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# TRIBUNE

CEYLON NEWS REVIEW



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TRADE MARK

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# EARTH MOVERS

For Jungle Clearing  
And Other Earth Work  
in the  
VAVUNIYA DISTRICT

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# TRIBUNE

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## Letter From The Editor

THE CENTRE FOR SOCIETY AND RELIGION continues to focus the spotlight on the *Liberation of Tea* at the Seminar which holds its sessions every Wednesday afternoon, until September 2. There is no doubt that the CSR has rendered invaluable service to the nation by making the public aware of the implications of the continuing exploitation in the tea industry where the working people who produce the tea get the worst of the bargain. Whilst this goes on apace, it is also necessary to draw attention to the need for the *Liberation of Rubber*, which though not as important as tea or coconut in the trio of export commodities on which the colonialist-imperialist economic structure of this country was long based, is nevertheless one which has continuing technological validity in the world of today and tomorrow even after people find substitutes for tea and coconuts (which will not be difficult). In spite of the growth of the synthetic rubber industry, natural rubber continues to enjoy an importance which many had not thought possible in this age of synthetics. It is indeed a tribute to the role of natural rubber that in a year of recession and economic disequilibrium as 1974 it was a boom year for rubber, even for Sri Lanka rubber. Some pundits are not surprised that rubber should have done well in 1974 because many commodities had fetched inflated prices in this period, but there were, it will be remembered, a large number of equally valuable commodities which had hit the bottom of the price levels in the international markets. So far as Sri Lanka is concerned, it was a boom year for rubber producers with prices touching the highest—more than 55 US cents—since the Korean war. It has been predicted, moreover, that 1975 would be also very good year because it is estimated that the natural rubber consumption in the world would increase by at least three percent. It is noteworthy that in twenty years the world consumption of natural rubber has more than doubled: in 1952 it was 1,490,000 tons and in 1973 it was 3,400,000 tons. It will be recalled that the Sri Lanka—China Rice and Rubber Agreement was concluded in 1952 to become operative from January 1, 1953, and that this Agreement has continued to be one of the sheet anchors of this island's economy for very nearly a quarter of a century. There is an increasing demand for natural rubber in the developed as well as the developing countries. It is expected that the consumption of natural rubber in the US would increase by two percent in 1975 to a total of 726,000 tons from the 1974 figure of 712,000 tons. There is additionally a growing demand for rubber products in the less developed and developing countries. And with the unbelievably high growth of population there is no doubt that the second half of the seventies should see a steady rise in the consumption of natural rubber throughout the world. *Tribune* has therefore published the picture of a winsome rubber tapper on its cover this week.

The *Liberation of Rubber* will be as important for this country as the *Liberation of Tea*. In this issue we have published the Rev. Fr. Tissa Balasuriya's opening speech at the first sessions of the Seminar on *Liberation of Tea* on June 18 when the keynote address was delivered by the Minister of Plantation Industries, Dr. Colvin R de Silva. In this speech Fr. Balasuriya elaborated on the meaning and scope of the word *Liberation* in the context in which the Centre for Society and Religion has approached the question. He points out, very succinctly, that there is both a *Liberation from* as well as a *Liberation towards* (or to) in the matter under review. The rubber industry is also in need of urgent need of the same kind of liberation. In this issue we also have an interesting article about the developing situation on the Indo-chinese peninsula which is also a producer of natural rubber. Whilst our regular contributors, Herbert Keuneman and Anatory Bukoba have (respectively) interesting pieces on the indigenous dancing in our villages and the kind of primitive (but often fortunately effective) snake bite treatment in our rural areas, another regular writer Jepharis steps back into history to draw attention to the kind of *milieu* which had been prevalent in the heyday of British colonialist rule in this country. It was a glorious period for one kind of *elite* just as it is for another kind of *elite* today (buddhist revivalists, gem merchants, CRA exporters, political bureaucrats and MPs). Jepharis has brought to light a few pages from the personal memoirs of Frederick Dornhorst (in a letter to his children). Scion of a professional soldier who, like many European adventurers, sold his services to the colonial powers of the day, Dornhorst rose to be a topnotch lion of the bar in Ceylon. What he says of his early days and schooling and the logic which underlines his thinking is only a contrast in form from the selfrighteous ego (remember Freud) of his counterparts in the ruling elite of today.

## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

## Ragging Probe Essential In All Campuses

THE GOVERNMENT MUST BE CONGRATULATED for deciding to release the Kularatne Report on the ragging at Vidyalkara as a sessional paper. A news report indicated that the first print order would be 10,000, but it is likely that this document would be a "best seller" (as Minister Baduddin Mahmud declared) and that further reprints would become necessary. *Tribune* had urged in an earlier issue that the Report should be published in full in all three languages to bring home to the general public the magnitude of the deterioration which has corroded the *ethos* of the nation so far as the cream of its youth (in the university campuses) are concerned. The Government's decision to print the Report in English will be welcomed by all persons of goodwill: but the time, energy and expense in translating the Report and its appendices into Sinhala and Tamil and publishing the same will be in the best interests of the country.

