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# Letter From The Editor

ON THE COVER is a picture of the Catholic Church in Madhu. It is a photograph taken in the early fifties before the massive crowds of pilgrims, that modern transportation can convey to distant places, had changed the landscape round the Church. But, with all the changes, Madhu is still a remote sylvan shrine which springs to life only during church festivals. Nevertheless, it came as a surprise that one of the legendary exploits of terrorist activity in Sri Lanka took place recently in this area. CID Inspector Bastiampillai and his team walked into a death trap not far from the Church. While it is not clear whether the area where the bodies were found (and the "abandoned farm" nearby) was a hideout or a large camp for terrorists or a place specially got up for the occasion or for laying a false scent, there is no doubt that the Police and the country are up against a group of intelligent, crafty and clever individuals who plan every move with meticulous circumspection and military precision. There is also no doubt that the Intelligence, the Counter-Intelligence and Tactical Strategy of this group of terrorists is far superior to that of the Police. *Tribune* has on several occasions in the recent past, commented on the poor quality of Intelligence available to the government from its special security departments. Intelligence is today gathered, researched, processed, analysed and interpreted by persons academically proficient in political science, sociological research, economic studies and in fact in every field of knowledge that is relevant to the process of life and living in a modern political state. What seems to pass for Intelligence in Sri Lanka today appears to be only a hangover of the old colonial type of police reports on "anti-government elements" (anti-British, or anti-Sirimavo, or anti-JR) or on iconoclastic "reds and commies" who talk of transforming society (and make rude remarks about the police). The problems of insurgency, political terrorism and armed insurrection are something new. And for this, the anti-diluvian and obsolete intellectual armoury of our policemen, who have been willy-nilly thrust into Intelligence work, is totally inadequate. Most Sri Lanka police officers, even doing Intelligence, appear to be clueless with regard to the complexities, intricacies and motivations of modern subversion. Their logic is circumscribed by over-generalised and sloganised thinking about political movements and theories—and even that, thirty years behind time. Furthermore, Intelligence specialists should not function as policemen. The tough arm for covert action ("cloak and dagger") must be a unit apart though connected with and guided by Intelligence. The Murunkan episode showed that the CID team that was wiped out had combined the functions of an Intelligence unit and a cloak and dagger outfit. This was a mistake of the highest magnitude. Elsewhere in this issue a special correspondent (an ex-policeman) draws attention to recent developments in the Intelligence work in the USA to show what our government should do to update and streamline its own Intelligence. It will, however, be suicidal and self-defeating for our Intelligence Organisation to become an appendage of the political intelligence of any other country. We are no longer a colonial subject country. Conditions in Sri Lanka are so unique that Intelligence officials from Britain, America, Israel or Singapore will make dismal mistakes if they try to draw on the experiences from their own countries to understand, interpret and report on the situation here and seek to advice on what should be done. The first thing necessary is for government to prepare, with the help of local experts, political scientists, historians, sociologists and the like a true report on the situation here from an Intelligence angle with a view to achieving political and economic stability in terms of our free democratic society. In the USA there was a volcanic eruption against the CIA when the Intelligence Organisation overstepped the Constitution and violated democratic conventions and practices. Sri Lanka can learn many lessons from this.

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## CONTENTS

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK	
—ASEAN, NATO	p. 2
POLITICAL INTELLIGENCE	
—And Terrorism	p. 4
LETTERS	
—From Our Readers	p. 8
WHITE PAPER - I	
—Hire And Five	p. 9
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS	
—Overseas Chinese, Indo-China	p. 12
DISARMAMENT	
—Dialogue	p. 15
CARAVAN FAMILY - 7	
—Batticaloa To Trinco	p. 17
TWO AMERICANS	
—Getting Ceylonised	p. 19
IS ENGLISH FOREIGN	
—In India	p. 20
THE SEA BED	
—Protection	p. 22
GRAMA SASTRA - 6	
—Grand Mother	p. 23
INANIA	
—Dish Washer	p. 23
SRI LANKA CHRONICLE	
—April 5-April 16	p. 25
CONFIDENTIALLY	
—Textiles And Fish	p. 32

## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

### ASEAN, NATO, Food Prices

Colombo, April 24,

Lee Kuan Yew left on April 20 and the Kapilavastu Relics arrived on April 22. The newspapers have enough stories for headlines and photographs for a long time—while the Kapilavastu Relics move from town to town. While spiritual blessings may accrue from the veneration of the relics, it is not clear what material benefits Sri Lanka is likely to get from the Lee Kuan Yew visit.

There is no doubt that the Singapore Prime Minister is one of the most outstanding men in the region. Whether one agrees with him in some matters—civil rights, press freedom etc—is not important. He has made Singapore a success story. He runs that little island in such an outstanding manner that every resident gets a high per capita income that the citizen is willing to vote him and his party to power.

Sri Lanka cannot follow in Singapore's footsteps because of political, economic, national and other differences, but Sri Lanka can learn a great deal from Singapore. And there is much Sri Lanka can "get" from Singapore. But, from the newspaper reports and the Lee Kuan Yew Press Conference it would appear that very little has been achieved so far as Sri Lanka is concerned.

As far as the President Jayawardene was concerned, it was a "private" visit for discussions on personal, political and philosophic levels. They had met at the Sydney Summit and found that they were on the same wavelength on many matters. This had brought them together and Mr. J. R. Jayawar-

dene had spent a day with Lee Kuan Yew in Singapore on his way back.

All those who have met and known Lee Kuan Yew say that he is an "intellectual" in his own right and it is this aspect of the man that must have drawn our President to him. What their discussions in Nuwara Eliya were and the impact each had on the other is not known, but there are obviously no immediate results on a political level.

Newspapermen had tried to probe a little by asking Lee Kuan Yew whether Sri Lanka would be admitted into ASEAN. (There is wishful thinking in some quarters that Sri Lanka would get absorbed into ASEAN) Lee Kuan Yew had stated: (1) that Mr. Jayawardene had not indicated any desire on the part of Sri Lanka to seek admission to the ASEAN—though there must have been an exchange of views on the present and future of ASEAN: (2) that ASEAN's views on admission of new members were found in published documents (3) that if Sri Lanka should ever apply for membership it would be duly considered.

Journalists could not needle him into saying anything more. His answers show that he is a politician-cum-statesman of consummate skill and experience. He made it clear that neither Singapore nor ASEAN were chasing behind Sri Lanka to cajole her to join ASEAN. Singapore and her ASEAN partners cannot afford to give this impression—even if they wanted to—because of misunderstandings that will arise in their relationship with countries like Burma, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Laos and Vietnam.

Further, so far as ASEAN is concerned, Sri Lanka cannot carry any benefits to ASEAN, but will be a kind of sick passenger if she were admitted as member at this jun-

ture. The question of Sri Lanka joining ASEAN is the only political question of any significance raised with Lee Kuan Yew at the press conference. President Jayawardene has not so far said anything about his discussions with Lee Kuan Yew. The matter can rest at that. It is not likely that Sri Lanka will make any move to join ASEAN nor does any ASEAN country seem anxious to rope in Sri Lanka.

Western commentators, anxious to see whether Sri Lanka has veered off the non-aligned course, have been suggesting that Sri Lanka was on the verge of joining ASEAN and newspapermen reporting for Western newspapers and agencies have, since the new government came to

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#### NOTICE

Notice under Section 7 of the Land Acquisition Act (CAP. 460) as Amended by the Land Acquisition (Amendment) Act. No. 28 of 1964.

Reference No. ATH 14/80

It is intended to acquire the land described in the schedule below. For further particulars please see the Gazette of the Republic of Sri Lanka No. 315 (Part III) of 28/04/1978.

#### Schedule

D.R.O's Division: Weke  
Village: Kumarimulla  
Name of Land: Kekunagahawatta and Attambagahawatta alias Weebedagewatta alias Kahatagahawatta.  
Lot No.: 1  
Plan No P.P.Co.: 4868

**D. W. Abeywicrama**  
District Land Officer  
of Colombo District.

The Kachcheri,  
Colombo.  
17, April 1978

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power, tried hard to wheedle out of some leading personality some statement that Sri Lanka was going the ASEAN way and thus weakening in her positive and dynamic non-aligned stand.

But in the economic and commercial field, where concrete agreements could have been possible, nothing seems to have been done. Some members of the Lee Kuan Yew team had exchanged views with Finance Ministry circles and FTZ officials in Colombo, but at the top-level discussions in Nuwara Eliya the discussions on economic and trade matters were confined to Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister and Foreign Ministry officials. It is surprising why the Finance and Trade Ministers and their experts were not invited to join the Nuwara Eliya discussions. With the result that apart from platitudes about an economic agreement and training for Sri Lankans in Singapore's polytechnics, no concrete headway seems to have been made. It was also surprising why no joint communique—one could have been issued even if it was not "formally" a state visit—on the matters discussed and the agreements arrived at, if any.

One of the most significant matters on which Lee Kuan Yew had commented was reflected in a Daily News report (20/4/78) about Upali Wijewardene's (the boss of the FTZ) talk with Lee Kuan Yew. They had discussed "labour legislation" and the ways and means of attracting foreign investors. Mr. Lee Kuan Yew is reported to have told Mr. Wijewardene that though Sri Lanka was on right track, the FTZ had to be cautious with regard to textile and garment industries because the "quota situation" was worsening with the recession in the Western world. Mr. Lee Kuan Yew promised Mr. Wijewardene "that Singapore was willing to

give the Greater Colombo Economic Commission every possible help in FTZ activities—from training GCEC personnel in their Jurong town Industrial Complex to sending experts down to Sri Lanka and even encouraging investors to come here."

Sri Lanka thus has one more promise in the bag. But even if these Singaporean promises are fulfilled, the question that troubles many thinking persons is whether Sri Lanka has the capability to utilise the help and assistance offered. There is, it must be mentioned, great disillusionment that the promises of the UNP still remain "promises". Though the newspapers proclaim that the foundations have been laid for a Just (Dharmista) Society, the hardships people undergo in the matter of the cost of living continues to increase.

Price "controls" have no meaning. They are purely fictitious. The Minister of Trade recently berated merchants and traders for letting the government down during the Sinhala and Hindu New Year by jacking up prices in spite of massive imports. But such sermons offer little consolation to the ordinary householder and consumer. Beef is available in Colombo only on three or four days a week at anything from Rs. 5 to 6 a lb. Mutton ranges from Rs. 9 to Rs. 11 a lb. Fish has gone off the market. When available, seer is at Rs. 12 a lb., paraw at Rs. 9 a lb. and the little salaya is being sold at Rs. 5 a lb. These are not New Year prices, but the prices this week. Dry fish has disappeared from all sales points. Imported match boxes are doled out at one or two per "card"—irrespective of the number of ration books on the card—whilst unlimited quantities are available at higher prices

on the pavements. Eggs went up to a rupee each, but have come down to 75 cts.

Criticism and dissatisfaction against the Government has begun to grow and it is time UNP leaders begin to take note of this. In the last two weeks the situation has begun to deteriorate from the government angle. Many who were ardent supporters of the UNP not many weeks ago and who had spoken of "our government", "our party", have now begun to talk with distinct remoteness of the "the UNP", of "they" and "theirs" (no longer of our and ours). Already these UNPers quip that the best appellation for the UNP was NATO—NO ACTION TALK ONLY.

Even more significant is the fact that the criticism which has so far been directed at different members of the Cabinet is now being levelled at the President himself—there is disappointment that his presidential executive power has not been able to get things moving. Everybody had been told that the situation would improve once Mr. J. R. Jayawardene was sworn in as President. In a few days it will be three months since he became President and matters have gone from bad to worse so far as food prices are concerned.

Everywhere it is talk. The official and government-controlled media are full of sunshine stories. No newspaper reports or comments about the soaring costs of food stuffs. No paper except the *Tribune* has referred to the scandalous mess in the Fisheries Corporation. No paper has probed the licensing of foreign trawlers to fish in our waters. Has any daily paper asked the questions it should have asked: (1) when were these licenses granted; (2) how many companies were licensed and how many trawlers were permitted to be in our seas; (3) how were the unbelievably

low royalty rates fixed; (4) why was no publicity given to these contracts so that the people on our coasts and fishermen who got out to sea could have reported if vessels came inside the 25-mile limit?

Time is running out. There is a bumper harvest of paddy, but with the increase in the prices of ordinary basic essentials, people will have no money to buy rice.

Nevertheless, people have not yet begun to despair. They are still hoping that the President will come to the rescue of the nation.

It is not enough to make Colombo a cleaner and a brighter city, but people in Colombo must be able to buy meat, fish, eggs and vegetables at reasonable prices. It is not enough to hand out promises of a bright future in the Mahaweli. The work must start—but higher salaries and more salaries will mean more inflation unless more goods are produced and are made available.

Something must be done to contain the cost of living, but it is difficult to say where (even) the President can make a start.

①

## TERRORISM

### Government, Police And Intelligence

by An Ex-Policeman

In Sri Lanka, as in a large number of countries in the world, political terrorism has reared its ugly head. The insurgency of 1971 was a major outburst of terrorist activity on the part of angry, frustrated and politically misguided Sinhala youth and it manifested itself in a big way in the areas where the Sinhalese people lived in predominant numbers.

This terrorist insurrectionary movement had evoked no active participation in the Tamil areas, although the government had thought it necessary to detain without trial about 40 odd youths on the ground that they were potential subversionists. Even after the Sinhala youth who had participated in the insurrection of 1971 were released on parole (and many of whom were found employment in government) sponsored undertakings the Tamil youth were kept in prison.

In the meantime, the ill-conceived Republican Constitution of 1972 compelled the frustrated among the Tamils to seek an escape in the concept of a separate state—Eelam. The stationing of what was really an army of occupation in the Tamil areas and the stupid, brutal and arrogant behaviour of the police (guilty of excesses of the worst kind) was fertile soil for the beginning of an underground movement and it also led to a terrorist movement being welcomed among some sections of the Tamils. The denial of the right of self-determination, even to develop autonomous regions in a unitary state increased the frustration and triggered desperate acts of terrorism.

The JVP and other groups that were involved in the 1971 insurrectionary revolt in the Sinhala areas have repeatedly declared (and no one can dispute it) that one of the main reasons for the organisation of the terrorist and military wing and the triggering and precipitating the attack on Police Stations on April 5, 1971 was in self-defence against the brutality of the police who unimaginatively went all out to suppress even the legal and constitutional activities of the JVP. The harsh tactics pursued against Tamil youth, the third degree al-

legedly perpetrated against Tamil detainees on the Fourth Floor and in some police stations, the indiscriminate arrests, beating, the detention of young men at the behest of Tamil politicians who were stooging for the SLFP (and the UF) are regarded as some of the main causes for the growth of the terrorist movement among the Tamil youth. Many of them say that underground existence, especially in jungle hideouts, and armed terrorism, were the only way they could defend themselves against increased police repression. Whether this is an excuse for terrorism which appeals to certain class of frustrated youth—as it always has in history—or whether it is true that police brutality and harshness leads to terrorism is not the point at issue.

**What is really important is that the government does not seem to be fully informed about the true facts of the situation from what is known as INTELLIGENCE in the modern sense of the word.**

There is no doubt that the political intelligence gathered by the CID and ISD in recent years is deplorably poor and totally inadequate. If correct intelligence had been available to government, a large number of mistakes that have been made in recent years could have been avoided. For one thing, the government would have had a better understanding of the situation before, during and after the 1971 revolt. It could have anticipated and prevented not only the April 5 insurrection but also the Tamil (Tiger) Terrorist Movement which has emerged in the last three years.

Political Intelligence has been gathered and served up to government by a special branch of the Police known as the CID from colonial times. Even after Independence and even after the se-

cond world war when the cult of Intelligence had been completely transformed and revolutionised in Sri Lanka, Intelligence has remained in the old groove.

Political Intelligence in colonial times and even in the period after war was mainly concerned with anti-government movements and elements (anti-British, anti-D.S., anti-Sirimavo and anti-Dudley etc.etc.) and was far removed from the modern concepts of comprehensive Intelligence that has grown up in the post second world war world.

