



Comment On Current Affairs	5
The Borderland—Four	6
The Virus Of Violence	9
Struggle For US Presidency	10
Meteorology & Man	13
Secret US Directive	15
Education & Technological Gap	17
Two Way Traffic Over Jordan	19
Films	22

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WILL THE FEEC SCHEME WORK?

The new scheme introduced by the Government to "reform" the foreign exchange transactions of the country has been launched with a fanfare of official propaganda that tends to cloud some of the basic issues involved. The FEEC scheme has received the blessings of the World Bank experts and the IMF because the National Government has sought to adopt very orthodox capitalist measures to resolve the financial, fiscal and foreign exchange crisis confronting the country. Instead of veering to greater controls associated with socialist economy, the Government has taken a fuller turn to the free-wheeling free enterprise methodology of capitalism, but of a regulated character. The regulations and controls which govern the FEEC system stem from the complex realities of our economy — and we therefore still have the heavy hand of exchange and import control to limit the extent and scope of the amount of foreign exchange that entrepreneurs and the richer classes can play about with under the FEEC scheme.

The World Bank and the orthodox capitalist economists will also be happy with the new scheme because it secures the further *devaluation* of the Ceylon rupee so far as its relation with foreign exchange is concerned. Except for a limited category of goods which can be imported at the official rate, the Ceylon rupee is devalued by a further 35% to 50% so far as imports are concerned. This also applies to travel tickets and other remittances. With these multiple rates of exchange—foreign tourists will get a higher rate for their sterling and dollar—the government hopes to introduce not only greater freedom in foreign exchange transactions but also minimise the blackmarket operations in foreign currency. A cynic might be tempted to say that the Government has sought to eliminate the blackmarket by taking over the blackmarket itself, but such clever quips take us nowhere.

at all, or how it will work, if it succeeds in getting off the ground? Will the black-marketeters be able to subvert the scheme and thereafter derive the maximum benefits from the multiple rates of exchange which now officially operate in the country? Will the blackmarket continue even after the FEEC scheme gets into stride? Will the FEEC scheme be exploited to spirit away Ceylon's meagre foreign exchange? Will this scheme help to bring in more foreign exchange from tourists and the export trade? Will bureaucratic red tape choke the virtues of the FEEC scheme and permit only the evils to flourish?

It is yet too early to answer these and other relevant questions, but on the answers will depend the crucial problem how the FEEC will work. Will it usher in a new era of economic prosperity and advancement, or will it turn out to be another flop and fiasco?

A New Ferment

There were some misgivings as to whether the intense explosion that took place in the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic after the January session of the Party Central Committee, would not lead to anarchy or even to counter-revolutionary attempts. And then again, voices were heard that at present there did not exist anywhere in the world a democracy that could be compared to that in Czechoslovakia. It became apparent, however, that the foundations of socialist society in Czechoslovakia are solid.

comings of the development of the preceding years as well as the prevailing political situation was being exposed might have seemed needless self-torture. In reality, without this overtness — sometimes even rather rudely frank — that, which many people (even those outside Czechoslovakia) mark the renaissance of socialist ideals, a renaissance of truth and confidence in the people's creative abilities, could never have come about. Keen public discussions, criticism in the press, in radio and TV transmissions confirmed that the concentration of power in one single Party centre (where in the course of the years practically a fusion of the functions of Parliament, Government and of the other political parties eventually had taken place) does not correspond to the requirements of a further development of society and economics, to the development of the production forces or to the democratic traditions of Czechoslovakia. In a country in which democracy, the struggle for social justice and progress have such deep traditions, this fact, i.e. the concentration of power in the Party centre, had an unpropitious effect.

ON THE other hand, however, it were precisely these traditions that made it possible that a thing happened in Czechoslovakia which is unique in history and that consequently became the centre of interest not only of Czechoslovakia's closest neighbours. In fact, the regeneration movement in the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic does not limit itself only to correcting former errors and mistakes. It aims much further — towards a synthesis of socialism and democracy, towards a society in which man will be truly free, and master of his destiny.

What will be at issue in the further development? No democracy — and thus not even socialist democracy — can live only on the circumstance that various opinions are freely expressed and criticism voices. What is necessary is a well planned and well functioning system of institutions, agencies and organisations which will work effectively, being

under steady democratic control of the citizens. Such changes have already taken place in Czechoslovakia in the political system, changes which facilitate the embarkment upon the road of stabilisation.

A NEW president stands at the head of the state, a new government was set up, important changes occurred in the leadership of the Communist Party, the work of social organisations was re-animated. Thus all the prerequisites have been established for the fulfilling of another weighty task of the coming period, i.e. a real consolidation and development of the national economy. Here most important is the turn to effectiveness and to the intensive development of economics, which is the pivotal question of the development of the whole society.

All this indicates that Czechoslovakia has set out on an arduous journey. It seeks its own, the Czechoslovak method of construction and development of socialism. It wants to create a socialist society, economically, technically and culturally highly advanced, socially and nationally just, democratically organized, qualifiedly managed.

S. BOHEMICUS

TREE OF LIBERTY

Wi' plenty o' sic trees I trow
The world wad live in peace, man.
The din o' war wad cease man.
Like brethern in a common cause.
The sword wad help to make

a plough.

We'd on each other smile, man
And equal rights and equal laws
Wa'd gladden every Isle, man.

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Robert Burns



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Headlines of the Week

THURSDAY, May 2 — After a three hours debate the Galle Municipal Council passed a resolution urging the Prime Minister not to present the District Councils Bill in Parliament. Mr. M. M. Maharoof, former Ceylon High Commissioner in Malaysia, died today. The *Times of Ceylon* reported that one of the main recommendations of the Monetary Board was that travel abroad be allowed once in five years with foreign exchange to the value of Rs. 2,000 for countries in the sterling group and Rs. 750 in the Indian group. Millions of workers and students joined in May Day celebrations in major world capitals. South Vietnam's Head of State said his government would never discuss Vietnam peace with the Vietcong.

FRIDAY, May 3 — The Government Agent of Jaffna has enforced a rationing scheme on a large number of essential items in the Jaffna Peninsula with effect from today. Over 30,000 employees in the public and private sectors were back at work yesterday after the 31-day old strike of the Ceylon Mercantile Union. The Cargo Corporation lodged a strong protest with the American shipping conference against a proposal to increase the freight rates from Colombo to US Ports by 15 percent. US officials said that a spokesman for the North Vietnamese Embassy has rejected the Indonesian offer of a place to hold preliminary peace talks. Peking Radio said that the time was ripe for the world communist revolution.

SATURDAY, May 4 — The entire Board of Directors of the Ceylon Transport Board resigned yesterday. Ceylon's tea production dropped by more than eight million pounds during the first three months of this year. French officials welcomed the Hanoi-Washington agreement to meet in Paris for preliminary peace talks, but disclaimed any direct initiative by French in bringing the two sides together.

SUNDAY, May 5 — The Prime Minister Mr. Dudley Senanayake said at a press conference that the Government had decided to introduce a Foreign Exchange Entitlement Certificate Scheme with effect from tomorrow. According to World Bank experts, Ceylon is handicapped by a lack of specialists capable of giving direction to social and economic changes. The International Monetary Fund announced a stand-by agreement for Ceylon authorising drawings up to the equivalent of \$19.5 million to support Ceylon's exchange reform measures. The Egyptians gave President Nasser 99.989 percent backing in Thursday's elections for his new programme of political reform.

MONDAY, May 6 — Various sectors of the economy reacted differently to the new Foreign Exchange Entitlement Certificate scheme that came into operation today. The Central Bank announced that its rate of interest on advances to commercial banks has been increased from 5 percent to 5½ percent per annum. The Prime Minister has ordered that all Corporations should have a representative of the workers serving on the Board. The Prime Minister paid tribute to young farmers at the Independence Square yesterday. Four Western journalists were killed by the Vietcong in a Saigon suburb. South Africa has tightened its laws against the coloured population in the country and has taken further steps towards the final separation of races living there.

TUESDAY, May 7 — Nine lives were lost in the floods which ravaged several parts of the island. Mr. R. T. de Silva, Chairman of the Ceylon Transport Board, handed in his resignation to the Minister of Nationalised Services. The FAO forecast a rice surplus in Ceylon with the use of fertilisers and local high-yielding seed. The cost of travel abroad went up by around 35 percent, following the Government's new exchange scheme. Communist rockets slammed into the heart of Saigon and fighting raged on the outskirts of the Capital, but the North Vietnamese and Vietcong troops failed to gain a foothold in the city. The Pentagon estimated that Russia and China were each putting about a billion dollars into the North Vietnam war efforts.

WEDNESDAY, May 8 — The *Sun* reported that the draft of the District Councils Bill would be referred to the UNP Executive Committee after it is approved by the Cabinet. The Inspector-General of Police has ordered that in future all slogans to be used in public processions will have to be censored by the Police. The *Daily Mirror* reported that the Minister of Health has decided to carry out surprise inspections in all hospitals personally. An advance party of North Vietnamese negotiators arrived in Paris yesterday from Hanoi for Friday's preliminary peace talks with the United States. The former Chief of the Egyptian Intelligence Services and three of his aids will stand trial next Saturday for torture and rape.

THURSDAY, May 9 — The Government announced a reduction of 15 cents in the export duties of packeted teas to boost increase in exports. Dr. W. C. Rogers, Chief Medical Officer of the American hospital ship *Hope*, said that the ship would operate only in the Colombo Port until she leaves in February next year. The Prime Minister Mr. Dudley Senanayake told a delegation from the All Ceylon Buddhist Congress yesterday that the National Government had accepted in principle the implementation of prohibition in stages, and that for a start a permit system would be introduced

for those who want liquor and that the permit would not be transferable. The French Government announced yesterday that preliminary peace talks between America and North Vietnam would begin tomorrow on schedule. Senator Robert F. Kennedy emerged victor of the Indiana Primary with proof that he is a potent candidate for the Democratic Presidential nomination.

FRIDAY, May 10 — The Minister of Finance, Mr. U. B. Wanninayake, tabled in Parliament the Foreign Exchange Entitlement Certificate Bill. The *Daily News* reported that Parliament was likely to be prorogued sometime towards the middle of June. The Karaka Sangha Sabha of the Asgiriya Chapter at a meeting held opposed the District Council Bill. About 200 Vietcong swarmed near the centre of Saigon and began burning houses. A 20-man North Vietnamese delegation arrived in Moscow en route to Paris for preliminary peace talks with the United States.

SATURDAY, May 11 — Hundred rupee Foreign Exchange Entitlement Certificates were sold at prices ranging from Rs. 130/- to Rs. 200 at the close of the first tender for FEEC by the Central Bank. Vesak was celebrated throughout the island, the accent being on religious practices. The Ministers met the whole of yesterday morning and discussed the draft District Councils Bill. The United States and North Vietnam opened preliminary talks today, but the US delegation announced the meeting would be only to fix procedure for the real talks to come later.

SUNDAY, May 12 — Newspapers were not published today.

