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## Criminal To Import Apples & Grapes— Sure Way To Commit Political Hara-Kiri

At a time when several hundreds of thousands of people have to tighten their belts and be satisfied with essential food items doled out to them in ounces and half ounces and when they are currently experiencing an acute scarcity of Bombay onions and red onions, it would indeed appear utterly criminal that the Government should have released twenty million rupees through the FEEC scheme for the import of several luxury food items such as, apples, grapes, ham, bacon, tinned meats etc. The *Sun*, which reported this news item—the report has not been officially contradicted at the time of writing of these notes—said that one of the reasons which had motivated the Government to allow these imports was due to the failure to achieve results from apple and grape vine cultivation locally. Whatever may be the reason or reasons which had prompted it to release foreign exchange or, no matter under whatever scheme it had been done, the Government's

decision only tends to make an utter mockery of its oft-repeated exhortations to the common people from the Prime Minister to the ordinary Government backbencher to practise austerity now to enjoy the good things of life later.

The Government may plead in defence of its decision that the import duty on these luxury items might be so prohibitive that it would dissuade the common people and those with limited means from purchasing them, except the rich. But such a defensive position would certainly fail to cut any ice with the masses.

There is indeed absolutely no justification for the import of these luxury items, except for the reason that the Government wishes to pander to the rich. Ceylon is abundantly blessed with several varieties of vitamin-rich fruits, some of which are now being exported and earning foreign exchange, even though in a small way. The import of bacon and ham

will scuttle for good the local industries which had helped to conserve foreign exchange and provide profitable employment to some persons.

Whatever it is, there were not a few people among its own supporters who had, rightly or wrongly, thought that with the return of the United National Party, the major constituent of the National Government, it would go all out to pander to the rich at the expense of the common people. Their suspicion now appears to have been confirmed.

There are indeed many ways open to a Party in power to commit political suicide. **One such sure way is to give the rich an imported apple a day to keep the doctor away, and to deprive the common people of an increased ration of dhall, chillies etc, even though it be in ounces, if not, in pounds, and to ensure a regular supply of Bombay onions and red onions which are only available to them at exorbitant prices under the counter.**



*The Beginnings Of*

## A New Orientation In The Phillipines

OF ALL the Asian allies of the US, President Marcos was the first to welcome Johnson's decision to withdraw from politics and devote the remaining period of his term as President to seeking peace in Vietnam. Any step in the direction of an amicable settlement of the Vietnam war, said Marcos, would contribute to peace in South-East Asia. With unusual candour, he was quick to visualise that the prerequisites of peace and security in South-East Asia were no longer the same as 25 years ago when his country was torn by a civil war. Total dependence on the United States, which once seemed to be the only way of saving the country from going Left, is now being discarded scornfully as it has become the main hurdle in the country's striving for the fulfilment of its age-long national aspirations.

That the country is no more inclined to get bogged down in the cold war wranglings between the US and its stooges became evident when President Marcos politely turned down Saigon's demand for a summit conference of America's Asian allies before the US got into contact with North Vietnam.

THE desire to free the country's internal and external policies from US stranglehold has never been so strong as today. It is not without significance that precisely at a moment when Asian stooges of the United States are in panic at the prospect of US withdrawal from South Vietnam, the Phillipines House of Representatives has approved a Bill authorising the Government to establish trade relations with the socialist countries, as a first step towards the establishment of diplomatic relations with them.

Last year a semi-official Filipino delegation visited the Soviet Union and some other East-European countries to explore the possibility of

establishing trade and diplomatic relations with them. The delegation, which had President Marco's blessings, in its report spoke of the changed international situation and the need for improved relations with the Communist countries. Some members of the delegation privately advised the President that such relations with the socialist countries might prove a stabilising factor not only in the Phillipines but also in the entire region.

The Bill, which authorises trade with all countries irrespective of their political and social system, came after President Marcos announced that his Government would explore new trade relations with Communist countries. An official trade delegation from Czechoslovakia is due to arrive in Manila shortly.

MORE important is a Bill tabled in the House of Representatives by a bipartisan group of Filipino Congressmen, seeking immediate repeal to the Phillipines Anti-subversion Law which had outlawed Communism in the country. Describing the law as "unconstitutional, oppressive, obsolete and impractical", the Congressmen have called on the House "to reorient its thinking in consonance with the present-day realities." The Bill, if passed, would lead to the legalisation of Communism in the Phillipines and enable the country to coexist with the socialist world. The sponsors of the Bill have made no secret of their hope that it will not only eliminate the "stigma of the indifference or suspicion" between the Phillipines and the socialist countries but will "help us to coexist with them, respect their system of government and by so doing, we may eventually promote the establishment of a lasting peace and friendship."

THE SPEAKER of the House of the Representatives has gone a step further. He has publicly spoken in

favour of repealing the US-Phillipines Treaty of 1947, which prevents Manila from shaping its foreign policy freely. By repealing the treaty, the Speaker said, the country would regain its sovereignty in a vital and sensitive sphere.

These changes are symptomatic of the new trend of thinking among the Filipino nationalists and progressives. A sizable section of public opinion in Manila already favours drastic changes in the country's domestic and foreign policies. President Marcos not only reflects this growing trend but is also the initiator of some major policy shifts which may enable the country to play its due role in Asian affairs.

*Link*



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# Headlines Of The Week

**FRIDAY, June 14** — The Chairman of the CTB has requested that the directors of the CTB should frequently travel in buses in order to acquire first hand information on the shortcomings of the service. The Prime Minister Mr. Dudley Senanayake in a spirited reply in the House of Representatives said he did not mind if the truth was put before the country and the people rejected it, but what was now being propagated about the proposed District Councils were utter falsehoods and half-backed ideas. The *Times of Ceylon* said that there has been an acute shortage of beef in Colombo during the past three days. Britain, France and the United States have denounced East Germany's move to curb access to West Berlin. Twenty three people have died in Hindu-Muslim clashes in Nagpur.

**SATURDAY, June 15** — The Cabinet Planning Committee has now been entrusted with the task of bringing down the cost of living. All hotel projects that were approved by the Hotel Projects Advisory Approval's Committee of the Ministry of State before May 6, 1968, will be exempt from FEECs. The Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Hugh Fernando, said at a press conference that Ceylon and India would promote tea sales abroad in partnership. The *Sun* reported that several UNP back-benchers had requested the Prime Minister to summon a meeting of the UNP Parliamentarians before the draft Bill on the District Councils was presented in Parliament. Mr. Justice A. C. A. Alles, delivered judgement in the Bandaragama election petition declaring void the election of Mr. K. Don David Perera of Bandaragama to the Bandaragama seat in the House of Representatives. The British Labour Party lost another Parliamentary seat at a by-election held at Oldham West, but it held the Sheffield-Brightside constituency with a greatly reduced majority. Backers of tighter new controls on the sale of guns in the United States were seeking more support amid numerous signs that some of the legislation's stiffest opposition was dissolving.

**SUNDAY, June 16** — The Minister of Finance, Mr. U. B. Wanninayake, by a gazette notification has fixed new rates for the business turnover tax for a number of items of local manufacture ranging from biscuits, chocolates, confectionery, cosmetics, ice cream, textiles and fireworks. In a report to the NCHE on Science Faculties at Vidyodaya and Vidyalkankara Universities, Dr. Gorge Ponnapperuma, Director of the CISIR, has stated that the closing down of an existing Science Faculty in any University was a retrograde step. United States delegates at the Paris Peace talks are expected to maintain pressure on North Vietnamese negotiators in a bid to end the current guerilla offensive against Saigon. Sporadic violence marked the third

day of revolt by Turkish students when four more university faculties joined the movement to boycott classes and examinations.

**MONDAY, June 17** — The Prime Minister in a letter addressed to the Ven. Madihe Pannasiha Thero has allayed certain fears he had expressed over the setting up of District Councils. The Minister of Education, Mr. I. M. R. A. Iriyagolle, blamed university dons for the moral degeneration and the low disciplinary standards in the universities when he spoke at a seminar to discuss the new educational proposals held at the Anuradhapura Central College. The former US President Dwight D. Eisenhower, suffered another heart attack at the Salter Reed Army Hospital of Washington. The acting US Commander in Vietnam, General Abrams, warned that Saigon was now the main Vietcong target and more ground and mortar attacks were expected.

**TUESDAY, June 18** — Paddy production targets for next year have been set at sixty seven million bushels. The Executive Committee of the All Ceylon Buddhist Congress at a special meeting unanimously passed a resolution opposing the White Paper and the proposed District Councils Bill and resolved to urge the Prime Minister and the Government not to introduce the proposed Bill in Parliament. The Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Paul Hasluck, said at a press conference at Temple Treess yesterday that there was in the free countries of Southeast Asia a great sense of fear generated by Peking's policies abroad. Sirhan B. Sirhan, the accused killer of Senator Robert F. Kennedy, flew into a rage and shouted that Kennedy should never be President only hours before the assassination. On the orders of President De Gaulle, French gendarmes stormed the Sorbonne and drove out the last of its student occupiers.

**WEDNESDAY, June 19** — The *Daily News* reported that beginning from the first week of next month the Tamil Congress would launch a massive political campaign in the North directed against the anti-District Councils Bill. The members of the Public Health Inspectors' Union came out on strike yesterday. The *Sun* reported that the Government had released a sum of Rs. 20 million through the FEEC scheme for the import of several luxury items, including grapes, apples, ham, bacon, butter, cheese, canned fish, sago, barley and tinned meats, which had been banned over seven years ago. The United States, Britain and Russia promised the UN Security Council that they would rush for the aid of a non-nuclear State in the event of an attack or threat by a nuclear powered nation. The United States hoping to improve relations with the new Prague Government has offered for release five million dollars owed to Czech citizens. More than 120 Communist troops, some of them North Vietnamese soldiers, surrendered to Government troops in the outskirts



# Comment

## On

### Current Affairs

#### ● CTB CHAIRMAN'S REQUEST TO DIRECTORS: travel by buses

Several thousands of commuters all over the country will warmly applaud the Chairman of the Ceylon Transport Board's request to the Directors that they should travel in buses in order to acquire first-hand information on the shortcomings of the service and the difficulties experienced by commuters in bus travel. This request has certainly not come a day too early for the reason that it has been a long felt necessity. If the bus service has deteriorated it is because for many years it had not been the business of anyone who had been in charge of it. Commuters know it only too well the untold difficulties and hardships they have to undergo to get to their place of business. It is a miracle if they are able to get to their places of work on time. On many routes, particularly during peak hours, bus drivers and conductors, in order to avoid queues, take the law into their own hands by stopping buses wherever they like and picking up queue breakers. Even before passengers have boarded the conductor gives the signal to the driver to take off and this has resulted in many a passenger falling off and hurting himself. This is not all. Commuters have to put up with the insults conductors hurl at them. Field officers who are supposed to supervise bus crew almost turn a blind eye on them. Their only interest, it seems, is to poke fun at school girls and young girls. Not only should directors travel in buses but also every person of consequence to obtain first-hand information on the difficulties encountered by commuters. The best time to do this would be the peak hours during the day and evenings.

