain cordial and friendly relations—for geopolitical reasons in South Asia, in Asia or in the world as a whole. The governments and peoples of India and Sri Lanka should meet this new menace to their friendship in with alertness and mutual understanding.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

BY ARIEL

- KISSINGER
- SOUTH AFRICA
- ARAB SUMMIT

DR. HENRY KISSINGER is on the move again. He was in West Asia recently making a tour of leading Arab capitals endeavouring to effect a peace settlement with

Israel. Then, he went to Moscow and succeeded in smoothing out differences which had arisen between the USA and USSR in regard to trade. A powerful lobby of US senators, led by Jackson, had held up the development of bilateral trade—until the Soviet Union relaxed its rules on the emigration of Jews. Misunderstandings had arisen owing the sudden cancellation of Russian grain purchases by President Ford. Satisfactory compromises now seem to have arrived at in Moscow and the way has been paved for a Ford-Brezhnev summit in Siberia, near Vladivostok, in the last week of November, where it is expected that further progress would be announced in the second SALT agreement.

From Moscow, Kissinger had gone to India. He had spent four days in New Delhi and from all accounts, Kissinger seems to have succeeded in clearing up many of the misunderstandings and suspicions that had strained US-Indian relations in recent years, and more especially after the Bangladesh war of December 1971. Nixon and Kissinger had "tilted" very much in favour of Pakistan before, during and after the Bangladesh war, but it would now seem that the USA and Kissinger had decided to correct this tilt and accept that India as the biggest and most important country in South Asia and stop the earlier attempts to treat India and Pakistan on a basis of parity. From New Delhi, Kissinger had flown to Dacca, and then to Islamabad, where Prime Minister Bhutto had quipped about Kissinger's *waltzing matilda act* to correct the tilt about which he had been accused. Pakistan had been wanting the US arms embargo to the sub-continent after the 1965 Indo-Pak war to be lifted, but Bhutto does not seem to have succeeded in achieving this. Kissinger then went to Kabul, to Afghanistan, a country against which Bhutto had been breathing fire and thunder in recent months owing to the troubles he faced among the Baluchis. Kissinger finally wound up this tour in this region with a stop in Teheran where he no doubt sought to persuade the Shah that it would prudent to reduce oil prices—at least in order to keep the capitalist system going.

Whilst Kissinger's diplomatic activities in every capital is of consu-

ming global interest, what he did, said and accomplished in New Delhi, Dacca and Islamabad are of paramount interest to Sri Lanka. An attempt will be made in this column next week to evaluate the impact of Kissinger's visit to the three major countries of the sub-continent. In the meantime, what is of paramount importance for the peace of the world is the forthcoming summit between Ford and Brezhnev near Vladivostock. A despatch from Washington, datelined October 30 set out the position thus: "The U.S. President, Mr. Gerald Ford, yesterday voiced cautious optimism about U.S.-Soviet negotiations, saying differences had been narrowed in talks between the Secretary of State, Dr. Henry Kissinger and the Communist Party leader, Mr. Leonid Brezhnev in Moscow last week. Mr. Ford hoped that his planned summit with Mr. Brezhnev in Vladivostock on Nov. 23 and 24 would eventually lead to new agreements on limiting nuclear arms. He did not predict when the new accords would be reached—to build on the pacts signed during the 1972 Moscow summit—but Government officials said they were looking for success when Mr. Brezhnev visits the U.S. next summer."

IN THE UNITED NATIONS, one of the most significant event was the triple veto cast by the USA, Britain and France—the first in the UN's 29-year old history—in the Security Council on October 30 to save South Africa from expulsion from the world organisation. The Afro-Asian bloc, which had made a concerted drive to outlaw South Africa from the U.N. for its apartheid policies, its violation of U.N. sanctions against the rebel white minority regime in Rhodesia and its refusal to free the South-West Africa territory of Namibia, however claimed it had won a "moral victory" because the expulsion resolution received ten votes—one more than the required majority—in the 15 member council. While Australia and Costa Rica abstained. Australia joined three Asian, three African, one Latin American and two Soviet bloc delegations to vote for the ouster. The Soviet Union and China were among the ten.

The resolution that was blocked by the triple veto had asked the Council to recommend expulsion

to the General Assembly where the Afro-Asian members have more than the requisite votes to throw South Africa out. Article 6 of the U.N. Charter states that a member who has persistently violated the principles of the Charter may be expelled by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council. On September 30 the General Assembly, which is veto proof, had by a huge majority asked the Council to undertake a review of South Africa's relations with the U.N. in the light of its Charter violations.

Even though Britain, France and the U.S. used their veto power to defeat the Afro-Asian move, they did not spare South Africa from criticism—they condemned apartheid policies followed by South Africa as "being ugly, unchristian and repugnant". But the U.S. explained its veto by arguing that it would be a shattering precedent which would damage the U.N. structure and that by keeping South Africa in and putting pressure on it within the U.N. it could be induced to moderate its ways. The British and French contended that if the move to outlaw South Africa succeeded, then it would encourage the Afro-Asian majority to undertake a similar move against such countries as Israel.

STIRRING EVENTS are also, no doubt, taking place in every country in western Europe. In Portugal, the armed services coup has led to the flowering of a transitional democratic state—pending a new constitution and a general elections—where the communists, socialists and other leftists have been legalised after nearly 50 years of illegality. In Greece, where the Junta quit after the Cyprus debacle, the Karamanlis government is seeking to re-introduce democratic government and has legalised the Communist Party which has been outlawed ever since 1945. In Spain alone, in the whole of Europe, is the Communist Party still illegal, but in recent months according to the *Newsweek*, Communists have de facto legality on an individual basis. In Portugal, the leader of the CP has become a member of the Cabinet, and the restraint and moderation he has shown has led political observers to suggest that a new wind has begun to sweep the communist

movements in Western Europe. In Britain, a first class row has developed within the Labour Party on many issues of policy, and in the Tory Party there is a concerted move to edge Heath out as leader—but no suitable replacement has yet appeared on the scene. The West German government has suffered several setbacks in provincial elections, and the Chancellor, Helmut Schmidt, had gone on his first visit to Moscow at the end of October in a bid to re-establish the rapport which Brandt had forged with the Soviet leaders.

But more important than anything happening in Europe, or anywhere else, was the Seventh Arab Summit held in Rabat, in Morocco in the last week of October. The decisions arrived at this summit hold the key to peace in West Asia.

Undoubtedly the most significant result arrived at was the final acceptance by King Hussein of Jordan to recognise the PLO (led by Yasser Arafat) as the sole representative of the Palestinians. At one stage, the whole summit was on the verge of collapse, owing to the rival claims of King Hussein and the PLO, but a last minute compromise had saved the situation. Hussein has agreed to recognise the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people and has accepted the principle of Palestinian autonomy on the West Bank of the Jordan river after Israeli occupation is ended. The PLO has conceded that a Jordanian delegation should speak for the Palestinians at the Geneva conference, though the delegation would include some members of the PLO.

In this connection, it should be recalled that the West Bank which was under Jordanian administration was overrun by the Israelis in the 1967 war. The Israeli Government has however forbidden Jewish settlers to colonise the area and the Arab residents have been allowed to cross over to Jordan if they wish. They are also allowed to have their own local government and take up jobs in Israeli. Despite opposition from some political parties, the Israeli Government had come to the view that after negotiation with King Hussein the West Bank area might be returned to Jordan with some military safe-

guards. The King himself, under pressure from other Arab States, had envisaged a referendum in the area after the Israeli occupation had ended. Both Israel and Jordan were formerly flatly opposed to recognition of the PLO which they regarded as a terrorist organisation pledged to destroy both their regimes. But the leadership of the PLO, under Mr. Arafat's guidance, has recently moved in the direction of moderation and constructive statesmanship and has been accepted by all the Arab States as the true spokesman of the Palestinians. It proposes to form a government-in-exile which would speak for all Palestinians—those in the West Bank region as well as all the refugees who are now in other Arab States.