But more than this, what is most commendable is the firm determination by the Government to end the ragging in the campuses. Although the Minister of Education Baduddin Mahmud and his Deputy Tudawe had earlier shown a rare willingness to condemn the ragging, the statement by the Prime Minister last weekend at the meeting she had addressed at Alawwa made it clear that the Government was not likely to relent in its stern attitude against ragging. The Prime Minister's statement came after the Government had decided to release the Kularatne Report and the daily press had published summarised tidbits from the Report together with the Recommendations of the Commission.

The *Daily News*, which has been regularly playing down the ragging (to the point where many believed that the *Daily News*, like the *Dinamina* was holding a brief for "politicalised" students who organised the ragging) did not make this statement of the Prime Minister its main lead story on its front page on Monday, July 7, 1975. The pride of place was given to a much-repeated press story (in recent weeks) about malaria, and

the significant statement of the PM on ragging was only one of the many two-column leads on the front page under a rather weak heading RAGING MUST GO OR THE UNIVERSITY: PM. (Why the *Daily News* still wants to play this role of indirectly defending the ragging is a mystery!) This is the *Daily News* report:

*Addressing a mammoth rally at Alawwa on Saturday, Prime Minister Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike said that ragging at the universities had damaged the Buddhist culture of the country. Ragging would be completely banned or the university would be closed down, she declared. It was the responsibility of parents and teachers to instil in their children both at school and in their homes a sense of discipline and respect for their parents and religion, she said.*

The Premier said the future of the country belonged to youth. If the youth coming out of the universities were an undisciplined lot, they would be more a burden than an asset to the country. All our efforts at rebuilding the country with self-sacrifice would be thwarted if our youth remained an undisciplined force. The misdeeds of a small percentage of university students in the form of indecent ragging had done immense damage to the Buddhist culture of this country which had been held in high esteem the world over. She had no doubt that the public would appreciate the steps taken by the government to ban ragging at the university.

The government, the Prime Minister declared, would never allow the development of a situation which would lead to destruction of a culture which had lasted more than 2500 years. Either ragging would be completely stopped or the university would be closed down. The government spent one-third of its revenue on education. There was no point in spending so much to produce an undisciplined force of graduates.

"Because of ragging a young undergraduate has become an invalid for life. When I read her statement to the Police, as a mother I was so moved that tears welled in my eyes. This student, who is fatherless had hopes of becoming the bread-winner of the family. But because of indecent ragging her family's hopes have been dashed to the ground," Mrs Bandaranaike said.

"We as a nation were held in high esteem the world over and we have been made to bow our heads in shame as a result of the revelations of the Ragging Commission. Some people in high places did nothing to report the indecent ragging that was going on. Instead when the government moved the police into the campus to stop it, they called for the withdrawal of the police.

The *Daily Mirror* of the same date (7/7/75) made the PM's statement its main front page lead with a five column banner headline (with top billing) entitled WE'LL CLEAN THE VARSITY OR CLOSE IT DOWN: PM. It was a straight-forward hard hitting headline. The report about the Alawwa meeting too was more to the point (whilst the *Daily News* report chose to emphasise the "buddhist angle" of the speech limiting its scope in so far as secular and non-Buddhist people are concerned).

We will not tolerate any more of those ugly incidents that took place in the various Campuses of the University of Sri Lanka. We will ensure that these function properly. Else we will not hesitate to close them down. So cautioned the Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike when she addressed a mammoth rally, the biggest witnessed in recent times at Alawwa over the week-end.

Mrs. Bandaranaike said, "Recent incidents in our University Campuses have saddened us. We have been patient for the past few years or so. But we cannot remain so any longer. When law and order have been flouted, when indiscipline has set in, when there is no respect for decency and above all when the lives of poor rural boys and girls are being threatened we have a national duty to step in and stop the rot." She said that the Government had decided to take drastic action to prevent the recurrence of any more ugly incidents of such nature. Most parents had welcomed the Government's decision to take all precautionary and punitive measures.

"We spend our hard-earned money and send our children to the University so that they would become good leaders and useful citizens. But even before passing out of that institution, if they behave in this fashion what will they become later on? If this is the type of leaders that the University is going to churn out it would be better to keep our children

at home and do some cultivation. We will ensure that the University, functions properly or else we will close it down." she added.