In the Intelligence units of the major countries, MI 5 in Britain, CIA in the USA, KGB in USSR and the like, are found some of the most qualified persons—more Ph.Ds. than even M.As., M.Sc.s. or even graduates in any other service. These persons with the most up-to-date knowledge (aware of all the finer nuances of the inner-workings) of all political theories and movements are employed to process, analyse, examine and interpret all the information brought in by specially trained operatives who are trained to bring in reports without slanting them to please biased Intelligence bosses or members of the Government with political prejudices. Intelligence is a science cum art of the highest calibre and not different from doctoral studies about countries and socio-political movements but with more details about motivations, ambitions and policies of individuals and parties. What cannot be published in print about persons and parties, and speculative anticipatory comments about what they will be regarded as "secret" intelligence. It is when this "secret" part is inadequate, incomplete, incorrect or slanted, that governments are misled, and wrong decisions (or no decisions) are the result.

Intelligence also have tough arm units (cloak, dagger) and also the so called combat units. They are trained separately and are different from the "intellectualised" Intelligence processing and analysing section. Of course, a combination of both functions may be possible in special units after long and arduous training of specialised personnel but in Sri Lanka the CID and Intelligence units assist persons seconded from the Police. Their general capabilities unfortunately are limited. In the recent Murunkan episode, it would appear that a unit had tried to combine intelligence with cloak and dagger work and come a cropper.

*It is necessary for the Sri Lanka government to reorganise its intelligence completely. Intelligence cannot any longer go on inhibitions and prejudices chasing pet "enemies" or "bogeys". The CID in Ceylon from British Times has been trained only to "fight communism" and everything which the CID found objectionable or undesirable was labelled "communist" in order to induce action. This kind of over-generalised labelling to fit pet theories has led to the present situation where the government is ill-served by its political intelligence.*

So much has been written about the cult of Intelligence in recent times that it is surprising that the Sri Lanka government has not woken up to contemporary realities. The *Time* and *Newsweek* of February 6 had special reports about the overhaul of the CIA in the USA. These special reports had become necessary because of the public exposures about the working and failures of the CIA—in books, newspaper articles, congressional hearings etc.—and because of the consequent reforms introduced by the White House.

There is a great deal of beating of breasts and wailing in Sri Lanka today about the damage done to

police morale by the evidence that has been led before the Sannone Commission. The CIA in the USA has been subject to even greater buffeting. The *Time* of February 6 stated: "Never before has a secret agency received such public scrutiny. It is indeed a unique event that a modern nation is exhaustively examining one of its chief weapons of defense for all the world to see—including its adversaries. Yet this unprecedented exposure of the Central Intelligence Agency is perhaps the inevitable result of attacks on a vast bureaucracy that operated too long out of the public eye. America's premier defense agency has been under intense fire both at home and abroad for violating what many critics felt were proper standards of international conduct. Once a proud company of proud men acting with the confidence that not only would their accomplishments serve their country but that their fellow citizens would support them, the agency has found its very functions and rationale severely questioned. It has had five directors in five stormy years. Its chiefs seem to spend more time before congressional committee than in planning and administering. Its agents, never public heroes because of the secrecy of their work, are now portrayed in the harshest of press accounts as conspiratorial villains. Somehow the rules of the spy game changed and, as the CIA men keep telling themselves, changed in the middle of the game. The result has been inevitable—sagging morale, deteriorating ability to collect intelligence, and declining quality of analysis. Increasingly this has worried Government policy framers who are all too well aware of the need for price intelligence sources and evaluation....."

So great has dissatisfaction been about the way the CIA has worked that President Carter had to take some

important decisions: "In an effort to restore the CIA's esteem, reorganize the US intelligence community, and deflect further criticism from the agency, President Carter last week signed an Executive Order that places all nine US intelligence agencies under the direct budget control and loose co-ordination of one man: CIA Director, Stansfield Turner, 54. Incorporated in the order were sharp curbs on the kinds of clandestine practices that brought the CIA much of its criticism. The new appointment and the new directives were received with mixed emotions in the US intelligence community. There was skepticism that the overall problems of intelligence, co-ordination and direction could be cured either soon or simply. In addition, since taking over the CIA last March, Admiral Turner has become one of the most controversial men in Washington. His unpopularity in his own agency stems in part from the brusque way in which he eliminated 212 jobs in the Directorate of Operations, the arm that deals with covert activities and intelligence gathering (the other arm handles analysis). These sacking reflected a longstanding desire to reduce the size of the CIA and scale down its covert operations. Detente or no detente, the Soviet Union is a formidable antagonist that continues seeking power and influence, or at least the ability to apply pressure, all over the world. . . Good intelligence has made it possible to co-operate with Russia to contain the arms race. Mutual spying by satellite enables the US and the Soviet Union to monitor the weaponry in each country and provide some prospect that the other side is not cheating. . ."

The *Time* in the same article interviewed Turner on the future of the CIA: "On the mission of US intelligence: American intelligence today is moving away from the

two focuses of intelligence for its first 20 or 25 years (after World War II). The first focus was on covert action, and the second was a pre-occupation with the Soviet Union, particularly the military aspects of the Soviet Union. Let me not leave any doubt. The Soviet military is the No. 1 intelligence issue and must remain so. But without neglecting the cardinal line of defense, we've got to be able to tackle a much wider range of subjects. Today we've got to look at most of the 150-odd countries of the world. We have legitimate needs for good intelligence information on many of them. That transcends military matters. It gets into the economic as well as the political area. So the character of the whole organisation has got to shift to accommodate these new factors."

Speaking of the changing demand for covert action Turner said: "I don't think the country wants us to interfere as much in other people's affairs by covert means today as in the past. I don't think it's as effective today as in the past—and it wasn't all that effective then. The batting average is not big league. But I'm dedicated to preserving for this country the capability to turn to political action when it suits the purpose and when it is properly authorized. We have not by any means abandoned covert action. While it has been much scaled down from the height of the 50s and 60s, it does continue."

In regard to covert action, the Sri Lanka Police should note that it is "covert" action inside a country such as that took place in Murunkan (it was not merely a case of arresting terrorists but covert action to contain the Tiger Liberation Movement). For the CIA, covert action means both inside the USA or in countries outside. But, so far as Sri Lanka is concerned no question of covert action in other countries arise.

THERE IS NO DOUBT that Sri Lanka needs a good Intelligence Organisation with three wings: (1) Research and Analysis, (2) Covert information gathering and (e) Tough-Arm (cloak and dagger) Combat Units.

So far, the approach to such intelligence work in Sri Lanka has been amateurish—an officer experienced only in investigating a case of petty crime or murder is thought to be good enough to report on the JVP or the Tiger Liberation Movement (and it is not always that such officers even get a short briefing by a senior officer who has made many trips abroad to get training in "Intelligence" work). The reports that emanate from such officers will be slanted and incorrect—often not intentionally but because they do not know better.

It is time that the President and the Department of Defence overhaul the whole system of Political Intelligence in this country. Nobody needs to go abroad for special training for this purpose. There is enough talent in the country not only to draw up a scheme for a comprehensive Intelligence Organisation but also to provide enough personnel for the entire outfit. Our Intelligence Organisation, if it is to be effective and have self-respect, should be independent of Big Power or foreign tutelage, be it British, American, French Singaporean, Israel or Indian. In the old days our CID was only an appendage of the British CID.

From our Police Force it should be possible to recruit some functionaries but the rest must come from the Universities and secondary Schools. It is a mistake to think that political intelligence should continue to be the monopoly of the Police. In old colonial times when politics was less complicated, a special branch



of the police was able to discharge the functions of a political intelligence unit.

But, today, the situation is different. Political Intelligence has to be something distinct and apart from the Police. A "police mentality" is totally unsuited for political intelligence. A police force may have an intelligence unit for crime—homicides, robbery, pickpocketing and the like—but such units are totally inadequate to cope with modern political problems in a democratic state where repression is not used to suppress anything the ruling hierarchy disapproves of. Sri Lanka Intelligence should be based on our Constitution and the Dharmista way of life.



**NOTICE**

**Notice Under Section 7 of The Land Acquisition Act (Cap 460) as Amended by the Land Acquisition (Amendment) Act, No. 28 of 1964.**

Reference No. ATH 8/797

It is intended to acquire the land described in the schedule below. For further particulars please see the Gazette of the Republic of Sri Lanka No. 315 (Part III) of 28/04/1978.

**Schedule**

D.R.O.'s Division: Minuwangoda  
Village: Welija  
Name of Land: Godaporagahawatta  
Lot No.: 1  
Plan No. P.P. Co.: 4528

**D. W. Abeywicrama**  
District Land Officer  
of Colombo District.

The Kachcheri,  
Colombo.  
17.04.1978

**NOTICE**

**The Land Acquisition Act (CAP 460) as Amended by the Land Acquisition (Amendment) Act No. 28 of 1964**

**Revocation Of Vesting Order Under Section 39 (1)**

My Ref. No. J 76 L 32 (V.E.)

G.A.'s No. 28/1/275

L.C.'s No. 10/6/16871

Whereas by order No. 203 of 1977 dated 15.04.1977 made under proviso (a) to Section 39 of the Land Acquisition Act as amended by the Land Acquisition (Amendment) Act No. 28 of 1964 and published in the Government Gazette (Extra Ordinary) No. 261/3 dated 18.04.1977 the land more clearly described in the Schedule below vested in the Republic of Sri Lanka.

I, Edward Lionel Senanayake, Minister of Agriculture & Lands in the execution of the powers conferred to me under Section 39 (1) of the Land Acquisition Act as amended by the Land Acquisition (Amendment) Act No. 28 of 1964, do hereby revoke the said order No. 203 of 1977 dated 15.04.1977 published in the Government Gazette (Extra Ordinary) No. 261/3 dated 18.04.1977.

**E. L. Senanayake**

Minister of Agriculture & Lands  
Ministry of Agriculture & Lands,  
Colombo.  
19.10.1977

**Schedule**

Six allotments of land called Vainerukanda alias Paragahawatta in extent about 10A. 02R. 27P. depicted in the Surveyor General's Advance Tracing No. 23/2/76/27 and situated at Wataraka East village in the G.S. Division of Wataraka East in the D.R.O.'s Division of Bope—Poddala, Galle District and bounded as follows:—

**Lot No. 'A'**—in extent about 0A 02R. 34P.

North: Bope—Wataraka V.C. Road;

East: Lot 'B' below;  
South: Ilangewatta claimed by Rufus Jayasundara;  
West: Kirimetiye-watta claimed by Francis Dias Nagahawatta.  
**Lot No. 'B'**—in extent about 01A. 02R. 00P.  
North: Bope-Wataraka V.C. Road;  
East: Lot 'C' below;  
South: Ilangewatta claimed by Rufus Jayasundara;  
West: Lot 'A' above.  
**Lot No. 'C'**—in extent about 01A. 02R. 11P.  
North: Bope-Wataraka V.C. Road;  
East: Lot 'D' below;  
South: Karandeniya Koratuwa claimed by Weliwitagama Hewage William & others and Ilangewatta claimed by Rupes Jayasundara;  
West: Lot 'B' above.  
**Lot No. 'D'**—in extent about 02A. 0R. 11P.  
North: Bope-Wataraka V.C. Road;  
East: Lot 'E' below;  
South: Karandeniya Koratuwa claimed by Weliwitagama Hewage William and others;  
West: Lot 'C' above.  
**Lot No. 'E'**—in extent about 02A. 02R. 30P.  
North: Bope-Wataraka V.C. Road;  
East: Lot 'F' below;  
South: Karandeniya Koratuwa claimed by Weliwitagama Hewage William and others;  
West: Lot 'D' above.  
**Lot No. 'F'**—in extent about 02A. 0R. 21P.  
North: Bope-Wataraka V.C. Road;  
East: Dolagawatta claimed by Pattaniya Durage Seneviratna, Dolangawawatta claimed by Weligama Palliya Guruge Upasena, Dolagawawatta claimed by Chandrasekera Hettiarachchi, Kongahawatta alias Kukulupitiya claimed by Wowelwala Hewage Charlie and others;  
South: Kongahawatta alias kukulupitiya claimed by Wowelwala Hewage Charlie and others;  
West: Lot 'E' above.

## LETTERS

**President Must Act**

Sir,

Please be good enough to publish the following letter in your journal.

The Weekend of April 1st 1978 carried an article "Who Picks Bureaucrats?" a subject of fundamental importance today. The UNP government has taken a bold step to enquire into bureaucratic bungling.

**It may be opportune now for the President to appoint a Commission to assess the work of his own Cabinet Ministers.**

The bureaucracy today is part of the political arena and is no more independent or permanent. Bureaucrats are at the mercy of each new government and are often made the scapegoats of Ministerial bungling and victimisation.

The UNP in its short life span of nine months has an unique record in this respect. The Minister for Shipping and Tourism has run through two secretaries and has now found a third. Much more glaring and shocking is the Minister of Finance who got rid of his Secretary allegedly for "personal reasons". The Minister himself springs from the old British type civil service but displays some of its more unsavoury features; which is the obsession with power combined with a sense of insecurity and inadequacy.

At a time when we need more expertise in such fields as economics, systems analysis, project evaluation and so on, the President, one would expect, would have displayed more foresight in advising the Minister to use the talents of his Secretary, who combines expertise with honesty and integrity. But he seems to have succumbed to the civil service syndrome. At least Mrs. Bandaranaike in the

crisis of Revaluation displayed much more foresight and statemlike qualities by avoiding a crisis and keeping the Minister and his Secretary together.

It is high time the President spoke less of dharmishta from the house tops and decided to put it into practice in the interests of the country and the bureaucracy in general.

**Vasanth K. Rupasinghe**

Colombo.  
10.4.78

+ +

**In Defence Of Hameed**

Sir,

To obtain IMF "green signal" as stated in Editor's Notebook "250 Days" (Tribune, 8.4.78) "it was only after the Hopper visit in mid March that the green signal was given. Now the Government is assured of the second-stand by over \$ 300 million to make up the Rs. 5000 to Rs. 6000 million it needs to get its capitalist feet well and firmly fixed on the ground", clearly prove that the Government is more closer to West. Hence "Serendib's" comment "Muslim pro-West tilting Hameed" is misleading and reeks of communal mudslinging.

A Minister has to carry out the Cabinet decisions and whether a "Muslim Hameed" or a "Tamil Devanayagam" hold the portfolio of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs he has to project the pro-west image of the Government.

Sri Lanka/Pakistan relations to quote the Vice President of the Federation of Pakistani Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr Haji Razak Janoo, who led the Pakistan Trade Dlegation to Sri Lanka recently, "was particularly

happy that Sri Lanka had maintained extremely cordial relations with Pakistan ever since the country was founded."

When the question of restrictions on the export of textile products to E.E.C. countries cropped up the Ministry of Textile Industries summoned a meeting of all apparel exporters and hammered out a satisfactory solution. Likewise it is for the Ministry of Trade to have a dialogue with the Pakistan Government and seek a favourable settlement in regard to Tea. When the Finland market for readymade garments was threatened once again it was the Ministry of Textile Industries, in association with other institutions, who moved in to save the day for Sri Lanka.

The Free Trade Zone will bring in investors from W. Germany, Hongkong, South Korea and the Government policy is to attract the flow of capital from any area to make the FTZ a success. The task of sounding these countries on behalf of the Government fell on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

"Serendib" laments about the 22 visits in 7 months but at the same time finds fault with Minister Hameed for not visiting Pakistan and Cairo. It look like that "Serendib" is more keen in using any stick to attack him. Let us hope that the president will "come down hard on official junketing abroad".

"Serendib's" ravings reminds one of the saying of the Persian writer Muhammad Rejaizi; "Today I myself do not understand well what I wrote yesterday; why do expect others to grasp the truth of the condition and purpose of my writings."

**M. S. M. Wadood**

14/6, Baptist Chapel Road,  
Colombo 7.  
18. 4. 78.

WHITE PAPER ON EMPLOY-  
MENT RELATIONS—1

## Right To Hire And Fire

by A Special Correspondent

A Special Correspondent, in a series of four articles, examines some of the objectionable features of the Government's *White Paper on Employment Relations*. We invite comments from our readers not only on the *White Paper*, but also on the views put forward in this series of articles.

This *White Paper* has certainly provoked reactions the Government would hardly have expected. The alacrity with which the Ministry of Labour rushed to issue the press communique which was published in the *Ceylon Daily News* of 2.03.78 explaining its position and the rationale behind the entire exercise persuades me to conclude that the indepth study, this Law warranted was not initially there. Clearly the bureaucrat has been at his familiar game once again.