Israel has proclaimed that it would not sit down at the negotiating table at Geneva with the PLO. But this difficulty has been overcome with the PLO's agreement to let the Jordanian delegation speak for the Palestinians. Whether Israel will give up its opposition to recognising the PLO as the representative of the Palestinians in the future remains to be seen. Much will depend on the stand the PLO will take during the forthcoming Palestine debate in the U.N. General Assembly. If this proves to be reasonable, then Israel will face pressure from its friends to deal with Mr. Arafat.

It must be also noted that Arab leaders ended their summit conference after approving \$ 2,350 millions in aid for Arab troops and a joint command for both guerilla and regular armies facing Israel. The summit, had ordered the creation of a four-power joint command over the armies of Egypt, Syria, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Jordan to ensure co-ordination of military strategy in the event of a new showdown with Israel. Previously, the Arabs had a joint Egyptian-Syrian command.

The contribution agreed upon was a modification of a Syrian proposal for an initial global sum of \$ 13,350 millions, which a number of Arab States compained was too high. Conference sources said Egypt and Syria would each get \$ 1,000 millions from the fund. Jordan will get \$ 250 millions and the PLO \$ 100 millions.

An additional \$ 150 millions would be made available to the People's Republic of (South) Yemen for constructing a base at the Bab al-Mandeb Straits controlling the entrance to the Red Sea. Egyptian ships had blockaded the Straits during the war last October. In addition, \$ 30 millions would be contributed for an Arab information campaign.

Commenting on Arab Summit, commentator Bathuk Gathani, in the *Hindu* summed up the outcome thus: "The decision of the Seventh Arab summit at Rabat, Morocco, to back the Palestinian guerilla movement as the instrument to liberate Israeli-occupied territories of Arab Palestine will have a profound impact on the cause of peace in West Asia. At long last after nearly three decades the Arab Palestinians appear to be getting along somewhere and for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader, Mr. Yasser Arafat, this is a moment of honour and glory. (According to UPI the PLO will soon set up a Government in exile as the first step in creating an independent State on Jordanian territory couped by Israel).

"This decision could also upset the balance of power in West Asia from the Western point of view. For practical purposes King Hussein of Jordan accepted defeat when last night he gave his support to the unanimous resolution of the Arab summit conference. One could also say that this was an act of benevolent statesmanship on the part of King Hussein who is perhaps the most misunderstood personality in West Asia.

"King Hussein's decision is a major reverse for the Western Powers because the U.S. and Britain had hoped that with King Hussein's claims to the West Bank of the Jordan river some sort of workable arrangement would be possible which would keep the new State of Palestine in the Western fold.

He went on to state: "Some observers at Rabat describe the Arab communique as 'a subtle blend of polemic, compromise and ambiguity', but this does not alter the fact that the chances of a possible confrontation between the Arabs and Israelis have now increased unless the Westerners can tone down Israeli determination not to deal with Palestinian Arab

leaders. The Arab leaders have also undertaken to support the PLO 'in exercising its responsibility in the national and international fields.'"

"The Arab leaders will now embark upon the task of first putting their own house in order. Jordan, Syria, Egypt and the PLO have been asked to sort out and define the relationship to each other. This move enables King Hussein to remain respectably within the Arab fold and would give him an opportunity to establish a healthy relationship with the Palestinians. Last night Mr. Arafat was unanimous enough to thank King Hussein for his "patriotic attitude" which prompted King Hussein in turn to voice his support for the Palestinian cause.

"There is also a lot of speculation here that the Geneva conference may not be resumed for a long time and it is felt that it is now up to the Western Powers to make Israelis sit with Palestinian Arab leaders.

"The new Arab Palestine state will emerge on the West Bank of river Jordan. The Arab leaders have not reiterated their earlier demand that this would be the first stage in their recovery of all Palestine which would mean total elimination of Israel. For Israel there is little choice now because the Arabs are prepared to recognise Israel's pre-1967 boundaries and it is out of the former Jordanian territory that a new Palestine will emerge."

In Tel Aviv, the Israeli Prime Minister, Mr. Yitzhak Rabin said that the outcome of the Arab summit conference in Morocco was bad news for Israel. The results of the conference might force changes in Israeli policy and complicate the chances for negotiations on a West Asia settlement, he hinted in a speech to the Knesset (parliament). Mr. Rabin also said that the U.S. Secretary of State, Dr. Kissinger would be coming to Israel shortly.

FOR NEWS
BEHIND THE NEWS

read
TRIBUNE
regularly

Addressing a gathering of students the Israeli Defence Minister, Mr. Shimon Peres said Israel was willing to negotiate with Jordan on the return of some parts of the occupied west bank of the Jordan. But he ruled out any talks with the PLO on creation of an independent State, which he said would bring Soviet missiles to the gates of Jerusalem.

But, the U.S. President viewed the matter differently. A report from Washington stated that the U.S. President Mr. Gerald Ford said that Israel should be ready to negotiate with the PLO—heightening speculation that American

pressure will be brought to bear to get Israel to abandon its opposition to talks with 'terrorists'.

"But State Department sources said the Secretary of State, Dr. Henry Kissinger was highly pessimistic about Israel talking with the PLO and even thought it would take another war to solve the West Asia problem.

Mr. Ford told an impromptu press conference in Washington he was not certain what impact the Arab summit resolution to hand over to the PLO all territory conceded by Israel, would have 'on our role in the Middle East.'

"Mr. Ford hoped the summit decisions would not impede progress towards peace. 'We feel that there must be a continued movement towards the settlement of problems between Israel and Egypt on the one hand, between Israel and Jordan or the PLO on the other and of the problems between Israel and Syria of another category'.

Kissinger is scheduled to be in the Middle East this week and it is yet to be seen whether he can persuade Israel to recognize the PLO—for on this now depends the immediate future of peace in the Middle East.

CHRONICLE

OCTOBER 3 — OCTOBER 4

A DIARY OF EVENTS IN SRI LANKA AND THE WORLD
COMPILED FROM ENGLISH-LANGUAGE DAILIES
PUBLISHED IN COLOMBO.

THURSDAY OCTOBER, 3: The Prime Minister Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike, while inaugurating the international Seminar on Surveying and Land Economy held at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall yesterday said that in Sri Lanka the people are trying to build up a society which is egalitarian and fair and the country is poor, eighty per cent of its population gets an income less than Rs. 400 a month, unemployment is fairly high, therefore the policies of the Government are directed towards the achievement of economic emancipation and social justice. There will be special buses and trains opening between Jaffna and other parts of the country when the Prime Minister makes her first official visit to Jaffna on the 5th and 6th of this month. The independent Member for Jaffna, Mr. C. X. Martyn, welcoming the Prime Minister's visit to Jaffna, has said that dialogue and not confrontation is the correct and effective approach to problems of the Tamils. According to the *Daily News*, on account of the unforseen difficulties faced by the country since January 1972, the Five Year Plan is being reviewed on a directive by the Prime Minister: the Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs has already appointed new sectoral committees for the purpose. Mr. Felix Dias Bandaranaike, Minister of Public Administration, Local Government, Home Affairs and Justice has directed the heads of various Departments under his Ministry that all letters to the Ministry should be replied within a period of three weeks failing which the file must be put up to him for an immediate decision. The President of the World Bank, Mr. Robert Mc Namara, has cited Sri Lanka as one of the poor developing countries facing "near disaster" as a result of rising world inflation together with massive increases in oil prices and a show down in economic growth of industrial nations during 1974. The United States Secretary of State, Dr. Henry Kissinger, will visit India from October