#### ● CLOSING DOWN SCIENCE FACULTY: a retrograde step

Dr. George Ponnampereuma, Director of the Ceylon Institute of Scientific and Industrial Research and Vice-Chairman of the National Science Council, in a report has stated that the closing down of an existing Science Faculty in any University is a retrograde step. He was prompted to make this comment when asked to report on whether the two Faculties of Science at the Vidyodaya and the Vidyalkara Universities could not be amalgamated into one Faculty with that of Vidyalkara. Everybody realises the importance and urgent need to extend the scope of teaching of science in all the schools and Universities. However, it is a matter for regret that the National Council for Higher Education,

it is reported, has recommended that the Science Faculty at Vidyodaya be closed down and that it be amalgamated with that at the Vidyalkara University. The main obstacle to the economic development of this country, as we have so often in the past pointed out, has been entirely due to the paucity of qualified personnel to meet the needs of the agricultural and industrial sectors. It makes dismal reading to read the report of Dr. Ponnampereuma that the University (Colombo and Peradeniya) has produced only four first classes in physics, three in chemistry and none in botany. He has stated that all major industrial schemes now in operation or under planning were affected by shortages of graduates in physics, chemistry and certain branches of engineering and that at a recent conference of the Chairmen of State Industrial Corporations it had been decided to send students to Universities abroad for degrees. Unless the maximum possible opportunities are provided for the teaching of science in all our Universities and schools, Ceylon will continue to lag behind which unfortunately is the case today.

#### ● CEYLON ARMY COMMANDER: tractors instead of bazookas and howitzers

It has been reported that the Government has approved an agricultural development scheme submitted by the Army Commander, Major-General Sepala Attygalle, under which the Army will purchase agricultural machinery and implements with foreign exchange allocated for the purchase of weapons and other military and essential equipment. Although, it is yet early to say whether the Army's contribution to the food production drive will be of any significance, the the Army Commander's scheme is indeed a laudable for more than one reason. Ceylon is a peaceful country and has no enemies. It certainly does not entertain aggressive designs on any country and does not fear external aggression from any quarter. Whatever allocations the Army receives from the Government for the purchase of weapons and other military equipment will only go waste. *Tribune* has always held the view that Ceylon can ill-afford the three armed services of the present size. At best these are only museum show pieces. Except on occasions when they have to perform at State ceremonial functions or when they are called upon to perform duties during strikes and a state of emergency when they have to maintain law and order alongside the Police or perform anti-illicit immigration and anti-smuggling duties in the north and east, the three armed services for most part of the time, find time hanging on their hands. It is a dangerous thing to allow the armed services to idle. The country must get the maximum of what it spends annually on maintaining its armed services and, it is for this reason that we laud the Army Commander's scheme to deploy the military personnel on stepping up food production.



National Synod

# The Roman Catholic Church In The Nation

by Arul Manuel

AS A RESULT of discussions in the Roman Catholic National Convention, the Declaration on the Church and the Nation has been redrafted and called the Church in the Nation, and the new text will be brought before the Convention when it reassembles on the 26th. August for approval or for further redrafting.

The first eleven articles have been completely rewritten. Out goes all that bit about the Bible taking nations seriously. The Convention obviously decided that there was no need to labour the point. Out goes, too, that part about Christians having a special responsibility to participate in the contemporary history of the Nation. The new draft starts with a disquisition on the human person himself. It states that "the progress of the human person and the advance of society itself hinge on each other". "The subject and the goal of all human institutions is and must be the human person" and "the human person... stands completely in need of social life". It states further that "this social life is not something added on to men". For a man there must be "dealings with others", "reciprocal duties" and "fraternal dialogue".

"The role of religion" is to "constantly remind man of ultimate values and eternal truths". Something more than "a theoretical adherence even to the best conceived rule of law" is needed. When men fail to reach a "nobler, holier and wholesome living", they fail "to attain their true destiny". Then there comes a declaration: "We of the Catholic Church gathered in Convention desire to set forth clearly how the Church conceives

her presence and activity in the nation today".

To start with the Convention admits that "there has been a growing tendency in recent years to regard the Catholic Church as a foreign institution", even though "it has existed in the country for over 400 years". It admits that "we who belong to the Church have been regarded as divided in our loyalties and as being indifferent to the lawful aspirations of the rest of the people". "We accept the fact that such is the attitude towards us and that the blame must lie in our failure to serve our fellow-men in the manner in which Jesus Christ, the founder of our Church, required us to serve". Then comes a startling admission: "We admit that we have failed to identify ourselves as a body with measures designed to improve the condition of the people such as the nationalisation of schools, the Paddy Lands Act and the use of swabasha as the medium of instruction".

The article on "Our Duty as Christians" follows the same trend of thought. Then the draft gets on to the "task of nation-building". "The aim of the struggle... is the assurance of a better life for everyone." "An indispensable condition for such progress is a larger and richer national unity, in which we move out of our separate communal and religious identities into a mosaic..." "As Christians (we) pledge (ourselves) to join with others outside our fold in building a social order in which truly human values guide the destiny of the nation."

From Article 12 onwards, parts of the original draft remain unchanged. "The period of foreign domination saw not only the aliena-

tion of a segment of the educated classes, particularly among Christians, from their native roots, but also the relative neglect of the masses." "Language... is inherent to our nature as human beings. The native genius of a people can be expressed in no other tongue... It is... a matter for regret that... Sinhala... is not yet in reality the 'court' language of the land". But as "Ceylon is a pluralist society... we (must)... hold sacred the rights of all".

NOW COME some odd sentences which we hope the Convention when it reassembles will redraft again. The offensive line states: "Christians must identify themselves with the masses of the people", but it is going to be very difficult to hit upon the right words. Surely the meaning must be that Christians must be at one with the people in all that is wholesome, but the written word seems to suggest that after 400 years the Church is still not of the people.

All the articles under the headings, Poverty and Distribution of Wealth, and Work and Employment, have been rewritten. Here again, for the new draft to state that "the material welfare of man is the direct and immediate objective of the State" does not seem right, for such a declaration commits the Church to a socialist conception of life, where these matters become the concern of the State. Moreover this seems to clash with the revised Articles 19, 20 and 21 of the Scheme, Relationships within the Church and Structures for Dialogue, which has been passed by the Convention, which states that "the tendency for organisation to overreach itself should be kept in check at a minimum commensurate with the needs of the Community". Surely material welfare should be largely a matter of private initiative, with the State keeping in check any rapaciousness on the part of few which prevents others from exercising their own initiative? This is exactly what most modern states do not do,



for with all their democratic structures they are really plutocracies; communist governments are even more oligarchical in character.

Again, when the document talks about "the technologies for the economic development of communities" and "the necessities of life", it does so as if these were one, whereas the very fact that there are student revolts in the countries which have all the technology seems to indicate that the necessities of life are something different altogether.

People are at last beginning to see through a technologically-dominated life, and the rich men who make their money by it get away from it all by expensive safaris to Africa. Apart from this, the rest that has been written under Poverty and Distribution of Wealth is good, for instance, the need for economic planning and monetary policy, but does this section mean that bruder and kavun are to go out? We hope not.

On the subject of work, the new draft says: "One of our national weaknesses is an inadequate appreciation of the dignity of all work". It calls on men of all faiths to work together even with those who have no faith at all.

## VIETNAM

Sidney I. Roche, a senior adviser to Gen. Westmoreland, has resigned in protest against the failure of the US pacification programme in Vietnam due to massive corruption, badly managed aid policies and unsound American military effort. Roche said he "had hoped that the Tet offensive would produce some changes in policies. However, it appears that we are going to follow the same old road and pursue the same old policies."

*U. S. Growing*

# Society Of Violence

by A Special Correspondent

**SENATOR ROBERT KENNEDY** one of the claimants to the post of US President has become the victim of one more act of political terror.

Why was Senator Kennedy shot at?

Nobody plotted assassination against him when in the beginning of his political career he was adviser in the inter-constitutional committee of the notorious Senator Joseph McCarthy. Nobody aimed a gun at him when he served with his might and main the ruling class, as the country's Attorney-General.

The atmosphere of hatred around Robert Kennedy appeared in the camp of ultra-reactionaries only when, under the pressure of public sentiments, he made a step, though not a very confident one, in the direction of realism and criticised the most aggressive and senseless aspects of America's foreign policy and condemned the escalation of the dirty war in Vietnam, incidentally without demanding an unconditional withdrawal of the interventionist troops from Indo-China. He was and remains a representative of the "moderates" in the top quarters of the Democratic Party. Yet, even this kind of moderate approach evoked convulsions of venom in the camp of obscurantist reaction. William Buckley, the "theorist" of the ultra-reactionaries, publicly damned Kennedy for his "shift to the Left". Even before the Senator said that he would run for President in the elections, there appeared numerous little booklets describing him as a "dangerous radical and trouble-maker." The racialisists of the south paid Kennedy in wild hatred for his "encouragement" of the Negroes. His name is anathema for many southerners, recalls

*Time.*

Political assassinations and murders are an inseparable feature of the American way of life. In that land murder has become a method of policy of the ruling classes just as much as bribery, blackmail of voters and election campaign demagoguery. On learning about the assassination of Kennedy, Senator Yarborough exclaimed: "The terrible thing in all this is that political assassination is becoming an ordinary phenomenon in our country." This is rather a belated admission. There is a chain of acts of terror and violence stretching through the entire history of the USA. The murder of President Abraham Lincoln is like an indelible blot on America. There are the bodies of thousands of lynched Negroes moulding in American soil. Many sons of America's working class died at the hands of the hired murderers of the capital. Mass-scale and individual acts of terror against progressive people, against workers, against the functionaries of democratic movements has become a routine weapon of the US ruling circles.

**EVEN A bourgeois leader, who** departs one iota from the general line of imperialism, is as a rule subject to attempts of elimination from political life. In 1933 President Franklin Roosevelt managed to remain alive only by a miracle after being shot at by a terrorist. The year of 1963 saw the death of President John Kennedy. American researcher Dr. Peel, in his book "Cases in the White House" even offers a "curve" of the growth of the number of assassinations of American Presidents.

Many states in the south and in the north are in a web of terroristic organisations which preach and practice terror, with impunity, against the champions of freedom and democracy. "The invisible empire" of the Ku Klux Klan spreads over dozens of states. The murderers in white cloaks have many times been caught red-handed, but they invariably managed to get away unscathed from the hands of the all-forgiving American Themis. "Ku Klux Klan's



terroristic violence, is a proven fact. Murder, arson and bomb-throwing are being perpetrated by the Klan in many districts", says Edgar Hoover, Director of the FBI. Yet, the chief of the secret police has not put a single murderer in the electric chair.

**NO WONDER** the list of victims of obscurantists grows with every year. Here are only some of the items from that bloody list: 1963 Negro leader Medgar Evers murdered in Mississippi; 1964 - Three functionaries (two whites and one Negro) put to death; 1965 - Two Negro leaders were murdered in the Harlem district of New York, among whom was Malcolm X the leader of the Black Moslems; James Read, a white Alabama clergyman who attempted to appeal to the conscience of racists, was clubbed to death. In the same state of Alabama, Jonathan Daniels, and Viola Luizzo, a mother of five children, civil rights champions, were shot; Richard Morrisrow, a Catholic clergymen, was gravely wounded "for sympathising with Negroes." 1966 - Negro James Meredith who "dared" to study in a white university was wounded. 1967 - W. Jackson, a Negro leader, was murdered in Mississippi. And finally this year which witnessed the murder of Martin Luther King, prominent peace and freedom champion, and now, Kennedy.

This terrible enumeration shows only slightly the general American panorama of atrocities and violence.

Each Negro unrest is accompanied by a bloody massacre of hundreds of poor people. Vice-President Humphrey admits: "Those who live in the slums, which are fraught with explosions, are mainly the victims of violence". Martrin Luther King shortly before his death sent a message to the Department of Justice stressing the sadistic nature of the mass slaughter of Negro students: "The evidence presented by witnesses in Orangeburg (South Carolina) shows that all the students were murdered by shots in the back

and that many were wounded while they were lying on the ground".