Continuing the Prime Minister said, "To prevent these and similar incidents training should begin at school. There should be a religious background and taught to respect law and order and authority. It is the duty of every teacher to inculcate into their charges a sense of piety and discipline. Owing to the actions of a few, the entire Varsity has lost its reputation."

IF 'WHAT WAS' emphasised ("slanted" would be the correct word) in the Daily News is all that the Prime Minister said, then it would seem that the only aspect of the ragging which the PM was worried about was from a narrow Buddhistic angle, then those who were not Buddhists—the marxists, rationalists, humanists, atheists, agnostics, christians, hindus and muslims—were not affected by the ragging. Was this not one way of playing down the enormity of the ragging scandal? Will marxists tolerate the kind of ragging that has been carried on in our campuses? Will even England-returned new (and neo) leftists approve of the things done in the name of ragging? Will Maoists permit such student behaviour in any place they control? Why then is the Daily News soft-hearted about ragging in our campuses? The paper is willing to take the risk of soft-peddalling the PM's speech by side-tracking it under a buddhist smoke-screen. The Daily News, moreover, which editorially sermonises on a great variety of matters every day has maintained a cautious reticence about this matter.

On Thursday, July 3, the Daily Mirror spread its front page with a six-column banner headline that RAGGERS WILL BE DEBARRED FOR LIFE and set out some of the highlights of the recommendations of the Commission as well as some of the more significant parts of the Report in a concise form.

The Daily Mirror which has been carrying on a ceaseless campaign against ragging in the campuses carried the news in same detail about the tabling of the Kularatne Commission Report in the Assembly and some of the highlights of the Kularatne Commission Report under the headline 12 Vidyalankara U'grads To Be Expelled... SHOCKING DISCLOSURES BY KULARATNE COM-

## MISSION

"Disclosures made in the Report of the Kularatne Commission which inquired into ragging at the Vidyalankara Campus are shocking and disgusting. I am ashamed to table this report in the Assembly. The Cabinet has decided to table the report in the Assembly and publish it for all to know to what extent ragging had taken place".

Stating these words the Minister of Education, Dr. Badiuddin Mahmud yesterday tabled the Report of the one man Royal Commission of Inquiry headed by Mr. V. W. Kularatne, Attorney-at-Law, which inquired into the incidents of ragging by students of teachers who had gone to the Vidyalankara Campus to follow a course in mathematics. Ministers who considered the report at their meeting yesterday decided to forthwith implement the drastic actions recommended by the Commission against the offenders to prevent future ragging.

At a Press conference held at the Ministry of Education later in the day to explain the steps Government proposed to take on the basis of the Commission's Report, Dr. Mahmud said that ragging of any form will be prohibited in all campuses of the University with immediate effect. Associated with the Minister at the conference was Dr. Premadasa Udagama, Secretary to the Minister of Education.

Following the Committee's recommendations twelve students who are mostly second year students in the Vidyalankara Campus will be totally expelled from the Campus and debarred from all examinations internal or external of the University of Sri Lanka.

The twelve students are A.A. Walter Diana Abeygunasekera, G. Kakana-malage Chandradasa Munatantirage Chandrakumara, L. D. Sunil Parakrama de Silva, K. W. Shelton Fonseka, Payagala Hettiarachchi, R. Mudiyansele Kiribanda, S. M. Lal Samarakone, D. M. Ciciraperera, P. Sinnasamy Selladurai, W. M, Tikiri Banda, and R. T. P. W. W. M. Karunatillake Bandara Wijekoon.

Three other students are to be suspended from the Vidyalankara Campus with the campus being made out of bounds for them and also loans and other facilities will be withdrawn. They are A. A. Gunasekera (suspension for 2 years from the date order

is made). T. Dias de Alwis Gurusinghe (six months) and W. R. W. M. Ranjith Wickremasinghe (one year).

Four officials of the Campus are to be penalised because according to the Commission their action or failure to take action made possible the ragging. They are Prof. M. P. Perera (the then President of the Vidyalankara Campus) who will not be entrusted with administrative duties for two years. Mr. K. P. V. Karunaratne who will be relieved of his duties as Student Counsellor, Mr. C. Paliyaguru to be relieved of his duties as Assistant Student Counsellor and Mr. J. Arachchi to be removed from the post of Sub-Warden and given other duties without prejudice to his present salary.

In another recommendation made by the Commission the Government has decided to effect far reaching amendments to the University Act reviewing the role of student representatives in various bodies of the University. Under another recommendation the University will organise a better Security Service in the campuses headed by a Gazetted Police officer on secondment.

Speaking in the Assembly after tabling the Commission's Report Dr. Mahmud said that according to the documents and evidence in his possession he could say that similar acts of ragging as at Vidyalankara had taken place at the Peradeniya Campus too.