MONDAY, May 13 — The *Times of Ceylon* reported that the Ministry of Education had decided to place a ceiling on the fees levied by private schools and tutorials. Over ten thousand urgent and ordinary telegrams were sent by post, from the CTO, to the outstations during the first five days of this month. President Johnson assured the Thai Prime Minister of arms aid. The President of Tunisia said that the United States and Israel, and not Egypt, held the key to peace in the Middle East.

TUESDAY, May 14 — The Ministry of Land, Irrigation and Power has alerted all Government Agents to the possibility of organised encroachment on crown land by non-Ceylonese in the Northern, Eastern, North Western and Central Provinces. The All Ceylon Rice Millers' Association has threatened to switch over to the milling of paddy from private sources, unless the milling rates were revised by the Government and the decision to issue paddy by weight was carried out. The US proposed restoration of the demilitarized zone in Vietnam and pulling apart of American and

North Vietnamese forces as a first step towards scaling down the war. The cyclone, which hit Burma's west coast, killed at least 420 people.

WEDNESDAY, May 15 — The Ministers discussed the draft District Councils Bill. The *Daily Mirror* reported that legislation to compel trade unions to seek a mandate by secret ballot from its membership when taking strike decisions is to be gone through in spite of opposition to it by certain trade unions. Over 5,000 members of the Union of Post and Telecommunication officers will launch a go-slow campaign on May 26. Senator Robert Kennedy was tipped to gain another primary election victory at Nebraska. The long awaited start of the Vietnam talks raised hopes among Paris diplomats who saw the first encounter as encouraging, but with peace still distantly elusive.

THURSDAY, May 16 — The US hospital ship *Hope* called for blood donors. The Ministry of Land is planning to overhaul the entire administration and extension work in colonisation schemes, to ensure that these schemes make the maximum contribution to the country's economy. The CTB netted a revenue of Rs. 1,287,000 on May 12. The US told North Vietnam that there was scope for agreement on the basis of similarities in the opening positions of the two nations at their peace talks. India told the United Nations that it cannot subscribe to an American - Soviet draft treaty to bar the spread of nuclear weapons.

FRIDAY, May 17 — The *Daily Mirror* reported that the Government had decided to reduce as far as possible the prices of 22 essential consumer items. Pending the appointment of the new CTB Directorate, the Minister of Nationalised Services conferred wide powers on the General Manager to select the personnel of three panels to deal with transfers, promotions and public complaints. The second full-scale session of preliminary talks on Vietnam peace produced no basic change in the position taken up by the US and North Vietnam. Arakanas tornadoes roared through ten American cities killing at least 31 people.

MORE WATER

- Of all the moisture that drops on the earth's land surface, man uses only a little more than one per cent. If man could learn to use as much as one-fifth of that pure water, the earth could well support more than six times its present population. The traditional method of desalting by distillation is too expensive for most water needs because it requires costly fuel to boil the water. Now, heat from atomic fuel may bring distillation costs down to make desalted water more generally feasible.

COMMENT ON CURRENT AFFAIRS

IN PARIS: talks begin, but.....?

It was a great step forward in the cause of peace that the United States had finally agreed to meet the North Vietnam delegation in Paris for negotiations. Public opinion in the United States and throughout the world had, more or less, compelled President Johnson to make it possible for President Ho Chi Minh to come to the negotiating table. Hanoi's reluctance to start negotiations is understandable in view of the Johnsonian record in diplomacy and in the Vietnam war. In Hanoi itself there are the hard-liners who think that the war must be fought to a finish and that negotiations should begin only after the last of the American intruders in South Vietnam had left for home. The talks in Paris are bound to be protracted. The United States is more worried about its "image" than peace — and North Vietnam has to "save its face" from the loud-mouthed compulsions of those of believe in the virulent Peking line. Hanoi will no doubt seek to exploit the growing disillusionment within the United States itself about the futility of the US waging a war on the Asiatic mainland. The United States also now realises that public opinion in North as well as in South Vietnam is weighted against alien interventionists even if they came in the garb of saviours. Cynics are tempted to think that Johnson initiated the talks in Paris to fool the American voters before the November elections into the belief that the Democratic Party really stood for "peace", but Johnson's calculations would be badly upset if Humphrey does not get the nomination of the Democratic Party. Will the talks be dragged on until the Presidential elections are over? Will the Johnson administration agree to a complete cessation of bombing of North Vietnamese territory to get the peace talks started on a realistic basis? How does the USA propose to deal with the Vietcong and the NLF which virtually control over 70% of the territory in South Vietnam. Without a settlement with the Vietcong, there can be no peace for the Americans in Vietnam. These are questions which are not easy to answer because there are so many uncertainties mixed up with the Vietnam problem. Whilst the talks proceed in Paris the Vietcong which has been so far kept out of the talks will seek to increase its positions of strength. The talks are now in the very early stages of diplomatic shadow boxing and it is difficult to say what the outcome is likely to be.

PROHIBITION: is it practicable?

The prohibition cry has been heard once again in this country. Last week the Prime Minister Mr. Dudley Senanayake was reported as having informed the delegation of the All Ceylon Buddhist Congress, led by

its President, Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya, that the National Government had accepted in principle the implementation of "prohibition in stages", and that, for a start, a permit system would be introduced for those who want liquor and that the permit would be non-transferable. One would have certainly expected that "partial" prohibition which has been in force in Ceylon would have weaned a fair section of the population from the drinking habit? But, what exactly is the situation today? Not only are more and more people drinking, but even youths in their twenties have taken to drinking. The demand for arrack is so heavy that the state distilleries have been unable to cope with the demand, and the state has been forced to meet the demand by providing drinkers with a substitute manufactured from sugar molasses. Except, of course, those who refuse to see and are blind to realities, every sane person who knows the conditions obtaining in the country that unlimited quantities of arrack are available in every dry area if one is prepared to pay a couple rupees or more for a bottle of arrack. What indeed reduces "partial" prohibition to an utter farce is that it has given rise to the manufacture of *kassippu* which is a thriving cottage industry in every part of Ceylon from which *kassippu* kings are raking in a big fortune. Most of the brands of *kassippu*, named after some of our politicians for the extra kick they provide, are harmful because they contain poisonous ingredients. Medical sources are of opinion that most of the stomach ailments are the result of the drinking of these harmful brews. Government, for its part, has no doubt been fighting an uphill task for many years to eradicate this menace, and in spite of the deployment of the Police and the Excise Forces, the illicit distillation of *kassippu* is on the upgrade. If they have been unable to eradicate this menace it is largely because majority of the personnel of the Police and Excise Forces are on the regular payroll of the *kassippu* magnates. Not infrequently the daily press has reported that *kassippu* dens had been raided not far away from a Police Station. It was reported only a couple of weeks ago that according to a highly confidential survey carried out by the upper echelons of the Police Department that nearly twenty percent of its ten thousand strong personnel were confirmed bribe takers. This, in the opinion of many, is certainly a gross underestimate. Under the scheme to implement "prohibition in stages" the National Government proposes, for a start, to introduce a permit system for those who want liquor and that it would be non-transferable. We can already envisage that this will lead to gross abuses which it will be difficult to check. Take for instance, the case of rice ration books. Although these are non-transferable, it is common knowledge that several thousands are either pawned or rations obtained on them and sold at blackmarket prices. It will be the same sad story with the case of liquor permits. It will be far better for the state and the temperance workers to educate the younger generation on the evils of drinking than experiment with permits which will prove an utter farce and which will grow into a Frankensteinian menace.

THE BORDERLAND — by C. V. VELUPILLAI

CHAPTER FOUR

FAMILIAR FACES

The Story So Far.....

The beautiful Sundari lived alone in her estate bungalow in the hills. She had many admirers but Amaradasa was very close to her. During April holidays Dr. Nayagam's young nephew, Ravi, had come to spend a few days with her. Her conduct towards the youth was a puzzle to Amaradasa.

Amaradasa set up his dispensary some three years ago. The common people looked upon him as the doctor with the healing hand. Among the patients who came to consult him was the chic and elegant Mrs. Tilikeratne, whom he found to be his cousin. He promised to meet her in the village when he went home.

That evening Sundari asked Amaradasa to take her and Ravi to a cattle farm.

Amaradasa talked on lightly and aimlessly to wear out the tension within him. He tried to draw Ravi into the conversation. Sundari looked flushed and excited, in a state of elation, floating on its waves in gay abandon. From time to time she cast sly, hungry looks at Ravi. She did not know why "People do all sorts of strange things for no reason and I am no exception", she thought.

In that queer behaviour, Amaradasa, for the first time, had a glimpse of a dark, disturbing force that lay hidden in the depths of her beautiful body. This contradiction in her nature baffled him. What a world of difference between her and Mrs. Tilikeratne, he reflected. Yet, Sundari held him in a vice.

This conversation went on till dinner time. Amaradasa left after 9 p.m.

A dull lead coloured night. It had the effect of a white twilight growing dark in the skies. The inky outline of the distant mountain, the thick shadow of buildings close by and the deep, dark etching of trees in between; all these mixed together seemed to damp the marrow of his bones. In the quietude spread before him, in its ineffable silence his very being melted. What closeness between him and the motionless leaves on the trees, he wondered. Perhaps, an old memory in the beat of his blood.

He was groping his way down the steps. He looked at the skies and sighed. Was it for Sundari or himself? He did not know. As if he had parted company with something very near and dear to him, his body felt a pain.

G. F. R.

UNDER THE WING OF THE RED CROSS

At the end of March the well-known Austrian investigator of nazi crimes, Mr. Wiesenthal, created a sensation by revealing that a secret nazi organization called the Warning Service was operating within the Missing Persons Department of the West-German Red Cross. Using the facilities of this Department, it warned nazi criminals hiding in the Federal Republic, including Gestapo and SS men responsible for mass murders during the war, against going to countries where they were being sought. Kurt Wagner, head of the Missing Persons Department, protested, saying there was no secret nazi organization and that the Red Cross was merely carrying out the instructions of the Bonn Foreign Ministry. On March 29 the latter confirmed that a year and a half ago it passed to the Red Cross a list of about 800 persons sentenced *in absentia*, mainly in France, for war crimes. The Ministry ordered the Red Cross to find and....warn them. And so about 500 of them have already been found and warned. The Foreign Ministry refused to say where it got the list of the persons it was taking such care to protect. All it said was that it did not emanate from official sources and had seen compiled "by respected, untrained persons". Judging by all official statements, the Warning Service is functioning all right. And not only through the Red Cross but under the wing of a more authoritative Bonn institution.

When he reached home his friends had retired. He quietly switched on the light, changed his clothes and sat on the bed for a long time.

Why should life be so futile and meaningless, he asked himself and looked around. His room was bare and drab. The bed stood by the wall, the dressing table by the window and the rows of books in the shelf against the wall opposite; and he was seated half naked in their midst. He looked up at the ceiling and mused. There, from the wall below the ever serene face of the Master looked down on him. Amaradasa bowed his head, half in prayer and half in grief for the many things he had lost.