27 to 30: from New Delhi he will go on to Bangladesh Pakistan and Afghanistan. The Australian Government announced that it has temporarily suspended its immigration programme to ease the country's unemployment problem.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4: Infants within the city of Colombo are being issued with milk cards, printed on the reverse of their sugar cards: sugar cards are issued till an infant is one year old and issued at places where ration books are normally issued. According to the *Daily Mirror*, the Joint Council of Trade Union Organisations (JCTUO) has decided to ask for a wage increase of Rs. 75 for all categories of workers drawing a monthly pay packet of less than Rs. 800/-: the JCTUO Secretariat will meet again next week to ratify this demand and several other political demands calling for the nationalisation of banks and company estates. All preparations for the visit of the Prime Minister to the Northern province tomorrow are now complete. According to the *Daily News*, co-operatives were found to be the worst offenders selling under weight or short measure during price control raids conducted on co-operatives and private trades between March and August this year. Sir Kirkby Laing, President of the British Institution of Civil Engineers, is due in Sri Lanka tomorrow: Sir Laing will be here till October 9. The Prime Minister yesterday appealed to the Maha Sangha to create a proper awareness in the people regarding the food campaign: the Premier who addressed a 'Vipassana Bhavana Samithiya' in Colombo yesterday told that Sri Lanka is not that badly off as Bangladesh and Ethiopia with regard to food. The *Daily News* has carried a correction with reference to a news item published on October 1 that 'Five UNP Councillors reported to Party High Command:' the five Members of the Municipal Council state that the statement of the Chief UNP Whip in the news report that the five voted in favour of an allowance being paid to the councillors is incorrect. Dr. Aberahman Khene, Secretary General of the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) issued a warning in France yesterday that oil prices will continue rising. China defended the Arab oil producers price increases and blamed the imperialist system for present world economic crisis. Greece, which was under a military Government for seven years until July will hold parliamentary elections on November 11.

LETTER

Astrology As Astro-Metaphysics

Sir,

It is really gratifying to note that in your Journal, renowned for its rationalism and radicalism, so much of space has been devoted for an impartial study of Astrology on 26/10/74. Your review of the recent Congress of Astrologers held at Paris is truly instructive and interesting. You have rendered a great service for improving the image of the sacred science which has suffered much at the hands of mercenary charlatans in Sri Lanka and India, as rightly pointed out by you.

As a student of both the Eastern and Western Systems of this subject for more than half a century, and not practised for money at any time, I am in a position to support some of the conclusions arrived at by the Congress. I heartily agree with the statement of Mr Lambert Braky of Belgium that "we can determine critical periods but not details. We are not prophets."

We are still suffering from the consequences of the conjunction that took place in 1962 in the sign of Capricorn. The present world economic crisis will go on till the close of the decade. What is in store for the next decade (1982-1992) is of a far more serious nature because the conjunctions during that period are of the slow-moving and distant planets like Neptune, Pluto, Uranus with Saturn, which is the most distant and slow-moving one for the average astrologer in Sri Lanka and India.

In the same way as the conjunction of quick moving planets, like Mercury, Venus and Mars with Saturn affects the individual lives, the meeting of the distant and major planets affect the affairs of the globe—its oceans and continents on a colossal basis. The first such conjunction is expected in 1982 and the last one before the dawn of the 21st century is in 1992-93. Between both these there is one in 1988-89: Libra, Sagittarius and Capricorn are the three signs affected. Pluto is one of the planets involved in this group-

ing. It rules Atomic energy. As such it would be wise for members of the Nuclear Club to tread cautiously during this critical period.

The Congress is perfectly correct in its conclusion that Capitalism is doomed by the end of this period. But I am not sure that the hope expressed by the President of the Congress Mr. Paul Colombet, that the 3rd world war would not take place will prove prophetic. Pluto's malignant influence is too strong. Besides, the Saturn-Neptune conjunction aggravates it. However, one thing is certain—the dawn of a new Cosmic Age, as a result of the sufferings.

Incidentally, it may interest your readers to learn that in January 1939, I wrote an article in the Jaffna Tamil monthly "Tamil Mahal" warning the people the world was entering a period of darkness in September 1939 and there would be no end to the suffering till the end of 1945. Many people

ridiculed me for writing it. Ultimately one pundit, from Vannarponnai had 10,000 copies of it reprinted as a folder in May 1940 for free distribution. One copy of it along with an English translation was sent to H. M. King George VI of Great Britain, with a covering letter hinting that their Empire was likely to lose certain of their possessions in Asia in a world conflagration. It needs no mention that there was acknowledgement for it. The same thing repeated itself in 1962 between Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and the present writer. This correspondence was published in April 1962 in a Bangalore Journal and finds an appropriate place in the Selection of my writings now in print at the Atna-Jyoti Nilayam, Nawalapitiya.

Thanking you,

K. Ramachandra

Jayanthipura,
Talagama.
27/10/74

THE MYSTERY OF LEMURIA—7

Proto-Indian Civilisation and Divinities

By A. Kondratov

The origin of the proto-Indian civilisation, as I have already mentioned above, still remains unclear. We do not know when and where it had its birth and with what earlier culture it was connected. Not only the origin, but the ruin of the mysterious civilisation in India gives rise to many hypotheses and arguments. Why and when did it perish? The American geologist Rakes and other like-minded scholars believe that the ruin was caused by a gigantic catastrophe. According to other scientists, the ruin was brought about by the decay of the irrigation system and the erosion of the soil. Still others think that the proto-Indian civilisation was swept out of existence by the invading militant Aryan nomadic tribes. Which of these hypotheses is true will be proved by future investigations including underwater archaeological excavations. Indian legends tell about sunken cities and temples and it is the researcher with the aqualung who will be able to confirm their correctness.

DWARAKA is the name of one of the seven holy cities in ancient India. According to legends, it had been situated somewhere near Bombay and was swallowed up by the ocean seven days after the death of Krishna, the incarnation of the great god Vishnu.

On the shore of the Bay of Bengal, 80 kilometres to the south of Madras, there stands *Mahabalipuram*, an ancient Dravidian port. Some 2,000 years ago it was famous as a port where ships from all over the world used to cast anchor. The monoliths, caves and temples built of granite blocks, as well as

the sculptures chiselled out by brilliant Indian masters on the slopes of the granite hills, have made Mahabalipuram very famous, and this name has been inscribed in letters of gold in the world history of art. One of the most beautiful temples of Mahabalipuram stands on the very shore of the sea. For many centuries the waves of the sea have been attacking the temple, pouring sand on it and destroying the buildings surroundings it. According to legends, once there had been six more temples, but they were swallowed up by the waves.

• Will all these stories and legends find some confirmation?

Will the underwater archaeological excavations help to discover new monuments of ancient Indian culture, or maybe they will find traces of an even earlier civilisation, i.e. proto-Indian culture?

And who knows, may be on the bottom of the Indian Ocean there lie hidden traces of a civilisation that preceded the proto-Indian one.

No matter what the reason causing the ruin of the proto-Indian culture had been, it is clear to modern historians that many achievements of this ancient civilisation were borrowed by its successors, the nomadic Aryans who appeared in India in the middle of the second millennium B.C.

Among these achievements mention should be made in the first place of the growing of wheat, barley, peas, flax and cotton; the making of pottery; the cultivation of the date-palm; the building of a sewage system and the development of the foundations of town-planning; the taming of zebu—the humped bull—and of the elephant; the strengthening of the foundations of agriculture and of ship-building.

It is quite natural that the Aryans borrowed many things from the proto-Indians even in the sphere of spiritual life. The decimal system was invented in India, but the discovery belongs to the proto-Indians and not to the Aryans, for before the coming of the Aryans to India the proto-Indian merchants and mathematicians and already been using it. There is no doubt that the proto-Indian mythology and religion also had an impact upon the Aryan conquerors.

THE RIGVEDA, a very ancient book of hymns, contains a large number of names of divinities, embodiments of the elements of wind, water, fire, thunderclouds, dawn, etc. Later Brahman scholars proclaimed Brahma, the creator of everything living, Vishnu, the protector and Shiva, the destroyer.