He said it was unfortunate that our younger men and women receiving higher education behaved in this fashion. He knew that it was only a handful of students who are involved in this 95 per cent of the students are well-behaved. However because of the actions of a few the others too are deprived of their normal facilities for learning.

"After reading the Commission's report the public might even ask for the closure of the Vidyalankara Campus. The revelations were so shocking" he said.

He said that he was tabling the full report so that it may be printed and published. The report will be published in two weeks time.

Mr. R. Premadasa 1st MP for Colombo Central, Mr. V. Dharmalingam and Mr. Prins Gunasekera wanted the report published quick so that they could debate it early.

Dr. Mahmud said that they could not delay the implementation of the

recommendations as the condition in the Campuses were that bad. However after the report is published they could fix a date for a debate.

WITH THE REPORT of the Kularatne Commission staring them in the face and the unassailable testimony of prestigious persons like Dr. Brian Seneviratne and Dr. Michael Roberts about ragging at the Peradeniya before the public, the highly-placed persons who had encouraged and motivated this kind ragging in order to achieve sinister and nefarious political objectives through student power have been thrown on the defensive. They are fighting a rear-guard action through newspapers like the *Daily News*.

It is therefore necessary that these dangerous elements should not be given further opportunities to raise their heads again in order to induce and incite students to resort to ragging to establish a system of political terrorism. For this, the Government cannot do better than to appoint a Commission to investigate the ragging and political terrorism that had made the Peradeniya campus a nightmare to students as well as teachers. Better still, the Commission should investigate the incidence of ragging on all campuses in the country. Mr. V. W. Kularatne should, in our opinion, be invited to complete the task he began at the Vidyalandara campus by conducting investigations at the remaining five campuses in the island.

The Prime Minister, the Minister of Education and other responsible citizens have stated that documents and other evidence were available that the sordid and depraved ragging that had gone on at Vidyalandara had been prevalent in the other campuses as well, especially at Peradeniya. The root causes of this malady cannot be eradicated without a comprehensive and detailed investigation into ragging at all campuses. This is the least that can be done. Only an awakened public conscience can end this pernicious practice of ragging for all time in this island. It is an evil that must be destroyed root and branch.

## BETWEEN THE LINES BY SERENDIB

### Colombo South

THE VOTERS OF COLOMBO SOUTH will be called upon to vote on July 18, that is on next Thursday. In spite of the high expectations in many quarters that Mr. J. R. P. Suriyapperuma would offer some kind of serious challenge to Mr. J. R. Jayawardene, the present indications are that JR will romp home with a large majority. The seven "Independents" opposed to him will be a long way behind him and it is not likely that any of them (including Suriyapperuma) will save their deposits—that is as matters stood at the time of writing these notes (circa July 9).

Many had believed (including *Tribune* for a time) that the UF adherents in the area would vote for Suriyapperuma in order to reduce the majority JR would score. Except for one solitary SLFP Youth League in the electorate—which is canvassing vigorously for Suriyapperuma—UF supporters seem to be singularly disinterested in the whole affair. It is likely that the vast majority of them will not go to the polls. As matters stand today the UF vote in the electorate will generally abstain because there is no alternative candidate they could support.

It is true that Suriyapperuma is making hard-hitting speeches against JR, but the UF does not seem to have any use for the dirty linen Suriyapperuma washes on every platform he mounts to woo the voters. It must be remembered that loyalist UF supporters have not forgotten or forgiven Suriyapperuma for the kind of mud-slinging campaign he had conducted against the UF leader, Mrs. Srimala Bandaranaike, in the 1970 general elections. Unless something very dramatic or something very drastic takes place between now and polling day, J. R. Jayawardena will undoubtedly win the by-election with a comfortable and a substantial majority.

In the meantime, JR is carrying on a well-planned campaign to educate the voters to accept the policies of the UNP. The campaign literature is still negative because the main emphasis is placed on the "failure"

of the UF Government to fulfil its promises especially the promise that undertook to provide cheaper food and clothing. Though the Government may not be interested in fighting the by-election, it cannot ignore the really telling propaganda carried on JR to show the ineptness and inefficiency of the Government.