Ever since he met Sundari he found himself in this wretched state. He decided to be rid of this disease and go to the village for a short holiday. He thought of what Mrs. Tilikeratne said: "My mother was a close relation of your mother." Women have a way of speaking. "A close relation of your mother", he repeated.

From the shadows of the past came long forgotten associations, the faded days of his childhood, old familiar faces, torn ties of early youth; the deep, abiding love of his mother; the silent, affectionate ways of his father. He had lost all these and found himself a pauper now. From the depths of these sad recollections emerged his village and its people and his home. Yes, his home!

It stood out vivid and clear; a large stone structure in the midst of heavy trees on the level ground overlooking the river. Creepers hung in festoons from the trees and shrubs of all shapes and plants of rare variety grew in the garden round. On the left of the porch stood a giant Na tree. A round flat stone lay at its foot. Every evening his father washed himself here and went for his prayer to the shrine room on the left. Then there would be such silence in the house, only the murmur of the river could be heard.

At the end of the hall where the wide arch divided the dining hall stood two tall brass lamps, gleaming like burnished gold. Beyond that a wide passage led to the kitchen where his mother worked. The aromatic smell of cooked food and fried curries always made him hungry. Amaradasa could never forget his mother's room and the bed on which they slept together. The bedsheet was white and sweet smelling like the gardenia in bloom by her window. There was so much of her likeness reflected in the room. When she returned after a bath in her long, loose dress and embraced him, the scent of her body would merge into his. Likewise his father's room had its look and smell. There were two impressive almirahs made of ebony and jak; a huge bed neatly laid by his mother. Close beside his bed on the wall hung his mother's picture. And there was the strong smell of scented "Thilaya." In the elder uncle's room there was the heavy smell of spice and cigar. Bright coloured pictures of the "Flight of Siddhartha" adorned the wall. There was a long sharp crack on the wall where the lizards lived.

By the smooth courtyard where the brick coloured dog lay half asleep, was his elder aunt's room. It was a veritable toy shop full of all kinds of odds and ends. coloured boxes of all shapes and sizes, pieces of ancient furniture used by her grandparents, the relics of her past. Amaradasa loved to explore

VENEZUELA

OIL BLACKMAIL

The Creole and Shell petroleum companies have turned down the Venezuelan Oil Corporation's proposal for further oil exploration in Venezuela. The oil barons claim that the corporation's demands are "excessive" and that their fulfilment would greatly increase the state's share under the new contracts for "services". Progressive public opinion in Venezuela has condemned these contracts, saying they are nothing but "camouflaged concessions". The Venezuelan government, it might be recalled, has repeatedly affirmed that it would not grant new concessions to foreign oil companies. But, under the contracts for "services", the corporation is authorized to allow foreign companies to exploit new areas for a limited period and on certain terms. American firms, however, object to any terms and demands the unrestricted right to prospect for oil and exploit the deposits. There was a time when such demands could not be rejected. But times have changed. The Venezuelan public wants the Venezuelan Oil Corporation to prospect for oil and to exploit the deposits itself. The foreign firms threaten that if this is done, Venezuelan oil will be kept out of the U. S. market.

They have already found a pretext: an allegedly high sulphur content. And they are using this pretext to extort concessions from the Venezuelans. Venezuelan economists have a name for such manoeuvring. They call it "shameless blackmail."

this room but his old aunt sat there all day long with a watchful eye pounding her betel.

His queen-like mother, her "nice" servant maids, Kira, the singer — all of them made the house of his boyhood.

Amaradasa thus thought of his home as he sat there on his bed and scanned the dark night through his open window. Memory revolved like a top on a sheet of running water.

Yes. Amaradasa might have been seven. His father had been ill for a long time and never got up from his bed. One day he lay silent and motionless. He was covered with a large, white sheet. His mother pressed his face on his feet and sobbed. Her voice choked with grief. Amaradasa screamed as if his little heart would break. With him there was a little girl. She too cried with him. Their pitiful cry made everyone sad.

Now he remembered the little girl. Yes, it was she; married to an engineer in Norton. He had never thought of her during the long years of his absence from the village or his stay in India. "Why did she come to me now?" he asked himself. "There are so many doctors here. She could have gone to them. Why to me? Was it to renew old ties? What was the purpose?" It was all like a riddle to his wounded mind. Suddenly he thought of Sundari and the cattle farm.

The clock struck twelve and he went to bed. It was a weary night. Sleep did not come to him for a long time.

To be continued

IS RADIO COMMUNICATION WITH EXTRATERRESTRIAL CIVILIZATIONS POSSIBLE?

"Systematic studies of many extraterrestrial sources of radio and optical signals are being conducted in the Soviet Union just as in other countries. Many interesting and at times absolutely unexpected phenomena have been discovered," Vladimir Kotelnikov, Director of the Institute of Radio Technology and Electronics of the USSR Academy of Sciences stated in the magazine "*Nauka i Zhizn*" (Science and Life). "We think that if a sufficiently developed civilisation exists somewhere in the 'environments' of our sun, we will stumble upon it some time; 'see' signals that will bring us intelligent information", Academician Kotelnikov said. "We have not yet discovered these sources and it is difficult to predict when this will happen. Although there is nothing impossible in that we will stumble upon such signals". Kotelnikov believes that at the present stage of radiotechnology development, it should be possible to maintain communications within the limits of our gala galaxy.

With lasers now in use, very sensitive radio receivers are being designed to detect weak signals. Lasers may find use in transmitting systems since, with their help, energy can be focussed in a very narrow beam and thus signals transmitted over enormous distances. As to links it is hard to direct signals with required precision. "Radio and laser signals may be transmitted from a planet of one stellar system to that of another only in a narrow, directed beam". Kotelnikov hopes that systematic studies of astronomers and radio-astronomers in the long run will lead to a detection of signals from other civilisations.

U. S. A.

What Ails the Dollar

The American dollar is sinking. Its temperature (and purchasing power) has fallen to a level dangerously close to devaluation. The balance of payments is suffering from a chronic deficit. The gold drain continues. In short, all symptoms point to inflation. As is usual in such cases, advice is plentiful. One came on April 12 from the *New York Times*. It began by diagnosing the ailment. "There is no mystery about what is wrong with the American economy", it said. "The problem... is that this nation is overcommitted abroad and undercommitted at home. Unfortunately, this sickly state of affairs is continuing... Military spending is increasing at a faster pace than the Administration had anticipated. This may mean heightened inflationary pressure on the domestic front and renewed suspicion about the stability of the dollar abroad. It also may mean that the urgent problem of poverty, which has been subject to so much rhetoric and so few resources, will continue to suffer from neglect."

But how does the paper propose to cure the complaint? Does it suggest cutting the commitments abroad" on account of which the United States, having assumed the role of world policeman, is maintaining troops and bases all over the world? Or ending the Vietnam war which is exhausting the US finances? No, it does not. The *New York Times* merely prescribes an increase in taxes and a reduction of "non-essential spending", and calls on the American people to make more sacrifices "to pay for the war in Vietnam." Instead of eliminating the main causes aggravating the dollar's ailment, the paper recommends palliatives which can defer but not prevent the looming crisis.

On the Murder Of
Dr. Martin Luther King

THE VIRUS OF VIOLENCE

by Dr. Fredric Wertham

The author, a noted psychiatrist and specialist in the study of violence, has written several books in the field including "Dark Legend: A Study in Murder" and "The Show of Violence". His latest book is "A Sign for Cain" an exploration of human violence.

A NUMBER of years ago two men, both Negroes, had a marathon talk about violence. The conversation lasted some 24 hours. This was in Paris in March 1959.

Dr. Martin Luther King was visiting Richard Wright, the author of the novel "Native Son". Both men had been interested in violence particularly all their lives, Wright from a literary-political point of view, Dr. King from a social-theological perspective. For Dr. King this was an important preparatory year, for it was in 1960 when he was jailed in Georgia for his activities that he came to national prominence.

Both agreed about the bad condition of Negroes in the United States and about the problem of violence in that connection. They did not find a solution that night. But I am sure they saw the problems of human violence more clearly than any other two men alive then.

In his writings Richard Wright had described what might be called the condition of violence in the heart and in institutions. At the same time he had pointed out the necessity of rising above it. Of Martin Luther King it is generally assumed that he came from the

submerged periphery of American life and that he was no more than a follower of Gandhi and Thoreau.

Actually he was a thinker in the great tradition of the best moral European thought, in a line that goes back to the middle of the Sixteenth Century, when a friend of the philosopher Montaigne, Etienne de la Boetie, described and advocated non-violence and passive resistance.

Dr. King's murder can be seen as a horrible example of social contamination with violence. How far back do the germs go that caused it, where were they hidden and how far will this contagion spread now in all its virulence? Unless the process is halted violence will increase. For violence can be as contagious as the measles.

MARTIN LUTHER KING'S greatest achievement was that he restored the dignity of indignation. With his speeches and writings he created and addressed an underground — not in the police sense, but an underground of decency. To speak of "nonviolent creative techniques" as he did in a world that proudly boasted of its violent destructive techniques was a courageous act. The actual demands Dr. King made for social reforms and concessions were really modest. We must realize that his nonviolence is essentially a test. It is a test that shows whether or to what extent violence can be done away with, without violence. Now as a nation we have failed in this test.

Dr. King's killing occurred in a world charged with the electricity of violence. We are living in the sadistic '60s. The way we understand this murder and how we react to it can give us an indication of how the curve of violence will go. In the first place, this murder was not just an unfortunate accident, as some would have it. Nor was it inevitable. To make this claim amounts almost to saying that it is

President Johnson, soon after the murder, issued a statement in which he said that "blind violence" had struck Dr. King. It is difficult to agree with him. This violence was anything but "blind". It was highly selective. Dr. King was a marked man; he represented an idea; he was a key person and many — not only extreme rightists, but others who should have known better — regarded him as an enemy. He was opposed by those who wished every thing to stay as it is. That was the effect and the underlying social motive. Not to recognize this deprives us of the possibility of realizing what is in store for us.

Another facile explanation was given, as it so often is in cases of violence, namely that the perpetrator of Dr. King's murder must be mentally diseased, a "sick man", a "deranged mind", insane; that his deed was the "act of a madman". Even if the killer should have some mental quirk, that does not begin to explain this tragedy. His thinking was remarkably in tune with what thousands of Americans wished and even condoned; "It was good riddance — wasn't he warned not to go to that city? If Dr. King were alive what would he say about the idea that only an insane man would commit a political racial murder in the United States today? We do not have to guess. We know.

* DR. KING KNEW — and modern psychiatry bears this out — that physical violence has many seemingly minor prestiges: hostilities; attitudes of hate, prejudices — especially race prejudice — expressions of political fanaticism, personal attacks. In ordinary times such manifestations may not be too important, but in our violence-prone society they are like a lighted match; ordinarily harmless, but dangerous in a building where there are gas fumes.