In the same Los Angeles, where Robert Kennedy was shot, the authorities organised special military police groups to deal with Negroes. This is how Police Inspector Merton described these groups: "Our special weapon and tactics team is made up of groups, each consisting of four men: a marksman with a rifle with a telescopic sight, an aim setter and two policemen, armed with revolvers and tommy-guns for conducting cover fire. What we have is an armed-to-the-teeth group of terrorists, this time in police uniform, prepared, with the blessings of the authorities, to open fire at the "seditious" civilian population. The legislators in the capital call for spreading the "valuable" Los Angeles experience of these groups throughout the country. Numerous facts confirm that lily-white America is arming for "city wars" against the poor.

Negro leader Wilson points out: "Not a single Negro can feel secure when such misfortunes fall on our heads. Detroit and Orangeburg have proved this. "According to the moderate Liberal South Regional Council, America today represents "an astounding picture of the super-escalation of police and military forces," directed against the Negro movement.

Freedom House Organisation recently published a report on the situation in the country. One of the conclusions in the report: Everywhere violence destroys the tissue of American society." "The entire society of the Americans suffers from violence, "the *Saturday Evening Post*" confirms the report. Observers agree that terror and violence are inevitable concomitants of present-day America.

Edgar Hoover, the FBI Director, states that violence "is inseparably interlaced in the tissue of life of America of the 20th century". "On the whole" this FBI chief continues, "many seeds of violence are embedded in our society, often

at a great depth". "The United Lynching States" is how Mark Twain called his country. This definition is today true as never before.

### Gangsterism

## On The Rampage In The US

A DENSE NET of crime covers the United States. Syndicates of organised gangsters have penetrated deep into many spheres of political and business life. They often use the court and police machinery to achieve their ends. US sociologists admit that gangsterism has become part and parcel of the American way of life. Characteristic of that "way of life" are also political murders periodically committed in the country where democracy is so much spoken about. The murder of President John Kennedy, of negro leader Martin Luther king and of Senator Robert Kennedy showed with special force that crime, terrorism and political reaction go hand in hand in the United States.

The "political literature" publishers are preparing for the press and TV a book "Who Issues The Murder Contract" about the raging of crime in the United States.

We follow with some materials from that book. "Lawlessness is like plague. . . it costs the country a great deal economically, physically and psychologically because the infection keeps growing and spreads to every street and every by treet in every inhabited locality". This is an excerpt from President Johnson's message to Congress on February 6, 1967. The message points out that the state investigation agencies deal with seven million people every year but this figure is incomplete because actually there



are much more criminal elements in the country. The President has to admit that the overwhelming majority of offences and offenders are unknown to the police. "In certain inhabited localities there are 20 times more of them than registered in the police statistics", the message says.

A fast growth of crime in general and the number of big crimes in particular is a characteristic feature of the American society. Last year the number of crimes increased 88 per cent as compared with 1960. And in New York the figure soared 22.7 per cent in the space of one of last year alone. The crime grows nine times faster than the population does. A grave crime is committed in the USA every 8.5 seconds. A half of the inhabitants of the US cities and towns, polled by the National

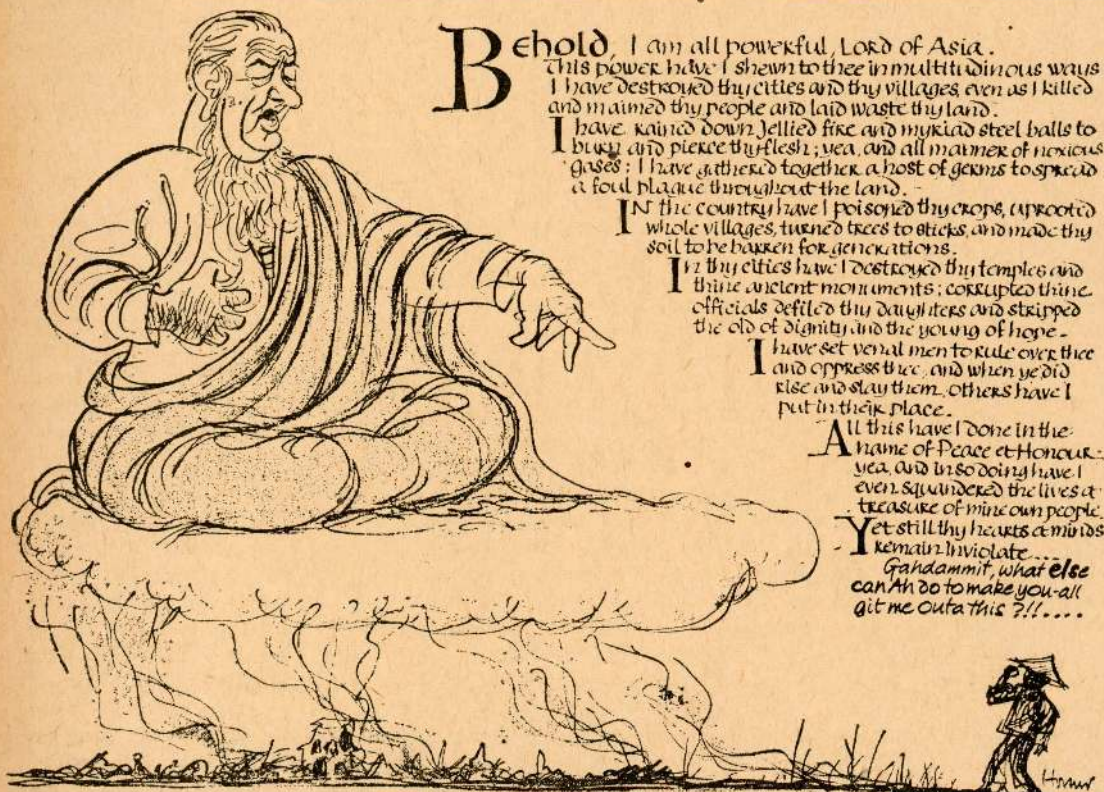
Committee on Crime, said they did not go outside in the evening for fear of falling victim of violence. The so-called organised crime towers high in the boundless sea of American gangsterism.

**GANGSTER** syndicate, spreading their tentacles all most all over the country, have their headquarters in 12 US cities at least. They deal in contraband, smuggling in and sale of drugs, maintain a broad network of gambling dens, brothels, practice blackmail, extortion and murder to order. The same syndicates supply well-armed and well-organised gangs of scabs. The bandit monopolies make fabulous profit. According to certain American officials this profit reaches an appalling figure of 40 thousand million dollars a year which in the final count, are an extra burden on the American

people. The syndicate bosses channel most of their profit into legal private enterprise. As a result, the line of distinction between the "ordinary" and criminal business are erased.

"Despite the renovation of the police force of Chicago and the stepping up of the anti-crime struggle, we have not made any substantial progress, "a high-ranking policeman, O. Wilson, complained in an article published in *Harper's* magazine, "We can reach only the small fry. We arrest street bookmakers, prostitutes accosting passers-by, drug-addicts, but the more or less big tycoons of the underworld are out of our reach although we know them all, what they do and where they live".

The author says nothing about causes of the seemingly paradoxical



THE MAN WHO PLAYED GOD

(With apologies to New Statesman)



phenomenon - the bandits are known but left alone. These causes are known to all in America well enough, however. This is the matter of the alliance - unnatural from the point of view of commonsense—among the police, justice, politicians and gangsters. It is precisely this alliance that gives the crime syndicates a free hand. The ties between gangsters and the police come to a point where New York, for instance, is divided by criminals into zones for which bribes are paid to certain officials of the city police. The judges, procurators, and town hall officials, the to-ranking ones included, are "catered for" in the same way. As a result the "big fish" is not troubled too often. And even if some are hooked, they are let back, as a rule, unto the turbid sea of underworld business. What do the gangsters, organised into syndicates, deal in? The production and delivery of drugs is considered one of the most profitable businesses. The "Dope Business" is not easy. It requires big money investments and broad organisational possibilities, and can be done only by big associations of criminals which can overcome all the legal and police barriers and to get the transportation and marketing of the "dope" under way. But this business is highly rewarding; the price of one kilogram of heroin amounts to 400,000 dollars in the USA. Whereas the formula "money-goods-mo-

ney" operates in the drug trade, the formula of the gambling "industry", another and no less profitable business, is simpler; 'money-money'.

**LAS VEGAS**, the gambling capital, has a population of 160,000 but 12 million people pass through its labyrinths every year. Scores of thousands of gambling machines in drug-stores, shops and right in the streets, do not stand idle. But the bigtime gambling goes on in big casinos where whole fortunes are thrown onto the roulette wheel. Stakes in Las Vegas casinos total three thousand million dollars a year.

In the colossal money turnovers and in the number of suicides Las Vegas has left its European counterpart, Monte Carlo, far behind. The bosses of gambling syndicates are at the same time the bosses of various gangster associations, the Chicago one in the first place. They are patronised by a number of politicians. Barry Goldwater, the head of the American ultras, for instance, maintained friendly relations with the two biggest den owners - Grinbaum and Biof. And the notorious Senator Maccarren, a militant anti-communist, used to see to it that den owners are left alone. Once someone submitted to Congress a Bill on increasing the gambling tax. Then Mccarren began to act. He invited 50 Congressmen of the State to the best Casino. The distinguished guests were fussed over there. Some of them even "won" big sums at roulette. The 'outing' cost several score thousand dollars, but the Bill was turned down.

invited, "gangster Berghoff, the "king" of scabs, said smugly. And another big boss of a scab agency said: "We don't need Sunday school teachers for our business". The band of scabs, employed by factory owners for breaking big and well-organised strikes, consist of gangsters for the most part. They divided into three categories: "finks" "nobles" and "boots". Some of them are pick-pockets armed with knives and used for dispersing the workers' pickets, others are professional spies, agents provocateurs and blackmailers inside the trade unions, and still others are hired murderers of active workers. "Rough work" is necessary in the interests of employers or their associations, the gangs, usually consisting of criminals, are always ready for actions writes professor Tannenbaum, a well-known American scientist. Just three facts in conclusion. A notorious bank robber was arrested in Washington. Asked why he burst strongboxes only in the daytime, the burglar said without a shade of humour: "I don't out in the nighttime I'am afraid of a stick-up".

In the Pentagon, the citadel of the military, 59 thieves were arrested in the space of one month. A stone's throw away from the capital, in front of the church where President Johnson prays a man was killed. On hearing the noise, the priest went out and saw the robbers turning their victim's pockets inside out. Hardly had the priest uttered a word when he got a bullet through his stomach. Such are the traits characterising the everyday life of the US capital.

### TOY ECONOMY

Britain is exporting toy replicas of American F-III bombers to the United States. The only F-III strike aircraft Britain can call her own are one foot and made of plastic construction kits. The firm producing them has already sold 200,000 models to America. Fifty of the real planes were on order for the Royal Air Force but the deal was cancelled in the economy cuts.

AND here is another - perhaps the basest - kind of gangster" "enterprise" in the USA.

"The strike of the workers sewing buttons on to jackets can be broken by somebody else. But when steelworkers go on strike in  
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### SHAKESPEARE'S SOURCE

Overheard during an interval at London's Aldwych Theatre: "Shakespeare always appeals to me because he was years ahead of his time. He had so many of my ideas".