One of the most effective leaflets put out by the JR propaganda machine deals with the comparative prices of many essential articles, today and in 1970. "The Government," says the leaflet, "does not like the people to be reminded of these facts or of their promises. When the price of chillies falls from Rs. 20 to Rs. 12 a lb, the Government has won the food war. It does not want to remind the people that chillies were freely available at Rs. 1/75 a lb. in 1970 in UNP times. It does not like the people to be reminded of the election promise of two measures of rice. It does not like to be reminded that cloth that was available at Rs. 1/50 to Rs. 2/12 a yard in 1970 now costs Rs. 7/50; and that much of the price increase is due to taxes such as FECS and the Business Turnover Tax and not entirely to world market conditions. It does not like to be told that we do not have enough foreign exchange because the production of tea had fallen from 503 million lbs in 1965 to 449 millions in 1974; the production of rubber which increased from 260 millions in 1965 to 350 million lbs in 1970—the UNP period—has fallen to 301 million in 1974; the production of coconut which was around 2,600 million nuts between 1965 to 1970—again the UNP period—has fallen to 2,031 millions in 1974. The state of the country is entirely due to the incompetency of the Government and its stooges in the bureaucracy. The Government dare not put a candidate against Mr. J. R. Jayawardena because they are aware of what the verdict of the people will be. Remember Kalawewa and Katana. Like in all other matters, the Government has an excuse. They say that no fundamental issue has arisen. As if the hunger of the people, the sufferings of the sick and little people, the sight of human beings competing with dogs for the contents of dust bins are not fundamental issues!"

Then, the leaflet contains a very valuable list of the prices of essential articles "then and now".

Prices, Then and Now

Article	Quantity	May 1970	May 1975
Rice	UNP measure UF measure	free —	half measure free to some persons Rs. 2.20 (some areas get a basic ration of one measure a week; whilst only half measure is sold in other areas).
Fish (small)	Off Ration one lb	Cts. 80 to Rs. 1.25	Rs. 3.50 to Rs. 4.00
Fish (large)	one lb	Cts. 75 to Rs. 1.25	Rs. 2.00 to Rs. 3.00
Dry Fish	"	Cts. 75 to Rs. 3.00	Rs. 4.50 to Rs. 8.00
Beef	"	Cts. 80 to Rs. 1.80	Rs. 3.50 to Rs. 6.50 (very scarce)
Chillies	"	Cts. 75 to Rs. 1.12	Rs. 3.75
Mustard	"	Rs. 1.60 to Rs. 3.75	Rs. 11.50 (went up to Rs. 40.00)
Garlic	"	Rs. 2.75	Rs. 12.00
Potatoes	"	Cts. 40 to 80 cts.	Rs. 20.00 (very very scarce)
Red Onions	"	Cts. 40 to 80 cts.	Rs. 1.50 to 2.50
B. Onions	"	Cts. 24	Rs. 2.40
Dhal	"	Cts. 27	Not available
		Rs. 1.20	Rs. 10.00 (Available only in the black market).
Green Gram	"	Cts. 80	Rs. 5.00
Sugar	"	—	Cts. 72 (¾ lb. per person per month)
Sugar	"	Cts. 72 (Any Amount)	Rs. 7.50 (Off ration)
Tea	"	Rs. 1.50 to 2.00	Rs. 4.50 to 7.00
Coffee	"	Rs. 2.25	Rs. 5.30 to 8.00
Milk Powder	"	Rs. 2.85	Rs. 6.00 (only 2 lbs. per month per infant)
Milk Powder	2½ lbs.	Rs. 7.30	Rs. 14.00 (Infants get only one tin per month).
Condensed Milk	One tin	Cts. 95	Rs. 3.25
Fresh Milk	One Pint	Cts. 55	Rs. 1.10
Malted Milk	One Lb.	Rs. 3.15	Not available
Butter	"	Rs. 2.40	Rs. 9.80
Plain Tea	One	Cts. 06	Cts. 40
Milk Tea	"	Cts. 12	Cts. 60
String Hopper	"	Cts. 02	Cts. 15
Hopper	"	Cts. 05	Cts. 25
Sweet Potatoes	One lb.	Cts. 18	Cts. 50
Mapioc	"	Cts. 08	Cts. 50
Wattakka	"	Cts. 06	Cts. 50
Salt	"	Cts. 08	Cts. 20
White Poplin	One Yard	Rs. 2.12	Rs. 7.60 to 12.00
Chintz	"	Rs. 1.55	Rs. 7.60 to 16.00
Indian Tussores	"	Rs. 2.00	Not available
White Drill	"	Rs. 2.25 to 3.60	Rs. 11.00
Cotton Saree	One	Rs. 12.00	Rs. 22.50 to 60.00
Voile Saree	"	Rs. 15.00	Rs. 60.00
Nylon Saree	"	Rs. 35.00	Rs. 180.00
Synthetic Suiting	One Yard	Rs. 12.00	Rs. 35.00 and above
Sarong (Local)	One	Rs. 4.00 to 6.00	Rs. 26.00 to 40.00
Towel	"	Rs. 1.25 to 4.00	Rs. 12.50 to 25.00
Sulight Soap	One Piece	Cts. 36	Cts. 90
Feeding Bottle	One	Rs. 3.75	Rs. 15.00 and above
Slippers	One Pair	Rs. 2.50 and above	Rs. 15.00 and above
Shoes (Ladies)	"	Rs. 6.00 and above	Rs. 35.00 and above
Shoes (Children)	"	Rs. 2.00 to 14.00	Rs. 25.00 and above
Kerosine	One Gal.	Cts. 75	Rs. 3.60
Petrol	"	Rs. 3.25	Rs. 12.50
Bicycle	One	Rs. 395.00	Rs. 850.00
Stationery			Prices up by 200%
School books			Prices up by 200%
Bus fares			Increased by 100%
Train fares			Increased by 100%
Mammoties(Crocodile Brand)	One	Rs. 8.40	Not available
Barb-wire	1 cwt.	Rs. 72.00	Rs. 180.00
Bread-fruit	One	Cts. 10	Rs. 1.00 to 2.50