If we want to comprehend the present wave of individual and collective violence we must follow these ramifications. Only last year

one of the most hurtful verbal attacks in his whole career was made on Dr. King.

Freedom House, a liberal organization whose roster has many prominent names, denounced him in a statement sent to his 3000 members and to the press where it was widely quoted. It went so far as to call his program "demagogic and irresponsible".

THESE are inflammatory words. It is this kind of thing that helped forge the bullet that struck him down. For sniping of this type is a pre-stage of the real thing. If we would call a halt to the crescendo of violence we must have the courage to object to it whatever its source.

Dr. King's murder did not intrude from outside into American life; it grew directly out of it. It fits into and highlights the social context in which it occurred. Violence permeates our social life on many different levels. Younger and younger children commit serious assaults and even murder. Legislation and law enforcement seem more concerned with marijuana than with murder.

When James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner were lynched in Mississippi, not one of the defendants got the maximum jail sentences. Some got light ones and all were immediately eligible for parole. If there had been a Federal lynch law with swift apprehension and punishment, it is quite possible that Dr. King would still be alive today. And on that permissive basis other murders are bound to follow. Should not human rights have precedence over States rights?

We are confronted with a rising tide of violence, both individual and collective, actual and potential. There is an undercurrent of violence in our mental attitudes and in our social life. For many youths, killing looks like a heroic deed. We teach them to shoot — at 6 in play, at 17 in earnest. A gun presents violence, whether it be a toy gun or

a real one. The surfeit of violence in our literature and in the mass entertainment media reflects the growing trend of violence in life, and reinforces it and increases it. Violence is becoming an everyday occurrence in fiction as well as in real life. We condemn a murderer, but we love murder.

The excessive display of sadism is both a symptom and a contributing cause. If I have to meet an unruly youngster in a dark alley, I prefer it to be one who has not seen "Bonnie and Clyde".

Violence begets violence. Even if it seems to be impulsive, it builds up over a long time. One of the potent sources of the current increase is suggestion, imitation and contagion. That pertains to motive, method and choice of victim.

The process of contagion works in two ways. On the one hand it affects the individual person, on the other, it is a mass conditioning of people's minds, some of course are more susceptible than others; but we are all impressionable.

US Election Scene

Struggle For US Presidency

New York

THIS is how the plot develops on the American political stage. A struggle is in progress for the Democratic Presidential nomination for this year's elections. Johnson did not name the person whom he would wish to see in his place in the White House. However, it is clear that he would not like to see either Eugene McCarthy or Robert Kennedy in the White House. Both Senators have come out criticising his policy and due to their efforts Johnson finds himself in a position where he is compelled to give up what he most valued—the Presidency. A third person is more

preferable for Johnson — and here we have Us Vice-President Hubert Horatio Humphrey appearing from behind the President's shadow. It was as late as March 17 that Humphrey in a TV interview expressed confidence that the Democratic Party convention would nominate Johnson. It should be assumed that the change of roles was quite unexpected for him. Uptill now he was an active travelling salesman attempting, as the American expression goes, to sell Johnson's policy, i.e. to convince listeners that it was a correct and even wise policy. For this purpose Humphrey visited dozens of countries and all big American cities giving corresponding explanations and in such a zealous manner that he, it is claimed, won the reputation of being a bigger royalist than the king himself. For instance, last November in Kuala Lumpur he bluntly declared: "I am not interested how many demonstrations are organised." Humphrey added that his political future depended on the outcome of the war in Vietnam. "if it is a colossal fiasco", he said, "then I know what will happen to me."

There is a fiasco at hand and what happened to Johnson is also known. However, Humphrey has a chance of evading his own predictions. But to achieve this he will have to show his face to the world and not that reflection which Johnson can see in a mirror. As Humphrey in recent years was only engaged in upholding the unpopular course of his administration, he will find it rather difficult to make this somersault. One should take into account that he bases himself on the same Democratic Party machine which had been prepared to conduct Johnson's election campaign.

If Humphrey radically changes his views, he runs the risk of losing the support of the already-g geared election campaign machine and he has no reserve machine due to the fact that he had no intention of putting forward his nomination.

On the other hand, the present unpopular government policy is by no means the platform on which one can easily reach the White House. Otherwise Johnson would not have left the stage. Humphrey will have to solve this dilemma. There are already symptoms of his careful departure from Johnson's heavy legacy. Thus, in a speech in New York on April 22, he succeeded in making no mention whatsoever of the war in Vietnam and instead dealt at length on the importance of "positive actions". However, one can hardly doubt that his political opponents will give up the pleasure of quoting his recent utterances such as those which he made in February in Philadelphia: "the United States should continue the struggle in Vietnam even if this meant the sending of additional troops...."

AT ONE TIME Humphrey had the reputation of a "Liberal." In 1964 he published a book "The Cause is Mankind" with a subtitle "a liberal programme for modern America". Incidentally, his "liberalism" suited "conservatives" as well because it was always painted with anti-communism. For instance, Humphrey spoke in the Senate in defence of Negro Civil Rights and not because he wanted to weaken the "communist threat." "Let's make it clear, he said. "I have been fighting against the communist movement ever since I became engaged in public activities and even earlier."

On becoming Vice-President Humphrey turned to the "right" and lost support of those quarters which today come out in favour of McCarthy and Kennedy. Instead, Humphrey won the support of the reactionary southern wing of the Democratic Party. Today George Meany, Secretary of Labour Willard Wirtz and Orville Freeman, Secretary of Agriculture, have come out in support of Humphrey's nomination. The American press considers that among his supporters are Henry Ford and other big business tycoons. The wide block—from reactionary trade union bosses and ministers

to millionnaires—increased Humphrey's chances at the Democratic Party convention. Nevertheless, the problem of an independent attractive face remains. The coming month promises newspaper readers quite a number of interesting episodes in the struggle for the US Presidency. They will be of interest, but only as episodes. In the final analysis only the horses from the stables of big business compete on the American political race-course.

G. G.

From Kautilya's Arthashastra

Mining in Ancient India

THE Arthashastra of Kautilya possess a great interest and importance not only to students of Sanskrit literature but also to students of Indian history. It throws a flood of light on the material, social and political conditions of the ancient Hindus during the third and fourth centuries before the Christian era. It is in fact a unique record of the secular aspects of developments of Indian civilisation in that brilliant period of

Indian history—the age of Chandra Gupta. For information regarding this period on the sources of its history students had hitherto unfortunately to depend mainly upon the meagre accounts left by Greek writers whose interest in India was first roused by the invasion of Alexander. This work of Kautilya, however, removes to a great extent the want in this direction by opening up a mine of information which is as full as it is reliable.

One of the most striking features of Chandra Gupta's government revealed by the Arthashastra is that it achieved many triumphs in peace which were no less than those of war—in fact, Chandra Gupta was as well-known for the numerical strength and the efficiency of his army and the organisation of his war office as for those regulations and institutions which ensure the material welfare of a country. In this article, I shall refer to the most prominent works and institutions of public of this time, which are definitely indicated in the Arthashastra.

There can be little doubt that the department of public works in the government of Chandra Gupta was fairly well organised



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with its scope and functions clearly defined. The era of its activity was quite extensive. It included among other things the working of mines, the opening of irrigation-works, the establishment of factories, the maintenance of preserves and grazing grounds, highways, commerce, water-ways, land-routes and other facilities for communication; the establishment of markets and stores; the construction of embankments, dams and bridges, of public religious halls as well as of dispensaries; the planting of fruit and flower trees, medical plants and herbs and the establishment of Ayurvedic and pharmaceutical gardens. And lastly there was ample legislation providing state-protection of the disabled, the helpless and the infirm and also of beasts, thus anticipating some of the tendencies of modern legislation.

LET US first turn to the working of mines. The Arthashastra brings into our view ample details to satisfy our curiosity as to the mining operations existing under Chandra Gupta's government. According to it, there were two classes of mines, viz., ocean-mines and land mines, and expert superintendents were appointed in charge of each class. The duty of the superintendent of ocean-mines was to look after the collection of diamonds and other precious stones, pearls, corals, conch-shells and salt. The regulation of the trade in these articles was also one of his duties.

A scientific expert was appointed to the post of the superintendent of land-mines. In the first place, he had to perform the difficult work of prospecting and discovering new mines on plains and mountain slopes. He had to examine and infer from slags, ashes and other such indications whether a mine was exhausted or not. This department was manned by several other experts. It was also equipped with mining labourers and necessary scientific apparatus.

The superintendent was guided in his work of prospecting by the knowledge of the signs and properties of the mineral ores. He had to pay particular attention to the depth of colour, weight, smell, taste, oiliness, adhesiveness, power of amalgamating with particular metals and several other mechanical and chemical properties of the ores, in order to ascertain the nature and richness of a mine. We find in the Arthashastra the properties of several metals classified, and the large number and variety of them necessarily lead one to the conclusion that the subject reached a stage far above the rudimentary aid and the persons who devoted their attention to it possessed no small power of discrimination. It says that the silver ores are these smelling of raw-meat and do not split and emit much foam and smoke. Similarly we find mentioned the properties of the ores of gold, float-gold, bitumen, copper, lead, tin, iron etc. It is apparent from this that the classification is an elaborate one and the subject in Chandra Gupta's time reached an advanced stage.

When the superintendent discovered a new mine, he intimated to the government, stating at the same time the nature of its contents. The government had to decide whether it would work the mine directly or lease it out to private persons. It was only in the case of those mines that required a large outlay to be exploited that the government leased them out.

THE purification of the ores during the actual exploitation of the mines is an interesting study. The metals were purified by treating them with ingredients most of which were organic. These ingredients are enumerated as urine, alkalies, cow's bile, urine and dung of buffalo, ass etc. Again metals were made permanently or temporarily malleable by chemically treating them with several ingredients such as ashes, honey, sheep's milk, clarified butter, powder of cow's teeth and horn etc. The passage bearing on this point

asserts that even if a metal splits into a hundred thousand parts it can be rendered malleable by the prescribed methods. These methods, however, look to us novel and peculiar and are quite different from what a metallurgist of the present day would use. But nevertheless the fact remains that they were of service in their day and our ignorance of details about them is admittedly a great loss to the modern world.

After the metals had been purified the different superintendents who looked after the manufacture of articles from different metals took charge of them. There were several such superintendents. There was a superintendent of gold for manufacturing ornaments from gold; a superintendent of the inferior metals such as copper, lead, tin, bell-metal to manufacture commodities from them; a superintendent of the armoury, one of whose duties was to look after the manufacture of metal weapons; a superintendent of the mint for minting coins from gold, silver, copper etc; a superintendent of the treasury, a principal duty of whom was to look after the formation of ornaments of precious stones such as necklaces, bracelets etc. Commerce in the manufactured metal articles was in the hands of the government. There was a separate superintendent to look after and regulate commerce in salt.

There were separate regulations for the different departments of the superintendents. There were also different kinds of rates that were levied from the mines. It is also laid down that the punishment for Brahman violating mining regulations was that, though he must not be tortured in any case, his property may be confiscated or he may be condemned to the mines. This resembles the punishment inflicted in Rome in the olden days on criminals for an offence of the grosser sort.