Indologists believe that the cult of Shiva absorbed a great many other ancient cults that had existed among the native population of

India before the coming of the Aryans. Excavations of the proto-Indian cities proved that the worshippers of Shiva were right when they believed their god to be "older than the Veda," for the proto-Indians worshipped a divinity having close resemblance with Shiva.

According to many researchers, the "group portrait" of a many-faced deity surrounded by animals is the most interesting image found on the proto-Indian seals. The deity is pictured sitting upon a throne in one of the postures of the yoga. It means that the yoda had been practised in India long before Patanjali, the founder of the yoga-teaching, and that the epithet "Yogeshvara", which means "the lord of the yoga," and by which the Shaivites described their god, was quite correct. The god's hands are decorated with bracelets, while on his head he has a fan-like headdress crowned with buffalo horns. The god is surrounded by an elephant, a tigress, two antelopes, a rhinoceros and a buffalo.

John Marshall, a British archaeologist who headed the excavations in Mohenjo-daro, found that this was a picture of Shiva in the image of Pashupati, "the lord of beasts."

"The fact that the figure has three faces and possibly even a fourth one on the back side, speaks in favour of this opinion, as Shiva is often depicted in India as having five faces, says MacKay, another student of the proto-Indian civilisation, speaking in support of Marshall's theory.

"A supposition has long been expressed that the cult of Shiva, one of the oldest Indian cults, can be traced back to the pre-historic period; the cited interpretation of the figure upon the seal confirms this conjecture. However, one should not get the idea that the divinity of the Harappa civilisation also bore the name of Shiva; this is only one of the numerous names by which he is called nowadays, for they say that Shiva has one thousand and eight names, most of which express his different functions."

Shiva's wife, who is considered to be the feminine embodiment of this omnipresent deity, has as many names. She is worshipped in different parts of India in diffe-

rent images, varying from the good and graceful Uma to the furious Kali, decorated with a garland of human-skulls. The cult of this great goddess can be traced back to the remotest antiquity and the times of matriarchy. It was widely prevalent among the proto-Indians of which the images on the seals from Mohenjo-daro and other cities are a proof. Probably the married couple, "proto-Shiva" and "the great goddess," were the supreme divinities of the proto-Indian pantheon. This is confirmed by an analysis of hieroglyphic inscriptions made by proto-Indians.

Mr. Raj Mohan Nath, an Indian scholar, published in 1965 a booklet, in which, basing himself on study of the analysis of hieroglyphs and various sources, he arrived at the conclusion that the combination of the sign "trident" (having not three, but five dents), with the sign "fish" conveys the title of Shiva, the main god, named "Maha Matsya"—"the Great Fish". Soviet scholars arrived at the same conclusion quite independently, basing themselves on statistical methods. According to the theory of probability, a chance combination of these signs should have been found in the proto-Indian texts only two or three times. Actually it is encountered 58 times, so this must be a set expression, probably some title or name.

The sign of a trident with five dents is also found in combination with another sign—that of a feminine figure. This combination is not accidental either, as researchers have found it over a dozen times, while according to the theory of probability these signs should have been encountered in the proto-Indian texts only once or twice.

The usual name for Shiva's wife is "Mahadevi," i.e. "the great goddess." Probably the sign of a of a trident with five dents conveys the meaning of the adjective "great", while its combinations with the sign of the fish and that of woman are the titles of the "Great Fish" and "Great Woman" (or "Great Goddess," i.e. the titles of the proto-Indians supreme divinities).

(To be Concluded)

BUILDING A VILLAGE HOUSE—8

LE DECOR!

By Herbert Keuneman

I calculate that I have saved, in my house, about Rs. 3,000—at a modest estimate—well over 15% of what the house, though with many shortcomings, has cost so far, by one single expedient: using plain mud plaster for coating the inside walls. And a very attractive coating it is.

To the conservative who may be appalled at such an idea, if only because so far as he knows no Interior Decorator has previously recommended it, I had better offer the reassurance that on this subject, at least, I know what I am talking about. I have been myself a professional in this field, working with Ms Decorators & Furnishers, Ltd., while Terry Jonklaas ran that admirable institution; and I will stake my reputation that the effect of a mud wall can be excellent.

I REMARKED in an earlier article: a whole house is often judged by the quality of its finish, but seldom is a line realized and drawn between the latter and "decor". The finish of my house is crude, deliberately like that of most of its rural counterparts: unpolished woodwork; rough floors; and, as I say, mud-plastered walls; although you may be sure no *bangalava* would go so far in crudity as that last. Yet all my friends, including several competent to judge, have been taken with the place. Undoubtedly this is largely because of the sheer novelty of its unpretentiousness and its utterly peaceful situation. But also, and very much so, I think, because its *decor* is really quite engaging. Not the least component of the *decor* is my mud-covered walls.

Before I go on to sing the further praises of mud, let me justify it financially. My house has some 5,250 sq. ft. (52.5 squares) of wall surface. If that appears to you a startling figure, work out the wall surface inside and out of your own house. Of this total about 17.5 squares are exterior surfaces, and I have had to cover these with a thin layer of hard cement to protect the brickwork—especially the too frequently incorporated *damba gal*, bricks only partially baked and hence almost soluble, which my inadequately supervised *baases* let pass—against the weather. The effect is drab, for even whitewash has been beyond my means, there is always something more urgent to spend money on when there is no money to spend. But the 35 squares of interior wall, mud covered, are a great success. Now, 35 squares covered with lime

plaster would have cost not less than Rs. 500 in materials alone at the time I built: today very considerably more. Add to that the cost of paint—then about Rs. 70 a gallon—and the labour cost of painting, and you will agree that my estimated saving of Rs. 3,000 is a conservative figure. Whitewash would, of course, have been cheaper than paint; much cheaper. But whitewash, in the Vanni glare? To say nothing of the bleakness of dead white everywhere. The whole point of my mud walls is that they offer an unexpectedly wide scope of colour which is applied in the single operation of plastering.

NO ONE that has not thought about it a little is likely to realize how many colours of suitable clay exist. I have only four—I had not realized that instead of the lime I have on the walls of my Stair Well I might have obtained a local *kiri-mati* which would have given me a most pleasant off-white with little loss of light-reflecting property—but they are all different and all pleasant in the extreme: a rich, restful milk chocolate, the real Milk Chocolate, (not the local kind!) in my light-filled Living Room; a yellowish brown in my Bedroom (not what I wanted: but the man who collected the clay for me brought what he thought would do just as well, because to get the almost old-gold clay I had set my heart upon he would have had to wade a stream) a lovely fulvous maroon in my Dining Room; and, perhaps the best colour of all, in the Guest Room that is to be, a wonderful deep charcoal grey that marvellously quenches the flood of overly brilliant light

poured into it. And all this only for the digging and the carting home.

Nor does this brief list anything like exhaust the spectrum of colours available if one could go farther afield. Near Mawanella, for instance are extensive beds of clay in a bright greenish gamboge; somewhere else, though I do not remember the place, I recollect having seen a roadside cutting as red as ox-blood. These may not be every decorator's idea of 'decorator' colours; but they are examples of the range to be found with only a little searching.

Besides, one never knows what effect a simple additive may produce. I have heard (I have never tried it out) that powdered turmeric added to genuine *samara*, the yellow earth once so popular as a local colourwash, yields a salmon pink. Slaked lime added to coloured clays would mute them. And what of the effect of heat? I have often been tempted to experiment with a blowlamp on one of my walls, baking the clay *in situ* as it were. Might it bring up on, say, a brown walla kind of encaustic pattern in terracotta? But I dare not risk what I cannot afford to replace.

FINALLY there is the variety of texture obtainable. Village girls are particularly clever at producing a palm frondlike arabesque, *in relief*, by smoothing the surface of the clay with spread fingers. Or the surface could be pebbled. Or the quality of sand that must be admixed—else the clay will crack and flake away as it dries—can result in textures from smooth matt to coarse and grainy..The choice is as wide as you like.