Comparative Religion

## Parallels In Hinduism & Christianity

by Titus Handuna

CHRISTIANS cannot accept every thing that Krishna, the king of Madhava, says about himself as Vishnu, the god of all, but much of what he does say has parallels in what Christ says of Himself in the gospel of St. John. In this essay I shall first run through some of the things that Krishna says that would awaken an echo in the heart of a Christian, and then I shall go rapidly through the gospel of St. John and draw attention to those phrases uttered by Christ which bear a remarkable resemblance.

"I am the Lord of all. I come to my realm of nature. For the salvation of those who are good, for the destruction of evil in men, for the fulfilment of the kingdom of righteousness, I come to this world. He...who knows my sacrifice, when he leaves his mortal body...in truth comes to me. How many have come to me, trusting in me, filled with my Spirit, in peace from passions and fears and anger, made pure by the fire of wisdom!"

"Those who lust for earthly power offer sacrifice to the gods of the earth. I am...in Eternity." Of other men, "and when he sees me in all and he sees all in me, then I never leave him and he never leaves me. He who in this oneness of love, loves me in whatever he sees, wherever this man may live, in truth this man lives in me". Of the man of faith, "neither in this world nor in the world to come does ever this man pass away: for the man who does good, my son, never treads the path of death. The greatest of all Yogis is he who with all his soul has faith, and he who with all his soul loves me".

"I am thy refuge supreme. Beyond my visible nature is my invisible

Spirit. This is the fountain of life whereby this universe has its being. All things have their life in this Life, and I am their beginning and end. All the worlds have their rest in me, as many pearls upon a string. I am the taste of living waters and the light of the sun and the moon. I am OM, the sacred word...I am the life of all living beings' I am the intelligence of the intelligent. I am the beauty of the beautiful. I am the power of those who are strong, when this power is free from passions and selfish desires. The whole world...knows not me though for ever I am! Men who do evil seek not me". Of the man of vision, "I am his Path Supreme. 'God is all' this great man says".

"Whatever is good comes from me. Those who love the gods go to the gods; but those who love me come unto me. The unwise think that I am that form of my lower nature which is seen by mortal eyes; they know not my higher nature, imperishable and supreme. In its delusion the world knows me not, who was never and born forever I am. I know all that was and is and is to come".

Here we come to something that seems nearest the Trinity, the triune God. "Those who take refuge in me...they know Brahman, they know Atman, and they know what Karma is. Brahman is the Supreme, the Eternal. Atman is his Spirit in man. Karma is the force of creation, wherefrom all things have their life." Then Krishna goes on. "In this body I offer sacrifice, and my body is a sacrifice. And he who at the end of time leaves his body thinking of me, he in truth comes to my being: he in truth comes unto me. For on whomsoever one thinks at the last moment of life, unto him in truth he goes. Think of me therefore at all times."

OM is "the eternal WORD of Brahman (and) the Path Supreme. There is an Invisible, higher, Eternal, and when all things pass away this remains for ever."

NOW TURN we to the Gospel of St. John in the Bible. "At the beginning of time the Word already was; and God had the Word abiding with him, and the Word was God. It was through him that all things came into being, and without him came nothing that has come to be. In him there was life, and that life was the light of men".

"He, through whom the world was made, was in the world, and the world treated him as a stranger. All those who did welcome him, he empowered to become the children of God, all those who believe in his name. The word was made flesh, and came to dwell among us. No man has ever seen God; but now his only-begotten Son, who abides in the bosom of the Father, has himself become our interpreter." So much for an introduction to Christ. Now let us turn to what He says.

"No man has ever gone up into heaven; but there is one who has come down from heaven, the Son of Man, who dwells in heaven. God so loved the world, that he gave up his only-begotten Son, so that those who believe in him may not perish, but have eternal life. For the man who believes in him, there is no rejection. God is a spirit, and those who worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. The man who listens to my words, and puts his trust in him who sent me, enjoys eternal life. You should not work to earn food which perishes in the using. Work to earn food which affords, continually, eternal life, such food as the Son of Man will give you. This is the service God asks of you, to believe in the Man whom he has sent".

"God's gift of bread comes from heaven and gives life to the whole world. It is I who am the bread



of life. You, as I have told you, though you have seen me, do not believe in me. It is the will of him who sent me, that all those who believe in the Son when they see him should enjoy eternal life. The man who has faith in me enjoys eternal life. Only the Spirit gives life; the flesh is of no avail; and the words I have been speaking to you are spirit, and life. But there are some, even among you, who do not believe." We are reminded of Krishna's: "But the fools of this world know not me when they see me in my own human body" (Bhagavad Gita, Chap. 9, verse 11.)

Christ continues: "I am the light of the world. He who follows me can never walk in darkness; he will possess the light which is life. If you do not believe me, it is precisely because I am speaking the truth. Believe me when I tell you this; if a man is true to my word, to all eternity he will never see death. I am the good shepherd. My sheep listen to my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. And, I give them everlasting life, so that to all eternity they can never be lost."

"My Father and I are one. Will you call me a blasphemer because I have told you I am the Son of God? I am the resurrection and life. To see me is to see him who sent me". Amongst other things Christ said was: "I am the way; I am truth and life" and "Whoever has seen me, has seen the Father". "He who is to befriend you, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send on my account, will in turn make everything plain, and recall to your minds everything I have said to you. Peace is my bequest to you. I do not give peace as the world gives it. Separated from me, you have no power to do anything. This is my commandment, that you should love one another, as I have loved you."

*Fraud*

## U S Procrastinates To Return Gold To Czechoslovakia

*Prague*

AT THE beginning of May of this year, the State Department spokesman, R. Mc Closkey held a press conference, in which he also referred to Czechoslovak gold bullion held by the USA. What gold is this? How did it get to the USA, and why has it not yet been returned to Czechoslovakia?

Let the facts speak for themselves. During the Second World War, as fascist Germany conquered the different states of Europe, it at the same time transferred the gold of each occupied country to Berlin. The gold removed from Czechoslovakia amounted to 45 tons. After the war as only part of the stolen gold treasure could be recovered in Germany, it was decided at the Paris conference of reparations in 1946, that the recovered gold should be collected and distributed to the respective states in proportion to their original share. The task of returning these shares was entrusted to a tripartite commission composed of representatives of the USA, Great Britain and France. According to the agreement, it was decided to return 24.5 tons of gold to Czechoslovakia. In 1948, Czechoslovakia received six tons and since then, despite several urging and support from England and France, she did not receive any. Meanwhile, all other countries where gold was plundered, received their share in full. Thus eighteen and a half tons of gold, worth at least 20 million dollars, still remains in the hands of the USA. The USA Government has stipulated certain conditions for the return of gold: the first and foremost being the demand of compensation for American property nationalised in Czechoslovakia after 1945.

In order to explore the possibilities of solving all the problems,

complicated negotiations continued between Czechoslovakia and USA from 1955 till 1961. An agreement was reached on 8th December, 1961. According to this, Czechoslovakia will pay twelve million dollars to the US, as compensation for the nationalisation of the property of American companies and citizens, and release some of the frozen American claims in Czechoslovakia; on the other hand, the United States should return gold and unfreeze Czechoslovak claims and banking accounts in the USA. The American Government, however, later withdrew from the agreement, which it itself had proposed. In its note of 24th February the Czechoslovak Government proposed to the USA, that the question of gold bullion should be separated from the open financial and economic questions — and for this purpose the Czechoslovak Government would be willing to deposit the appropriate sum agreed upon in 1961, in favour of USA in some international bank on the condition that the USA agreed to deliver the bullion to Czechoslovakia. On the 8th of November, last year, however, the US Government made it clear, that the question of the return of the gold would still depend on the solving of the outstanding economic and financial questions. Moreover, it further increased its demands by pushing the negotiations back to 1955, from where they had started.

IN its note of May 2nd, 1968, the Czechoslovak Government characterised the attitude of the US Government as quite insincere and unacceptable. It once again asked the US to deliver the gold bullion, amounting to 18,433,48 kg. to Czechoslovakia without further delay. The US Government responded to this pressure in its usual way. It expressed apprehension that the return of the gold might be regarded by others as some sort of interference in the internal affairs of Czech-



oslovakia. This is nothing more than a smoke screen to justify its attempts at procrastination. In any case this is not an expression of goodwill even though many American politicians see the new developments in Czechoslovakia as the beginning of a new phase of American relations with this country.

*S. Bohemicus*  
Pragopress

*From The Pages of The Arthasastra*

## Irrigation In Ancient India

by Asoka Buddhadeva

IN a previous article I dealt with some of the public works of utility executed and maintained by the government of Chandra Gupta in ancient India as detailed in the Arthasastra of Kautilya. In it we have seen how a special department was created for the development of mining, the impetus to the discovery of mines being given in the shape of a share in the mine discovered; and how the department was placed in charge of experts conversant with all the processes of that difficult industry. If a private person discovered a mine, he got one-sixth of it as his share; if he happened to be a government servant, the share was one-twelfth.

Let us now return to the subject of irrigation as described in the Arthasatra. That there was an elaborate system of irrigation in the time of Chandra Gupta is already known to us by the following lines of Megasthenes: "The greater part of the soil is under irrigation and consequently bears two crops in the course of a year." And again: "Some superintend the rivers, measure the land as is done in Egypt, and inspect the sluices by which water is let out from the main canals into other branches, so that every one may have an equal supply of it."

These statements from Megasthenes' Book I and Book III are borne out by the Arthasastra of Kautilya and, moreover, certain details are added which we do not find in Megasthenes' works. The Arthasastra states that water-rates varied according to the modes of irrigation and that the modes were four in number. There were irrigation by hand, irrigation by water carried on shoulders, irrigation by some mechanical contrivance, and irrigation by water raised from tanks and rivers. The rates were one-fifth, one-fourth, one-third and one-fourth of the produce respectively. It speaks of the remission of taxes in the case of the repair of the old tanks and the construction of new ones and also in the case of improvement and extension of water-works. This shows that there were not only means of raising water by bullocks but also contrivances worked by wind-power. A fine of six panas is laid down for letting out the water canals otherwise than through the sluice-gate and for hindering the flow of water through the same. It confirms the existence of sluice-gates referred to by Megasthenes in the passages quoted above; and surely it is very interesting to note that in those days there were not only contrivances worked by bullocks but also windmills of whatever sort they be.

**SPECIAL CARE** was taken for keeping tanks and other waterworks in good repair and the minimum fine in the case of those who were prone to neglecting them, viz. the owners of rent-free lands, was fixed at double the loss caused by their remissness. There were other regulations, i.e. one prohibiting men to empty a tank of its water and to allow the water of a higher tank to flow into a lower one unless the latter has been useless for three consecutive years and so forth.

This account of irrigation in ancient India I cannot conclude without pointing out that in those remote days the people had a workable knowledge of the science of meteorology. They had some sort of rain-gauge by which they could measure the rainfall in a particular

tract of the country in a given time. It had enabled them to arrive at definite conclusions as to the quantity of rainfall in particular places. The rainfall was considered to be even if it fell during the commencing and closing months of the year, and two-thirds in the middle months.

Another passage in the Arthasastra speaks of the forecast of rainfall that can be made by observing the position, motion etc. of the sun and the planets Venus and Jupiter; the germination of seeds etc can also be inferred from them. An elaborate classification of the clouds had been made by the ancient Indians according to their characteristics. Arthasastra speaks of three kinds of such clouds as poured in heavy showers for seven days together, eighty kinds of clouds that rained minute drops and sixty kinds that appeared with sunshine.