Speaking in lighter vein the Prime Minister is reported to have remarked (*Ceylon Daily News* of 23.03.78) that the Trade Unions should not "dissipate their militancy on a *White Paper* which had yet to become Green and that all views expressed on the *White Paper* would be carefully studied before Government proceeded to include it in the statute book."

It seems all too unfortunate that the cover page of the *White Paper* is printed in green which itself seems a strategic error on the part of whoever gave the order. Over the years the public has been treated to this type of puerile bureau-

cratic gimmickry which brings discredit to any government. Shades of a rainbow spectrum do not make a public servant any more loyal to the government in power! When will a bureaucrat learn!

The statement issued by the Ministry of Labour (2.03.78) states: "*...the Government wishes to point out that the provisions contained in the White Paper have been intended to supply certain lacunae in the existing labour laws and to improve the existing labour legislation in certain respects so as to ensure that the workers are not exploited by the employers and at the same time production and productivity and eventual economic development of the country do not suffer in consequence of any irresponsible action on the part of the workers, trade unions or employment*"

Thus what this Law seeks to remedy would appear to be: (a) to supply certain lacunae in the existing labour laws; (b) to ensure that workers are not exploited by the employers; (c) to enhance production and productivity; and (d) to prevent any irresponsible action on the part of the workers, trade unions or employers.

All these objectives, without doubt, are highly commendable in the national interest. It is indeed passing strange that the objections discernible so far are only from the workers. The employers are silent. An inference that they are pleased with the Law is thus not unwarranted. But whether the restrictions imposed by this Law are going to help to "enhance production and productivity" is an altogether different proposition.

The final paragraph of the Labour Ministry communique significantly reminds critics of the draft Law that deletion of clauses found unacceptable need not be ruled out,

having regard to past precedent in the National State Assembly. It is without doubt to the credit of His Excellency the President that all the clauses found to be inconsistent with the Constitution by the Constitutional Court were removed by His Excellency when he was Prime Minister. Similar sensitivity to public opinion shown by the Minister of Labour is a most welcome manifestation of the same trend in recent times—since 21.07.77.

The proposed Law has many features that are welcome and all concerned should be grateful to Government. A study of these features need hardly be undertaken in this article. The Centre for Society and Religion in its memorandum dated 15.03.78 has done so.

What is not understood is why a section of the Press considered it necessary to give the wide coverage it did to the views of Mr. C. V. Devan Nair, President of the 22 million strong Asian Regional Organisation of the International Confederation of Free Trade Union Congress. Describing the National Trade Union of Singapore as a beacon light in the same interview, Mr. Nair has expressed the view that "trade union movements should be liberated from political parties and diagnosed it as the greatest malaise of the trade union movement of Sri Lanka. Are we to infer that trade unions in other parts of the world do not have political guidance?"

The proposals in the Draft Law that have attracted the wrath, indignation and hostility from representatives of the workers and of those institutions that are dedi-

cated to a study of this social problem are those pertaining to:

- (a) the right to strike and the help that is extended to those on strike;
- (b) termination of employment;
- (c) role of the Employees Councils;
- (d) appeals to institutions dispensing justice.

These matters have also been discussed in the memorandum of the Centre for Society and Religion, by the Joint Trade Union Declaration dated 10.03.78 which has been signed by practically every trade Union that counts and in the memorandum of 16.02.78 issued by the CMU. I would myself like to comment on some aspects that seem worthy of consideration, viewing them as dispassionately as is possible and without the emotion that should be expected on such sensitive issues from both employer and employee.

Let us see the Government's policy declaration on this subject. The UNP Manifesto declares at page 9 thus:

*"Today the Trade Union Movement is in chaos. Each political party seeks to organise its own Union. Unions should be truly democratic and free of control of outsiders. The employees organised in self-managed institutions should be the masters of their fate and of the institution they work in. They should have control not only of their own labour but also over the fruits of their labour. Organizations of employees managing their work places will be formed without political affiliations."*

This then is the declared policy of government. The most important feature is the determination to free the unions of political control, an intention which incidentally is in consonance with the views expressed by Mr. Devan Nair which was given the widest publicity in the press here. **Political control should not be confused with**

**political guidance, or else there will be room for disenchantment. How the Trade Unions will grow under the new dispensation, experience alone will show. Honest and pious intentions are sometimes buried in a graveyard of lost illusions and hopes.**

Section 3 of the Draft Law provides that "where there is any inconsistency between the provisions of this Law and any such other law, the provisions of this Law shall prevail". Therefore my comments are on the assumption that if and when this Law becomes operative its provisions alone shall finally be operative. These comments relate only to the matters indicated below:

#### TERMS AND CONDITIONS

**EMPLOYMENT.** Section 4 introduces the obnoxious concept of "hire and fire". Is the Government prepared to allow this section to remain on the Statute Book, when in order to ensure job-security Sri Lanka's trade union leaders, including several members of the present government, were in the vanguard of the struggles to secure that affirmation? In its present form, this section is a complete negation of the democratic rights of the citizen and a violation of the principles of natural justice which means that "no man shall be judge in his own cause and that no man shall be condemned unheard" Under section 4 (b) employment may be terminated by the employer;

*"if the other party has acted in breach of his obligation under the terms and conditions of such employment".*

The procedure for such termination is set out in section 22 of the Law and will be commented upon later. The words "breach of obligations" are very nebulous and will not be difficult to establish if management is determined to get rid of an employee,

because if an executive does not like his or her face or to take a extreme case, if a manager's improper advances towards a pretty lady in employment are rejected, it would not be very hard to build up a case in time to satisfy the provisions of section 4 (b) of the Law.

Defenders of this section may even point to section 23 as an adequate safeguard. But what is it that this section provides? Only compensation. Ask any employee, does he/she want compensation or a firm assurance of continued employment. Let the framers of this Law have a look at the conditions for employment security in a country like Japan. This will give them some home work which they are obviously in need of.

And worse still, section 23 (b) specifically excludes recourse to a court of law which the Industrial Disputes Act provides. I have never been able to understand why some of our legislators and almost all bureaucrats have such an inbuilt, almost pathological, aversion to institutions dispensing justice—our courts of law. As a leading journalist remarked to me on one occasion, the bureaucrat is happiest when working under Emergency Rule! Perhaps he is correct. As a private citizen he had experienced the tyranny of bureaucratic apathy. I have never tired of referring to what the Hon. Justice T. W. Rajaratnam of our Supreme Court said on one occasion as was reported in the local press recently. This is what he said:

*The Majesty of the Law is in its enforcement*

*The Beauty of the Law is in its simplicity*

*The Justice of the Law is in its fairness for the social good*

*And the Service of the Law is in its concern for the citizen and the state.*

Mr. Justice Rajaratnam went on: "In my view these are the attributes of the Law. With this in mind I consider the understanding of the Law as important as a study of it. When the Law is understood in its true nature and purpose, its majesty and beauty, its justice and service are revealed and felt by society. When it is administered without this understanding, the Law does not stand out in all its majesty and beauty in the eyes of the public. The Law never suffers stagnation but it moves with the changing needs of society. Contributions to the legal literature must have as its purpose either a true appreciation of the Law or a constructive criticism of it. They must be clear expositions of the Law removing rather than creating the uncertainties and conflicts in the interpretation of the Law. All legal literature with its deep research and study will continue to serve as a firm unseen foundation for the seen structure of the Law with all its attributes to be appreciated and understood by the Public for whom alone it exists."

Thus, if the provisions of section 4 and 23 are to remain, sub-section (3) of section 23 should be deleted, making provision for the aggrieved party to seek redress from an institution dispensing justice. This is the only bulwark the citizen ever possessed or will possess in a democratic society, against injustice, tyranny and violence to the principles of natural justice.

As regards termination of employment during the period of probation, section 7 (3), there should be no quarrel, particularly having to regard the fact that the period of probation is now limited to a period of one year and sections 7 (4) and 7 (5) are altogether in favour of the employee. Termination during probation is an accepted principle of employment and it is not a matter that should agitate

anybody .

Sections 10 and 16 only make a bad Draft Law worse. Have the framers given these two sections any consideration at all? Why were they considered necessary? Is it a pretence to show concern for a dismissed employee under section 4?

Let us now examine section 15 of the Law. The employer "shall be substituted for the contractor as regards the latter's obligations towards every employee by such contractor for the execution of such work or the furnishing of such services" This is all to the good and reveals a remarkable, but unconvincing, concern for the employee. Where is the provision to take action against a defaulting contractor? Is this not a hiatus in the Law? It is quite a simple process to become insolvent, much simpler than firing an employee under section 4. This provision opens the doors wide open to corruption, wider than they are at present. In defence of this provision, the question can be asked 'do you want the employees thrown out on to the streets? That should not and need never happen, if the 'principal employer', who I believe is the management, continuously monitors the activities of the contractor and takes remedial action before the situation explodes in his face.

Management, perhaps, could not care less—it is somebody else's money that is involved. Some of our State Corporations provide convincing evidence to support this inference. What is wanted is not a coroner's autopsy. This section should therefore provide for the 'principal employer' to be personally liable for the contractor's default. If he fails to establish that the progress of the work or the furnishing of the services were not under regular scrutiny.

(To be Continued)

## LETTER

## JUDICIARY

Sir,

There is bound to be much speculation in legal circles now that the Govt is considering the setting up of a new Appellate Court. In choosing the judges, one of the first preoccupations of the Minister of Justice is to set up a Bench which will reduce law's delays to near zero. The prime quality required in a Judge in the present context is the unrivalled intellectual power—an ability to disentangle the complex legal and factual problems, and to produce an extempore judgement with quick but unhurried efficiency. It was only last month the Indian Govt thought it fit after a process of trial and error to restore the principle of seniority in appointing Justice Y.V. Chandrachud as India's new Chief Justice. It will be recalled that Mr. Chandrachud was one of the four Supreme Court Judges who ruled in a crucial test of law during the Indira Gandhi regime that the suspension of the fundamental rights during the state of the internal emergency was valid.

In the appointment and promotion of Judges, the only criterion should be a happy blend of merit and seniority. Extraneous considerations often result in undesirable appointments thereby undermining the public confidence in the judiciary. There is no approved scheme of recruitment except the appointee should be a lawyer not over 63 years of age. The reverberations of the wrong kind of appointment are felt long thereafter and have been known to deter other suitable candidates from joining the Bench on subsequent occasions. By your actions you are judged, be your words what they may.

Sajith Senaratne

Devala Road,  
Nugegoda.  
23, March 1978

## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

By Ariel

## ○ Overseas Chinese

## ○ Indo-China

In the article last week we had begun a review of current developments in China and had drawn attention to the support that the Hua-Teng regime had extended to ASEAN. In this connection we had referred to the issue of the *Time* of December 12, 1977 which carried a special cover report on *The Chinese Abroad*.

Whilst Peking has once again started wooing the Overseas Chinese, governments in many Asian countries which have large Chinese populations have renewed fears about the presence of these powerful Chinese groups in their territories. *Time* writes about such Chinese communities in Europe, North America and elsewhere with the magazine's customary pep, but it deals exhaustively with the Chinese in South-east Asia—and this for good reason. Of the 22.5 million ethnic overseas Chinese, 21.5 million live in South-East Asia—*Nanyang*, meaning South Ocean. This does not include the Chinese in Taiwan.

*Time* has an excellent background report about the Chinese communities: "They are called *hua ch'iao* (Chinese sojourners). They have been pouring out of China for centuries, but they never meant to stay away permanently. As they paused in some morning mist to look back at their native villages, the dream was always the same to get rich abroad, to go home in triumph, and to die on the soil of their birth. Everywhere they went, they lived in expectation of that eventual return. Like the exiled Jew, pledging each Passover 'Next year in Jerusalem.' the Chinese sojourn-

ers hoped some day, somehow to find the way back to their roots. The very laws of their homeland buoyed those hopes. Even if it took generations to succeed in some remote land, China would wait: any child born to at least one Chinese parent, Manchu law decreed, was considered Chinese, whether or not he ever saw his native country. Other citizenships simply did not count. Yet by the laws of the countries where they live and work, Jan Siroiwongse is Thai, Tan Thong-ho is Dutch, and March Fong Eu is American—and there are 22.5 million people like them outside of the People's Republic of China and Taiwan. For generations these *hua ch'iao* have constituted an ethnic empire, tied more closely to one another—and to home—than to their adopted countries. Now that is changing. The empire is breaking up. The sojourners are putting down new roots in lands far away from the Middle Kingdom, sometimes with only a peremptory bow of respect to the past. Much of the change has been spurred by Peking itself. In the 1950s, the People's Republic sought to end the old image of the Chinese as perpetual wanderers, loyal only to their homeland. The cold war had inspired many Asian countries to view their *hua ch'iao* communities as a kind of internal Red Peril, ready to serve Peking's commands. Premier Chou En-lai chose to allay the fears (though not some actual subversion) by urging Chinese to integrate into local societies. Peking agreed with other countries that *hua ch'iao* who took out local citizenship were no longer Chinese nationals. The policy endures: just last October, Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-ping admonished 800 Overseas Chinese visitors to observe the policy and law of their host countries."

*Time* also has a succinct account of the relations between Overseas Chinese and the Peoples Republic,

Taiwan and the countries of their adoption: "Moreover many Chinese found that the People's Republic hardly seemed like home any more. Between the Communist take-over in 1949 and the Cultural Revolution in 1966-67, some 500,000 Chinese did in fact return to the mainland, some eager to help a new China, others as refugees from inhospitable conditions elsewhere. Pampered and privileged at first, many of them found themselves in retraining labor battalions when the Red Guards stormed to power. By 1971, armed with precious "exit only" visas, thousands left, disillusioned. Since then, few Overseas Chinese return home except as visitors though many still dutiful send back to relatives cashable gifts amounting to more than \$1 billion a year. Taiwan still eagerly woos the *hua ch'iao*. It thus continues to recognize the one-Chinese-always-Chinese principle, reinforcing that concept with world-wide Chinese language schools and scholarships to study in Taiwan. Though the Nationalists throw a grand bash for Overseas Chinese each October (29,000 attended this year), Taiwan's influence among them is dwindling as fast as its embassies close. To the pragmatic Chinese, a Nationalist passport does not count for much any more. As the homelands were losing their attraction, other shores began beckoning to the overseas Chinese. Countries long closed to them dropped racial bars and offered opportunities to sink new roots. Often the way to security was the still familiar, gruelling path of the past—standing over hot stoves for hours in the back kitchens of restaurants, or tending great pots of steaming clothes in hand laundries. But many *hua ch'iao* are discovering careers of a more rewarding kind . . . . ."

Thereafter, *Time* published "a distillation" of the reports of

their correspondents "from Singapore to San Francisco, Manila to Melbourne, Paris to Sao Paulo" about the "problems and prospects of the *hua ch'iao* today." About the Chinese in South-East Asia, the *Time* report said: "The heart of the Overseas Chinese empire is Southeast Asia—the Nanyang, (literally, the south ocean)—whose Chinese population, excluding Taiwan totals 21.1 million. The *hua ch'iao* presence is felt everywhere. Professor Chu-hsi Wu of Cheng-chih University in Taiwan, an expert on the overseas Chinese, estimates their wealth at \$ 50 billion to \$ 60 billion—three times the annual gross national product of Taiwan. Much of that wealth fuels the economies of the Nanyang: roughly \$ 16.3 billion is capital investment in member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. The Chinese have been in and out of Southeast Asia for millenniums. Great waves of emigration, however, were rare until the 19th century . . . when events inside and outside China broke down the gates. The bloody but unsuccessful Taiping Rebellion of the 1850s and 1860s killed an estimated 20 million Chinese and threw the giant country into political and economic chaos. Famine compounded the disaster, and the Chinese began to flee in great tides. In 1927, the high-water mark 360,000 new immigrants from China poured into Singapore alone. Today Hong Kong and Singapore are the hubs of Chinese culture and commerce in the Nanyang."

Then, the report went on to examine in some detail the position of the Chinese communities in Hongkong, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, and Thailand before dealing with the Chinese in New Zealand, Australia and in other countries.