I must admit that the dried surface is not highly impact-resistant; a sharp blow with something like a chair leg could knock a dent in it. But the dent is so easily repaired. And again, even a slight funnel of water such as one from a bad the roof erodes and washes away the clay; but this could doubtless be overcome by stabilization with a small percentage of cement.

Two things, however, alas! unforeseen when I built, need to be warned and guarded against. White ants surviving all the mixing and trowelling somehow disconcertingly appear long after the plaster seems

dry and sterile. Use Intox. Certain clays, but apparently not others, suddenly come out with an unsightly rash of dark-coloured fungus. Use any agro-chemical fungicide. Add the chemicals to the water of the mix, in the proportions recommended by the makers for soil treatment.

I have gone very fully into this description of non-lime plastered walls because I believe sincerely that if only folks could be persuaded out of their status-orientated devotion to orthodox lime they could make—as I have done—a very real saving in building costs; an argument that, in village building anyway, will probably appeal as a much more cogent one than the artistic approach.

But—certainly in the sun-drenched region in which I live—my suave dark walls are a blessing to the eye. Moreover they enable me to make a very attractive virtue of a very real necessity. The sale of most of the furnishing my wife and I had gathered over the years left me with a variety of un-matching odds and ends of curtains, upholstery, cushions, rugs. Against the subse back-grounds of my new rooms I have been able to mix colours and patterns with abandon but with success. In my Living Room the bamboo tats are viridine, the rugs cinnamon, the chairs webbed white and red, the studio-couch with its pale beige throw has red, green, illac, grey and broken-white cushions heaped on it, and the seven reflector-shaded hurricane lamps, hnging from wall brackets, that light it (on special occasions) are metallic blue. In my Bedroom the old 'Jumping Fish' Brand curtains that survive from my earlier Ehetuwewa incarnation are flowered in azure, emerald green, lemon yellow and white; the rest of the curtains are butcher blue; the bed spreads—out-of-all keeping handsome, block-printed by hand in India with huge conventional floral motifs—are magenta, deep green and blue and burnt ochre on an ecru background; the rugs are maroon. How could I have dared use those colours against white walls? Or, if I had dared, the white would have killed them.

LET ME describe to you one more of my rooms (not because I am

seeking to advertise my taste—I am out of the decorating profession anyway, and mean to stay out—but because I want to show that a room can be beautiful, even elegant, at a cost not necessarily greater than a commonplace one) my Dining Room.

One enters through a narrow arch (all my arches are only 3' 6" wide) from the Hallway. Opposite is the service door from the Kitchen the Dining Room lies to one's left. As one turns into it, the farther wall is occupied by a wide white rack against the browny maroon wall which holds most of my collection of old English porcelain: one of the few things I could not bear to let go in the sale. Against a wall of raw brick (behind which the Kitchen lies) is a 10' storage sideboard of satinwood, white panelled, on the five shutters of which 7" brass trays do duty as handles. Above the sideboard is a glorious batik of seven colours—no less—in the narrowest possible of white frames: a gift to me from dear friends. Most of the really good things left in my house were gifts: both a source of joy to contemplate and of shame when I remember how little I could have given in exchange. In the wall facing the sideboard are three large windows, eyebrowed by their lifting shades so that light—but no glare—pours in. Along the fourth wall is a 12' rack of books, 7' high; for there was no other place to put it and it balances, anyway, the soft colours of the porcelains. On the floor is a large royal-blue carpet; and above the dining table a handmade *pana* of brass and wrought iron, another gift, which in these days with coconut oil at Rs. 4 a bottle I can only light for special guests!

Now, in the matter of colour, distinct from that of quality, there is no reason why any room in any village house should not be as effective. Colour wise a well-woven mat (and several village girls still weave excellent ones) could make almost as attractive an ornament as my batik. A collection of nearly anything well set out—Ceylon ceramics—could rival the *ornamental* aspect of my porcelains. But there is simply no village tradition to recommend it. My present village house is as much visited by village strangers who come to look it over as the old *tanayama* where

my wife and I first lived in Ehetuwewa used to be; and the visitors are clearly pleased by what they see (not by the quality of anything, which it is doubtful if many of them appreciate, but by the display). Only not, to the point of emulation.

Maybe, it is partly my fault or my misfortune; for no work in this house is really completed. The coloured walls are to be relieved by paler soffits. But the soffits have never been done: there is no money to do them. The ancient Front Door is to be painted with a design of Sinhala diapering; but there is no time to do it.

Nevertheless, I like the house, even as it stands. So, I am convinced, do the villagers. When they like it to the point of imitating one single feature in it...that will be the breakthrough!

AMERICAN ECONOMY BETWEEN SCYLLA AND CHARYBDIS

By Harry Freeman

New York,

The economic difficulties besetting the capitalist world have reached such critical proportions that they can no longer be obscured by soothing rhetoric emanating from high places. They demand and are beginning to receive recognition.

The executive directors of the International Monetary Fund, representing the financial leaders of the capitalist world, in their annual report issued on September, 15 acknowledged that their countries are in "the throes of virulent and widespread inflation," a deceleration of economic growth and a "massive disequilibrium in international payments."

"This situation," said the report, "constitutes perhaps the most complex and serious set of economic problems to confront national governments and the international community since the end of World War II."

In the bolder language of journalism, the journal *Newsweek*, in its September 30 issue, observed that "much of the non-communist world has become increasingly frightened of the prospect of an economic calamity rivalling that of the devastated 1930s," which witnessed the "great depression."

This statement may strike many readers as hyperbolic, but there is little doubt that it reflects a widespread feeling of pessimism in the United States, as inflation rages unabated, industrial production slackens, unemployment grows, energy problems become more acute.

THE SHARP DROP in stock market prices indicates the depth and breadth of this sense of gloom. Prices on the New York stock exchange have plummeted over 40 per cent since the beginning of last year. They are now about 70 per cent below their high point in 1968. The *U.S. News and World Report* estimates that the market price of all outstanding corporation shares has dropped by about \$500,000 million since January 1973. But the stock market is not the only index of widespread concern over the future of the economy. Forty-six per cent of those answering a recent Gallup poll questionnaire believed that the United States is heading into a depression similar to that of the 1930s.

Governmental and many other economists dismiss such fears as unwarranted. However, they have come to the reluctant conclusion that the American economy has indeed entered a period of recession. The coincidence of a recession, involving reduced production and increased unemployment with sharp price inflation constitutes a novel development in the general crisis of capitalism. Economists have coined the term "stagflation" to describe the combined ills of economic stagnation and price inflation. Thus far the problem of inflation has received the major share of official and popular attention. President Ford described it as "public enemy Number One."

And at the moment inflation is, indeed, the outstanding national economic problem, overshadowing the recession which, still appears to be in its early stages.

LIVING COSTS are now about 12 per cent higher than a year ago. They have risen about 27 per cent since 1970. All sectors of the working population have suffered as a result. The rise in living costs has more than wiped out wage increases, often won as a result of bitter strike struggles. Average real wages are about 5 per cent lower than they were a year ago.

Meat has become a luxury for many working class families. In

the place of meat on the dinner tables in working class homes there are substitutes like beans, potatoes, spaghetti and rice.

Particularly hard hit by inflation are the families of the unemployed and 23 million persons whom the government categorizes as impoverished, including millions of elderly people living on small fixed pensions.

And despite all the official talk of an "all-out war on inflation," living costs continue to rise at an ever faster rate. Figures just issued by the government show that the index of prices paid by consumers increased 1.3 per cent in August.

Official pronouncements that the rate of inflation is even higher in some other capitalist countries is little comfort to hard pressed American families who see the prices of foodstuffs, clothing, medical services and rents climbing month by month.

The sharp jump in interest rates has also been a severe blow to working class and middle class families, who make many of their purchases on credit. Consumers must pay 12, 15 and more per cent interest on their borrowings. One economic consequence of this is a sharp drop in the demand for housing. Despite the acute shortage of adequate dwellings, residential construction is down about 50 per cent since last year and almost half a million construction workers are jobless.