All this shows that the science of meteorology had been brought to such a developed stage in ancient India that the people could depend on its conclusions and guide their actions in their day-to-day work of sowing seeds, reaping harvest and attending to their other agricultural works.

The promotion of irrigation was looked upon as one of the duties of the state of Chandra Gupta and was not left to the meagre resources of private enterprise. In connection with irrigation the necessity of meteorological observations was recognised and even simple contrivances were in use for purposes of rain-gauge.

### DISCRIMINATING TASTE

Italian customer in a West End bookshop: "Have you a copy of 'The Stones of Venice'?"

Assistant, haughtily: "We don't go in for that sort of thing here, sir. We haven't even got anything on the Beatles".



*The Island Under Dispute*

# Kachcha Thivu Background & Issues

by Dr. (Mrs.) Urmila Phadnis

*There is no clear evidence in support of India's sovereignty over the Kachcha Thivu island. Ceylon's claims to the island rest primarily on cartographic evidence dating back several centuries, and on the fact that in recent years Ceylon has exercised effective control over the island. India's claims, on the other hand, are based primarily on the zamindari of the island exercised for a long time by the Raja of Ramnad. Legal experts on both sides would thus have enough data to indulge in hair-splitting.*

*The island itself is a desolate, half-coral, half-sand islet, of no immediate strategic relevance. It is used mainly by fishermen to celebrate St. Anthony's festival and it becomes, around that time of the year, a busy point for smuggling and illegal emigration into Ceylon — for which reason Ceylon has of late undertaken patrolling of this island area.*

*The restraint which the Prime Ministers of both countries have introduced into their statements on the controversy augurs well for a settlement through a conference of officials. The spirit of an earlier statement on the subject by Pandit Nehru that "there is no national prestige involved in the matter, specially with our neighbour Ceylon", may therefore yet provide the key to a mutually acceptable solution. We are publishing this article with acknowledgements to the Indian 'Economic and Political Weekly'. This is the concluding instalment of the article.*

IN AN AGREEMENT signed by the officials of the governments of Madras and Ceylon in 1921 on the demarcation line between the two countries in the Palk Straits and the Gulf of Mannar. Kachcha Thivu was referred to as being on Ceylon's side. But the Madras government added a rider to the agreement to the effect that it was signed by them "without prejudice to any territorial claim which may be made by the Government of India to the island of Kachcha Thivu". Referring to this conference of 1921, the Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs, Dinesh Singh, maintained that it was agreed that "while the zamindari rights of the Raja of Ramnad would continue, the island belonged to Ceylon. This fact was not accepted by the Secretary of State for India and since then this dispute has been going on".

The statement of the Indian Minister of State does not fall in line with the observations of a Ceylonese authority on Indo-Ceylon relations. Referring to a letter dated March 8 1923 by the Government of India to the government of Madras in which the Government of India "supported Ceylon's claims to the island" Dr. Kodikara has concluded that, long before Independence, Ceylon's claim over the island was "tacitly acknowledged by India".

The reference to the island between 1921 and 1923 appear to indicate a divergence of opinion between the Secretary of State for India and the Government of India on the subject. Unfortunately, the published data do not clearly indicate the basis on which the government of India supported Ceylon's claims over the island. Nor

to the non-ratification of the 1921 agreement by the Secretary of State for India. However, it does not seem that, since 1940, Ceylon has, at times, exercised more "effective control" than India over the island.

During the Second World War, Kachcha Thivu was used as a venue for bombing practice by an order of the governor of Ceylon under Defence Regulations. When these regulations lapsed in 1950, a bombardment range was established in the island by Ceylon under in Firing Range and Military Act No. 2 of 1951.

In August 1949 India informed Ceylon that it wished to carry out naval exercises in Palk Strait and would use Kachcha Thivu as a bombardment target, Ceylon replied that Kachcha Thivu was Ceylonese territory and, if India wanted to use the island as a bombardment target, it must seek prior permission from Ceylon. In 1955 the Ceylon government decided to use Kachcha Thivu for aerial practice and firing and sought the co-operation of the Indian civil aviation authorities as Indian aircraft also flew over this area. In March 1956 again, Ceylon informed India that its Air Force proposed to use the island for practice bombing and firing range from 1st April.

It was at this juncture that the matter was brought before the Indian Parliament by some Opposition members in an adjournment motion raising "the serious situation" which had arisen consequent upon the Ceylon government "entering into and occupying the Indian territory of the strategic island of Kachcha Thivu". Apart from alleging that the occupation of the island amounted to a violation of the sovereign rights of India by Ceylon, the Opposition member attached great importance to the fact that this island was being used as an air and naval base by Ceylon "under the present circumstances of SEATO and so many other suspicious factors around". The motion was suspended on the Government plea that it did not have adequate information on the subject. Meanwhile, even



before the suspension of the motion, a diplomatic representation was made by the Indian High Commissioner in Colombo requesting Ceylon to postpone any decision to use the island for bombing and gunnery practice till the "question of the ownership was clarified". In its reply, the Ceylon government reiterated its sovereignty over the island but informed India that no decision had finally been taken regarding the proposed aerial exercises.

It must be mentioned here that till 1956 Great Britain under an agreement of 1948 with Ceylon, had its air-bases in Trincomalee and Kattunayake and one wonders as to whether the proposal to use Kachcha Thivu for aerial practice was not overtly meant to facilitate the aerial practice of the British air force in Ceylon. The British bases were withdrawn soon after Bandaranaike came to power in 1956 and after that year Ceylon did not seem to raise the question of using the island for aerial practice. Instead, the island assumed an increasing significance in a different way: Ceylon discovered that it was being used as a smuggling centre specially in March-April every year, when the fishermen of the India and Ceylon met on the island to celebrate St. Anthony's feast. Consequently, during the last few years, Ceylon police officials have been going to the island at the time of the festival. The Ceylon navy also patrols near the island during these months to apprehend smugglers as well as illegal immigrants. In fact, it was almost on the eve of the St. Anthony's festival the news of the alleged take over of the island by Ceylon got around, leading to expression of concern in both countries.

**CONCERN OVER** the issue in Ceylon at this juncture is also partly explained by India's decision to extend its territorial waters to twelve miles. Ceylon has resented this unilateral decision of India on the plea that this extension might, among other things, affect Ceylon's claims over Kachcha Thivu.

Notwithstanding this, it appears that though the 'expansionist' designs of India on Kachcha Thivu were discerned by some of the groups, by and large, Ceylonese public opinion and the Opposition have shown remarkable restraint of the subject. This might be so by virtue of the fact that the Ceylon premier has already adopted a firm attitude on this question which is in consonance with Ceylon's stand on Kachcha Thivu since Independence. Speaking on the subject in the House of Representatives, Premier Senanayake while affirming the sovereignty of Ceylon over the island, stated that whatever be the difference between India and Ceylon on the subject, he was confident that they could be amicably settled through negotiations.

In contrast to the violent reactions of some of the members of the Dravida Munnetra Kazagham (DMK) in 1956, when it was in opposition, the party which now occupies government benches, has discouraged any debate on Kachcha Thivu in the Madras Assembly on the plea that this is a subject which falls within the purview of the "Union and hence should not be discussed in the State Legislature. It affirms, though, that Kachcha Thivu belonged to the Ramanathapuram Samasthanam (zamindar) and was part of Tamilnad.

Historically speaking, Ceylon's claims to Kachcha Thivu seem to rest primarily on cartographic evidence dating several centuries back as well as on the fact that in recent years Ceylon has exercised effective control over the island. is based on the acts of ownership of the Raja of Ramnad over the island, apparently without protest from Ceylon. Thus, the references to Kachcha Thivu in Queen Victoria's proclamation coupled with the fact of long drawn zamindari rights of the Raja of Ramnad over the island seem to be the points in favour of India. Again, if the British government of India supported Ceylon's claim in 1923, it is during the same period that the Secretary of State, by signing an indenture with the Raja of Ramnad

from 1913-28, tacitly recognised that Kachcha Thivu was part of India. If Kachcha Thivu belonged to Ceylon, it might be argued that the Ceylon government would have imposed on the Raja of Ramnad a levy in return for the rights he enjoyed on the island. No such claims seem to have been made by Ceylon during this period. Legal experts on both sides have thus, enough data to indulge in hair-splitting. That cartographic evidence is not conclusive in determining sovereignty over an area was demonstrated in the Kutch Award. Nor is ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the diocese of Jaffna over the island enough evidence in favour of Ceylon because of the internationally accepted norms on the relationship between ecclesiastical and political sovereignty. As against Ceylon's claims there are acts of jurisdiction, i.e. leasing, collection of revenue, non-payment of a levy to the government of Ceylon etc, as evidence of effective control exercised by the Raja over the island. There is equally no doubt that, adopting the same logic, Ceylon has been exercising effective control over Kachcha Thivu since 1944 and, at least once, in 1949, the affirmation of its sovereignty over the island did not evoke a protest from the Indian government. If such a protest was made at all, it remains as 'classified' information. In fact, since Independence, the government of India, though affirming that the Raja of Ramnad had his zamindari over the island, has not at any time asserted this as evidence of political sovereignty. In reply to a question in that Kachcha Thivu belonged to the Raja of Ramnad and Ceylon government was "contesting that claim", Nehru replied Ramanathapuram Samasthanam is a zamindari; it is not a State. If it is a zamindari it is a matter for the courts to settle". He further mentioned "whether the zamindar is owned by the Samasthanam or by the State, it continues to be a zamindari; it does not become something else". On another occasion, Nehru, stated "the zamindari has gone now and I do not quite know as to where the matter stands".

**WHATEVER** be the reasons, Nehru appears to have treated the



issue with a casualness that would seem to indicate that he did not expect it to develop as a major controversy between India and Ceylon. Adopting an attitude of ambivalence, the government of India neither asserted its claims decisively nor yielded to the contentions of Ceylon. Thus, when asked by an MP in 1961 whether the government had considered taking over the possession of Kachcha Thivu, Nehru firmly replied "We do not consider that the present is the right time to raise the matter with the Government of Ceylon". Earlier, Nehru had maintained that there was no question of the government of India or the government of Ceylon coming into conflict over a tiny islet. "There is no national prestige involved in the matter, specially with our neighbour Ceylon". In the context of the legal cobwebs around the question, it is only the spirit underlining Nehru's statement that might lead to a solution mutually acceptable to both the countries. The tone of the Ceylon premier's statement as well as the attempt on the part of Indira Gandhi to keep this controversy in 'low key' augurs well in this context. As has been announced already, by the premiers of both countries, Kachcha Thivu will be on the agenda of the conference of the officials of India and Ceylon to be convened shortly. It appears that an expeditious and judicious settlement of this dispute mutually acceptable to both the countries will have to take into consideration the wider gamut of Indo-Ceylonese relations, as much as the legal aspects of the dispute. And if the recent history of the problem of people of Indian origin in Ceylon is any indication, political considerations might take precedence over the legal claims in the negotiations.

Pending final decision on the issue, the police officials of the governments of Madras and Ceylon, through periodic conference, might evolve certain measures in order to prevent the use of the island as a haven for illicit immigration to Ceylon as well as a base for smuggling.