Concluding the report, *Time* felt that most overseas Chinese may not want to go back to the Peo-

ple's Republic for good: "A pride in China and things Chinese will undoubtedly remain. Overseas Chinese may not want to go back to live in the People's Republic any more than a US enthusiast for Ireland wants to live on the Ould Sod. French authorities have discovered that even pro-Peking Chinese quickly pay up back taxes when threatened with deportation to the mainland. But at the same time Chinese everywhere share a pride in the way that modern China has emerged from civil war and subservience to take a prominent place in the international sun. China is, after all, still *Chung-kuo*, the Middle Kingdom, one of the world's oldest and most accomplished civilisations. If upstart nationalities like Italians and Spanish and British are searching for their roots, how could a Chinese forget China?"

It is in this background that one must view the efforts now being made by Peking to win the sympathy, support and co-operation of the Overseas Chinese. When the People's Republic was established, Mao and Chou made great efforts to win the friendship and assistance of Chinese communities abroad. But, in the dark days of the Cultural Revolution and the rule of the Gang of Four there was a reversal of this policy.

But now, Peking seems anxious to obtain the support of the 22.5 million Overseas Chinese, some very powerfully placed in the countries of their adoption, to co-operate in the Eleventh Congress objective of creating the "widest united front of struggle against hegemonism" to be led by China. In this connection there have been suggestions about "a Conference of Asian countries". In the meantime a Conference was held of 800 representatives of Overseas Chinese last September which was addressed by Teng Hsiao-ping. The Committee for Chinese Emigrants,

which had gone into abeyance during the Cultural Revolution, is now active once again. The fact that the Chairman of this Committee, Liao Chen-Chin has been made a Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress is considered significant.

Apart from explaining the policy objectives of the new regime, the Peoples Republic has once stressed the importance of encouraging overseas Chinese to make remittances in convertible currency to assist relations and families in China. The amount so transferred every year has been estimated to be very large—large enough to buy entire industrial enterprises. Fears have also been expressed in some countries that the appeal made to Overseas Chinese to return to the homeland to modernise China (where the system of training technical and scientific personnel had suffered serious dislocation in the last ten years) will result in a major brain-drain from certain countries.

With this backdrop, it would be easier to understand and appreciate China's efforts to make a major come-back in the global diplomatic arena.

The *Newsweek* of March 27, commenting on Chinese Vice-Premier Li, Hsien-Nien's visit to the Philippines stated: "The *barong tagalog* was a poor fit, but when Chinese Vice Premier Li Hsien-nien gamely donned it last week in Manila, he captured the spirit of a new wave of diplomacy from Peking. Arriving for a state visit, Li quickly shed his sombre Mao suit in favor of the elegant Filipino dress shirt. He wore it for the next four days as he toured the capital and its environs, pressing the flesh in an enthusiastic welcoming crowd of 500,000, dining on banana hearts and prawns baked in coconut milk and cruising Manila Bay on President Ferdinand Marco's yacht. In

the end, he wrapped up his stay by signing a broad agreement to increase the already considerable exchanges between the two countries. And all the while, he was looking beyond the Philippine border to the other members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nation (ASEAN)—countries that are wary of the giant to the north. Li's visit was part of a two-month-old diplomatic offensive aimed at strengthening China's ties with Southeast Asia—and diminishing Soviet influence in the area. The first major thrust came in late January, when Vice Premier Teng Hsiao ping, the architect of the policy, journeyed to Burma and Nepal. Li's Manila stop may be more significant. China and the Philippines have had diplomatic relations since Marcos visited Peking in 1975. But until last week, no high-ranking Chinese official had ever set foot in Manila—or any other capital in the Western-oriented ASEAN group. To underscore the importance of Peking's new activist Chairman Hua Kuo-feng gave the diplomatic offensive his official blessing at the National People's Congress three weeks ago. In his policy speech, Hua said that his government would seek friendly relations with all of China's neighbours and—in a reversal of Maoist tradition—he hinted broadly that the once-reviled ASEAN nations would be particular targets. 'We support the countries of Southeast Asia in their efforts to strengthen regional economic co-operation and bring about the neutralization of Southeast Asia', he declared. Li echoed those sentiments last week in Manila. At his welcoming banquet, he went out of his way to laud the efforts of ASEAN to block 'the super-powers' hegemonist infiltration and extension' by strengthening their ties with Third World and Second World countries on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.' By way of back-

ing his rhetoric, he signed an agreement for scientific and technological exchanges with the Philippines. And he put the seal of approval in a 'comprehensive trade pact.'

Of course there were problems of the Spratly Islands and the guerrilla Maoist New Peoples Army, but they were, according to the *Newsweek*, discussed in camera.

With India too, China has started a new diplomatic story *Newsweek* of March 27 commenting on this said: "China's recent diplomatic initiatives have extended to the Indian subcontinent as well as to Southeast Asia. When India's Janata Party led by Moraji Desai ousted Indira Gandhi last year, China's leaders were delighted that what they saw as a pro-Soviet regime in new Delhi was out of the way. A series of ranking envoys journeyed to India pledging themselves to a new era of peaceful co-operation and offering the chance to settle the border dispute that has frozen relations between the two Asian giants for more than fifteen years. Upon his arrival in the Indian capital this month, Peking's diplomatic troubleshooter Wang Ping-nan struck the most upbeat note yet. 'Sometimes even brothers quarrel, but brothers are brothers,' he declared. 'Quarrels are temporary. Our fraternity is everlasting'. China has reportedly indicated that it would be willing to withdraw its claim to the disputed Arunachal Pradesh territory if the Indians agree to a mutual troop withdrawal and further negotiations on Kashmir. So far, the Desai government has reacted cautiously to the Chinese overtures. The bitter memories of the past are still fresh: in 1957, Chinese troops marched into the Indian state of Kashmir and occupied 12,000 square miles. Again in 1962, after a brief but bitter war, China grabbed a further 2,000 square

miles from India. 'After what happened in the past', explains India's foreign Minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee, 'there should be no euphoria in our relations with China'. Still, ties between the two countries are steadily improving. Ambassadors were exchanged in 1976. Trade and shipping links have been resumed. And India is now planning to send a song-and-dance act, a football team and group of journalists to China. The border issue is far from resolved. But for the first time, the Indian Government seems willing to negotiate with the Chinese—and that alone represents a major step forward."

White China is today once again seeking to re-capture the pre-eminent diplomatic presence in Asia it had secured in the early 1960s on Chou En-lai's *Pancha Sila* (including friendship with the Soviet Union), but on the new Cultural Revolution Maoists anti-hegemonistic (anti-Soviet) three-world foreign policy posture, events in Indo-China continue to be difficult. The Khmer Rouge leadership in a statement on the anniversary of the liberation of Cambodia on April 17, 1975 declared that it was prepared to negotiate with Vietnam on certain conditions—one of which was that Hanoi should give up its desire to bring Kampuchea into an Indo-China federation. Admittedly, there is a Khmer fear of being eventually submerged by 50 million Vietnamese. Khmer leaders constantly recall that much of what is Southern Vietnam today once belonged to Cambodia and was slowly absorbed by migrating Vietnamese peasants: "Recently in an interview with Yugoslav journalists Cambodian premier Pol Pot said that Vietnam planned to include Cambodia in an Indochinese federation 'in which their people would be settled in Cambodia by the thousands and millions each year so that within



30 years or more the Cambodian people would be turned into a minority.' Hanoi officially strongly deny that they have ever proposed that Cambodia should join a federation. They admit that the members of the now defunct Indochinese Communist Party (ICP) toyed with the idea and in fact passed a resolution to form a federation after liberation of the three countries from colonial rule. But that idea, they insist, has nothing in common with the bogey of the federation raised by Pol Pot. The ICP resolution at the time, according to Vietnam, made it clear that the federation would be established on the basis of self-determination of the Indochinese people. In any case, since the dissolution of the ICP in 1951 the idea of the federation has never been raised.

"Do the Cambodians not interpret Vietnam's claim of a 'special relationship' with Laos and Cambodia as the Indochinese federation in a new garb? An official said that a special relationship was not something abnormal. 'We insist on a special relationship,' the official said, 'because there is not another example in history of such a relationship where the two people shared each grain of rice, every bullet, suffering and victory.' However, a Cambodian diplomat had earlier told the REVIEW that Cambodia wanted a 'normal' and not a special relationship."

And so the arguments go on. If the arguments were verbal and led to the negotiating table, it would not matter. But at present it means war, killing and devastation. This must end. How it can be brought about is anybody's guess.



## INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE

### On Disarmament

—Seminar in Vienna—

by T. Duraisingam

The aim of all disarmament talks and efforts should be to move as rapidly as possible towards general and complete disarmament. This has always been the goal of the hundreds of political parties, mass organisations, trade unions, women's and youth and student bodies, religious cultural and social circles, and all the political and social forces represented in the world peace movement.

A new initiative on disarmament, with the accent on nuclear energy, was taken recently in Vienna with the active participation of members of the World Peace Council. This was an international seminar on "Nuclear Energy and the Arms Race". It was organised by the International Liaison Forum of Peace Forces in co-operation with the Australian Co-ordinating Committee for Peace Work and in consultation with the International Atomic Energy Agency. The seminar was held in Vienna on 6-8 February 1978 and the participants, who came from all the continents and who represented a broad spectrum of political, socio-economic and religious orientations, expressed various opinions, had a fruitful exchange of views and arrived at very useful and important conclusions on the subject.

Participants from 20 countries attended this seminar. Among the participants were prominent scientists and officers of the International Atomic Energy Agency and of the International Liaison Forum of Peace Forces. The United Nations was represented by Mrs. Liselotte Waldheim-Natural, Head of the Geneva office of the UN Centre for Disarmament. I participated in this seminar representing the

Sri Lanka Peace Council. The International Atomic Energy Agency provided papers and information material on several of the themes—in relation to the actual work and tasks of the Agency. The Agency is an intergovernmental organisation like the United Nations, the World Bank, the World Health Organisation and other specialised Agencies of the United Nations. Its main objectives are to 'seek to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace health, and prosperity throughout the world' and to "ensure so far as it is able, that assistance provided by it or at its request or under its supervision or control is not used in such a way as to, further any military purpose." This Agency is the organisation entrusted with the safeguarding of nuclear installations under the terms of the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

The International Atomic Energy Agency has a membership of about 110 states and Sri Lanka is one of them. The IAEA's own budget, currently about 40 million dollars a year, is financed by contributions from Member States. The IAEA already assists Sri Lanka in projects in agriculture, hydrology, medicine and training. It has approved for 1978, several new requests made by the Sri Lanka Atomic Energy Authority under the Agency's regular program for technical assistance. The assistance by the IAEA to Sri Lanka for 1978 is expected to be around 200,000 US dollars.

The International seminar for disarmament was held in the conference hall of the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna. The Agency gave hospitality and assistance for the successful conduct of the seminar which enabled us to have a productive dialogue on the issues of great interest to world-wide public opinion.

The topics discussed at this seminar were: (a) The arms race and

the efforts for nuclear disarmament; (b) Non-proliferation and safeguards; (c) The role of nuclear energy in solving the problems of power generation; (d) International co-operation in the field of nuclear energy; and (e) Public opinion and the factors influencing it.

The participants spoke of the dangers to peace and security from the nuclear arms race. We expressed our deep conviction about the necessity to put an end to the nuclear arms race and about our profound belief that this race can be stopped and reversed, and that nuclear disarmament can be achieved. In the present arms race nuclear weapons have taken the central place. The limitation of nuclear weapons and nuclear disarmament and finally complete prohibition of all nuclear weapons have, therefore, become foremost demands. Some important agreements have been reached so far, in particular the Test Ban Treaty of 1963, the Non-proliferation Treaty of 1968, the SALT-I accords, and agreements on measures to prevent the outbreak of nuclear conflicts, on the de-nuclearization of outer space and the sea-bed. These agreements have been important contributions to the process of detente. In their absence, the world situation would have been aggravated, with nuclear conflict being a possible outcome. Nevertheless, the arms race has continued and intensified, with the pivotal role of nuclear weapons being undiminished.

Despite the enormous sums expended on nuclear weapons they have not increased the real security of states possessing them. Some circles in certain countries still dream of a new technological breakthrough that will provide them with superweapon enabling them to secure a decisive military advantage by striking first. This is a profound illusion. The first use

of such a weapon would create insoluble problems threatening the very existence not only of the attacked but also of the attacking state. Similarly some circles in certain countries that have so far acquired nuclear weapons are striving to acquire them in the false belief that this would enable them to solve complicated political problems to their advantage. Any attempt to use nuclear weapons as an element in such a calculation will certainly fail in its objective. Unfortunately the use of nuclear weapons either in local or global conflicts would harm not only the countries directly involved but also other countries, including some far from the battle zones.

In 1977, the world spent an astronomical figure of over 350 billion dollars for military purposes. Such expenditure is a serious burden on the economies of all states, no matter how rich they are. It has the most negative effects on the economies of all states, especially developing countries. The latter need a particular accumulation of means to speed up their development. However, the worldwide arms race, generated by the imperialist and neo-colonialist forces, involves these countries and, consequently, absorbs their vital resources. The costs of the technological side of the arms race are growing at an ever alarming pace. They are further increased by the constantly growing financial outlays for research and development and spending on maintenance and storage. The total amount of world expenditure for the further modernisation of armaments already sophisticated enough has reached at present some tens of billions of dollars annually and it is constantly growing. Speaking about the costs of the qualitative arms race one must take note of the diversion of the services of 40 thousand highly skilled specialists

and professional people from socially useful purposes to highly destructive ones.

The development, production and development of new nuclear weapons, such as the neutron bomb, must be strongly opposed because such steps would escalate the arms race. The neutron bomb is basically a very small H-bomb which, exploded at an altitude of 300 ft, sends down deadly neutron rays that instantly penetrate buildings, bunkers, tanks and would kill all life, including soil organisms, roughly within one square mile. Saturation bombing, already employed in World War II and in Viet Nam, with this weapon would create whole areas dead to life. The growing world protests against the US plans to begin producing the neutron bomb show that people don't want new weapons of mass destruction but want disarmament, trust and co-operation.

Mrs. Waldheim-Natural in her speech at the seminar referred to the message of the Secretary General of the United Nations who summed up the main characteristics of the continuing arms race in the following terms: "The continuous and rapid qualitative change in the weapons being produced and deployed is an increasingly dominant and ominous characteristic of the arms race. In recent years, we have witnessed a steady stream of military technological developments in different fields and environments, each new generation of weapons being more complex and destructive than the one it has replaced. While it is evident that an increase in international tension will further speed up the arms race, it is equally clear that improvement in the international climate is not, in itself, sufficient to slow it down. Thus we have seen a continuation and indeed an acceleration, of the arms race in the midst of political detente. Disarmament considera-

tions must become an integral part of international efforts towards detente. It is dangerous to assume that new military developments can always be controlled and a stable balance of deterrence maintained. It must be generally realized that the continued competition among nations to produce ever more sophisticated weapons is a threat to all of them and that the adoption of effective disarmament measures is in their common interest. There is now general agreement that the threat of nuclear war is the greatest single peril to the survival of mankind."

The participants at the seminar also discussed the role of nuclear energy in solving the problems of power generation. The peaceful applications of nuclear energy are diverse. These applications can be of great importance for economic and social development. The world energy demand will be growing although the regional rates and modalities of this growth are difficult to predict with accuracy. Even with the most stringent efforts to achieve energy conservations, the world energy consumption is likely to rise by a factor of 2 to 3 from now to the turn of the century.

Over the intermediate term, nuclear power will certainly contribute to reaching the quantities of oil and gas consumed for electricity generation, such a perspective, being particularly important for countries deficient not only in oil and gas, but also in coal reserves. Over the long term, nuclear power may provide a solution for meeting overall energy requirements, which by the middle of the next century might approach a range of 8 to 10 times the present consumption on a world scale. It is to be expected, that in this period the depletion of oil and gas reserves will make itself felt, increasing the need for other sources of energy,

At the seminar I referred to "the energy problem which has affected not only the industrialized countries throughout the world but also has affected developing countries including small countries like Sri Lanka. The industrialised countries may, as a temporary measure, rely on conservation and reduced rates of growth in energy consumption as a means of alleviating the problem of energy supply and demand, but that developing countries like mine can ill afford such an approach. For about four hundred years the Portuguese, Dutch and British imperialists, in that order, exploited our country and left it an industrially undeveloped and poor country. After we achieved independence we have been trying to develop our country industrially and agriculturally. But the oil crisis has struck us a severe blow. In order to solve this problem we tried to find oil in our own country. We invited experts from different countries to help us discover oil in our country, but so far we have not succeeded. Increasing energy supply is a necessity for our development. But since we lack in indigenous energy sources, the only solution for us is nuclear power and the use of imported oil or coal. We welcome the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes."