But while the housing industry has been hard hit by inflation and the automobile industry has sharply curtailed production as consumers find it more difficult to pay for the costly shiny products of the Detroit assembly lines, inflation has been a boon, and not a burden, for monopoly capitalism as a whole. During the first half of this year, according to official data, corporation profits, after the payment of taxes, reached the colossal annual rate of 88,100 million dollars. The oil monopolists have especially prospered.

Why then does the government profess such great concern over inflation and convene "pre-summit" and "summit" conferences to discuss the problem? It simply cannot shut its ears to the increasingly loud complaints of tens of millions of Americans, whose confidence in their rulers and in the capitalist

system itself is being eroded together with their living standards pose a political as well as an economic problem. In the narrowest sense, there are the Congressional and state elections coming up on November 5 of this year and the presidential elections of 1976. In the American two-party system disgruntled voters tend to express their grievances by voting against the party controlling the White House.

For months when recessionary tendencies were evident, official economists refused to recognize their existence. Many were of the belief that somehow recessions belonged to the capitalist past and were exercised forever by the black magic of Keynesian theory and monetary and budget manipulations.

Now the evidence of recession is too strong to be ignored. During the first half of this year the total output of goods and services dropped by 4.2 per cent. Manufacturing industries are operating at only about 80 per cent of capacity, as compared with 88 per cent a year ago. Automobile production during the first eight months of the year was 24 per cent lower than in the corresponding period of last year. Other industries too report production declines. Accumulations of unsold stocks of goods in the hands of manufacturers and distributors are causing concern.

Despite the unprecedented superprofits of the major monopolies, bankruptcies are increasing and some banks, including the Franklin National Bank, one of the largest in the country, are in serious difficulties. More than 5,000 business firms went bankrupt during the first half of the year, leaving unpaid bills of more than 1,500 million dollars, almost 50 per cent more than the liabilities of business that failed during the first half of last year.

The question is no longer whether there is a recession, but how long and how deep it will be.

The National Association of Business Economists, an organization of economic analysts who advise some of the largest firms in the country, asked its members, "When will the current economic recession come to an end?" Eigh-

teen per cent thought that it is already in the process of liquidation, 31 per cent believed that it would end in the last quarter of the year, 5 per cent avoided an answer, and 46 per cent believed that it would endure into the new year. Twenty-four per cent expressed the view that it would be severe in character.

Facing the Scylla of inflation on the one hand and the Charybdis of recession on the other, the architects of governmental economic policy have a truly formidable task in devising a programme of action.

ADVOCATES of a "tight budget" as a panacea for inflation contend that large budget deficits have fuelled the inflationary fires of the past few years. However, they carefully overlook the fact that these budget deficits resulted from the prosecution of the unholy war in Southeast Asia and the huge armaments programmes during and after the war. What they have in mind by budget economies is not a reduction in military expenditures but cutbacks in the expenditures for health, education and other social services.

In any event, many sober analysts doubt whether a budget cut of 5,000 or even 10,000 million dollars can have any perceptible effect on inflation. Robert Dederick, past President of the National Association of Business Economists and Senior Vice-President of the Northern Trust Company of Chicago, commented that governmental policy changes "don't move an economy the size of ours with any great speed."

Furthermore, economic policymakers face the dilemma that steps that may contribute to curbing inflation, such as budget cuts adding to unemployment, only feed the forces of recession. Walter Heller, former Chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisers, told President Ford at a pre-summit conference on September 5: "Bringing inflation to its knees would put the economy on its back."

Participants in the economic summit conference of September 27-28 consisted largely of officials of leading business firms and economists serving them. Many proposed that the government grant additional tax concessions to business

to encourage new capital investments, particularly in the energy field. They also suggested a relaxation of environmental controls, ostensibly because such controls raise production costs and contribute to inflation. Above all, they urged that the American people "tighten their belts" and be prepared to accept a lower standard of living.

American workers are in no mood to accept this recommendation and make further sacrifices for the benefit of the monopolists. During the first half of this year 2,347,000 workers engaged in strike actions in defence of their living standards, as against 1,220,000 in the first half of last year.

AT THE U.N.

KISSINGER ON SIGNS OF MAJOR ECONOMIC CRISIS

United Nations, September 23,

Secretary of State Kissinger has issued a warning to the United Nations General Assembly that "strains on the fabric and institutions of the world economy threaten to engulf us all in a general depression. The early warning signs of a major economic crisis are evident," he said in an address to the 138-nation organization. He said "we can no longer afford to pursue our nation, or regional or bloc self-interest except in a global context."

Dr. Kissinger called for an "unprecedented degree" of international co-operation to meet man's basic needs for energy and food and to assure economic growth "while mastering inflation." He also emphasized that the world cannot sustain "even the present level of (oil) prices, much less continuing increases."

FOLLOWING are excerpts from Secretary Kissinger's speech: "Lord Keynes wrote, 'the power to become habituated to his surroundings is a marked characteristic of mankind. Very few of us realize with conviction the intensely, unusual, unstable, complicated, unreliable temporary nature of the economic organization. The economic history of the postwar period has been one of sustained growth—for developing as well as developed nations. The universal expectation of our peoples, the foundation of our political institutions, and the assumption underlying the evolving structure of peace are all based on the belief that this growth will continue.

"But will it? The increasingly open and co-operative global economic system that we have come to take for granted is now under unprecedented attack. The world is poised on the brink of a return to the unrestrained economic nationalism which accompanied the

While the economic summit conference met at the Washington Hilton Hotel, a group of eleven young economists from some of the major universities met separately and issued the following critique of the official gathering, "Amid all the talk of 'belt-tightening' and 'unprecedented sacrifices' for the people, great attention is being paid to continuing high-record profits of giant corporations and securing for them ever more favourable conditions for investment. We reject an economic system whose only means of dealing with economic crisis serves to make the rich even richer."

collapse of economic order in the thirties. And should that occur, all would suffer—poor as well as rich, producer as well as consumer. So let us no longer fear to confront in public the facts which have come to dominate our private discussions and concerns.

"The early warning signs of a major economic crisis are evident. Rates of inflation unprecedented in the past quarter century are sweeping developing and developed nations alike. The world's financial institutions are staggering under the most massive and rapid movements of reserves in history. And profound questions have arisen about meeting man's most fundamental needs for energy and food. While the present situation threatens every individual and nation, it is the poor who suffer the most. While the wealthier adjust their living standards, the poor see the hopes of a lifetime collapse around them. While others tighten their belts, the poor

starve. While others can hope for a better future, the poor see only despair ahead.

"It can be in the interest of no country or group of countries to base policies on a test of strength, for a policy of confrontation would end in disaster for all. Meeting man's basic needs for energy and food, and assuring economic growth while mastering inflation require international cooperation to an unprecedented degree.

"Let us apply these principles first to the energy situation: (a) Oil producers seek a better life for their peoples and a just return for their diminishing resources; (b) The developing nations less well-endowed by nature face the disintegration of the results of decades of striving for development as a result of a price policy over which they have no control; The developed nations find the industrial civilization built up over centuries in jeopardy.

"Thus both producers and consumers have legitimate claims. The problem is to reconcile them for the common good. The United States is working closely with several oil producers to help diversify their economies. We have established commissions to facilitate the transfer of technology and to assist with industrialization. We are prepared to accept substantial investments in the United States and we welcome a greater role for the oil producers in the management of international economic institutions. The investment of surplus oil revenues presents a great challenge. The countries which most need these revenues are generally the least likely to receive them. The world's financial institutions have coped thus far but ways must be found to assure assistance for those countries most in need of it. And the full brunt of the surplus revenues is yet to come.