*Concluded*

*Carriers Of Disease*

## Cockroach—Enemy Of Public Health

AMONG THE INSECTS harmful to human beings, flies and cockroaches are the most important omnivorous insects. Due to their constant and intimate association with both the food and the excreta of man and animals, these contaminate food and water. Of the two, cockroaches are the more dangerous as they do the damage unseen. Cockroaches are to be feared for several reasons. They feed on our foodstuffs, and damage our books, clothes and other possessions. What is perhaps less well-known is their relation to the spreading of diseases. In spite of its filthy habits, repulsive appearance, disagreeable odour and germ-carrying potential, the cockroach has been allowed to co-exist with man because all attempts to render it an extinct species have failed. The cockroach has a world-wide distribution, being especially abundant in the warmer parts. There are over 1,000 species but only a few are found in our homes, while the others live outdoors.

The American cockroach (*Periplaneta Americana*) is the largest of the house cockroaches measuring 1.5 inches or more in length when adult. The colour is dark reddish brown. It is most common in damp basements and forages mostly on ground floors of buildings.

The German Cockroach (*Blattella Germanica*) is about half an inch long and is light brown in colour. It is very active and increases very rapidly. The species is most common in kitchens and bathrooms. The Oriental Cockroach (*Blatta Orientalis*) is about an inch long and is called the 'black beetle' owing to its black colour. In adults the wings are much shorter than the the body. It occurs most in damp basements of houses.

The growth of cockroaches is slow when food, temperature and

moisture are unfavourable. The females lay eggs in seed-like leathery capsules formed at the ends of their bodies. They carry the egg capsules a day or two, then glue them to some object in a protected place. The German cockroach carries the egg capsule for about a month and drops it a day or two before the eggs are ready to hatch. Each capsule contains ten to twenty eggs which hatch out in one to three months. The young ones, called nymphs, look like adults except that they are smaller in size and do not have wings. They may take up to a year to reach the adult stage.

The cockroach is fond of warm and humid places. The kitchen and the bathroom answer to its needs. Hiding in dark places during the day, it comes out and forages at night. It attacks provisions, clothing books, shoes, etc. If disturbed it runs quickly to shelter and disappears through openings and to its hiding place.

If you want to find out the hiding places enter a dark room quietly, turn on the light and watch the cockroaches run. They may hide around the kitchen sink and drain-board, around pipes and conduits where these pass along the wall or go through it, in cracks or underneath cupboards and cabinets or inside them, especially in upper corners behind door or window frames or mirrors, on undersides of tables and chairs, inside closets and bookcase shelves and in radio cabinets.

THESE disease-carriers feed on all sorts of materials in sewers, garbage containers, toilets, as well as raw or cooked food in open storage. They have every opportunity to transfer infectious material from place to place and from person to person. Thus they are decidedly one of our



most serious public health enemies. They contaminate food with their infected droppings, and thus act as passive transmitting agents of organisms which causes amoebic dysentery. Cockroaches harbour plague bacillus and diphtheria bacillus has been cultured from their droppings

From the secretions of the nose and throat of infected persons, cockroaches are able to pick up and transmit scarlet fever, sore throat, measles and even tuberculosis.

Horrible as it may sound, cockroaches or parts of them might be eaten along with particles of uncooked food such as cereals and dried fruits. In this way, there is a possibility of parasitic worms being established in humans.

The first and foremost step for controlling cockroaches is routine cleansing of the articles and places which serve as their abodes and guarding against their return from places of infection.

A number of insecticides, such as D. D. T., Lindane, Chlordane, Dieldrin, Diazinon and Pyrethrum are known to offer effective control of this wily insect. These, except Diazinon, may be sprayed or dusted.

These insecticides are all poisonous, and a few simple precautions should be taken. Insecticides should be kept out of reach of children and pets. When applying any of these, care should be taken to see that water, food articles or utensils are not contaminated. After use exposed parts of the body should be thoroughly washed.

#### Return of the Thin Man

"A skeleton, previously used in a London teaching hospital, has been given to our first-aid class. Mr. James, our instructor, has been appointed to a similar position in Surrey". From a Hampshire church magazine.

#### Second Paris Meeting

## Harriman's 'Similarities' Trick

At the second meeting in Paris between the American and North Vietnamese representatives, Mr. Harriman claimed that "some similarities" existed in the positions of the two countries. In a scathing commentary on the reference to the existence of similarities, the Voice of Vietnam Radio said that the two positions were as contradictory as light and darkness. This is a slightly abridged text of the commentary.

AT THE second session of the formal talks between the representatives of the Government of Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the US Government on 15 May, Minister Xuan Thuy once again condemned the systematically aggressive activities of the US against both the zones — South and North — of Vietnam and its sabotage of the Geneva Agreements on Vietnam. Minister Xuan Thuy exposed the perfidious arguments of the US ruling circles slandering the DRV with an attempt to cover up their crimes of aggression. The Minister emphasized that the US must directly deal with the main subject of the formal talks in which the most urgent priority is for the US Government to stop unconditionally and definitively the bombing and all other acts of war against the whole territory of the DRV.

THE US Government's representative, Harriman, once again put forward sophistical arguments to justify US intervention and aggression in Vietnam and Laos. Harriman repeated the familiar trick of blaming North Vietnam for the aggression against South Vietnam and violation of the Geneva Agreements. In fact it is too obvious who is the aggressor against Vietnam.

Have the Vietnamese people sent their troops to occupy the Southern States of the US and massacred women, children and old folk? Have the Vietnamese people sent their aircraft to bomb and strafe the US capital, Washington, populated areas in New York, schools and hospitals in Boston, factories in Detroit etc? Have the Vietnamese people sent their naval fleets to encircle the US coasts and shelled US cities in the Pacific and North Atlantic coastal areas? No. They have not. On the contrary, the US Government has sent its troops to invade South Vietnam, savagely massacred our people in the South and wantonly bombed North Vietnam. So, it is as clear as daylight who is the aggressor and who is the victim of aggression.

With regard to the violation of the Geneva Agreements, historical facts and the objective realities are still there. The US Government made every attempt to sabotage the 1954 Geneva Conference from the very beginning. When the Conference reached an agreement, the then US representative was forced to make the commitment to respect the results of the Conference but refused to sign these Agreements recognizing the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. Even the ink on the Geneva Agreements had not dried yet when the US assembled its allies and satellites in Manila to rig up an aggressive military bloc namely SEATO and arbitrarily put South Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos under the protective umbrella of this aggressive bloc. It was the US which rigged up the puppet Ngo Dinh Diem regime to sabotage the reunification of both zones of South and North Vietnam. It was the US which turned South Vietnam into US neocolony and military base in an attempt to launch first a special war and then a local war against the people of South Vietnam. It was the



US which built up a series of military bases in South Vietnam, dispatched to South Vietnam more than half a million troops in defiance of all the ceasefire provisions of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Vietnam.

**IN HIS STATEMENT** at the second session on 15 May, Harriman resorted to another cunning trick. He made an appeal to look to the future and said that there were "some similarities" in the posting of the DRV and the US, and sorted out five points which gave hope in the search for an agreement.

Let us see whether the five points sorted out by Harriman are "points of similarities." The US said it respected an independent, democratic peaceful and prosperous South Vietnam, but in fact, the US has infringed upon the sovereignty of South Vietnam, perpetrated war crimes causing sufferings and deaths and at the same time has used its henchmen to suppress and massacre our people in South Vietnam.

The US spoke of letting the internal affairs of South Vietnam be settled by the South Vietnamese people, but in fact, the US has militarily intervened and committed aggression against South Vietnam and turned South Vietnam into US neo-colony and US military base.

The US spoke of the need for respecting the 1954 Geneva Agreements and specially the military provisions of these agreements. What are the basic spirits and the principal provisions of the 1954 Geneva Agreement? Despite the fact that it was bound to recognise and respect the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Vietnam and not to let the two zones of South and North Vietnam join any military pact or accept the presence of foreign troops and military bases, the US has sent more than half a million troops and built a series of military bases in South Vietnam and arbitrarily put South Vietnam under the protective-umbrella of the aggressive SEATO. So, where does the US respect the Geneva Agreements?

**THE US** spoke of the reunification of Vietnam by peaceful means, but in fact, it prevented the holding of free elections in the whole territory of Vietnam in 1956 as stipulated by the Geneva Agreements. It is the US which has been carrying out its scheme to permanently divide Vietnam and turn it into an "independent" state under neo-colonialist US domination.

In short, in the five points sorted by Harriman, the positions of both sides are not only not similar but completely different. These are not "five points of similarities" but are five basic points of dissimilarities. In these basic points, our position and that of the US is contradictory like water and fire, light and darkness goodness and evil, justice and perversity.

Harriman has performed this trick by putting together a number of words and sentences in an attempt to dupe other people into misunderstanding that there are some "similarities" in the positions of the two sides. But this trick cannot deceive world public opinion. For example, we speak of peace and peace in our view means peace based on independence and freedom. The US also speaks of peace, but it is American peace, peace is slavery.

**BY DOING SO** the US aims at creating a vague idea in an attempt to wash away the distinction between the aggressor and the victim of aggression, between those who systematically sabotage the Geneva Agreements and those who strictly implement the Agreements. The US representative's attempts at changing black into white have once again shown clearly that the US still pursues its aggressive policy against Vietnam. The statement of Harriman only repeated the old agreements of slander. It contained no new element for peace. It exposed to the world the non-serious attitude of the US at the talks. It also demonstrated that the US representative pays no heed to the public opinion which is strongly demanding the US to urgently go into the substance of the talks in

order to reach a peaceful solution to the Vietnam problem.

In order to solve the Vietnam problem, there is only one way, that is; the US must stop its aggression; must stop its bombings and all other acts of war against the DRV; withdraw all US troops from South Vietnam, and let the Vietnamese people settle their own affairs by themselves.

*PATRIOT*

### REVOLT

In open defiance of Governor Ronald Reagan thousands of University of California students and teachers held a Vietnam "Commencement" ceremony to honour 866 students who have pledged not to answer the draft call. Reagan had earlier declared that disciplinary action should be taken against the teachers who participate in a ceremony that "would be so indecent that it would border on the obscene". Charles Sellers, Professor of History, replied, "To the obscenities of the day we must not, and we shall not add the obscenity of silence". The Chancellor of the University refused to take any action against either the students or the teachers.

### NASSER

The Egyptian authorities have discovered another plot to assassinate President Nasser. The alleged plotters include eight military officers and a high-ranking judge. They wanted to shoot the President as he voted in the May 2 plebiscite. The officers have been arrested but the judge has escaped to Libya.



## THE BORDERLAND — by C. V. VELUPILLAI

### CHAPTER NINE

# The Village

#### THE STORY SO FAR.....

*The beautiful Sundari lived alone in her estate bungalow in the hills. Of all her admirers, Amaradasa was very close to her. During April holidays Dr. Nayagam's nephew, Ravi, came to spend a few days with Sundari. Her conduct towards the youth puzzled Amaradasa.*

*The comely Mrs. Tilikeratne who came for treatment to Amaradasa turned out to be his cousin. He promised to meet her in the village.*

*Amaradasa took Sundari and Ravi to a cattle farm. On their return journey Amaradasa found further evidence of her queer conduct towards Ravi.*

*That night Sundari behaved as if she suffered from an emotional imbalance due to the presence of Ravi. She locked herself in her room. Her mind went back to the past. Her early love for Rajendran and his betrayal and the subsequent mental disorder all came back to her.*

*The next day Amaradasa found Sundari and Ravi seated together in a very unusual way. This disrupted the friendly relations between all of them and the following day Sundari and Ravi left for Colombo.*

Saturday arrived at last and with it came a quiet sense of peace. There was joy in the very thought of going home. He went round the shops early and made purchases for his home folks; for every one of them he bought something appropriate to offer. He packed them in a suitcase and had it despatched by the early bus with a note to the shopkeeper near the Walauwa to be delivered at home. This served as an announcement that he was coming home.