The Seminar stressed the great importance of explaining to public opinion that there is no contradiction between the will to ban the proliferation of nuclear arms and the will of developing countries to follow others in using nuclear energy for the benefit of their people. The essence of our discussion was the close interrelationship between nuclear disarmament, international detente and the possibilities for an ever-growing peaceful application of nuclear energy in the world.

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## Kalkudah

—On To Trinco—

by Ina Trimmer

We left our happy caravaneers listening to singing fish on the Batticaloa lagoon. Early next morning mummie's friends came to take them out sightseeing.

"Don't attempt to bathe in the sea here", said Mr. Selvadurai. "It's dangerous. We've a suggestion to make and hope you'll agree. After seeing the sights you lunch with us, and later we'll go to our estate at Kalkudah. It borders the sea and there are fine spots for Jason."

"That's grand" said daddy.

"Yes, and our little house is also close to the waves"

"Better and better"

Auntie Mahes thought it was her turn to chime in—"marvellous bathing at Passikuddah, half a mile away by a little jungle road. The kids can bathe to their heart's content and be quite safe."

"Right" said Daddy, "we'll stay over Monday for the pleasure of your company. Now what about the sights of Batticaloa?"

"Yes, Yes! get into my car and we'll go at once", said Mr. Selvadurai climbing into the driver's seat.

So away they went first to the Old Dutch Fort.

"Batticaloa is an island", said Uncle Selva, It's the first place where the Dutch landed in Ceylon. They came from Batavia as you know, three hundred and twenty years ago.

But the Portuguese had already arrived eleven years before and had built a Fort on the Island of Poeliantivu, but it was a jerry-built affair and couldn't stand up to the Dutch onslaught, so it crumbled and the enemy walked in.

They walked all over the Fort, which was in perfect condition.

"The usual Dutch style" said Uncle Selva. "Here's the moat, the central Quadrangle surrounded by soldiers quarters, with a house for the Commandant and the usual church, plain as a pikestaff. As you can see, the Fort is now occupied by Government offices and the Kachcheri."

"Batticaloa is an attractive town" said mummie, "with its enormous esplanade and all the water round it".

"Ah yes! said Mr. Slevadurai. "The lagoon is the feature of this part. It's close on forty miles in length, but nowhere is it more than a couple of miles wide. The sea is always very close, yet never breaks through, perhaps this is why our coconut plantations are so fine. The sandy soil, the salt breezes, water from the lagoon all combine to produce the largest and best coconuts in Ceylon".

Ranjit yawned, "Dear! oh dear! This uncle wasn't half as nice as Raja. Who cares about coconuts anyway."

Auntie Mahes had a marvellous lunch with Tamil curries, beef *poriyal* with dry fish in it and rasam and all kinds of new sambols.

With streaming eyes they ate. Nila held her tongue in a glass of water till the arrival of iced, sugared sugar melon saved her life. Delicious! little icebergs of glittering sugar melon floating in a sea of syrup and "May I have some more?" asked mummie.

Early in the afternoon they left for Kalkudah ten miles away. Daddy with Uncle Selva and auntie, Mahes and her children rode in. Jason with mummie and the children.

Kalkudah was like an enormous coconut estate, coconut palms everywhere. Mr. Slevadurai's estate was by the sea, with a quaint thatched house, and a well that had the strangest contrivance to draw water. A whole palmyrah tree

was used as a lever to lower and raise the bucket, which wasn't of tin but a woven basket of palmyrah leaves.

Jason was parked close to the well and within sight of the sea. Those two days spent in that shady garden were a delight to the children. Morning and evening they walked half a mile along a quiet jungle path to Pasikudah, to bathe in the sea.

And what a sea! So gentle, so peaceful, so blue, a bay so vast that the horizon seemed to be the edge of the world.

Daddy would say—"well, people I'm off to New Zealand". He would walk into the sea far out, and the water would be only waist high. They swam, they fished, they got dry, and bathed again. They were a merry party.

In the night the stars shone down, jewels in the clear atmosphere, through the palms that rustled softly in the breeze. And the night jars shirred—"krr-krr-krrck" round them, while the well seep worked into the night with a queer rhythmic creaking to fill up the water tanks for the next day's use.

It was lovely; but the day of departure was at hand. On Tuesday morning early, goodbyes were said and they parted to go their different ways. Jason turned north and, after crossing Valaichenai bridge, reached the first ferry.

Early though they were the boat was on the other side of the water, so they ho-hooed till the boatmen, very slowly turned round and rowed back.

The children were all adither when Simon prepared to drive Jason on to the platform over the boat. First of all, a sloping platform of wood was dropped which Jason had to climb.

"Mummieeee, Jason will get drowned", cried Nila. "Jason will fall into the river". She covered her face and wouldn't look, but Ranjit was highly interested. They had all

got off and Daddy was superintending the operation.

"Brr-brr", Jason gasped. How he tried and tried to run up that wooden slope. At last with an extra loud brr, he dashed up.

"Stop! Stop!" shouted Daddy.

In another second he would have overrun the platform over the boat, and then he would have been in a fine mess at the bottom of the river. But Simon pulled up just in time.

It took more than quarter of an hour to get across. At the other end, the wooden slope was let down again and Jason skidackled with a whiz down the slope and up the bank.

"We'll have six more crossings", said Daddy.

"Aiyo-O-O" sobbed Nila.

"What's the matter with you?" asked Ranjit.

"There used to be eight, but Valaichenai bridge was built over the river closest to Batticaloa. Many of these are over the mouths of the Mahaveliganga which flows past Kandy, so you see we are crossing the delta of this river."

"What's delta, Daddy?" asked Ranjit.

"It's a triangular track of land between the several mouths of a river so called because of its shape like the capital D or Delta of the Greek alphabet."

One after the other they crossed the ferries till they came to the last one of all—Thambilingam Bay.

"This one doesn't belong to the river. It's an inlet of the sea" informed Daddy.

It was close on 5 o'clock when they reached Trincomalee, which Daddy knew like his own home.

"I was here two years as AGA" he said. "I know just where we'll park."

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AT THE MT. LAVINIA  
HOLIDAY INN

## The Ceylonization Of Two Santa Monicans

by Milton Figen

A Tribune reader in Los Angeles sent us this clipping which will interest many readers. This article by Milton Figen, who was a full-time journalist in 1960 and is now a free-lance writer, had appeared in the prestigious Los Angeles Times on February 26, 1978.

Mt. Lavinia, Sri Lanka,

On a warm, sunlit day last month we arrived here in this charming town after an hour's taxi ride from the airport at Colombo. Having just traveled about 11,700 miles from Los Angeles, my wife and I, both long past our prime, were determined to find the good life in this ancient land, once known as Ceylon.

As the taxi pulled up to the Mt. Lavinia Holiday Inn (no association with the chain of the same name in the United States), P. N. Gunasinghe, the hotel's amiable proprietor, greeted us warmly, flashing, like myself, one or more missing teeth. Later, after we had conferred about the price of our lodging and food, Gunasinghe offered us chilled passion-fruit drinks as we sat in the shaded patio of his home surrounded by luscious tropical plants.

We had come, Dorothy and I, on a well-researched journey away from America's spiraling cost of living which, for fixed-income, senior citizens like ourselves, pose despairing problems.

In Santa Monica, the rent on our one-bedroom apartment had been hiked to \$ 360 a month. On a com-

bined Social Security income of \$ 522 a month, it had become impossible to abide the anxiety produced by sharply curtailed living standards. A year ago, we had gone on supplementary Social Security and Medical. But neither of these props—the extra \$ 54 a month and the payment of medical bills over and above regular Social coverages—served to allay our growing sense that we were being lost down the senior-citizen drainpipe.

Because our income would not permit otherwise, I, at 70, had allowed my teeth to go to pot. Thus, when Gunasinghe and I exchanged gaping smiles, I was delighted at finding a compatriot of sorts. Each of us had only eight or 10 good teeth left.

I had already begun to think, why worry about them? Like the teeth, the body will soon go—which is nothing to become preoccupied with, if the body does not house an ego, a separate "I". As I had suspected, you hear very little in the Orient about "I". In fact, the concept of separate being, or individuality, has little currency beyond Honolulu. And if there is no "I", what does it mean to die?

In America, it had been the growing popularity of that way of looking at things that had first brought me to study the possibility of moving to the Orient in hopes that we could spend the balance of our lives there. After reading some 60 books on the East (everything from "The Tibetan Book of the Dead" to the sacred Vedic writing of India, plus treatises on Buddhism, the mystic Sufi writings of Islam and the Taoism of China) I decided that the Orient was certainly for me. But what about Dorothy?

In the four years preceding our departure she had been hospitalized more than 30 times and had seen scores of specialists in orthopedics, cardiology and neurology,

to mention just a few. In addition to ear operations, she suffered unremitting back pain, had had a gall stone removed and had endured double-bypass, open-heart surgery. She wore the strongest binaural hearing aid available, yet 50% or more of our conversations were conducted with me shouting at her. If you are always shouting you begin to feel angry, but my anger was focused on the Beverly Hills doctors, who, with their repetitive, superfluous tests and their bountiful pills, were only adding to my wife's distress.

Dorothy's hearing loss constituted the worst of her various disabilities. Being shut away from life's sounds, voices and music had generated in her a feeling of utter worthlessness. Once a teacher she now felt useless to everyone, including herself. I became convinced that she had been under going a four-year rehearsal for death aided and abetted by her doctors (unwittingly, of course).

How could the Orient offer Dorothy a heightend sense of her own worth? I promised her that in Sri Lanka there would be children to tutor in English. I promised her that in the Orient we would be valued because of our age, rather than, as in America, relegated to the rubbish heap of life.

I had decided that we would settle in Sri Lanka for several other reasons: its advantageous currency-exchange rates, its mild climate and the reputed gentleness of its people, who were, I knew, 80% literate. But the descriptions of Sri Lanka's 1,000-mile coastline really won me over.

And I won Dorothy over. Then Gunasinghe and his wife, Josephine, won us both over. You do not feel foreign in their inn—an inn they have transformed into a home rather than a hotel. The breezes drift through the large house, which

has three or four lounging areas. You are served your meals or your tea in any area you choose. And what a tea it is! In this Land of Teas, we are constantly offered a hearty, red, rich, pungent brew. No weak, decimated Liptonian packet blend of commercial tea here but a bracing, heartening liquid that instantly makes you forget you ever liked Yuban eight or 10 times a day.

Moreover, we are not bombarded with TV here, not pelted with the myth of America the Beautiful or the America of Daniel Boone or football and baseball heroes. We have yet to hear a newscaster issuing the latest report in oracular tones, like biblical prophets voicing eternal and timeless verities.

But, above all, Dorothy has found here what she needs the most, the best medicine of all: children to teach.

In Sri Lanka, we soon learned, we would be bound once more to humankind. Unthreatened by a glut of cars, people crowd into the streets, whether walking or biking—and they always greet you openly. We have a perpetual carnival of people here, young and old, to mingle with every time we step beyond the inn's door. It is a sharp contrast to America, whose streets are clogged not with people but with cars emitting deadly carbon.

We were lonely in America, lonely shadows masquerading as human beings. Dejected, neglected tired of looking for cheap foods, exhausted from poor health mental depressions, we had become anxious and paranoid about being cast out of the human parade.

So, now living halfway around the world, we intend to remain here, if the Sri Lankans will have us. We want no part of America again, though our three children and two grandchildren still live there. The world, after all, is small and airplanes travel faster and far-

ther. Our relatives can visit us here—if they are of such a mind.

All portents, then, point to our Ceylonization. Dorothy and I find that Gunasinghe's passion-fruit drink has utterly intoxicated us. For as members of the human race again, we are happy with ourselves and with everyone around us for the first time in a long, long while.

## IN INDIA

### Is English Really Foreign To Us?

The *Hindu*, in its Open Page—intended to provoke public discussion on key topics of current interest, to promote purposeful thinking—March 15, 1978 published this article for the retention of English as the official language of the Union so that national unity may not be jeopardised. In Sri Lanka too, the question can be raised whether English is "foreign" in the sense that many things are foreign? Is Sanskrit "foreign"? Is Pali "foreign"?—Ed.

It was during the early years of the freedom struggle when, the anti-British feeling was high, that the Congress resolved, at the suggestion of Mahatma Gandhi, to have Hindi as the national official language. The decision, far in advance of independence, pre-empted the issue and created a vested interest in the choice of that language in the Hindi-speaking areas.

Consequently when the matter came up in the Constituent Assembly, it resulted in an acrimonious debate, revealing a wide divergence of views, in which members from the south and several

leading members from the northern States too pleaded for the continuance of English, while the Hindi enthusiasts wanted immediate adoption of Hindi as the sole official language. Finally the Assembly resolved to continue English as official language along with Hindi for a period of 15 years after which English would be dropped, unless Parliament otherwise enacted.

The debate ended with a note of warning by the leaders from the South that the language issue might well become a ground for demands for separation of the southern States from the Union. Subsequently as a result of the anti-Hindi agitation in the south, creating a law and order situation, Parliament in 1963 enacted that English shall continue as an associate official language along with Hindi until there was agreement among the States to drop English.

In view of the controversy it has sometimes been suggested that all the 15 languages listed in the Constitution be made official languages of the Union and media for examinations conducted by the UPSC, and the example of Switzerland has been cited in support. A more impracticable proposition cannot be imagined. Switzerland is a tiny country with a population of just about 50 lakhs, with only three main languages. German, French and Italian and 70 per cent of the population speak German.

This can bear no comparison with India which has 80 times the area and 120 times the population of Switzerland, where each of the main languages is spoken by millions and the States are each several times the size of Switzerland. To introduce a multitude of 15 official languages at the centre would result in a babel creating friction and confusion in the administration, as well as in the conduct of the UPSC examinations where uni-

form standards are necessary. In such chaos and confusion the administration itself may often grind to a halt.

If the country should remain united and the administration should run smoothly, it is obviously necessary that there should be only one language at the Centre in which our laws are enacted and the affairs of the nation conducted, and that should be the language of the Supreme Court and the language in which people all over the country should be educated in addition to their own regional languages. And it is common sense that the language chosen should be one agreed to by all States comprising the union.

The advocates of Hindi seek to justify the choice on the ground that it is spoken by the largest group in the country. Assuming that Hindi is spoken in some form or other in Bihar, UP, MP, Rajasthan, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh, the Hindi-speaking people would be about 41 per cent of the population and the largest group. But the question is: should the other States many of which are much bigger in size and population than many of the Independent States of Europe be bound to accept Hindi as the official language of the union by reason of their being clubbed with the Hindi States under a federation? This would not be democratic but would amount to domination by one group over other groups.

A further ground on which the choice of Hindi is advocated is that the affairs of the nation should be conducted in the language of the people so that they have a sense participation. The argument breaks down in regard to the States whose language is not chosen. What however really concerns and more directly affects the people in their daily life is what the State Government does and here the language

of the people will be the official language, English being used only at the Centre and in Centre-State and inter-State relations.

One might ask what sense of participation can the people of the Hindi States have when about 80 per cent of the population is illiterate, even after 34 years of independence? The leading lights of Janata Party who expressed their impatience at the non-implementation of Hindi as the official language at the Centre, showed no sense of impatience at the appalling illiteracy in their own States, although Article 45 of the Constitution required the States to eradicate illiteracy within a period of 10 years.

Perhaps a solution could be found on the basis of the probable language each of the States would choose for its people to study in addition to its own regional language, if the State had been independent and not tied up in a union. With the vast advantage of English as an international language and as the language of science and technology and modern thought, it is reasonable to presume that the States including the Hindi ones would choose English had they been independent.

We are justified in making this presumption seeing the example of other independent countries. In the Soviet Union the Government has established what are called English schools, where English is taught along with Russian from the lowest standards, the humanities also being taught through the English medium to secure a better understanding and mastery of the language. In UP itself, when as a result of the down-grading of English, the students found themselves handicapped in their efforts to go abroad for higher studies or employment, there was an agitation in Lucknow a few years ago for a proper place being given to English in the curriculum.