"But despite our best efforts to meet the oil producers' legitimate needs and to channel their resources into constructive uses, the world cannot sustain even the present level of prices, much less continuing increases. The prices of other commodities will inevitably rise in a never ending inflationary spiral. Nobody will benefit from such a race. The oil producers will be forced to spend more for their own imports. Many

nations will not be able to withstand the pace and the poorer could be overwhelmed. The complex, fragile structure of global economic co-operation required to sustain national economic growth stands in danger of being shattered. "THE UNITED STATES will work with other consuming nations on means of consumer conservation and on ways to cushion the impact of massive investments from abroad. The preliminary agreement on a program of solidarity and co-operation signed a few days ago in Brussels by the major consumer countries is an encouraging first step. But the long-range solution requires a new understanding between consumers and producers. Unlike food prices, the high cost of oil is not the result of economic factors, of an actual shortage of capacity or of the free play of supply and demand. Rather it is caused by deliberate decisions to restrict production and maintain an artificial price level. We recognize that the producers should have a fair share; the fact remains that present prices even threaten the economic well being of producers. Ultimately they depend upon the vitality of the world economy for the security of their markets and their investments. And it cannot be in the interest of any nation to magnify the despair of the least developed who are uniquely vulnerable to exorbitant prices and who have no recourse but to pay.

"What has gone up by political decision can be reduced by political decision.

"LAST WEEK President Ford called upon the oil producers to join with consumers in defining a strategy which will meet the world's long-term need for both energy and food at reasonable prices. He set forth the principles which should guide such a policy. And he announced to this assembly America's determination to meet our responsibilities to help alleviate another grim reality—world hunger. At a time of universal concern for justice and in an age of advanced technology, it is intolerable that millions are starving and hundreds of millions remain undernourished.

"The magnitude of the long-term problem is clear. At present rates of population growth, world food production must double by

the end of this century to maintain even the present inadequate dietary level. And an adequate diet for all world require that we triple world production. If we are true to our principles, we have an obligation to strive for an adequate supply of food to every man, woman and child in the world. This is a technical possibility, a political necessity and a moral imperative. The United States is prepared to join with all nations at the World Food Conference in Rome to launch the truly massive effort which is required. We will present a number of specific proposals: (a) To help developing nations. They have the lowest yields and the largest amounts of unused land and water; their potential in food production must be made to match their growing need;

IT
WILL
PAY
TO
advertise
IN
THE

Tribune

for particulars

write to:—

The Manager
TRIBUNE
43, Dawson Street,
COLOMBO 2.
Telephone: 33172

(b) To increase substantially global fertilizer production. We must end once and for all the world's chronic fertilizer shortage; (c) To expand international regional and national research programs. Scientific and technical resources must be mobilized now to meet the demands of the year 2000 and beyond; (d) To build the world's food reserves. Our capacity for dealing with famine must be freed from the vagaries of weather; (e) To provide a substantial level of concessional food aid. We must prevent the poorest nations from being overwhelmed and enable them to build the social, economic and political base for self-sufficiency.

"The United States will in the coming year increase the value of our own food aid assistance to countries in need. We make this commitment despite increased pressures on our economy and at a time when we are seeking to cut our own government budget because we realize the dimensions of the tragedy with which we are faced. All of us here have a common problem to help the poorest nations. The hopes of every nation for a life of peace and plenty rest on an effective international resolution of the crises of inflation, fuel and food. We must act now and we must act together."

FAO CONFERENCE
ROME, NOV. 5-16

An Appraisal Of The World Food Situation

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Oct. 24,

The following is the text of an address made October 22 by Don Paarlberg, Director of Agricultural Economics, U.S. Department of Agriculture, at the 43rd Annual Convention of the Northeastern Poultry Producers Council.

CONTRARY to what may appear to be the case, there is fairly widespread agreement among informed people about the world food situation. There is general agreement, among students of the problem, that for the 12 months ahead,

the situation is precarious in certain parts of the world. There is broad consensus that for the next decade or so the probability is good that food production, in total, will keep a half step ahead of population growth, but that there will be times and places of critical shortage. And most students agree that in the long long run, into the twenty-first century, unless there is a check in the rate of population growth, there is no solution to the world food problem. Much of the seeming disagreement come from failure to specify the time frame, or the part of the world being considered, or the sector of society that is under review. And much depends on whether comparison is being made with the past, with some other spot in geography, or with an ideal situation.

I shall sketch out an appraisal of the world food situation in terms generally agreed upon by the two best qualified and most experienced research organizations that have competence in this area—the United States Department of Agriculture and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Research divisions of these two bodies have independently assessed the world food situation in preparation for the upcoming World Food Conference in Rome, November 5 to 16. They are remarkably close together in their approach.

WE HAVE just begun the Marketing Year 1974-75, during which the world will be living from the crops harvested in 1974. Nineteen Seventy-Four, despite a promising start, is proving to be very disappointing. Cereal grain is the backbone of the world food supply, both for human beings and for animals. Cereal grain production, worldwide, is now expected to be about 4.5 per cent below last year, and about 3.5 per cent below trend. In the United States the weather man pulled all the wrong levers. In the spring, when we needed fair skies to plant the crop, he pulled "rain." In the summer, when we needed moisture for plant growth, he pulled "dry." In the fall, when we needed warm weather to mature the crop he pulled "frost." Our cereal grain production this year will be about 205 million tons, or about 13 percent below 1973.

In India the summer rains were a disappointment and the harvest of cereal grains is expected to be 9 or 10 percent below last year. The Canadian crop and the crop in the Soviet Union are below last year. While crops are generally good in the Southern Hemisphere they are not good enough to offset disappointments elsewhere. Reserves were depleted as a result of the poor world crop of 1972. They were rebuilt from the increased production of 1973.

For the United States the disappointing crop of 1974 means adjustments in livestock production, changes in price relationships, and some alteration in diets. These changes are by no means easy. But they are modest by comparison with changes in India and Bangladesh, where there is danger of physical lack of food. The problem is likely to be greatest in the late winter and spring, before the new crop comes on, and when much of the 1974 crop will be used up.

"Beware of the Ides, of March" was a timely warning for Julius Caesar; it is an appropriate warning for many millions of people

Everest is Growing Higher

Peking,

Mount Everest, the world's highest mountain, is getting higher, according to a Chinese magazine. Everest and the Himalayas were formed by the northward movement of the Indian sub-continent meeting the Eurasian land mass, causing the earth's crust to buckle and rise up, the magazine, 'China Pictorial', said in its latest issue.

That process is still going on. 'Phenomena indicate that the Indian sub-continent is still moving northward and Mount Everest, already, known as the 'roof of the world', is growing even higher", the magazine said. The magazine published several spectacular photographs of the northern slopes of Everest, which lies on the China-Nepal border. It added that extensive survey work around Everest had been conducted since 1966. The magazine did not give any new height figures.

in the subcontinent of Asia. Our capacity to help, which we had thought would be very great, is severely limited by the most adverse weather we have had in at least the last 25 years.

Midterm (that is for the next decade or so) the prospect is better. During the past 20 years there has been a slight upward trend in average per capita food supplies even in the less-developed countries. Despite being poorly nourished, the average man in the developing countries of Asia, Africa, and Latin America is better fed than was his father. He is not fed well enough to meet his full bodily needs, nor enough to satisfy his aspirations. And averages are notoriously deceptive. It is possible for a man to drown in a stream that average 18 inches deep. And it is possible for men to starve while the per capita supply of food is increasing. Improvement in the average, which is a reasonable prospect, should not be allowed to obscure the problem of the many millions that fall below the average.

OBJECTIVELY MEASURED, the world food situation is not worse than it has historically been; it is marginally better. What has happened is that the poverty and hunger of the world, previously shielded from our eyes, has now been brought dramatically before us. The mass media and airplane travel have made the difference. We are now more aware of the world's hunger, more concerned about it, and more committed to do something to relieve the problem. It is not that the problem is new or greater than it has hitherto been; our perception of it has changed.