The rest of the day dragged on. His doctor friend came in the late afternoon and took charge of the dispensary. By 3 p.m. Amaradasa collected his suitcase and went down to the bus stand. On his way he met Sundari's servant boy.

"Sir, are you going home?"

"Yes."

The boy's smile seemed to indicate that Amaradasa could not stay there for a day without Sundari.

The bus Amaradasa boarded was crowded to capacity, full of estate workers and a few shop assistants and sundry traders. The conductor put up an old woman to make room for Amaradasa.

#### CASSOCKED PROVOCATEURS

At the beginning of this month President Milton Obote made an inspection tour of northern Uganda and there his attention was drawn to the activity of the Verona Fathers, Sons of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, a Catholic missionary Organization. Besides Uganda these missionaries operate in the Sudan and South Africa. In Uganda, the Verona Fathers are the Vatican's plenipotentiaries. In a speech at Amotatar President Obote said that the missionaries, who had settled down in the Lango area, engaged in subversion against the Ugandan government and made wide use of bribes as a weapon of "political influence".

The Verona Fathers are absolutely brazen. in the Lango area, where they support the so-called Democratic Party which opposes the government measures to consolidate national unity on the basis of the republican constitution, one of them is reported to have gone so far as to call upon the congregation to be "ready for the advent of a real Christian government". This is not the first time the Verona Father's provocative activity has attracted the Uganda government's attention. Last year there was the case of ten missionaries who Radio Uganda said, "have for years engaged in activity detrimental to Uganda's security and stability." They were deported for provoking incidents on the Ugandan-Sudanese frontier. The Verona Fathers have apparently failed to draw any lesson from that.



“Please don’t do that. I can wait till someone gets down.”

Amaradasa had not much to wait. Somebody had made room for him and he sat amidst the unkempt crowd. He felt happy in their company and he was quite free in doing the unconventional.

When the conductor gave the warning to the driver to start, the bus coughed and with a violent jerk swung to the road ahead, changed its gear and roared through the town as if it was manipulating itself without a driver. It gathered momentum and sped through the tea estates without any concern for the men and animals on its way. It made just enough room for the oncoming vehicle and continued its mad career. The woman huddled together with their bewildered children and prayed in silence.

Amaradasa felt that a little miscalculation might take the bus, the driver and hapless passengers to the ravine hundred feet below. At the next halt he quietly cautioned the conductor and he very “respectfully” approached the driver, a burly, rugged looking individual, who sat at the wheel with his sarong tucked up to his thighs. With a sarcastic smile he turned behind, “Sir, must go in time no.”

“Yes, of course ! But I am afraid that we may not reach home even after time. I had a bad dream.”

They all laughed in good humour and the driver too was in good temper to oblige and the rest of the journey was less exacting. Within an hour the bus came up the valley. Far below the teascape, some six miles across, gleamed the river through the green fields. Amaradasa’s heart warmed at its sight. The bus ran on and turned into the tea estate again and lost sight of the river as another swell of high land intercepted the view. After a brief halt the bus crossed the river, turned to the left and ran through the tea again and came in sight of the big ridge above the valley and the mountain range on its right emphasised its full depth, where the village lay nestled. Now the road hugged the curb of the mountain and as the land was dropping gradually the valley became more and more visible and there was an abrupt and sharp sliding towards the river.

The bus came to a halt in front of a small provision kaday crouching beneath a menacing cliff. Amaradasa got down with his suit case. A little boy came running from the shop and took it from him. A young Mudalali came out of the kaday and greeted him.

“Sir, how are you? All these days we could not see you.”

“I was busy with one thing or another.”

He could not find words to proceed much further. His keen sense of duty made him so guilty that he found it very hard to face even the Mudalali. His immediate reaction was to avoid the subject and leave the place.

“Where is my parcel?”

### OPIUM PEDDLERS

The U.N. Economic and Social Council’s Commission on Narcotic Drugs which meets annually to check on the implementation of international agreements on the prohibition of drug trade would do well to study at its next session the contraband opium trade engaged in by the CIA and its agents in Southeast Asia. A detailed report on the subject was recently published by the American *Ramparts* magazine under the title “The CIA’s Flourishing Opium Trade”. The Central Intelligence Agency has become a serious rival of the opium traders in Thailand, South Vietnam and Laos, most of them Europeans and Chinese. How can a petty smuggler who hides a few packets of this expensive poison in his shirt compete with American Intelligence agents who transport large consignments of opium in Air America and Continental Air Service planes. The pilots of these planes make regular flights on CIA orders with arms and ammunition for saboteurs operating in the remote parts of Laos. On their way back they carry blocks of raw opium obtained from the local inhabitants. On one of the islands in the Mekong River is a secret factory where this opium is refined to powder which, the magazine says, “take up only a tenth of the space”. The Air America planes then take it to the American Udon or Nakhon Phanom bases in Thailand, to Bangkok, Da Nang or Saigon. Thence, packed in crates or valises, it is airlifted via Taiwan on the Philippines to Hongkong or Singapore, where it is made into heroin. Money, the *Ramparts* says, changes hands at every step, but a lot of it remains in the hands of the CIA and its agents.



"Sir, I sent it to the Walauwa in the afternoon. They are all expecting you."

"I'll be here for a few days. I'll see you later."

Before Amaradasa could say "stop" the Mudalali took out a bottle of aerated water and opened it.

"Sir, please come in and have a drink."

"Thank you. It is very kind of you, Mudalali."

Amaradasa went in and sat on a chair covered with white cloth and sipped the drink while the trader stood by.

"How is the road?"

"Very bad, sir. The monsoon had brought a curse to the village. Over a thousand acres of land had been laid waste. Much of your property too had been badly damaged. It was not like a monsoon or flood but like a deluge caused by the anger of the gods. If you had only been here what a consolation it would have been."

Amaradasa remained tongue-tied. He had read about this disaster in the newspapers while he lolled about in Sundari's parlour. He never gave a thought to the misery that stalked his village. Now his mouth was bitter. He got up.

"Mudiyansay", the Mudalali called, "take Master to the Walauwa."

The boy went ahead with the suitcase and Amaradasa followed him in silence. He found that the old landmarks had disappeared and the footpath had been replaced by disjointed steps. Now he was able to assess the havoc caused by the floods. It was like a scene after an earthquake. There were deep gashes on the incline and large chunks of red earth had been torn asunder and huge boulders had rolled through crushing everything on their way and rested precariously here and there on the dead trunk of a tree or a precipice. He saw decaying skeleton of habitations, abandoned chenas; gardens overgrown with wild thorn. There was desolation and ruin everywhere.

But still there was just little green left to greet him. There were jak trees, the kitul palms and giant creepers woven round them. And the cardamom growing in profusion in the new soil, the strong musky scent of wild flowers from the undergrowth, so common to the village, crept into his nose. He took a full breath and looked below before he turned into the thick foliage of trees. Now he was able to get a full view of the river, the Vihara and the school where he learnt his first letters. He could see white clad figures moving among the trees. Far away the Hinucottuwa ridges rose sheer and straight stretching its length above the estates and patnas and below it was the river sprawling through the gorge. The sky was becoming ruddy and there was the gurgling call of the woodpecker and the voice of human beings. There was so much joy in this home coming; and so much pain met his eyes. He felt a void in his being. Yes, without this village there was no life for him.

USA

### SKINNING THE TAXPAYER

O. Henry's Jeff Peters and Andy Tucker were famous for thinking up ways of skinning people. These "gentle grafters", as the famous American writer called them, have followers among some high-ranking officials in the United States. On May 18 American newspapers reported that FBI chief J. Edgar Hoover, testifying before a Congressional sub-committee, had painted a frightening picture of "widespread communist subversion" in Latin America. The Mexican Communists, he told the Congressmen, had a secret plan for collecting guns and other military equipment and had already chosen the places where they would concentrate men to stage "people's revolutions" in neighbouring countries. Although he did not name any of these places, he said one of them "was less than 150 miles from Laredo, Texas". Even peaceful Cuban fishermen were depicted in his testimony as dangerous communist agents. Hoover did not adduce any proofs in support of his allegations. "They are a fiction from beginning to end", says a statement issued on this score by the Central Committee Presidium of the Mexican Communist Party. The FBI chief's anti-communist eloquence is easily explained. He was testifying before a sub-committee of the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee which was discussing the Bureau's \$207,450,000 budget. It was to justify this inflated budget that Hoover tried to scare the committeemen with his "communist bogey" stories. As good a way as any of skinning the taxpayer.



He turned left and moved fast. There on the open land below stood the old Walauwa with its tiled roof and walls covered with ivy. The boy who carried the suitcase had already reached the porch. As Amaradasa came to the regular steps of the house he saw his uncle, his elder cousin, his wife and their children; and a dozen people had collected in the background. It was these people he had forgotten in the past eight months.

*To be continued*

### SOLAR FLARES & ACCIDENTS

Dr. A. Podshibyakin, a Soviet scientist is of the view that automobile accidents increase on the second-day after a solar flare, PTI reports quoting APN. He believes that at times there is a four-fold increase for during solar flares the reaction of people to signals is delayed as compared with days of a quiet sun. It is generally acknowledged that there are characteristic spots on our skin which are in direct contact with the internal organs. When studying these spots the scientist established that they possess a clearly expressed electric potential and, incidentally, its size differs in different people and changes depending on the time of the day and the state of the organism. However, the interesting thing is that changes in the potential of active spots on the skin strictly follow changes in solar activity. If corresponding diagrams are drawn then it will show that they almost coincide. The electric rhythms of the skin, so to say, resound with perturbations on the sun.

Nerve endings of our skin react to the most negligible energy. The highly organized nervous system cannot remain indifferent to changes on the sun, and with it the entire organism, as well, is not "indifferent" to the sun. This finds its reflection in the changes in the skin potential. What is the mechanism of interreaction between the earth and the sun? A flare on the sun's surface releases colossal energy, the emission spectrum moves in the direction of short waves as compared with the quiet sun spectrum and its intensity is to be observed with a stream of corpuscles heading for the surrounding space. When our planet is in the cone of the discharged particles which reach it approximately within two days, then one can also expect the perturbation of the magnetic field and biological consequences. The experiments conducted by Dr. A. Podshibyakin also revealed that the bio-electrical potential of 60 per cent of the people examined sharply changed four days ahead of a geomagnetic storm, while geo-physical instruments were as yet silent. In other words, in a number of cases the living organism can react to the approach of solar perturbations earlier than can be predicted by astrophysicists.

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### BRITAIN

### LATTER - DAY FLAGELLANTS

Back in the Middle Ages, there was a sect of religious fanatics called flagellants who scourged themselves for their sins, past, present and future. Self-castigation is practised today too by the British Labourites. The other day, the Labour Party Executive approved a proposal made by Minister of Technology Wedgwood Benn to repent publicly and admit that the party had failed to keep many of its election promises. A manifesto to this effect is to be drawn up by the end of June and will be submitted to the party's annual conference in September. This step of the Labour Party's is a forced one. Having made promises left and right during the election campaign, it now finds itself in the role of an insolvent debtor. The Labour government, which came to power on the strength of these promises, has failed to wipe out unemployment, raise production or stabilize prices. Repentance, Mr. Benn hopes, may enable the Labourites to rehabilitate themselves somewhat in the eyes of their constituents, and after that what is to prevent them from making new proposals and promises?