The main objection to English being the official language is that it is foreign, though it is spoken or understood widely over the country by large sections of educated classes. The word "foreign" which means "outside" can be applied to anything introduced from outside, and even its own mother tongue is foreign to a child until it is learnt.

However English is no longer foreign to us. It has remained with us for a century and a half and has taken roots in the country. It has been the language of our higher education, of our administration, of our courts and the legislature and of our Constitution itself. We have had eminent men of letters in English, a host of philosophers, novelists, historians, scientists and writers in all branches of knowledge whose publications are in English. Our banks, commercial institutions and industries transact their business in English.

According to published statistics there are 2,500 daily newspapers and periodicals in English in our country with a subscription circulation of 78 lakhs, which is four lakhs more than the total circulation of all the Hindi dailies and periodicals. One has only to look at the spate of English books by Indian authors to realise to what extent the language has spread. To-day English medium schools are in such great demand that they have sprung up like mushrooms in the urban areas, and even so the supply is hardly adequate to the demand. Two States in the northeast have adopted English as their State official language.

Even if English becomes the sole official language of the Union, it will in no way handicap the development and spread of Hindi. People in all parts of India will of their own free choice learn the language for facility of communication with the Hindi-speaking areas. In fact, the propaganda by Hindi

enthusiasts to get rid of English has created apprehensions among the people that they would be losing the benefits of English, and this has injured the cause of Hindi itself. But to continue, Hindi even as an associate language would lead to constant friction as it would give a handle to any Government at the Centre, so inclined, to introduce more and more of Hindi in the conduct of the affairs of the Union, which is what is now happening.

The country will be committing a very grave mistake if it should banish English as the Hindi enthusiasts would have us do. The wise and patriotic course would be to drop Hindi and retain English as the sole official language at the Centre, the language which C. Rajagopalachari characterised as the gift of Saraswathi, the goddess of learning, to India and K. M. Munshi, as the most valuable heritage left by the British. Almost every day we have a spate of publications in English about discoveries in all fields of science and technology.

We have already suffered a division of our country in the north-east and north-west bringing in its wake a multitude of problems. One hopes that conditions would not be created for a further division. The choice of any one of the State languages which would confer a differential advantage on one group would be a step against national integration. Instead of complaining about the south not falling in line, the Hindi enthusiasts will do well to ponder what would be their own attitude if, instead of Hindi, Tamil which, next to Sanskrit, is the oldest language of India and rich in literature, was proposed as the official language of the Union.

Today there is no federation in the world comparable to the Indian Union, a union of many

States each big in size and population, and speaking different languages. The United States, though 2 1/2 times the extent of India, has less than half of India's population and has no language problem. If all of Western Europe with its 15 nations formed a federation, that would just approximate to the Indian Union in area and in the number of languages, but would only have just half of India's population.

In a federation of this kind the problem of national integration bristles with difficulties. Apart from its other manifest benefits, the adoption of English as the sole official language of the Union and the medium for the UPSC examinations would be a positive factor that would promote national integration. In the UPSC examinations, a compulsory language test in one of the four southern languages for candidates from the north and in one of the northern languages for candidates from the south, should also be included. Let us not jeopardise the unity of the country by linguistic chauvinism.



## REVIEW

# Protecting The Sea Bed

by Jayantha Somasundaram

The struggle to protect the interests of primary producers in the Third World has now taken on a new facet. Lack of progress in other fields seem to be compensated by advances in the marine field, to which the UN Law of the Sea Conference, chaired by Sri Lanka's Shirley Amarasinghe, has given its efforts. This conference which began in December 1973 will open its seventh session in Geneva next March 28th.

While navigation and marine research is being guaranteed internationally for all, except within the twelve-mile territorial limit, exploiting of mineral resources within the two hundred-mile economic zone, remains the exclusive right of the littoral state. The Group of Seventy-Seven pressed hard for the right to exploit resources within their own economic zone.

Elliot Richardson of the US tried valiantly to secure for the Multinationals a stake in the exploitation of the sea-bed. But the Third World effectively checkmated such proposals.

The right of outsiders to prospect the sea bed is subjected to concessions granted by an international authority which the West fears will be dominated by the Third World.

The Multinationals will have to pay dearly in order to obtain prospecting rights. In addition, fifty percent of the output will have to be paid out to the international authority. Further, a percentage of the profits will also fall due to the authority.

These restrictions will ensure that there will be no indiscriminate mining of the manganese, Cobalt, nickel and copper that litters the seabed. This will strengthen the bargaining position of mineral producers in the Third World who are even now fighting for better prices.

Politically the most significant outcome of the Sea Law Conference was the solid unity displayed by all the Third World countries, even those like Sri Lanka that do not have a stake in these minerals. On the other hand, the industrialised countries, in their clamour to protect their own individual interests, were at odds with one another. This led to countries like Denmark, Norway, Sweden



and Australia backing the Third World. The Soviet Union also joined up at the last moment.

The US failed to stand firm against the Third World not to give credible leadership to the industrial World. Thus West Germany, Belgium, France, UK and Japan fought a losing battle against the solid Third World bloc at the UN Sea Conference.



## Gramma Sastra-6

Scribblings on Uva Villages

### The Grand Mother Of Bolgalla by Gamiya

Not yet.

I'll tell you about her towards the end of this piece.

Do you know Araluwinna, a dwindling village about six miles to the north of Obbegoda junction, four miles to the East of Monaragala? Couldn't be. With your nose to the grind in Colombo, you wouldn't know this, but the hunter, the rural-bent, the official who has worked in these parts would surely know. Pass through Araluwinna—I'll tell you next time about it—and you'll come to Bolgalla with its inimitable Buddhist monk and his *karuna* and *maitreya*.

Venerable Batugamma Pannaratne Thero came to live in BL in 1953. He has been with these people in the crisis moments of their lives, too. A peasant once told us: "He is a very kind monk. He once told us that he would stay on in the village, now racked by wild elephants, even if there is only one man who would stay behind. He said he would minister to that one man." The constant trek to

*janapadas* (colonies) has depopulated the region, and in some cases, has impoverished the area, while filling even part of the pockets of those who go away.

The Venerable Pannaratne once went with his *dayakayas* to drive away harassing elephants who are drawn thither by the fast-emptying houses. He fell in the jungle, and was taken to Badulla hospital, but was back with his people in a month. In October '76, the BL road was being packed and built. Asked about the road, he answered: "Let us hope that our people will really profit from the road. Will it isolate us more and more from our own culture, our true culture? Or will it allow the city to infiltrate and exploit the village still more. If so, can we call this real development?" What an apposite, true, relevant question when one sees the devastating tentacles of the TNC's in the rural areas.

Bolgalla is a kindly village, friendly, hospitable. A granddaughter was bathing a hundred-year old grandfather and was happy to do it despite his murmuring on a rack that looked like a gridiron. There was an ex-CTB mechanic who had tried his hand at cultivation, and had even forgotten the make of his bus chassis, he was so absorbed in his present work. Then we walked on and came to a little hut. Two little girls were playing on a mat. Their grandmother received us in (myself and a companion) and gave us tea, that golden brew that costs so much in the lives of people throughout the history of Tea. She spoke and served the tea and sang to her daughter's children. We asked her for a repeat, an encore, and recorded her vibrant words on a battery-recorder. It still goes on before me:

"Yukthiya ayukthiya mama pava-sinne, satya thiyana pamanin divi

*rekaganne.*

*Aththai thama ma ki vacana pili ganne, thiththai kohomba kola kavothinne".*

Which means: "I know what is just and unjust; truth may be bitter as the *margosa* (*khomba*) leaf when eaten, but it is true to say that life goes on, only when truth is safeguarded."

It was a simple *pelkavi* which she had kept in her heart for many a year, she said, and when she sang it, she recalled the tall hut on stilts in the *chena* in which she had collaborated with her husband in the dim and distant past which the grandchildren and perhaps her visitors brought before her dimming eyes. She turned around slowly to prepare the midday meal which she would send to her son-in-law and daughter then at work in the fields, as she used to prepare it years ago when her husband was at work.



**Inania** of this, that and the other

### Wish Fish In The Dish

By INNA

We have a surfeit of two kinds of communications-material: the mission-magazine that eternally portrays a beggar-boy or beggar-girl with an empty saucer and a pleading look and subtitle: "Won't you give her something today"? Calculated to stir your bile and ire (if you knew that some of those empty pans were caused by wrong pricing and underpaying in world-circles), but not your mercy; the other is the ever-rising price of dish-washers in certain quarters of the world.

Some can digest anything, like an ostrich digesting anything from a pin to an alarm-clock, if we go by

some Ripley news-items. Others can't stomach even the Readers' Digest. I couldn't take the few pages of the Australian Digest (RD) of 1977 March:

a family at play: caption reads: There are better things to do than dirty dishes. Go buy a dishwasher.

the next page: why spend 350 hours a year at the kitchen sink, and appended is a list of 10 dishwashers.

then comes: a brand named D—and "puts the fun back into cooking". a further page: take off your rubber gloves and read these K—facts. sparkling clean, etc.

on the 5th page of this inset of 12-page sell-out of dishwashers, comes: W—5-cycle dishwashers, with 17 reasons why you have to buy this and nothing else;

p. 6: "Everything but the kitchen sink", from those uper-cool people who brought you.... the following brands....

p. 7 P—dishwashers change your life. They are quiet. They give you extra seven hours a week to spend on favourite activities.

PD—by GE: cleans even the dirtiest pots and pans (note that dirt, is leftover food, for the picture given is of a baked-bean casserole, as soon as someone has emptied it)

international dishwasher: 50,000 sold in A—etc. etc.

This dishwasher is not meant for people who are undernourished and ill-fed and are so tired they can't wash the dishes. It is meant for those who are busy the livelong day preparing, working, etc. planning advertisements and publishing them. A tiring job, isn't it. In some Third World countries I know, they have no dishwashers because they have no dishes or plates in their homes. They eat straight off the one or two chutties (pots of clay), if they can get any food to put in and cook for themselves and their children. How

far is the one group from the other! Just a little dish away? or just a little wish away? In some homes, the husband has only to turn the paper-page and the wife mentions one of the twelve or ten brands of dishwasher and she gets it. In other homes—especially where the breadwinner doesn't know when or where to win the bread (and what is he to eat it with?)—what is the use of washing the dish? what is the use of wishing for a dish or fish or a dishwasher, even with a "childproof doorlock" (item three above has those words). If all the electricity that went into making things so fast for you, dear Australian friend, were to be given to one single village in Sri Lanka, many would begin to believe in the truth of christian sharing, that you profess from the Eucharist. Do you believe in the dignity of labour? In the destiny of a christian? of any man? Why are there not more small groups like Lynn's and Gery's to sympathise with the priceless people of Third World lands? Let's sit together and eat something of a dish. Let's then get your dishwashers sold here, if we need them.

#### FOR THE RECORD

### "Criticism Is Welcome But At What Cost To The Critic?"

At all levels of government power—from the President, the Prime Minister and individual Ministers to the last backbencher in Parliament, it has been said again and again that criticism is welcome. They have added that criticism outside Parliament is especially necessary since the Opposition within has now dwindled to near non-existence. Where then is criticism—fearless, incisive, but needed criticism—to come if not from the Press, from groups of men, women and youths genuinely committed to the progress of our

country, from the academic community of University, private researchers, teachers' and lawyers' associations? The government must realize that it is blatantly contradictory to ask for criticism and then crucify the critic. The latest in this irresponsible onrush of threats of fire and brimstone to critics has come in recent press reports that the candid, independent and esteemed Librarian of the Peradeniya Campus is to be punished by suspension, exile, or nobody yet knows what.

That the threats may eventually not be carried out is not the point. Enough has already been done to overawe and silence forever critics less intrepid than the Peradeniya Librarian. For they may well ask if this is what can befall a bibliographer of international fame, a scholar who has served his country well and in an altogether unique way, a University Librarian who has maintained the highest standards of professional efficiency and rectitude, then what hope there is for the schoolmaster, the young assistant lecturer, the social dramatist the private researcher in political or economic science. Is the time not far away when to laugh loud that we are being frightened into getting licences for our transistor radios at a time when there are no batteries for the radios will earn a person a punishment transfer? Or when to say some new MP's and Ministers have already looked after their old age as well as and they have replaced will send a person to Bogambara? Or when to say that the Minister of Foreign Travels has taken his seventh trip abroad in seven months will be considered an irreverence worthy of a heavy fine? *If this is the cost, the talk about criticisms being welcome is either hypocrisy or a sick joke.*—Editorially in *Satyodaya*, No. 61, April 1978.

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SRI LANKA CHRONICLE

## April 5 — April 16

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

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

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5:** The general educational structure will undergo a major change with immediate effect with the zoning of the entire educational sphere into three major divisions under the administration of three high officials. Fifteen government parliamentarians appointed to inquire into the high cost of living has recommended to the government to replace with rice the fifty-rupee income support to the unemployed; the Committee of Parliamentarians appointed has also recommended the setting up of special courts in all districts to deal with trade offences. The Speaker of the NSA yesterday reiterated that public officials who attempted to mislead the NSA by providing wrong information in respect of questions posed by members could even be sent to jail for violating the privileges of the house. The Public Administration Ministry has begun laying the infrastructure for the new district administration system expected to be implemented soon after the appointment of district ministers—CDN. It is the aim of the government to provide services to the people rather than to safeguard state corporations and other such institutions; this was stated by the President at the Government Parliamentary Group meeting yesterday when the administration of the CTB was discussed. 46 reputed international airlines and financing agencies are interested in collaborating with Sri Lanka to float a new Sri Lanka international airline to operate regular services to and from Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka Foreign Minister Hameed held his first round of talks with Indian External Affairs Minister, Vajpayee within an hour of his arrival in Delh. The West German Ambassador will hand over a gift of 2.218 metric tons of wheat flour for Sri Lanka to the Minister of Food and Co-operatives today. The co-operative sector will soon be freed from the stranglehold of rules and regulations, giving them a freer hand to compete with the private sector. About 74,000 candi-

dates will sit the GCE 'A' Level examination beginning tomorrow—CDM. Detectives of the CID will this week take over investigations of alleged attempts by certain anti-national elements to sabotage the accelerated Mahaweli Development project. The Anti-malaria campaign is to review the methods and methodology of the control of malaria; they are to supplement environmental methods of control with the conventional methods—SU. 18,000 CTB workers out of 60,000 go on leave daily and this is one of the main reasons for the slow bus service. The two teacher training schools will be re-opened on the 24. MP's will get official vehicles free of charge next week; jeeps imported from Japan have been set aside for this purpose—DM. The issue of licenses to lorries to transport people for May Day has been prohibited—DK. The prices of wood needed for the construction of houses have been increased by 75%—ATH. Soviet Chief of State and CP leader will visit West Germany next month. The Janata Party appeared to be heading for a victory in the parliamentary elections in Karnal in the North Indian State of Haryana as counting of votes began—SM. Following intensive consultations Britain and the US remain committed to the Anglo American Plan for transition to Black Majority power in Rhodesia; to implement this plan representatives of Britain and US will shortly begin a series of consultations with all parties concerned and interested governments of the area. The official Philippines news agency accused the US, CIA in interfering in the first Philippine election after five and half years of martial law. No fresh outbreaks of violence were reported from riot-torn Hyderabad—SU. The New York times today quoted aides to President Carter as saying he has decided against producing the controversial neutron bomb, despite the advice of most of his top advisers—CDN. The leader of the Opposition raising the matter of breach of privilege denied a statement attributed to him by Mr. A. C. de Zoysa while testifying before the Sansoni Commission—VK.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 6:** The PM yesterday appealed to leaders of political parties not to permit 'terrorist elements' to infiltrate their ranks and disturb the peace in the guise of championing political issues; he told the NSA that the government had definite information that hoodlums had attempted to take advantage of controversial political issues faced by every government to create situations for their personal benefit. The Chairman of the Paper Corporation has in a statement, refuted many of the accusations levelled against the Corporation by the CDN of April 1. The PM said in the NSA yesterday that the UNP government had decided to permit all Opposition groups to demonstrate, hold processions and rallies in observance of May Day this year. A survey of indebtedness in the public service conducted

by the Department of Credit Councils reveals that over 86% of the employees in the state sector are in debt despite the various measures taken by the government to reduce it and it is mainly due to extravagance. The government will appoint this month as a top priority measure, Parliamentary Committees to every ministry to offer advice on matters relevant to their respective ministries. The government will take action against these who are engaged in smuggling national cultural objects out of the country—CDN. The Minister of Education will meet proprietors and principals of private fee levying and non fee levying schools this month to work out how the state could assist them. With a view to halting the exodus of engineers from Sri Lanka, the government has decided to pay increased allowances to engineers. The government has set a series of guidelines for the trade to ensure an equitable distribution of all consumer items during the new year. Two SLFP-controlled trade unions have protested against the venue given them for their May Day celebrations. Ministers under the proposed District Ministers scheme will be given control over large capital projects with power to transfer money between economic and social functional categories. The Cabinet yesterday decided to amend the existing legislation if necessary to mete out heavy punishment to those who incite the people, particularly university students to acts of lawlessness the PM announced—SU. Students who wish to enter the CGE A level class in schools will have to in future go through the education office in their areas and not directly through the Principals—DP. About 700,000 bushels of paddy bought by the PMB are stuck at the warehouses in the Rajangana scheme because of inadequate transporting facilities for milling—LD. The Polonnaruwa police have taken Rohana Wijeweera and fifteen others into custody when they raided a house in the area; they were later released after questioning but a tape recorder was confiscated—DW. Some students were injured when UNP thugs attacked students who were on strike in the Katubedde campus; these thugs have arrived in a jeep belonging to the Electricity Board—ATH. Former Indian PM, Gandhi criticised the Indian government for being silent on the death sentence passed on Pakistan's PM Ali Bhutto. French PM, Barre formed his new government which left most key posts unchanged but included several new faces. The Israeli military command denied Beirut reports that Israeli forces and South Lebanon fought an hour-long battle last night—SU. The Leftist kidnappers of former PM Aldo Moro yesterday demanded the release of all communist prisoners and a letter apparently written by their captive called for a prisoner exchange; but PM Andreotti told Parliament that he rejected any form of blackmail by the red brigand guerillas. The Soviet Ambassador for East Germany ruled out the

release of Hitler's former deputy Rudolf Hesse saying that it would be tantamount to an amnesty for fascism—CDM.