The mood in the world is now pessimistic with regard to the food picture. There are half a dozen or so gloomy interpretations that, in the present climate of opinion, take on the appearance of scientific validity. I should like to review them:

Adverse Weather: some people say that we are on the verge of a 20-year drought cycle, that we will see more dry weather in the sub-tropics, and that the earth is moving into a new ice age. These things may or may not be true. The burden of proof is on those who allege that this is indeed the prospect. Two of the most renowned meteorological research organi-

zations—The International Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency of the United States and The World Meteorological Organization of the United Nations—maintain that it is not possible, from presently known science, either to verify or refute these allegations. Unfortunately, when it comes to predicting next summer's weather the Farmer's Almanac is still about as good as anything! In the absence of better long-range forecasting, the average weather behaviour of the past 10 years or so becomes the prognosis.

Jack Of Fuel: fuel, whether viewed with respect to supply or price, will be a problem for the next decade or more, surely. It was a serious handicap to farm production in parts of Asia in 1974. But food and agriculture are so important that, given some time to work things out, farm people are likely to have access to needed fuel, whether, through an allocations system or in a competitive market. In the United States agricultural production accounts for only 3 per cent of total fuel usage. We and other countries are likely to protect agriculture's high priority claim on the fuel supply. Human beings are sufficiently resourceful so that they are not likely to starve themselves by a massive misallocation of fuel supplies.

Fertilizer: Fertilizer is scarce. Scarce, that is, relative to desired usage. But we produced and used more total tons of fertilizer in 1974 than ever before. And with the high prices we have had, investment in fertilizer production has leaped forward. There is good reason to believe that in three years or so the supply will have expanded so as to remove any serious limitation on agricultural production. There are large potential supplies, worldwide, of key elements: Nitrogen, Phosphate, Potash. There are new technical possibilities. Slow-release fertilizer could improve efficiency in fertilizer usage by 25 per cent.

Agricultural Science: some people say that the foundations of new knowledge are running dry, and that new increments of technology will be much harder to come by. But this is a judgement, colored by the pessimism of our times. No one can know. Eight years ago the President's Science

Advisory Committee did a study of the world food situation, at a time when, like today, there was concern about the ability of the world to feed itself. We were then on the brink of the Green Revolution, but the report showed no awareness of that fact.

Who can tell when we will achieve a new breakthrough? A number of advances loom as possibilities: better protein content in our cereal grains, animal feed from algae, hybridization of additional species of plants and animals. There are good practices in use on some farms that are not yet in use on others. There are good practices, proved in the experimental plot, not yet in use on any farm. There are good ideas that have not yet been tested. There are young men and women now being educated in agricultural science who have not yet begun to produce ideas. We should not underestimate the potential of this system.

Availability of Land and Water: is it true, as alleged, that we are running out of agricultural land? Our soil scientists tell us that the United States could increase its cultivated land by at

All-girl World Soon!

Milan,

The human race may one day be composed entirely of women because of smog and atmospheric pollution, an Italian doctor has warned. Prof. Carlo Sirtori, Head of the Carlo Erba Medical Foundation, says this is because the chromosome, which determines the masculine sex of a baby, is more sensitive to the damaging effects of poisonous air. There has already been a swing to more females being born—moving from 100 girls for every 105 boys to 150 girls per 100 boys.

Cigarettes aggravate the risk because their heat is sufficient to break some into more toxic substances. According to Prof. Sirtori, recent research has shown that male fertility has more than halved. This, however, is reassuring when set against fears of population explosion.

IS IT TRUE?

Sherlock Holmes

• KALAWEWA—WITHOUT ANURA

IS IT NOT A FACT that the Kalawewa by-election will provide a major surprise to many people? That there are three major candidates—SLFP's Ratnamallala, UNP's Adhikari and Independent Yasapala Herat—with two lightweights who are running as Independents? That Ratnamallala and Herat will woo the votes that ordinarily would go to the United Front? That Adhikari will be seeking to add the floating votes of the discontented and disgruntled to the UNP's basic vote in the area? That it is not yet clear from where the other two Independents would get their votes—even if their draw-off is small? That all reports (presently coming in) seem to indicate that the two lightweights would make a greater dent in UF votes than in UNP votes? That, as matters stand, unless either Ratnamallala or Herat secures an overwhelming majority of the UF voters—large enough to outweigh the UNP votes—Adhikari would be at an advantage? That Ratnamallala alone or Herat alone would not have given Adhikari much of a chance? But now, in this three-cornered contest of what many consider to be there evenly balanced heavyweights, Adhikari today has the odds with him? That political observers say that there is as yet one imponderable which is difficult to evaluate? That the Kalawewa electorate has a large increase in the number of voters since 1970? That the increase is very nearly double the majority the SLFP had over the UNP in the last election? That this increased number constitutes young people who have come of voting age? That this by-election will indicate the way these young Wannu folk will vote? That it is well to remember that Kalawewa was one of the strongholds of the insurgent movement in April 1971? That it will be interesting to see what impact Government's reha-

bilitation programme has had on the youth who had been detained and later released (either on suspended sentences or after due indoctrination by dhamma pundits or anti-insurgency experts)? That Kalawewa is one of the few seats in the island where revolutionary doctrinaire political theorists will have opportunities to fish in troubled waters? That many political under-currents will be at play in a big way? That anti-Maithri forces will seek (underhand) to scale him down to the size they want him in national politics by under cutting Ratnamallala? That others will seek to show that the revolutionary edge of the youthful politics of Herat constituted the best bet for the UF in this by-election and therefore in the general election of 1977? That many others are only interested in showing that it was a mistake for the SLFP not to have nominated Anura Bandaranaike as its candidate for the by-election?

IS IT ALSO NOT A FACT that the failure of the SLFP to nominate Anura as its Kalawewa candidate has saved the UNP from a major split? That as mentioned in this column last week JR (as UNP leader) had been of the view that if Anura was the SLFP candidate the UNP would not put up a candidate against him? That whilst this stand had caused misgivings in the United Front and SLFP circles, it had triggered a revolt against JR inside the UNP? That on his return from his abroad, JR had lashed out at these rebellious elements who had spoken out-of-turn (against his Kalawewa decision) from public platforms? That he has threatened to deal with these persons who had broken party discipline by carrying internal party differences to public platforms? That in view of the fact that Anura was not a candidate,

the UNP had no alternative but to nominate Adhikari as its candidate? That the UNP Journal demeaned the fact that Anura had not been given nomination with a front page story under the heading STAB IN THE BACK FOR ANURA? That it alleged that a "a whole combination of forces ranging from the Marxist-oriented groups like the Janawegaya, LSSP and a section of the old guard calling themselves 'Bandaranaike loyalists' had ganged up to deliver this blow to Anura. Of course, each of these elements had a reason to gang up against Anura. They had seen in him, in the event of his taking a front line position, a formidable force with which they would have had to contend. So they did not want Anura to emerge and had to cut him..." That as against this version many responsible persons feel that it was Maithripala Senanayake's decision to stand by his promise to the Ratnamallalas (to the father before his death and to the son during the period after) which was the main stumbling block to Anura's nomination—coupled no doubt with the Ratnamallala determination not to release Maithri from his promise? That there are others in the SLFP and the UF who were perturbed by the attitude adopted by JR and a sizable section of the UNP? That they felt that an old UNP adherent like JR would not have taken a bold stand about not putting up a candidate against Anura if he did not believe that he had a sporting chance of bringing about (in 1975 or 1976) a right-wing coalition between the SLFP and the UNP (with the Centre and Right in both parties)? That JR was only sowing the seed in Kalawewa? That the seed could well be the dragon's seed of contemporary politics in Sri Lanka? That Anura fans, however, assert that he had refused to have any political deal with JR and that it was blasphemy to suggest that Anura would be party to any right-wing plot? That, without Anura, Kalawewa will not mirror many currents, cross-currents and under-currents that now subserve Sri Lanka politics? That although Kalawewa will be bereft of the interest which it might have had with Anura as a candidate, there is no doubt that politics in Sri Lanka has entered a new phase with dialectical confrontations, so far subterranean, coming out into the open?