Meteorology & Man

CAN WEATHER BE CHANGED OR MODIFIED?

THE eighth World Meteorological Day was observed recently by weathermen all over the world with "meteorology" and agriculture" as this year's theme. In deciding upon this theme the organisers may have been influenced by the unprecedented drought which afflicted a major part of the world during the last two years and affected many national economies critically. Famine which followed the drought and now the meteorologists' slogan have thus brought into focus more than even the importance of the weather to agriculture.

Though the administrator was slow to realize this truth, the farmer was only too well aware of it to miss it. In fact, the modern farmer takes a lot of interest in meteorological forecasts and is very receptive to expert weather advice. The farmer now wants to know in advance about the weather so that he can plan his work whether sowing, manuring or harvesting—to get optimum results. Modern methods of pest control also are, to a large extent, dependent on weather conditions.

On the whole, Indian meteorologists have been alive, within the limited resources available to them, to the problems of agriculture and have done much to win the farmers' confidence. For many years now they have been issuing the Farmers' Weather Bulletin to inform them about diverse weather conditions that affect crops. Besides, the Agriculture Meteorology Division of the India Meteorological Department prepares regular crop weather calendars to warn farmers about normal and adverse weather conditions of growth to the various stages of growth of crops. These calendars are revised occasionally taking into account the particular characteristics of the high-yielding and quick-growing varieties of crops being evolved and propagated now.

FOR measuring quantitatively the effects of different weather factors in the growth and yield of various crops, the Meteorological Department has set up special units—known as crop weather observatories at selected farming centres. These observatories record meteorological farming data as well as corresponding growth rate of various crops. The data used to understand crop-weather relationships and advise farmers accordingly. In addition to such crop weather observatories they have also established about 90 agro-meteorological observatories in research farms for meeting the meteorological requirements of these farms themselves. These stations collect data on pests and diseases of crops to evolve forecast formulae for their outbreak using meteorological factors. In recent years the Central Agricultural Meteorological Observatory at Poona has been conducting studies of a number of their parameters crop-wise to give agriculture a more fundamental weather basis. These parameters include utilisation of radiation, water requirements of each crop and evaporation from various surfaces.

The droughts of the last two years have been instrumental in making the Agricultural Meteorology Division take up a detailed study of dry conditions in the country. It is realised that information on the climatology of droughts can help plan our irrigation potential and agricultural programmes better so that the impact of the vagaries of the weather can be reduced to the minimum. According to Dr. M. Gangopadhyaya, Director of Agricultural Meteorology, plans have been drawn up for evolving methods to forecast the onset of droughts and wet spells based on the long and medium range forecast techniques. It is pointed out that such information would help in working out the most suitable agronomic practi-

ces An Agroclimate Atlas of India is under preparation which will give all necessary information for the entire country in the form of maps, graphs and tables.

With the regular launchings of meteorological rockets to be started soon, the Indian weathermen will be able to study the upper atmosphere up to a height of about 150,000 feet and render more accurate services to farmers. Dr. L. S. Mathur, Director-General of Observatories, was confident that the day was not far when meteorological science would play an important part in not just forecasting, but in controlling the weather.

IS CONTROL of the weather feasible? Meteorologists have no more any doubt about it. In the four years scientists in USA, Australia, Soviet Union, Japan and Israel have been getting to grips with the problem, and experiments on small-scale weather modification techniques have been yielding significant results. According to Dr. B. J. Mason, Director-General of the British Meteorological Office, summed up the present state of knowledge recently, "It is possible to modify the behaviour of rather small isolated cumulus clouds: seeding may often induce light showers and occasionally a heavy shower. It is also relatively easy to clear quite large areas of thin super-cooled cloud and fog. The important question, however, is whether it is possible to produce significant changes in rainfall on an economically useful scale."

Apparently many countries consider that weather modification even on a minor scale would be a big achievement and that consideration of economy could be secondary in certain circumstances, such as in clearing of fog in airports and harbours and relieving of drought conditions in acutely dry areas. The USA plans to spend about \$14 million this fiscal year on programmes covering rain-making, dissipation of fog and cloud, suppression of hail and lightning, weaken-

ing or diversion of cyclones and storms and the inadvertent modification of the weather by air pollution and urban heat.

SCIENTISTS who are optimists about weather control, however, have no illusion about the quantity of energy involved in weather systems and the effort required to control them. They realize that the ultimate source of all the weather being the sun's radiation, they can do nothing to modify it at source. Nor can they intervene between the sun and the earth's atmosphere to deflect this radiation. So they must interfere with either the atmosphere or its lower boundary if any aspect of the weather is to be altered. But the quantities of energy required for such direct interference are so staggering that it is out of the question. Man simply does not have that much energy at his disposal. For instance, the energy typically expanded in a single tornado funnel is equivalent to about 50 kilotonnes of TNT; a single thunder-storm exchanges ten times this much energy during its lifetime; and a moderate Atlantic hurricane may draw more than 1,000 megatonnes of TNT equivalent energy from the sea. So any idea of modifying such gigantic forces is clearly unfeasible.

The modern approach, hence, is to fight these enormous energy systems with small forces at a different plane — to use small forces as trigger mechanisms of catalysts to set in motion a chain reaction that would have the desired result. The technique consists mainly of identifying the atmospheric instabilities to which addition of a small amount of energy will release vastly greater amounts of energy. (An atmospheric instability is a situation in which nature has stored energy in some part of the earth far in excess of what is usual.) To trigger this instability the required energy might be introduced violently by explosions, or gently in small amounts to act as catalysts to induce rapid changes.

SCIENTISTS have already located several types of such instabilities—weak joints in the weather system—within the atmosphere. For instance, water droplets cooled below 0 degree C are unstable but, unless supplied with crystallization nuclei, they will remain in their supercooled condition over substantial periods of time. (Water drops can be cooled to as low as minus 40 degrees C without being converted into ice.) The nucleation of supercooled water, producing ice, can trigger another

instability. The water-to-ice phase change produces heat which locally raises the air temperature. The warm air possesses a greater buoyancy than its surroundings and will tend to rise, forming an updraft.

The clearing of supercooled fog in airports is the first operational application of weather modification which was attempted by scientists. They found that dry ice crystals used to seed clouds or fogs would grow at the expense of water droplets, and that if a sufficient number of ice crystals was generated, all the water droplets would diffuse to ice crystals causing the latter to fall out. Two decades have passed since this discovery and today both military and civilian air transport benefit from the use of this technique in the clearance of supercooled ground fog. Over a two-year period, 74 out of 90 seeding flights made at eight airports in the western United States had led to improved visibility.

Since some of the world's largest amounts of mean precipitation are found where moist winds flow against efforts were directed towards the possibility of using orographic cloud systems for seeding. A decade ago an extensive programme of random



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seeding trials was conducted in the United States, Australia and, on a minor scale, in India. The results were inconclusive though not discouraging.

Attempts at hail suppression were said to have been more successful than rain-making. One method was to create an explosion within the percooled waves to break up the hailstones. Other suggestions were based on increasing the number of hailstones or reducing the amounts of supercooled water or air or both. The more hailstones are formed the less likely it is that they will grow large enough to fall through the cloud. A reduction in the amount of supercooled water, brought about by introducing silver iodide into the cloud's supercooled regions would remove the ice stones' growth source. The approach made by Soviet scientists, who have done considerable work in this direction, was to try to identify the precise area where hail was beginning to form within a convective cloud and to place silver iodide crystals in that spot by means of artillery shells. The Soviet scientists are convinced that this scheme is effective in reducing hail. Trials in the United States have also been promising. Similar projects in Switzerland, Bavaria, France and Argentina have, however, shown mixed results.

NUMEROUS suggestions have been made concerning climate alteration and modification of hurricane and tornado dynamics. But according to Dr. Gordon J. F. MacDonald, Executive Vice-President of the US Institute of Defence Analyses, not much progress, theoretical or experimental, has been made in these directions. In a US project called Stormfury, jointly sponsored by the Navy and Weather Bureau, quantities of silver iodide were dropped into the eye of hurricanes to convert its supercooled water into ice, thus to release heat. The idea was that the resultant verticle motions would upset the balance of forces within the hurricane and would lead to an outward migration of the clouds forming the wall which surrounds

the eye. It was thought that the consequent spreading of energy would reduce the hurricane's force. However, the statistical variability of hurricane development is so

large that the few experiments conducted so far to test the hypothesis have not led to a definite conclusion.

LINK

From The Indian Capital

A SECRET DIRECTIVE

— US POLICY AND MAO'S CHINA —

New Delhi

THAT *balance of power* is the underlying principle which guides all big nations in their relations with other big nations is a fact which is hard to dispute. Other considerations are usually subordinated to the long-range (as well as the short-range) objective of neutralising the power of a currently strong nation by overtly or covertly supporting the enemy-for-the-time-being of the nation in question.

The history of nations, and more particularly the history of diplomacy, from the dawn of written history, is replete with examples of how the *balance of power* has been the dominating motive-force behind the policies of kings, emperors, dictators and governments. In spite of the self-righteous halo of altruism which many governments use to mask the real intent of their policies or the high-sounding ideology of international fraternal solidarity which other governments proclaim to serve as smokescreen, there is no doubt that even in the present day world of complex contradictions, the *balance of power* is the all-important factor determining the policies of governments.

Political and diplomatic circles in New Delhi, for some time now, have been discussing the Machiavellian approach which the USA has adopted towards Mao's mainland China. This new line of Washington has, no doubt, had its repercussions on policy-making in the External Affairs Ministry here *vis a vis* the USA. But, to those who realise

that the theory of the *balance of power* (or the balance of deterrence, as current jargon puts it) is all supreme in international relations, neither China's overt proclamations nor the USA's covert attitudes will come as a surprise.

Peking is loud in its propaganda that the USA and its imperialism are the greatest enemy of mankind, that US imperialism must be destroyed root and branch without any delay, if the world was to progress. Peking also berates Moscow for not going to war with imperialism and the USA to rid the world of the "evil." The Chinese taunt the Russians as betrayers of communism because they will not declare war against the Americans. But, Russia is wary and cautious, because it believes that Mao wants to use the lever of ideology to get the USSR to attack the USA — with the inevitable result that the world's two most powerful states would destroy each other in a nuclear war (or at least weaken each other) so that the numerically largest nation of the world, the Chinese, will survive the atomic holocaust (even by losing 200 or 300 million people) and come out on top, still possessing the secret of the atom bomb.

The USA herself is conscious of the danger posed by Chinese tactics, and has therefore established a "hot line" between Washington and Moscow. Additionally, the USA is anxious to extend the scope of the *detente* with the Soviet Union on the principle of the *balance of deterrence*. But, at the same time, the USA sees in

the new Maoist line a way of weakening and neutralising the power and influence of the Soviet Union. Whether China poses a direct threat to free world countries in South and Southeast Asia seems immaterial to the USA. Washington is more concerned with utilising Maoist China to weaken Russia than preserve the sovereignty of the democratic countries in South and Southeast Asia. This is a matter which has begun to cause deep concern in responsible quarters in India.