**FRIDAY, APRIL 7:** The PM said in the NSA yesterday that the government had very confidential information that certain people were trying to create trouble in the Universities so that the police will be compelled to open fire; "they could not get the votes, but wanted now to come back to power," he said. The UNP government's new methods of enlisting the participating of parliamentarians—government as well as opposition—to take over the administration of the country was spelled out yesterday in the NSA by the PM. The Labour Minister announced in the NSA yesterday that the government had decided to confine the White Paper on Employment Relations to the public sector only. Five hundred thousand persons will get their rice ration books following appeals made by them after the revalidation scheme. The NSA yesterday approved an order and a regulation moved by the Minister of Labour under the Shop and Employees Act to enable shops throughout the country to be kept open from 8 am till 10 pm daily including Saturdays and Sundays—CDN. The five campuses of the University of Sri Lanka which were either closed or the vacation period advanced due to the recent disturbances will re-open on April 24—CDM. The government is to set up a National Transport Pool to help supplement the transport shortcomings of State sector institutions. Mr. Rohana Wijeweera, leader of the JVP was questioned by the police last week: this took place in Batticaloa where he was conducting a class in the Sugar Corporation factory—SU. A trade team is due soon in Sri Lanka to investigate possibilities of investing in the FTZ—VK. The CWE has earned 1.2 million rupees in the last nine months. The Agriculture Ministry has approved the plan to build 5 ware houses with West German aid to store fertilizer—DW. A major reshuffle in the SLFP leadership is expected soon—DM. Britain said yesterday that any attempt to use Cuban forces in Rhodesia or Zambia would pose serious complications for East-West relations and the African continent. The round the clock curfew imposed in Hyderabad will be lifted after agreement was reached between the government and opposition parties—CDM. The new multi-racial government plans a "free entry zone" on Rhodesia's frontiers for black nationalist guerillas who want to stop fighting and return home in Peace. The Soviet CP daily 'Pravda' warned Japan that new talks with Peking on a friendship treaty could damage relations with Moscow—CDN. Indian voters are increasingly turning away from PM Morarji Desai's Janata bloc and back towards former PM Indira Gandhi; a recent by-election indicates this trend—SU.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 8:** The University will provide maximum security to all undergraduates wishing to attend lectures; lectures will begin on April 24; action will be taken against those who fail to attend lectures continuously the Secretary to the Ministry of Higher Education said yesterday. As an incentive to small industrialists the government has decided not to open up large scale industries in the country except within the FTZ said the President. Forty three individuals and firms have tendered to participate in the proposed Sri Lanka International Airline schedule to replace Air Ceylon's International Service which ceased operating from this month. The death occurred yesterday of Mr. Douglas Munasinghe, a former member of the Board of Directors of the Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Ltd—CDN. The Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs disclosed on Thursday during the adjournment motion in the NSA instances of violence on the various campuses engineered by left-oriented students. The Inland Revenue Department has collected Rs. 52.27 million from taxes in 1977 which is an increase of 15% over the collection of the previous year—CDM. Price revisions of a number of essential consumer items are expected to be announced by the government shortly. The UNDP and the World Bank have stepped in to help Sri Lanka in strengthening its planning efforts in the field of project identification and preparation suitable for external financing—CDM. The SLFP leader, Mrs. Bandaranaike issued a statement on the varsity crisis saying that students were afraid to enter the campuses for fear of being attacked by outside thugs and that they have been denied the protection of the police—SU. Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos today threatened to arrest Opposition leaders including candidates if there was any sign of violence in the first elections today in nearly six years of martial law. Secretary General of UN Kurt Waldheim has appealed to Israeli PM Begin for the speedy withdrawal of Israeli troops from Southern Lebanon—SU. Seven Latin American delegates walked out of the UN Sea Law Conference here yesterday in protest as Mr. Shirley Amerasinghe of Sri Lanka took his place as President after 10 days of procedural wrangling. Common Market leaders will discuss forming a wider currency grouping than the existing European joint float at their summit meeting opening here. Danish PM Anker Jorgensons said yesterday—CDN. Police extended the hunt for ex-Premier Aldo Moro and his Red Brigade kidnapers to Naples yesterday detaining left wing activities as they did elsewhere in other raids this week—CDM.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 9:** Management systems in the monolithic state-owned plantation sector are being tightened and strict controls imposed on the 'Planter Raj' on estates countrywide. Only MP's who have not

purchased vehicles from the government Supplies Department during the term of the present government or the last, will be issued with new jeeps received from Japan last week. The Minister of Textile Industries is going ahead with projects that could make Sri Lanka's handloom woven textiles a top foreign exchange earner as well as provide large scale employment throughout the country. For the first time in the medical history of Sri Lanka a caesarian operation using acupuncture anaesthesia was carried out—SO. In a special message to Yugoslav's President Tito, the President has said that the government of Sri Lanka will maintain the policy of non alignment steadfastly. The government has decided to administer the three major ports in the island—Colombo, Trincomalee and Galle—and bring them under a central authority to be called the Ports Authority of Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka's population has risen five fold between the first general census of 1871 and the centenary census of 1971. A team of Japanese experts on Housing and Construction is due here shortly to study our needs with a view to providing assistance for the government's building programme—ST. The President has asked all cabinet ministers to report to him immediately on what subjects within their purview they wish to have decentralised. Armed service personnel are to be given a through training in driving all types of vehicles with the purpose of operating transport services in order to maintain regular and effective supplies in all parts of the country in the event of a national emergency—WK. The Education Department does not have records of the number of teachers in the country; it is estimated to be about 1,22,000—SLDP. Third World Commodity exporters today approved plans to set up a co-ordinating Council for raw material producing associations promoting the aims of the developing countries. The Cyprus government today welcomed a statement yesterday by Greek PM Constantine Karamulis attacking American policy on Cyprus. US Defence Secretary Harold Brown has warned President Carter that NATO's military force may not be able to hold back a quick communist attack in Europe. President Carter postponed production of America's neutron bomb today saying he would decide its ultimate fate when he has seen how the Soviet Union responds to his delay—WK. Violent demonstrations by workers at India's leading Space Research Centre have caused extensive damage to plant and equipment the Indian PM said yesterday. The PLO has asked Israel to release 5 Palestinian prisoners in exchange for the return of the bodies of the Israeli's in South Lebanon—ST.

**MONDAY, APRIL 10:** The government is finalising a list of financial and management experts to be seconded for service as directors of state corporations and boards. The Ministry of Fisheries has decided to

give coastal fisheries a priority in its improvement and expansion program in the proposed five year plan because it has a very high potentiality in foreign exchange earnings. One of the chief points made by LSSP at the delegates conference on its role in the UF govt from 70 to 75 was that family bandyism was rampant in the SLFP, particularly its highest circles and LSSP MP's and Ministers were powerless to prevent it and the consequent displeasure. The third and final amendment to the constitution should find passage in the NSA by the end of June this year. Adult Education classes for the teaching of English will be conducted to the department of education with effect from May—CDN. A long standing racket of the Commodity Purchase Department in the purchase of rubber which has cost the state several millions of rupees has been discovered by the government. The hospitals were so understaffed that 600 more doctors were required if an efficient health service was to be maintained, said the Minister of Health. Under the Gin Ganga Flood Protection Project it would be possible to cultivate both in the Yala and Maha seasons in Ratgama and Ambalangoda electorates from next year for the first time. The Secretary to the Ministry of Plantation Industries has assured the General Secretary of the CWC that estate lands will not be taken over arbitrarily for crop diversification scheme of the government, according to CWE sources—CDM. The Minister of Justice has recommended the setting up of special courts in several provincial capitals of the country to dispose of a backlog of cases dealing with grave crime. The Consumer Protection Committees to be appointed to check malpractices of traders will have the same powers as Price Control Inspectors. The Attorney General will file answer today asking the District Court of Kandy to reject the plaint filed by the SLFP leader suing the Minister of Agriculture for a statement made in the NSA—SU. Dr. S. A. Wickremasinghe has been re-elected the Chairman of the CP—LD. The police had decided to cancel the visas of all hippies who bring dangerous drugs to the country and order them to leave the country in three days—DW. The CTB has decided to introduce seatless buses in the city area because they can carry three times the load of passengers as the ordinary buses—DM. About 1000 people were believed drowned when a storm sank 100 salt cargo boats in the Bay of Bengal. 13 foreign companies operating in India have pulled out or are preparing to do so the Indian Finance Minister told Parliament today: the pull out has been caused by stricter application of laws on foreign investment in India introduced when Socialist Industries Minister George Fernandez took over. The Somali military government today foiled an attempted coup by a group of officers and men; the President Siad Barre said on radio that the national army crushed the attempt and the culprits

were under arrest—SU. The US said yesterday that Israel used American made cluster bombs in Southern Lebanon last month in violation of mutual defence agreement. The Kremlin yesterday dismissed President Carter's decision to postpone stockpiling the neutron bomb as a tactic without significance—CDM. Nine European Economic Community leaders set themselves the target of a 4.5% annual economic growth rate for the common market by July this year. Eritrean guerilla chief Ahamed Nasser today offered peace talks to the military rulers of Ethiopia where thousands of battle-hardened Cubans are reported to be preparing for war in Eritrea—CDN.

**TUESDAY, APRIL 11:** The Minister of Public Administration and Home Affairs has ordered a probe at district level to ascertain the extent and manner of the disbursement of grants made by foreign agencies for rural development in Sri Lanka. Mr. Lee Kuan Yew, PM of Singapore is expected to arrive here on April 15. Co-ops have incurred a loss of rupees one thousand million during the last seven year period through waste, pilferage, corruption and other shortcomings said the Deputy Minister of Trade. The President has appointed an eight member Law Commission to undertake research into existing laws and recommend reforms necessary to meet present day needs. According to a draft programme submitted by the Acting Commissioner of Elections, the Municipal and Urban Council elections could be held from Sept to Dec this year while Town Council and Village Council elections could be held on a staggered basis next year. The train services will be strengthened by the addition this year of 150 Romanian passenger coaches costing 300 million rupees—CDN. The Minister of Fisheries has taken steps to beat the blackmarketeer by releasing fish from buffer stocks to all stalls and at Price Park at reasonable prices effective from today. A systematic Port Improvements Plan together with a long-term master plan for port improvements are considered matters for priority attention by the Ministry of Shipping, Aviation and Tourism. The Minister of Education has warned education officers, school principals and teachers that he would neither tolerate nor allow failure to carry out vital instructions on changes in the existing educational pattern. The Secretary to the Ministry of Social Services will shortly solicit the views of the police on the proposed law to ban begging in public places—CDM. A new Ministry for National Development is to be set up shortly; this ministry will handle the execution of some of the country's vital development projects. Interpol has expressed willingness to give specialised training in anti narcotics work to Sri Lankan law enforcement officials—SU. The first stage of the plan to give employment through job banks will commence in June when 200

persons from each district will be employed—DP. A High powered committee of eminent educationists have been appointed to recommend to the government the criteria on which admissions to the university should be made next year—CO. Pakistan's Chief Martial law administrator General Zia-ul-Haq has said that elections could be held any time after the revision of the nation's electoral rolls; he estimated the task would take six to eight months from now. Italian interior minister Fransesco Cossiga yesterday met his counterparts, from Australia, Switzerland and West Germany as the kidnapping of ex-premier Aldo Moro entered a new phase; the ministers met and discussed joint efforts to combat international terrorism and other questions of mutual interest—SU. Detained opposition leader Benigno Aquino today claimed moral victory in last week's Philippine elections and said President Ferdinand Marcos had been cheated by officials from knowing the extent of alienation from the people; meanwhile his party formally protested to the Elections Commission about alleged vote-rigging in the polls, the first under martial law—CDN. A gang of Palestinian guerrillas landed on the Israeli coast South of Tel Aviv last night, killed a girl and hijacked a truck according to results from police and military sources—CDM.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12:** The creation of eight new administrative districts bringing the total number of districts to thirty has been recommended by the Gogerly Moragoda Committee in its report to the government; the committee has also recommended that there should be 285 administrative divisions, 22 Municipal Councils, 83 Urban Councils and 336 Rural Councils. Over 67,000 have been given jobs on the estates of Janawasama from August last year to the end of the year. Consumers are warned not to buy packeted fish purported to be issued by the Fisheries Corporation which do not contain tags specifying variety, quantity and price, because many black marketeers were at work. All schools will take part in an intensive tree planting campaign to be inaugurated on the orders of the Minister of Education. The government has decided to recover the agricultural loans granted to farmers for agricultural purposes during the 77/78 Maha season in full and to grant agricultural loans for the 1978 Yala season only to those who have paid back their previous loans in full—CDN. A new transfer scheme for teachers has been devised by the Minister of Education, he has appointed a high powered Teacher Placement Board of the Ministry of Education to supervise the working of the scheme. Rice imports are expected to be slashed by almost two thirds this year. Police HQ's has alerted all police stations in the island to keep a strict check on all blacksmiths shops, because of a number of detections by the police of legal manufacture of

firearms by subversive elements at a number of blacksmiths shops. Trade among Sri Lanka, India, Bangladesh, Laos and South Korea will be increased as a sequel to decisions reached at a conference held in Bangkok last week by representatives of these countries. The president has appointed General Sepala Attygalle Additional Secretary to the Ministry of Defence as Chief Coordinating officer of the BIA with immediate effect—CDM. A team of three crack CID detectives and a police driver probing the alleged assassination attempt on the 2nd MP for Pottuvil have been shot dead at Murukkan near Mannar. The President yesterday ordered a full probe on the killing of the CID detectives and a police driver at Murukkan. At the Tri-Partite Border Conference on malaria held at the T.B. Auditorium on the 3 and 4 April it was decided to exchange data on research findings in the field of malaria between India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives—IDPR. The Tobacco Corporation has made a profit of 12 million rupees in the last nine months. The Tyre Corporation is to begin the manufacture of scooter tyres—LD. The US and the Soviet Union will begin talks next month on an agreement to halt tests of 'hunter killer' space satellites, Secretary of State announced yesterday. Eritrean rebels said today that big jets were dropping napalm and cluster bombs on village near Asmara and Massawa apparently in preparation for an Ethiopian offensive in the country's northernmost province—SU. Two former ministers went on trial in Rome yesterday on charges of corruption in the Lockheed bribes scandal in the first legal proceedings against members of the government in Italy's post-war history—CDM. Israeli troops today started pulling out of Southern Lebanon exactly four weeks after sweeping across the borders to strike at Palestinian guerilla bases. Romanian President Nicolae Ceausecu is expected to raise new ideas for Korean unification and a middle east settlement when he meets President Carter this week—CDN.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 13:** The President in a New Year message said that we have already made a beginning for a new era of development with due emphasis on human and spiritual values; he wished peace, prosperity and happiness. Four EEC countries will increase their quantum of aid to Sri Lanka by 70% over last year, There will be no discrimination between Sri Lankan investors and foreign investors in the FTZ; all terms conditions and facilities available to any foreign entrepreneur will also be available to a local investor. The government of the USA will double its PL 480 assistance to Sri Lanka this year. The Integrated Education System which is also known as 'Open Education' is now very popular in Sri Lanka's educational sphere; under this scheme handicapped children follow lessons in a regular school situation. The Training and Extension

programme of the Agriculture Development Authority got under way this month—CDN. An elaborate scheme to ensure a floor price for farm products and at the same time ensure that prices remain stable for the benefit of the consumer has been drawn up by the Agricultural Development Authority. The CWE will import 3000 tons of potatoes to ease the present shortage. Sri Lanka will be getting increased aid from Netherlands, Sweden, Norway and France this year as a result of discussions held with delegations from these countries—CDM. A massive island-wide hunt as been launched for the terrorists who murdered three CID detectives and a police driver in Mannar—SU. Officials in government departments will not be allowed to do overtime in the future; new officials will be appointed instead—DP. The Ministry of Food and Co-operatives has decided to call for tenders from farmers and paddy millers for the supply of local rice to the ministry. The Minister of Irrigation etc has decided to give plots of land under the Mahaweli Project to schools in the district for cultivation—DW. The Fisheries Corporation has exported 37 tons of prawns worth 4.4 million rupees in the last three months—LD. Israeli occupation forces maintained firm control over most of South Lebanon yesterday despite a withdrawal from part of the territory they seized in a massive invasion a month ago—CDM. Britain's foreign minister David Owen and US secretary of state Cyrus Vance are expected to hold talks with Rhodesia's interim government in Salisbury next week a British spokesman said today—SU. Former Indian PM Indira Gandhi's breakaway faction of the Congress party was recognised as the official opposition in India—CDN.