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## REGAL

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Final Week

## SELLAMAHAL

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Udaya Chandrika

### RAJATHI

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7th Week

Vyjayanthimala - Rajendra Kumar

### SURAJ

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*Air-Conditioned*

## SAVOY

Audrey Hepburn — Peter O'Toole

### How to Steal a Million

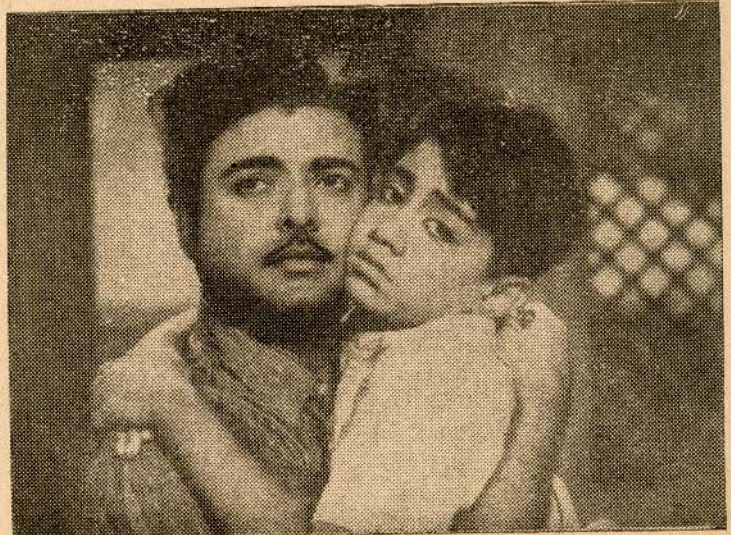
*in PanaVision & TColor*

● **MADAME X**, a Ross Hunter-Eltee-Universal Picture, now showing at the *RIO CINEMA*, is an intense romantic drama based on the play by Alexandre Bisson. Starring Lana Turner, John Forsythe, Richardo Montalban, Burgess Meredith, Constance Bennet and Keir Dullea, the movie in Technicolor is produced by Ross Hunter and directed by David Lowell Rich.

In the drama, Turner portrays Holly Parker, a beautiful, vibrant widow, who marries into a fabulously wealthy, socially powerful Eastern family. The marriage takes her into a world she has never known, and to a loneliness she cannot accept because her husband Clayton Anderson, V (John Forsythe), although much in love with her, permits his political aspirations often to keep him from home for long periods of time. Then she turns to her husband's best friend, Phil Benton (Richardo Montalban), to stamp out the gnawing loneliness. Soon after the affair reaching a climax, and when Holly tires to break it off, in the struggle that ensues, Phil dies. In panic, Holly flees, and falls for the scheme shrewdly planned by Clayton's mother, Estelle (Constance Bennett). Later Holly almost gets

involved in a blackmail plot, and finally makes a confession, without revealing her true identity, and goes on trial as Madame X. Her son Clayton Anderson, VI (Teddy Quinn) as a child, and Keir Dullea, as an adult, who has just graduated from law school, is appointed by the court to defend the mysterious woman, for whom the state seeks the death penalty. The contest is fiery and filled with ever mounting suspense as it moves toward a shock climax.

● **FORBIDDEN CITIES** in Eastmancolor, now at the *CAPITOL THEATRE*, is a series of authentic events combining the enchantment of a variety of exotic subjects recorded where it really happened. The movie using a highly original track, is neither that of romantic fiction nor that of the major documentary. It is a sort of cavalcade of the many parts of the world that begins as legend and ends as up-to-the-minute reporting. The poetic merits of the text and the music heighten the impact of the sequences, and reveals the unfamiliar world that lies concealed. The film provides an excellent tour of many countries, with its fun, frolic and even more strange, often unbelievable



● Gemini Ganeshan and Master Kumar in a scene from AVM's Tamil movie **RAMU**, Cinemas latest release.



and astonishing happenings, and picturesque scenes.

● **HOW TO STEAL A MILLION** now at the *SAVOY CINEMA* released through 20th Century-Fox, in Panavision and De Luxecolor

stars Audrey Hepburn and Peter O' Toole and co-stars Eli Wallah and Hugh Griffith, with a special guest appearance by Charles Boyer. The film produced by Fred Kohlmar and directed by Wyler was shot on location in Paris. As Nicole, Hepburn plays the daughter of a virtuoso forger, portrayed by Hugh Griffith. She regrets his life of crime, but she loves him dearly and only hopes he will not get into much trouble. Peter O'Toole, as Simon Dermott, enters her life when she captures him as a suspected burglar in her father's mansion. She does not discover until later that he is actually a detective who specialises in solving crimes peculiar to the art world. The movie is a hilarious comedy on art forgery and the world of fashion.

● **BLOW-UP** now showing at the *MAJESTIC THEATRE*, is the first English film to be made by the internationally acclaimed Director, Michelangelo, and this movie was selected as the Best Film of 1966, by the National Society of Film Critics. Filmed in colour and set against the glamorous modern London scene in authentic locaas, with Vanessa Redgrave, David Hemmings and Sarah Miles in the leading roles, the new Carlo Ponti production, released through Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, creates a spell-binding mood and holds the viewer in a relentlessly absorbing grip.

The story concerns a handsome and successful young London photographer, tired and disillusioned by his easy success and uncertain about himself and his life spent in an exhausting race in a world of fashion, attractive girls, pop art, beat clubs, models and parties in today's swinging London. One day Thomas (David Hemmings), the photographer, takes a photograph of a couple embracing in a park and when he develops the film suspects that he has been accidentally witnessing a murder. The girl, Jane (Vanessa Redgrave), whom Thomas has photographed in the embrace, visits him at his studio and makes a desperate attempt to get the film back. The visit also brings about a curious and

inflamed relationship between them. Then she disappears, and in seeking her throughout London, Thomas also discovers for himself many new things, and in the course of events becomes involved with a variety of men and women, ranging from the amatory artist's wife Patricia (Sarah Miles), to an assortment of beautiful models, two teenage girls who make themselves at home in his studio, the owner of an antique shop, a fashion editor and assorted other types representative of the modern London scene. The action includes a fascinating glimpse into the professional and private activities that go on in a photographer's studio, with other sequences encompassing the bed-ragged individuals of a flop house, a rock and roll session and a wild artist and model's party. Everything about this movie is arresting and unusual, but most of all the mood and mystery of the narrative remains undefined, leaving the on-looker to create answers to his question.



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 ● Gemini ● K. R. Vijaya  
 ● Nagesh in  
**R A M U**

2nd Week  
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 9.30 p.m.  
**THE FORBIDDEN  
 CITIES**  
 Eastman Color

Last Few Days  
**LIDO** (BORELLA)  
 10.00, a.m 2.00, 6.00 &  
 9.30 p.m  
**GUNGA JUMNA**  
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 SAPPHIRE**  
 And at others Centres  
**VANASARA**

**GAMINI**  
 10.00 a.m 2.00 6.00 9.30 p.m  
 Dr. SIRI GUNASINGHE'S  
**SATH SAMUDURA**

Air Conditioned  
**LIBERTY**  
  
 TONY CURTIS  
 JACK LEMMON  
 NATALIE WOOD  
 IN  
  
 "The  
 Great Race"  
 Superpanavision 70 mm

**CENTRAL**  
 PROM THURS 27th  
 ● GEMINI ● NAGESH  
 IN  
 K. S. GOPALAKRISHNAN'S  
**PANAMA PASAMA**



Nigeria

## The Problem Of Biafra

TANZANIA'S recognition of Biafra has led to an increase in military activity. The federal troops are trying to end the war as quickly as possible, but overwhelming military superiority has failed to break Biafran resistance. According to reports in the Western press, the Biafrans are counter-attacking vigorously and have even thrown back the federals in many places. Meanwhile, rumours that Ojukwu had abandoned the struggle and sought refuge in Tanzania or somewhere in Europe was proved to be wrong. The Biafran leader had gone into retreat (religious) and is now back and very much in control of the situation. There is every reason to expect that unless a negotiated settlement is reached the war will be long drawn out and whoever emerges as victor Nigerian unity will be permanently damaged.

Biafra by its prolonged resistance has proved conclusively that it is not a Katanga, an artificial creation propped by up colonialists. The secessionist movement has the support of a vast majority of the people of the area, who feel, rightly or wrongly, that they are fighting for survival. There have been reports of genocide and though the Federal Government has tried its best to restrain the troops large-scale atrocities have taken place. African leaders have recognised that the Nigerian civil war is a human problem. Tanzania has warned Nigeria that if the war does not end quickly, it will raise the issue of the Nigerian civil war before the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations and will even accuse it publicly of genocide.

African opinion is no longer unsympathetic to Biafra. In Paris the Ivory Coast embassy gave publicity to a declaration of President Houphouët-Boigny welcoming the Tanza-

nian initiative in recognising Biafra and giving expression to his feeling that the war should end. There is a possibility that if the fighting continues, Ivory Coast will recognise Biafra. Houphouët-Boigny who is now in Switzerland said that the recognition issue can be decided only in Ivory Coast after consulting the party and members of the Government. On the other hand, the Presidents of Niger, Mali and Upper Volta have declared that the question of recognising Biafra does not arise. It is however more than likely that if Ivory Coast recognises Biafra, French African opinion will slowly evolve in favour of Biafra.

In East Africa opinion is slowly moving in favour of Biafra. Obviously Nyerere had extended recognition to Biafra with a perfect sense of timing. Twelve days after the Tanzanian recognition, Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia accused Britain and the Soviet Union of waging war on the people of Biafra. The accusation is not without force, for Britain is one of the major suppliers of arms to the Federal Government. Kaunda went on to warn Lagos that conquest by force of arms will not be a solution to the Nigerian conflict. The significance of these declarations is that the African states are no longer prepared to accept the view that Biafra's secession constitutes a threat to the territorial integrity of every African state. They are not anxious for the break-up of the Nigerian federation but at the same time are not prepared to accept the argument that the secession is the result of the ambition of certain adventurers. The prolonged resistance has established the reality of Biafra; the real issue now is how to handle the Biafran problem.

The federalists are now aware that unless a serious attempt is made to solve the problem

by negotiations, recognition of Biafra by other African states cannot be delayed for long. The Federal Commissioner for foreign affairs, Okoi Arikpo, recently visited London and had long talks with the Secretary—General of the Commonwealth, Arnold Smith, and Prime Minister Harold Wilson. Lagos has expressed willingness to negotiate and would like the talks to take place in London or Paris but Biafra would prefer Dakar. The Biafrans would like an immediate ceasefire but the federalists fear that Biafra will use the opportunity to strengthen its defences. Biafra, on the other hand, feels that the negotiations will be utilised primarily to delay recognition by other African states.

There is no let-down in the fighting and federal troops and planes are doing everything to win a quick victory. For the moment, however, diplomacy has the upperhand, but there are limits beyond which both parties will not be willing to go. Biafra is not likely to accept the division into three states. The only solution which will be acceptable to it is a confederation, which will allow it complete control over the territory. Lagos will certainly not accept a confederation which it will regard as surrender. Negotiations will therefore be prolonged.

### VARICOSE VEINS

Varicose veins are veins that have lost their elasticity and therefore do not function properly. They are seen just under the skin as dilated and twisted. This condition is often hereditary. If it runs in your family try to prevent getting them. Choose an occupation that doesn't involve long hours standing. When sitting, help relieve pressure on your veins by putting your feet on a table or stool. If you are developing varicose veins elastic bandages or elastic stockings may be worn, upon the prescription of a doctor.