In this connection a "leak" from the United States Information Agency files has given added confirmation to current US policies towards China. In important political circles in New Delhi is circulating a directive from the Director of the United States Information Agency in Washington dated February 23, 1967. The document is marked "secret" and is addressed to "All heads of elements and all USIS posts".... The text of the directive is as follows:-

"The mission of the U. S. Information Agency, as defined by the President, 'is to help achieve United States foreign policy objectives'. From this standpoint Mao's struggle against the Soviet Communist Party and those elements in other parties that support the Moscow line is of great importance and should be encouraged.

"A survey of the present political situation in China exposes a continuous aggravation. Local authorities are increasing their resistance to the central government and are questioning the leadership of Mao Tse-tung and Lin Biao. A bloody struggle for power is going in the upper echelons of the party. This has been precipitated by uneasiness over the future of China, doubts as to whom Mao will name as his successor, serious setbacks in internal policies, and the threat of a split in the ranks of the army, the only real power behind the regime. Mao's reaction was violent suppression of the opposition among the population and within the party and administra-

tive apparatus particularly those who opposed his policy of returning to 'pure Spartan Communism' and of educating the Chinese youth in the spirit of complete subservience to Mao's ideas.

"China's foreign policies have suffered serious setbacks, and it is obvious that Mao's present aim is to find a safety valve that would keep internal pressures at a moderate level. As a communist he decided on the most desperate step. He is making use of the traditional antagonism that has existed for centuries between Russia and China. Common ideology has been thrown overboard. Mao has gone all the way along this path and there is no possibility of retreat. He has created a new ideological basis for his attacks and is using all means at his disposal to displace Moscow from its position of leadership and establish Peking as the center of 'real revolutionary' Communism.

"In this sense it is desirable that Mao and his faction remain in power for the present. Naturally he cannot abandon his offenses against the U. S., but now his main efforts are directed against the USSR. His continued existence will be a constant threat to Russia's eastern borders and will force the latter to concentrate most of her efforts against China and thus weaken her activities against the U.S.

"Our vital interests require that both sides in the giants' struggle should be weakened and in a situation of this kind it is good policy to give support to the weaker of the two. For this reason USIS Posts should emphasize that the U. S. is continuously striving to establish and broaden contacts with mainland China. All possible channels should be used to bring the desirability of certain changes in China's policy towards the U. S. to the attention of the present rulers of that country. Any future Chinese leader who replaces Mao will obtain the support of his country only if he makes it his policy to ensure China's rightful position

in the world and establish her supremacy. It would benefit the U.S. if he should direct his main attacks against the USSR, and in this event he could count on the tacit support of the U. S. It should be mentioned that China's case against Soviet Russia is based on historical grounds, since considerable parts of Chinese territory had been seized by Russia in the past.

"While it is not the policy of the USIA to interfere actively in such matters, all officers should avail themselves of the opportunity to strengthen the position of Mao's adherents in their respective Communist parties, to support and encourage pro-Chinese elements to use all means to reduce the influence of the orthodox, pro-Moscow factions and even cause their complete extinction.

"In their attacks against Soviet Russia the Chinese have proved to be very inventive in their propaganda and for some time USIA officers have been studying and systematizing these materials for use in USIA publications. Considerable experience has been accumulated in this sphere, but it is necessary to improve on existing methods and streamline efforts so as to extend the use of this Chinese ammunition against the Soviets and make it more effective."

No comment is needed. A great deal of revealing light is thrown by this directive on US current policies and tactics — in its global strategy to weaken the USSR whilst at the same time maintain a "hot line" with Moscow. Smaller nations like India have to pick their way warily between the policies of the USA and the USSR. Self-interest is the basis of foreign policy and the theory of the balance of power is the strategic *modus operandi*, and unless the smaller nations perceive this and remain non-aligned, they are likely to be caught up in the vicious grip of a cold war which will destroy their independence and sovereignty.

Tribune Correspondent

Education

The Technological Gap

by Titus Handuna

IF THE MAIN PURPOSE of education were to make a people literate—to teach it the three R's, as it were, that is reading, writing and arithmetic only—there would be no need to go on to higher or technical or scientific studies. It is quite evident, from the prevailing educational practice, that it is meant to accomplish something more. It would appear from current trends that education is intended to be geared to the well-being of the state.

In terms of the 1960's, that would mean that education is meant to subserve the affluent state, to subscribe towards its growth. Ceylon is, fortunately for her, far from that philosophical tradition where production for its own sake, spurred on by the profit motive, leads affluence by the nose. Yet nobody seems to want to make Ceylon a backward state, such as a tropical paradise, even to encourage tourism; to strip the dry zone, for instance, of its secondary growth and make it a land of luxuriant great trees and green meadows, of copses and palms. The craze is for a certain amount of technical efficiency, whose end-products will be television, the internal combustion engine, and electrical appliances and gadgets. There is indeed something, but not everything, to be said for this.

Now the question is, How is the State to accomplish this miracle? It is already being accomplished to a certain extent. Ceylonese are accomplished drivers and make efficient mechanics. There seems nothing that a Ceylonese cannot do. How can the State harness these latent energies, or how can the private sector be induced to accomplish prodigies on its own? Is capital the answer, or is it a matter of bridging what is called the Technological Gap, or is it that what is needed is a combination of both?

The *Economist* has had some interesting things to say about the Technological Gap. This Gap is the gap between the technical performance of the United States and the rest of the world combined. The gap may be due to lack of money, or to lack of scientists, or merely to lack of initiative (plain plumb laziness), as the *Economist* says. It seems that the non-American world holds its own only in the major science-based industries that were founded in the 1920's and 1930's.

It appears, from the findings of the *Economist*, that the answer has nothing to do with science or scientists, for the United States has only 2.4% of its working population doing research work, compared to 2.7% in the Common Market, 2.8% in Britain, and 2.9% in Sweden. Japan has only 0.8%, and Canada 2.0%. But on the other hand, in the United States, no less than 7.6% of the working population are graduates, compared to 3.1% in the Common Market countries, 2.8% in Britain, and 2.1% in Sweden. And as if to prove that it is this wider education which is needed, we find that as many as 4.7% of the working population in Japan are graduates, and 4.3% in Canada, for Japan has been leaping ahead in technical progress, and Canadian farming is one of the "most technically-efficient in the world."

As the *Economist* suggests, it seems that it is the quality and output in education of the non-scientific sphere that counts. It is the more widely educated people who are "more receptive to new ideas and quicker to grasp possibilities." It seems that it is not the technological gap which matters, but the management gap, and the American manager, as the *Economist* says, is not, in the main, scientifically educated.

Let us now reduce this problem to that of Ceylon. This is not a rich

country. There is much to be said for not attracting capital from abroad. An American who has just returned to Ceylon from Australia said that what struck him was the "aggressiveness" of the Australians. It was a sort of economic aggressiveness, not just a physical one only. It would be seen from this that what is needed in Ceylon schools to promote this attitude (and they may well be a pioneer in the world in this field) is the training of the spirit in youth, and not just of their minds and bodies as at present. This must necessarily be so in a poor country which wants to advance without too much reliance on money, especially when that money would have to be in the form of aid or foreign investments.

THE ENERGY which emanates from this cultivation of the spirit in youth must be channelled in the right direction, but at the same time we do not want a kind of Hitler Youth which was all direction. The essence of the lively spirit in Ceylonese youth must be free—not the freedom to run riot, but the freedom and the will to indulge in peaceful revolution, with due respect for life and property and marriage, and religion, and men's good reputation. The legislation enacted in this country must also reflect this freedom, and so must in the time the press.

Now Ceylon cannot accomplish this miracle of closing the gap on her own. She must invite help from abroad, but not in the form of money, nor from just the technologically-advanced countries, nor from those who have reams of letters after their names. She must invite, in short, representatives from the youth of other countries, from the youth of the whole world, from those who have not yet gone places in their studies. Ceylon herself has an immense contribution of her own to make. She must lower the barriers of immigration and invite people from abroad, who have yet to make their mark in life, such as the poor agriculturist and the poor trader, to come in and help build a new society, which will start right here in Ceylon, and then wend its way

slowly to other places, until a new civilization arises in the world, which will bear the hall-mark, CEYLON.

Now to get back to education, the essence of a university education is that it is universal, and that means nothing else, in 1968, than the whole world. There ought to be students in Ceylon universities from all parts of the world. It is a maxim at Oxford that an undergraduate does not receive his education in the lecture room but in his own rooms talking to his fellow undergraduates of every conceivable subject under the sun. Now, in the case of foreign students in Ceylon, people here will have as much to learn from their follies as from their frolics, and much anyway from their conversation.

It is said that the core of any political question boils down to Who is trying to do What to Whom, or in short Who Whom. Care must be taken that politics, as described above, does not take a hold of the kind of education envisaged here. Nobody must be trying to do anything to anybody, beyond helping each other to train body, mind and spirit for the tasks that lie ahead.

The best way to train the spirit of youth, and to direct it, while yet leaving it essentially free, is to put before youth heroes whom it will try to emulate. Now, no heroes are as good as the heroes in the great epics, the Mahabharata, the Iliad and the Aeneid. Let all be grounded in one or other of these.

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In Southern Rhodesia

Patriots Step Up Their Struggle

London,

FOR SIX WEEKS already, there has been continued fighting in Southern Rhodesia between the African guerillas and the army of the racist Ian Smith regime, which is supported by regular troops sent by the South African Government. The fighting is bitter and stubborn, Rhodesian army officers admit that they are dealing with "better armed and better trained guerilla detachments whose members confidently use modern weapons and tactics." The present hostilities are the continuation of the armed struggle which started in Southern Rhodesia last August. Since then it has not stopped actually. There were indeed periods of slackening in combat activity, but never a complete lull. Since the beginning of March guerilla attacks have acquired unprecedented intensity, with military operations spreading to an extensive area in the country's north.

There are people in Salisbury and some other western capitals who are trying to create the impression that the increasing scale of the armed African struggle against the racist Smith regime is not very great. The truth, however, cannot be hidden. The liberation struggle of Rhodesia's aboriginal African population against the white racists who usurped power has become a decisive factor in the situation within the country. The recent statement by Rhodesia's Minister of Justice Ladner-Bark is characteristic. Asking Parliament to prolong the emergency situation in the country for another three months, he, according to the British newspaper *Observer*, stressed that at the moment it is the guerillas, not the sanctions that represent the greatest danger for the regime existing in Rhodesia. "It would be self-deceit to believe," said Ladner-Bark, "that

we have already won the struggle against them, and pointed out that the future of Rhodesia is a state" (of course, a racist one) "is not yet assured."