## CHANGING WORLD

BY KAUTILIYA

# Who Has Won In Vietnam?

THE PRESS IN SRI LANKA—the so-called national dailies and the political—have written a great deal about the defeat of US imperialism in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. There is no doubt that this was one of the most significant events of the twentieth century and will also rank as one of the greatest feats of human endurance and determination on the part of a small, militarily weak and economically poor nation not only to withstand the might and the weaponry of the richest and most powerful country the world has ever known but also score a victory (political as well as military) under the most difficult circumstances. Whilst it is true that the people of Indochina could not have done this without military and economic assistance from big countries like the USSR and China and political support from the third world of developing countries (sandwiched between the contending worlds of capitalism and socialism), the simple fact which cannot be forgotten is that it was some undefinable magic in the Indochinese people that had made this great epic of resistance and liberation possible.

The Vietnamese, Cambodians and the Laotians have won a great battle. The Americans have had to quit the Indochina peninsula. And with this has arisen a new situation in that region which will have far-reaching repercussions on the geopolitical imperatives in Asia and the world. Hanoi has emerged out of the war as a most powerful factor in the politics of the region. This has not become apparent to the ordinary observer, but the discerning student is already aware of deep inner contradictions arising from Hanoi's new importance which are bound to surface sooner or later. Papers in Sri Lanka have carefully avoided any reference to these growing contradictions in the geopolitical structure of the Southeast Asia region, but political analysts in the USA and Western Europe have devoted a great deal of atten-

tion to the power politics of Indochina which has already become most complicated and problematic.

Washington is naturally interested not only in the lessons that can be drawn from the traumatic experience it has undergone in Vietnam but also in evaluating the perspectives of the developing politics of the new order that has emerged in order to help the USA to formulate its policies for the immediate future. Whilst certain analysts have concentrated on holding postmortems on the American defeat, the other problems stemming from the American withdrawal from Indochina are probably even more important.

These problems merit most careful consideration because they concern the strategic geopolitics of one of the most important regions in the world straddling the crossroads between the Indian and the Pacific Oceans. But the importance of Southeast Asia is not entirely due to its strategic position. The region has a special significance in the context of the world energy crisis for it is extremely rich in major strategic raw materials and is also a very promising oil-producing area.

One thing is already clear: that the American withdrawal has not ended the struggle for influence in the area. The prospects are that it will continue with the same bitter ferocity though in a different form and with other *dramatis personae*. Before the fall of Phnom Penh and Saigon it was believed in the West that China would stand to profit most from the communist victories in Cambodia and Vietnam. But it is already apparent that such a view is a highly oversimplified one. China's reactions to the latest developments in Vietnam indicate that the situation is far more complicated than many imagine.

It is significant that Western countries did not shed any tears when the USA quit Indochina. The Americans found it hard to believe the European loss of confidence in their policies. A commentator writing in London had summed up the reactions in Europe shortly after the fall of Phnom Penh and Saigon.

*They agree that people in Vietnam and Cambodia will have more honest, determined and dedicated Governments under the communist revolutionaries. There are no tears in West European capitals for the fallen*

*and disgraced leaders of American-backed regimes. In fact, some optimists even venture to suggest that the emergence of Hanoi as the important power-base in the communist world after Moscow and Peking, could have a stabilising effect in Europe and Asia. There is grudging admiration here for the leaders in Hanoi whose re-silience, discipline and patriotism, Europeans say, will give Vietnam a face-lift.*

*Hanoi will neither be influenced by Peking, Moscow or Washington, although most people agree that Moscow will have closer rapport with leaders of Hanoi. There is also admiration for the way in which Hanoi is busy reorganising life in the captured area of South Vietnam where a majority of the people appears to be satisfied with Hanoi's authority. Hence to-day West Europeans are hardly surprised by the collapse in South Vietnam and they find it hard to understand why American Administration still wants to live with clichés of yester-year.*