**FRIDAY, APRIL 14:** The all round salary and wage increase proposed and approved by the government will be implemented no sooner production in all sectors of the country reaches satisfactory levels; the Finance Minister said that the government's solution to the rising cost of living to help the average worker with appropriate increases in working incomes. The accelerated Mahaweli Development Scheme had gained overwhelming international support, Britain, Sweden, FDR and Japan have agreed to finance four major projects said the Minister of Irrigation etc. Traditional age-old customs, rites and rituals will be observed in temples, kovils and churches on an island-wide scale to usher in the national New Year celebrations which begin this morning. A reward of Rs. 100,000 is offered to any person who provides information leading to the arrest of the persons responsible for the murder of four police officers in the Mannar district last week—CDN. Police HQ's yesterday sent out orders to all officers-in charge of police stations to conduct individual checks on all persons holding permits to ascertain whether the firearms are actually in their possession. Mr. S. V.

O Somander, former Principal of Methodist Central College Batticaloa died last Wednesday at the age of 81—CDM. President Jayawardene has sent a message to President Tito of Yugoslavia regarding the 'development of friendly relations and co-operation between the two countries at a bilateral level and in the activities of the nonaligned group, Tanyug reported—SU. It is reliably understood that Government MP's are the ones who will be appointed a district ministers—EN. Pakistan's Foreign Affairs adviser Agha Shahi said yesterday that it would soon be possible for India and Pakistan to move towards a just settlement of their 30 year-old Kashmir dispute—CDN. Britain's labour government has unveiled a populist give-away budget but coupled it with new warnings about wage restraints; with a possible eye on the imminent by-elections the package contained higher pension, bigger child benefits and free milk for school children upto eleven. Politicis in Bangladesh has become lively in the wake of the announcement that elections will be held in the country in December next—CDM.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 16:** The government has appointed a high-powered committee chaired by Cabinet Secretary G. V. P. Samarasinghe to evaluate the plethora of offers made by reputed international airlines and financing houses to collaborate with Sri Lanka in operating a new international airline. The PM of Singapore, Mr. Lee Kuan Yew, accompanied by his wife and four ministers, arrived in Sri Lanka last night on a five day visit. Police sources are of the opinion that the killers of the police officers may have fled to India—SO. Port officials are perturbed over the bunching of food ships and the non-availability of storage space for the expeditious handling of cargo; according to port sources there are twelve food ships in Colombo, five outside harbour two at Galle, two at Trinco and one at KKS awaiting discharge of rice, flour and sugar. The majority of international airlines operating through Sri Lanka are not prepared to pay a royalty as suggested by Air Ceylon for operating on its suspended routes. The ultimatum of the President that state corporations must be viable or face closure and the directive of the Minister of Industries and Scientific Affairs that productivity must be increased, has resulted in several state industrial corporations making amazing progress of the 39 which were in the red, 20 have made steady progress towards recovery and are showing progress. The Sri Lanka army has begun training six commando platoons to deal with attempts to hijack aircraft and to counter terrorist activity—ST. The government is to amend the Fee Charging Employment Agencies Act to clamp down on unscrupulous agencies which are racketeering in the provision of jobs for our youth abroad, particularly in West Asia. The President will be



at the airport to receive the Buddha relics on Saturday April 22, when the relics arrive from Kapilavastupura in a special SLAF plane—WK. The Ministry of Food and Co-operatives has decided to issue a new rice ration card—RR. Stops have been taken to construct a modern hospital for harbour workers. The government hopes to finish the second stage of the Mahaweli project in two years—SLDP. Indian PM Morarji Desai today pledged a full inquiry to a report that an American Nuclear powered spy device had been lost in the Himalayan snows and might contaminate the headwaters of the sacred river Ganges. Asia's Muslim states are rallying to concentrate the might of their raw material resources and form an economic union to deal with the world

market—WK. President Marcos of Philippines warned that security forces would strike hard at any attempt to stage anti-governmental demonstrations in the wake of last week's National Assembly elections. The situation in the Northern Indian state cities of Amritsar and Patnagar returned to normal today after violent clashes yesterday which left 28 people dead and more than 140 injured. Britain's minority labour government was today boosted by a spectacular by-election victory and a further drop in the inflation rate—SO. 33 Common wealth countries yesterday urged the international community to renew its efforts towards an early establishment of a common fund for commodities—ST.

**NOTICE**

**The Land Acquisition Act (CAP 460) as Amended by the Land Acquisition (Amendment) Act No. 28 of 1964**

**Revocation of vesting order under Section 39 (1)**

My Ref. No. J 76 L 28 (VE)  
G.A.'s No. 94/1/257  
L.C.'s No. 10/6/16868

Whereas by order No. 226 of 1977 dated 25.04.1977 made under proviso (a) to section 38 of the Land Acquisition Act as amended by the Land Acquisition (Amendment) Act No. 28 of 1964 and published in the Government Gazette (Extra Ordinary) No. 262/5 dated 27.04.1977 the land more clearly described in the Schedule below vested in the Republic of Sri Lanka.

I, Edward Lionel Senanayake, Minister of Agriculture & Lands, in the execution of the powers conferred to me under Section 39 (1) of the Land Acquisition Act as amended by the Land Acquisition (Amendment) Act No. 28 of 1964, do hereby revoke the said order No. 226 of 1977 dated 25.04.1977 published in the Government Gazette (Extra Ordinary) No. 262/5 dated 27.04.1977.

**E. L. Senanayake**

Minister of Agriculture & Lands,  
Ministry of Agriculture & Lands,  
Colombo.  
19.10.1977

**Schedule**

The land called Iththagalakanda in extent about 18A. 03R. 05P. depicted in the Surveyor General's Advance Tracing No. 33/76/10 and situated at Manawila village in the G.S. Division of Manawila in the D.R.O's Division of Four Gravets (Akmeemana) Galle District and bounded as follows:—

North: Bogahaduwa claimed by K. P. Karlinahamy and Ampitiyawatta claimed by J. H. Alpina-hamy and others;

East: Ahangamagewatta claimed by J. H. David Appu and others, Walawegewatta claimed by S. Podisingho and others, Kekunaddarawatta claimed by M. G. Simon Appuhamy and others, Rathmaharawatta alias Bankuwewatta claimed by W. T. Nonahamy and others, Palawatta Kora Kahawatta claimed by H. B. Nanayakkara and others, Kata Kalagahawatta claimed by K. R. A de Silva and others, Ihalagoda Kanda claimed by K. R. F. de Silva and Innagala Kanda claimed by M. S. de S. Hewawithana and others;

South: Ihalagoda Kanda claimed by K. R. F. de Silva, Innagala Kanda claimed by M. S. de S. Hewawithana and others and Heellagewatta claimed by G. K. Ariyadasa and others;

West: Weliketiyawatta claimed by K. Sonnadara and others, Kirindagewatta claimed by K. L. A. Simon Appuhamy and others, Hora Kagahawatta claimed by B. G. Samie and others and Kat Kalagahawatta claimed by S. T. Hewawithana and others.

My No. EA/4/270

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

It is intended to acquire the land described below for a public purpose. For further particulars please see the Gazette of the Republic of Sri Lanka No. 315 (Part III) of 28/04/1978.

Situation: Village of Alutgama, Alutgama West Ward No. 5 within Alutgama Town Council limits, D.R.O's Division of Kalutara Totamune South, Kalutara District in Western Province.

Name of Land: Wellakumburawatta alias Wellabodawatta, Assmt. No. 165/8, 165/6, Galle Road. Lot No. 1 in P.P.K. 1086.

**D. M. Gammampila**

Acquiring Officer, and Assistant Government Agent, Kalutara Dt. Kalutara Kachcheri.  
19th April 1978.

# Confidentially

## Textiles And Fish

IS IT NOT TRUE that though the NSA had only short sessions on April 20 and 21, two matters which this column has been spotlighting in recent weeks came for discussion? That as copies of the Hansard (uncorrected) for these two days have not yet reached us we reproduce reports from the **Ceylon Daily News** of April 21 and 22? That the first matter was about the imports of the synthetics by Cyntex Ltd., and Paragons Ltd. and the second about the licenses granted to foreign companies to fish in our waters? That the **Ceylon Daily News** report of 21.4.78 in regard to the textiles stated; "No tenders were awarded to any organisation, institution or company to import saree material. Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali, Minister of Trade said in the National State Assembly yesterday. He was replying to a question raised during the adjournment by Dr. Neville Fernando (UNP-Panadura) whether action would be taken against the offenders. Mr. Athulathmudali said that no tenders were awarded to any organisation, institution or company to import saree material. At a time when he (Mr. Athulathmudali) was out of the country, the Co-ordinating Committee 'justifiably fearing' a shortage of saree material, and in view of the promises held out to the public to make saree material available for Christmas, made an allocation of three million yards of saree material and gave it to the Association of Rayon and Synthetic Textile Manufacturers. That allocation was given on the understanding that it would be imported by December 10 in time for Christmas. The as-

sociation had sub-divided the allocation between Messrs Paragon Textiles Ltd, and Ceylon Synthetic Textiles Mills Ltd. which functioned under the brand name of 'Cyntex'. Upon the import of that material, investigations were made by the Principal Collector of Customs. When it was found that violation of the Customs Ordinance had been committed the entire stock was requisitioned and handed over to Salu Sala. The Minister said that fines and forfeitures were functions of the Department of Customs. Certain fines by the Customs had been imposed. Mr. Athulathmudali said that Mr. Gnanam was Managing Director of Cyntex. He could not answer the question in regard to Mr. Gnanam's position in the GCEC as that was not a matter within his purview. 'The Member for Panadura knows me and would know what my views would be on the matter', said the Minister."

That on the next day he clarified the matter yet further and it was reported in the CDN of 22.4.78: "Trade Minister Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali, making a statement in the NSA yesterday (21.4.78) on the importation of saree material raised on Thursday said he (20.4.78) had been advised that with regard to the importation no fine, forfeiture or penalty had been imposed on Ceylon Synthetic Textiles Ltd., or on its managing director, Mr. A. Y. S. Gnanam. He said that he had also been authorised to state on behalf of the government that if any person holding any office under this Government is found to have contravened the law such person or persons will be removed from such office and dealt with according to the law. This situation did not arise in the case of the saree material imported by Ceylon Synthetic Textiles Limited, the Minister said." That the question **Tribune** raised and has

not got any answer as yet is as to why Cyntex Ltd. was not penalised in the same way as Paragons Ltd? That as far as our information goes (we are prepared to publish corrections or amplifications if furnished to us) Cyntex Ltd., was also guilty of violations and that this was the reason the textiles in question were handed over to Salu Sala (requisitioned and not confiscated)? That the original scheme was for the importer to distribute the major part of the imports after giving a percentage to the Salu Sala? That the the excuses given by Cyntex were obviously considered good enough not to impose the same kind of penalty as Paragons? That it is this decision that has made many to raise their eyebrows and ask questions whether Cyntex has received favoured treatment? That unless the secrecy and mystery about the Cyntex consignments are cleared up soon and the public is satisfied that Cyntex was not specially favoured, the credibility of the government is bound to suffer? That it is clear that the matter cannot be left as it stands?

That this column will deal with the other matter regarding the licences to foreign trawlers to fish in our waters in the next issue? That Minister Festus Perera had to admit that he had cancelled the licence of a Singapore Company with 20 trawlers because the Sri Lanka Navy had caught them fishing inside the 25 mile limit? That, as we have pointed out, the Navy does not have enough vessels to police our entire coastline? That our own information is that licenced and unlicenced trawlers (who's to check them?) have depleted the stocks of fish and there is precious little fish left for our fishermen to catch even inside a 5 mile limit? That this column will examine the statements made by Minister Festus Perera in the NSA in the light of available information and realities?

# All Citizens Must Act To Stop Abolition Of Food

When someone adulterates foodstuffs for sale he is not merely making a big profit but is committing a crime against the health of the community. When someone or a group of people mix with their hands or feet or feet with dirty water, they are spreading germs which cause cholera, typhoid, and other diseases. When someone mixes with their hands or feet or feet with dirty water, they are spreading germs which cause cholera, typhoid, and other diseases.

The administration report of Colombo Municipal Council for 1956 (referred to recently) revealed that samples of many food items tested were adulterated. Butter—with emulsion of water and vegetable fat; Arrowroot—with water and vegetable oil; Coffee powder—with wheat flour; Condensed milk—with powder; Coffee powder—with powder; Groundnut husk, which is as much as 85% toxic powder—with wheat flour, maize, lower quality, and a toxic coal tar dye mixture.

**“Liberty and democracy have no meaning without equality and equality cannot be established so long as principal instruments of production are privately owned. Private ownership of these means of production thus comes in the way of real democracy.”**

**—Jawaharlal Nehru**

# Citizens Can No Longer Afford To Wait For The Authorities To Act

Test food samples (some can be done at home by simple tests and others in private or school laboratories at little cost) and expose the food criminals.

# And Demand Streamlined Legislation And Prompt Enforcement

SPACE DONATED

SPACE DONATED

## All Citizens Must Act To Stop Adulteration Of Food

When someone adulterates foodstuffs for sale he is not merely making a big profit but is committing a crime against the health of the community. When coconut or gingelly oil is mixed with mineral oil it can lead to blindness or heart disease. Who suffers when chillie powder is mixed with sand or milk with dirty water?

The administration Report of Colombo Municipal Council for 1976 (released very recently revealed that samples of many food items tested were adulterated: *Butter*—with emulsions of water and vegetable fats; *Arrowroot*—with maize and tapioca flour; *Chillie powder*—with wheat flour, coriander, poonac or sawdust; *Coffee powder*—with powdered ground nut husk, starch (to as much as 85%); *Turmeric powder*—with wheat flour, maize flower tapioca and a toxic coal tar dye material.

The maximum fine for adulteration under the Act is Rs. 200/-. The Municipality's Report stated: This fine is inadequate when I think the cumulative effect on the health of the community when food adulterated with substances like metanil yellow diluted in turmeric powder and formic acid diluted in vinegar are consumed by us."

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