Naturally enough, the onslaught of armed patriots is a more effective means than economic sanctions, especially such as are not very much adhered to by their London sponsors themselves. Time has shown to Smith and his company that they can excellently survive such sanctions, because these sanctions will never be implemented strictly, since this would greatly affect the economic interest of the Western countries. Salisbury was little worried by a new discussion of the sanctions at the Security Council. There is no doubt in Salisbury that London submitted its draft resolution calling on all UN member states to stop trade and all other economic contacts with Southern Rhodesia, not so much to bring more pressure to bear on the Smith regime, as to bolster trust in British foreign policy. The London *Daily Telegraph* says plainly that any ban on trade "will remain on paper, since Portugal and South Africa are ignoring them".

THE racist regime in South Africa and the Salazar dictatorship in Portugal are the main pillars for the white minority which usurped power in Southern Rhodesia. Lisbon and Pretoria feel as one with Salisbury because the victory of the Southern Rhodesian African patriots would be a heavy blow to the Portuguese colonialists in Africa and to the racist authorities in South Africa. The collapse of the Smith regime in Rhodesia would work a radical change in the entire South Africa. It would inspire the indigenous African population in South Africa and in the neighbouring Portuguese possessions to an intensification of the struggle against the colonialists. To consolidate the racist regime in Southern Rhodesia, Portugal is actively co-operating with her in the political and economic spheres. The South African authorities have even given open military support to the Smith regime.

Already in the summer units of regular troops from South Africa were sent to Southern Rhodesia and immediately went into action as a punitive force against the guerillas. Over the past few weeks, according to reports from the capitals of independent African countries, the flow of soldiers and military equipment from South Africa to Rhodesia has greatly increased. But Pretoria and Salisbury are trying in every way to keep it secret.

It is hard to foresee now how things will turn out in Rhodesia and the African south generally. But it is absolutely clear that a new stage of the liberation movement has started there of the armed struggle of the African population for their freedom and human dignity and against the oppression of the white colonialists.

Leaders of the South Rhodesian patriots, as indeed leaders of many independent African countries, have on more than one occasion warned London that if it does not take determined actions against the Smith regime, the Africans will. The double-faced nature of British policy in relation to the "rebel" British colony - Zambabwe African People's Union and the African National Congress of South Africa, to believe that they cannot rely on London. And they were compelled to resort to resolute actions themselves.

The forces of African guerillas find support among the local population everywhere. This important fact is admitted by foreign correspondents and even *Reuters* in Salisbury.

The introduction of regular troops of South Africa into Rhodesia cannot of course fail to evoke the appropriate reaction on the part of the independent African states that express solidarity with the struggle of the Rhodesian people and they have never concealed their interest and determination in ending the racist order in South Africa. Nor can it be ignored that the

fighters against the remnants of colonialism on the African continent have the sympathy and support of all honest people and the whole of progressive mankind.

M. K.

A Press Cutting

Two Way Traffic Over Jordan

by Judith Maro

This report of attitudes on the West Bank of the Jordan before the latest Israeli reprisal attack is written by an Arabic-speaking Mericneth housewife who recently returned from a visit to Israel.

ON my visit to the West Bank last month I stopped at a small village shop to buy cigarettes. It was siesta time and the shop was empty.

"What do you make of the Israelis?" I ask the sleepy proprietor. "Is theirs a Nazitype occupation?" The man stared at me in amazement, shaking his head. "Certainly not," he replied. "Although, I must confess, I never loved them and never will". He hesitated, then added, "But I respect them". I was surprised, "Why" I inquired. "They conquered your land, why should you respect them?". In reply, he told me his story.

"I returned from Amman the other day, where I visited members of my family, I'd applied to the Israeli authorities for a permit to cross to the other side. Two days later I got it. No questions were asked. The soldier at the Israeli control-post inquired about the parcels I was carrying. I told him I was taking food to my family.

He wished me *bon appetit* and let me pass.

"When I reached the other side of the bridge, the Jordanians made me open my parcels and took the biggest chicken from me. I tried to protest, but they only pushed me and told me to shut up. I had to call at Amman police station to obtain a permit to go back.

"They locked me in a room and interrogated me for over an hour about the strength of Israeli troops in my area on the West Bank. When I told them I knew nothing, they threatened me. This was repeated on the bridge.

"But on the Israeli side I had no trouble. A very young Israeli soldier asked me how much money I brought back with me, and let me go as soon as I told him. The Israeli customs officials too were quick and polite. On my return, I went at once to the military governor's office to tell them I was back. I was asked no questions about Jordanian military strength, only if I'd had a good trip. They shook my hand in welcome, and that was that...."

Ever since the Israelis started issuing permits to cross to the East Bank, many West Bank Arabs have availed themselves, of the opportunity. Permits are easy to obtain. An Arab wishing to go East for a few days has to fill in a form, enclosing two photographs. The permit is valid for a week. Drivers and merchants are given passes valid for a month or longer and good for any number of journeys.

This ease of movement has brought new life to the West Bank. The town of Jenin sends some 750 "tourists" a week to the East Bank. Buses and taxis carrying passengers leave daily from Amman, and there

are many private cars and lorries travelling the same way. Transport has become a prosperous business.

THERE are also visitors from the East Bank. Former West Bank inhabitants, who now reside in Jordan or other Arab countries, may visit the West Bank. Permits are granted through members of their families who apply on their behalf.

Willy-nilly, these are goodwill ambassadors for Israel. They help to explode many a groundless myth about Israeli "atrocities." The exaggerated stories about Israeli cruelties are no longer readily believed in Amman markets. "We come, we see, we understand", an Arab doctor from the East Bank told me in a Jerusalem cafe. "They know in Jordan that we owe nothing to Israel, because we don't live on the West Bank. They know we speak the truth."

It is a well-known secret that free trade exists between the two banks, and provided the drivers remember to change their car numbers accordingly, it is winked at by the border guards on both sides.

The two bridges, newly constructed for the purpose, look almost like a border between two states who enjoy normal diplomatic relations. The traffic does not diminish, nor the cordial exchanges between Israeli and Jordanian, guards parolling the bridges despite the occasional border incident. Perhaps there is hope for returning normality if the two sides continue to trade, albeit unofficially.

ONE West Bank trader showed me the Jordanian money he had brought back from the East Bank. "What good is it here, in Israel?" I asked him as we sipped our coffee

under palm trees in Jericho. He assured me that he would have no difficulty in exchanging it in Israel.

"It's accepted here", he said.

I saw other signs of returning normality in Jericho. A refugee camp, deserted after the June war when all its inhabitants had fled, was occupied by Arabs from the Gaza Strip. They had asked the Israelis to rehabilitate them and were given work.

I saw them coming back to their huts in the evening. When the huts are ready, it is hoped that their families will join them. They were not many, barely above a hundred, but, as a large man exclaimed in juicy Arabic, "it's a promising beginning.....for 20 years we lived in idleness....It's time we earned our bread and regained our self-respect."



Letter

The High Cost Of Living

Sir,

I presume the National Government wants to come back to power in 1970. I voted for it instead of the "incompetent and nebulous socialism" of the power-thirsty Bandaranaike clique who for the sake of personal ambition sold this country's development down the drain in 1956 and called it the people's liberation movement. But it is becoming increasingly clear to supporters of the Government that the in-fighting of groups within it is driving it into headlong ruin. If there are no food riots before long in the cities of Ceylon, I shall be surprised.

The cost of living is becoming utterly intolerable to the middle class and poorer classes unless they start robbing. Every item of foodstuff from vegetables to meat and fish and the products of Government departments and Corporations are shooting up in price. This is not austerity but criminal negligence on the part of Government. Two Ministries, State and Industries are reported to be fighting among themselves to pass the buck for the responsibility of price control. There is no sensible agricultural marketing plan and effective programme. The producer of vegetables gets a pittance. After transport costs are paid, the margin of profit to the middleman is over 560 percent. Go to Rik-kiligaskada where radish sells at 2½ cents. Transport costs to Kandy, 22 miles away, are 3½ cents per lb or Rs. 3/50 per gunny of 100 lbs. Total price on delivery at Kandy market is six cents per lb. Fifteen minutes later this same stock of radish was sold in the stalls at forty cents per lb. Profit per lb to the two middlemen, the market mudalali and the retailer, is thirty four cents per lb - or 560 per cent of the CIF price at Kandy market. Now why does the Government and the Ministry of

State tolerate profiteering? I am not concerned whose responsibility it is to bring down the cost of living. I would like to see action from the Minister of State whose responsibility it is to bring down the cost of living. What applies to radish applies to every single item purchased by an average householder. A third class clerk, given the authority of our Ministers, could put this right. We are told that the Government is wooing the rural voter by giving him high prices for paddy. At no time in our history was corruption so rampant as it is today.

What is the good of self-sufficiency in rice and subsidiary foodstuffs if the people's health is to suffer through crass ineptitude. Who cares for the monuments Ministers want to build for themselves when they cannot manage the ordinary affairs of Government. As I said, we are asking for food riots very soon.

A Bottle of malted milk - one lb - cost Rs. 2/70 last month and Rs. 3/65 this month. Now there is a shortage and only half pound bottles are available making a pound cost Rs. 4/40. Does the Ministry of State supply the difference in cost-double last month's price? Wages are frozen. Children have to be fed. Invalids have to be fed.

In Britain, Mrs. Barbara Castle has been appointed Minister to handle the British Government's wage and price-hold-down policy, in addition to being Labour Minister. I fail to see any sense in the Government's policies if it cannot do first things first and bring down the rising cost of living which is rising because it does nothing about it. The country will jump from the frying pan into the fire if the Government does not act immediately.

Here are some examples of current prices: Rice-Samba-Rs. 2/40 a measure. Plantains - sour - small cents seven each when they were

cents 29 each. They were cents 23 about two months ago. Beans-green-Rs. 1/- per lb. They were cents 60 per lb two weeks ago. Oranges unloaded in Tripoli market at eight cents each sold at cents 40 each. Vegetables general price rise for cheap varieties such as ash plantains, paia, pathola etc 200 per cent average.

The Commonwealth Bank in Sydney publishes a list of retailer and consumer prices, producer prices and costs of production levels for the information of the consumer. Why cannot our Planning Ministry do this? Keep prices down should be the slogan.

Development must go hand in hand with efficiency in keeping prices down to reasonable levels, something which can easily be achieved if Ministers responsible use the powers they have. I trust this protest will not fall on deaf ears of the UNP. Callous neglect of duty is the cause of the heavy increase in the cost of living.

K. P. Perera

Colombo

A SEMI-CONDUCTOR MATHEMATICIAN

A powerful Soviet electronic computer, the Besm-6, has been commissioned in Dubna, near Moscow. This semi-conductor mathematician is capable of a million operations per second. The Besm-6 has been handed over to the international scientific organisation of socialist countries—the Joint Institute of Nuclear Research. It will be used in the solution of complex mathematical problems of modern physics. One of its specialities is the rapid processing of materials of physical experiments that are being jointly conducted by scientists from the joint institute's member-states.