There is no doubt that China will seek to make the most of the new situation in Indochina, especially from the five-year total support they had given the Khmer Rouge and Prince Sihanouk, who can now be regarded as the principal allies of Peking in the region. While China has every reason to be elated over the present situation, there are even greater reasons for China to be worried about developments in Vietnam. Officially, China has made loud proclamations of joy about the communist victory in Vietnam emphasising at every stage the extent of the Chinese aid which had made a Vietnamese victory possible. But at the same time China is deeply perturbed about Hanoi's dominance. For instance, though China has given verbal blessing to a unified communist Vietnam, it is known to all close observers of the situation that China would like to see the continuance of the two Vietnams because it is in her national interest to keep the South an autonomous unit under PRG control.

THE CRUX OF THE MATTER is that the collapse of American influence in Indochina, as a result of the communist victories, there has arisen a major contradiction, as between China and the Soviet Union, to contend for influence in the area. The extent of this contradiction can be gauged from intensity of China's



## Peking's Problems

suspicious about the Soviet Union. The daily papers in Colombo on July 1 and July 2 published a Reuter message from Peking under the heading CHINESE WARNING ON RUSSIAN BASES. The report in the Times of Ceylon read as follows :

China has warned that the Soviet Union posed a menacing threat to the security of South-east Asia and was seeking new military bases in the region. The warning—the toughest Chinese statement so far on Soviet intentions in the area—came from Senior Vice-Premier Teng Hsiao-ping at a state banquet last night for Thailand's Prime Minister, Kukrit Pramoj. He declared that the Kremlin "with wild ambitions had extended its tentacles far and wide. It invariably seeks new military bases in South-east Asia and sends its naval vessels to ply the Indian and west Pacific Oceans, posing a menacing threat to the peace and security of the South-east Asian countries".

The reference to military bases appeared to reflect Chinese fears that Russians may be granted rights to use the former US naval base in Vietnam's Cam Ranh Bay. Mr. Teng, China's third-ranking leader, said the spectre of Russian expansionism haunted South-east Asia. Mr. Kukrit arrived here yesterday to seal the diplomatic accord normalising Peking-Bangkok relations and held talks with Chinese Premier Chou En-Lai. The two leaders are expected to sign the agreement within the next 48 hours.

This speech by the Chinese vice-premier was an open admission of the influence which Moscow now wielded in Hanoi, and also about the fears Peking had about Hanoi itself. Unless something unexpected happens in the very near future China will have on its southern border a united Vietnam with a population of 50 million people and with the best army in Southeast Asia and with the best and latest American equipment. Vietnam moreover will be ruled by a dynamic and militant government which will not only seek to consolidate its independence from China but it will also actively compete with China for control over Laos and Cambodia and exercise influence throughout southeast Asia.

Understandably Hanoi is silent today about its long-term plans, but

there is no doubt that Hanoi aspires to be number one in the Indochinese affairs and eventually in Southeast Asia which China has for a long time now tended to regard as her exclusive sphere of influence. Peking would no doubt like to restore the supreme position China had enjoyed many centuries ago as the suzerain of the entire Southeast Asia region.

It is obvious that a serious clash of national interests between China and Vietnam has already begun to develop in Indochina and the whole of Southeast Asia. This clash is deep-rooted in history. In the remote past, China had often sought to conquer Vietnam. The Chinese and the Vietnamese had fought many wars and battles. This fact has not been forgotten either in Peking or Hanoi. But in the period of imperialist domination of the region, both countries had learnt to appreciate that they had much in common, and during the last war against American imperialism they had to maintain good relations. But even then, there was plenty of suspicion and mutual distrust and often serious differences had arisen between them which both sides had taken care to hide from the outside world.

At the time of the Geneva Conference in 1954, Peking was willing to have a divided Vietnam. This was so even after the Paris Agreement of 1973 when the Chinese did not help in any way to bring about better relations between Hanoi and the PRG. It was clear that Peking wanted the PRG to be independent from Hanoi. At all times during the war, Peking has stressed the distinction between the PRG, the Khmer Rouge and the Pathet Lao, on the one side, and Hanoi on the other. But the war in Vietnam was won by Hanoi's troops and not the Viet Cong.

It is also known that the frontier between China and Vietnam has not been settled, so far, because the Chinese claim a number of areas which the Vietnamese regard as their territory. In this context it becomes clear why the Chinese had hastily despatched their armed forces to take over the Paracel Islands in the South China Sea to the east of the Indochina peninsula which had been occupied by the troops of the Saigon administration. Officially Hanoi had made no comments about the Chinese invasion of the island but it can surmised that the Vietnamese would now hate to lose the important Paracel archipelago. This is just

another contradiction in this region which is bound to mature sooner or later.