FILM PAGE

● **GOLU HADAWATHA**, Ceylon Studios Production, released through Ceylon Theatres Ltd. now showing at the *ELPHINSTONE*, *ROXY*, *ASOKA*, *MEIRO* and other centres, is a moving film carved out of the popular novel of the same name written by Karunasena Jayalath. This teenage romantic story set against a college background has a girl student as its pivotal character in the picture. The forte of the film is its under-current of pathos without melodrama

and the logical and sincere depiction of the whole proceedings—teenage romance, family traditions, excitement and humour—finely melded, coupled with imaginative direction, has made it not only convincing but also extremely touching. The facet of the girl student's life, and its psychological effects have been cleverly brought out by Director Lester James Pieris appropriately with the liberal assistance of scripter Reggie Siriwardena. Director Pieris has created a remarkable sense of participation and actuality by working on location. The interiors of college, houses, etc., are the real thing, as are the exterior which include a rubber estate and picturesque countryside. They add enormously to the acceptability of the whole. Premasiri Kemadasa's musical score does ample justice to the film's varying moods and dramatic motif. Cinematography by M. S. Anandan, as well as other technical qualities are on the whole praiseworthy. The performances of almost all the artistes are of a high standard. Anula Karunatileke as Damayanthi with her natural charm, gives a thoroughly realistic portrayal with brilliance.

Damayanthi (Anula Karunatileke) arrives by taxi at a rather cheap and shabby hotel in the heart of the city, and meets Sugath (Wickreme Bogoda) whom she had known during her school days. She requests him to reform himself and get back to his brother's place. Sugath seeing her after so many years, all he can ask her is why she so deliberately played around with his feelings and his life. The story then begins in flash back from their school days. Sugath remembers how he first met her, and later introduced him to her mother. It was Damayanthi who always took the initiative in their friendship and it was she who made it clear by her feelings and her attitude towards him, that she was in love with him. After the final examination, prior to leaving school Damayanthi informs Sugath that he has misunderstood her feelings for him and that she can never marry him, as she is already engaged to

her cousin. What she felt for him was the affection of a sister for a brother. Sugath returns to Colombo and stays with his brother Sarath (Wijeratne Warakagoda), starts drinking, later loses his job, and leaves the house. Since then he has stayed in this hotel. Here the flash back ends. Damayanthi goes back home by taxi, and on the way she is overcome with sadness and grief, begins to remember the same incidents, and the happiness she has sacrificed, but her love would always remain only in her heart, unspoken in other words a Golu Hadawatha—a heart that cannot speak. Sugath returns to his brother's place, and he is greeted by his brother's child and wife Champa (Sriyani Amarasena).

● **AKKA NAGO**, Mahaveli Ganga Films maiden production, released through Cinemas Ltd. currently at *GAMINI*, *SAPPHIRE*, *WEMBLY* Kandy, *MANEL* Moratuwa, *SIGIRI* Baddegama, *NELUM* Minuwangoda and other centres, provides sheer entertainment with a merry mixture of comedy and thrilling fights, and is full of lively and pleasant appeal to family audiences. The story and screenplay by N. Wimalasena is packed with pith and spice for entertainment value. The main plot is padded with several by-plots, bringing into focus subsidiary characters and incidents and, thereby introducing variety in the proceedings. Lyrics by Karunaratne Abeysekera have the apt appeal, while music by P. L. A. Somapala is pleasant. Camera work by William Ohlmus is quite a treat to the eyes. The editing and direction by Vincent David is commendable, the manner, the events have been put together to make this movie pleasant enough. Sandhya Kumari provides visual allure, and the others in the cast give enthusiastic performances. The film is produced by Chandrani Wimalasena.

The story centres around a wealthy widowed tea estate proprietor, and his two daughters. The planter on marrying again, is harassed by the wife and her scheming partners to obtain the wealth. The plot of the

2nd week

**KINGSLEY
PLAZA**

● Jaisanker ● L. Vijayaluxmi

in

**VALLAVAN
ORUVAN**

LAST WEEK!

CAPITOL

○ M. G. R. ○ Sarojadevi in

**Pettralthan
Pillaya**

3rd WEEK

**GAMINI
SAPPHIRE**

Sandhya - Baby Sandhya

* In

AKKA NAGO

2nd WEEK

LIDO

* Sunil Dutt * Waheeda Rehman

in

**MUJHE
JEENE DO**

wife is eventually known to the husband, but in spite of the numerous objections that come in between the wife and her party, they forge ahead, only to be defeated in the end, and she meets with her death in the tea factory. The two sisters once again live happily together.

● **VALLAVAN ORUVAN**, a spy thriller with thrills. Fast action, explosions, fires, thrilling car and motor-boat chases, and violence are the highlights of this Tamil movie, a Modern Theatres production, released through Cinemas Ltd. now showing at **KINGSLEY, PLAZA, MYLAN** and other centres. Director R. Sundaram like his famous father, late T. R. Sundaram, has studied the requirements of the box-office and modern trends in visual media, and presented this movie with explosive action and exciting finish. The stunts in the film are provided by K. K. Rathinam, and the thrilling musical score is by Vedha.

The story based on the English movie "Panic In Bangkok", is about a Police Officer (Jaishanker) assigned to smash an underground organisation indulging in subversive activities. Its leader is a psychiatrist (R. S. Manohar) who employs his professional knowledge to promote sinister deeds, and eliminates anyone standing in his way. His sister (L. Vijayalakshmi) unaware of his activities, falls in love with the hero. The rest of the story narrates in exciting episodes how the officer locates the headquarters and destroys the organisation.

● **MAHARASI**, released through Ceylon Theatres Ltd. now showing at **SELLAMAHAL, EROS** and other centres, contains all the ingredients necessary to please family audience, as well as those interested in action. Suspense, action and drama are sufficiently interwined in this Tamil movie. The lyrics and tunes are pleasant, and the dances are attractive and vigorous. The well composed fight sequences including bull

fight, outdoor locales, along with the help of suitable sets, give a fine visual presentation.

The story revolves around the missing eldest son of a wealthy family. The lost son (Asokan) turns into a super thief, and engages the services of others for the profession. Then one of his colleagues (Nagesh) reforms, a split arises, and quarrels lead to much violence. The result of all this is that the lost son comes in contact with his father's manager (Nambiar), and both unknown to each other scheme to get the cash reward offered for the missing son. When everything is set and ready according to plan, suddenly with a romantic twist and turn the sister (Jayalalitha) of the missing brother, the whole scheme boomerangs. The manager gets what he deserves and the son gives up to the Police. The lovers Ravichandran and Jayalalitha are duly united with the temporary turmoil over.

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Ceylon Studios

**GOLU
HADAWATHA**

Directed by: Lester James Pieris

2nd Week

GAIETY

M. G. Ramachandran

in

Madurai Veeran

2nd Week

SELLAMAHAL

● Ravichandran ● Jayalalitha

MAHARASI

2nd Week

CROWN

Vyjanthimala - Rajendra Kumar

SURAJ

in Technicolor

Air-Conditioned 3rd Week

SAVOY

Terror In Tokyo

From Thurs: Doris in

DO NOT DISTURB

In The United States

WHY NEGROES REVOLT ?

Washington

A WAVE of Negro wrath that swept many cities of the United States, after the assassination of Martin Luther King, forced American law-makers to hurry with the adoption of a bill forbidding racial discrimination in selling or leasing housing. President Johnson hurried to sign it. The official circles in Washington try to present the new Bill as almost a guarantee of full equality of Negroes. According to Clark, Secretary of Justice, the "generous Congress" granted "equality" to the black citizens of the United States.

However, the matter lies not only in the fact that Negroes have no right to settle in the regions where only white people live, racial discrimination reigns supreme in American society, and dooms the Negro population to lawlessness, poverty, unemployment and illiteracy. In the south of the country Negroes were a property of cotton plantation owners. A Negro could be bought and sold, he was a victim of a slave driver, of his bad temper. In the north, where people boasted of racial tolerance, the people with dark skin were never really free. They did not have the right to vote and actually were completely excluded from political life. Anti-Negro sentiments led to brutal reprisals and pogroms. In the middle of the 19th century, slavery started to hinder the development of American capitalism.

As a result of the victory of the north, for the achievement of which the former negro-slaves fought so courageously, favourable economic and political conditions were created for an unhindered development of capitalism, for a rapid industrialisation of the country. However, the "emancipation" Ne-

groes were brutally deceived. They did not receive real freedom, and real equality. The abolition of slavery only changed the form of bondage. As a result of the unification between the south and the north, Negroes became the slaves of the whole of American capitalist society. Discrimination penetrated in all fields of the economic, political and cultural life of the United States. Laws against "vagrancy" ensured manpower for planters and permitted that orphans and the children of the poor be "hired" by their former owners. In many states Negroes could not possess any land. They were deprived of the possibility to choose the trade they liked and were forced to accept the job they were given. They were deprived of almost all legal rights. "This "legal" discrimination, as well as the Ku-Klux-Clan terror, became a support for the new system of inhuman exploitation of the Negro working people.

LYNCH law and Negro pogroms spread to different parts of the country. One hundred years have passed since the "liberation" of Negroes. However, the main principles of racial discrimination, introduced after the Civil War, are still active in the United States. They zealously implemented policy of "squeezing gold out of black sweat" as James Baldwin, a Negro writer, called it resulted in the fact that even today, in the second half of the 20th century, the "coloured" population remains at the lowest stage of social development.

Before the Civil War, Negroes were in the position of working cattle. Having acquired "freedom" they found themselves at the bottom of the labour market. Victor Perlo, an American economist, has calculated the approximate figure of profit which US monopolies squeeze out

of Negro work. It amounts to 4,000 million dollars per annum. Up to this day different old racist laws are still valid in many States. But recently, the Supreme Court in Virginia approved the decision of the Court of Justice which brought in a verdict of guilty on the white-man Richard Loving, and his wife Mildred, half-Negro half-Indian, who violated the law of the state forbidding mixed marriages. Such laws of the time of "black codes" are still in force in seventeen states.

DURING the past few years, at the cost of human lives and great efforts, Negroes forced the ruling circles of the United States to make some concessions. However, one will hardly find in the United States a person with dark skin who will say that the aspirations of his brothers and sisters have, at least, come close to satisfaction, because these concessions do not abolish the basis of the social and economic oppression of the Negro population. The life of American Negroes has not changed. The death-rate among the children with dark skin is 40 per cent higher than among their white counterparts. Negroes live in the houses 56 per cent of which are not only deprived of normal conditions of life but do not correspond to the elementary norms of safety. The income of an average Negro family is 40 per cent lower than that of a white family. Today unemployment among Negroes is double that of the whites. The introduction of automation in production demands special education. However, 23 per cent of Negroes can hardly read a newspaper. As a result, the life of a typical Negro family moves in a closed circle of poverty, semi-literacy, unemployment, and a vegetative life in slums. Having grown up in the bottom of US society, a Negro worker, having exhausted all his possibilities of "free enterprise", discovers at the end of his life that he did not rise even one step from the bottom.

O. V.