If China was supreme in the area, the Vietnamese will not be in position to challenge Peking's position. But Hanoi has a very valuable ally in Moscow. And right now the old need to present a comradely front of seeming good relations towards the imperialists has disappeared. Hanoi can now afford to adopt a more independent attitude vis a vis Peking and this is what Hanoi seems to be doing with Soviet support.

The Far Eastern Economic Review of June 13 reviewing the new geopolitical situation in this region with the backdrop of Sino-Soviet confrontations, analysed some aspects of this growing contradiction. Edith Lenart in an analytical piece stated.

"... The Chinese strongly backed the PRG during secret negotiations between Hanoi's Le Duc Tho and US Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger, and also after the Paris accords were signed, when Peking wanted an

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independent South Vietnam for at least some years to come. But even if Hanoi decides, for tactical reasons, that the South should retain a certain independence, the North Vietnamese leadership has assured this will benefit Moscow. When the annual negotiations for Soviet aid to North Vietnam began last December, they were not concluded by January, as in the past, but continued as the military situation in South Vietnam developed into a communist victory. For the first time, most of the aid talks are taking place in Hanoi and deal with the reconstruction of the whole country, with special Soviet allocations for the South. The Vietnamese press is filled with praise for Moscow. The Saigon daily **Gial-phong** publishes reprints from the northern press about the Soviet leadership in the communist struggle against US neo-colonialism. Vice-premier Teng Hsiao-ping told the French when he was in Paris in May about Chinese fears that the example of a European security pact would be used as a precedent by the Soviets to encourage Southeast Asian nations to follow suit. To some extent, Teng Hsiao-ping's pre-occupations seem justified as the Soviets are making renewed efforts to take on the idea of an Asian security pact to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) proposal of neutralising the Southeast Asian region. However, it is unlikely that Moscow will be successful as ASEAN nations consider it

more important to court Peking. The Chinese are also spreading information that a Soviet military mission in Hanoi expressed interest in using the former US naval base in Cam Ranh Bay as a refuelling and repairport for the Soviet fleet patrolling the Pacific and the Indian Oceans. There are other potential conflicts between Hanoi and Peking. Last April, the North Vietnamese took the tiny atoll of Song-To Tay (off the Nansha archipelago), and their forces also occupied six islands in the Spratlys. Both island groups are presumed to be close to petroleum resources and both are claimed by the Chinese North Vietnam's Premier, Pham Van Dong, has proposed negotiations to settle Sino-Vietnamese border problems, but the Chinese have told him that there is nothing to negotiate. During the second Indochinese people's conference, at the end of last year, the Vietnamese wanted to revise borders between Vietnam and the northeast of Cambodia. But the Chinese said No...."

The contradictions in the area continue to grow: The *Far Eastern Economic Review* of July 11 in a piece by Leo Goodstadt stated "...since the fall of Saigon at the end of April, China has signed yet another aid agreement to provide—completely free of charge—essential commodities for the reconstruction of Vietnam. Hanoi's thanks for this generosity has been a lengthy denunciation of NATO which Peking had just hailed as a bulwark against East European

aggression, and applause for Mrs. Indira Gandhi and her declaration of a State of Emergency in India published in the official Hanoi *Nhan Dan Daily* when Peking was denouncing New Delhi's suppression of human rights...."

Whilst all this goes on, China and the Soviet Union have not made any headway in the negotiations about the border disputes between them. These talks have been bogged down and even the simple matter of the capture of the Russian helicopter and its crew about 15 months ago has not been resolved. China has refused to release helicopter and the crew in spite of many appeals by the International Red Cross and several friendly governments in the Third World. Russia is naturally able to make propaganda capital by China's refusal to release the crew on humane grounds, especially in Western Europe and several developing countries which do not see any reason why China should be so intransigent about a matter like this at a time when there is no actual border clash or skirmish in progress.

China, if one looks at the matter, dispassionately has increased "security" problems after the emergence of Hanoi as a major military and political force on its southern underbelly especially because it leans so heavily on the USSR. In the coming months, the contradictions will increase in this region, and China seems to have a difficult time with the new Vietnam that is emerging.

## CHRONICLE

# JUNE 28—30

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

CDN—Ceylon Daily News; CDM—Ceylon Daily Mirror; CO—Ceylon Observer; ST—Sunday Times; TOC—Times of Ceylon; DM—Dinamina; LD—Lankadipa; JD—Janadina; YK—Virakesari; ATH—Aththa; SM—Silumina; SLD—Sri Lankadipa; JS—Janasathiya.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 28:** At an emergency meeting held yesterday the Students Council of the Peradeniya Campus decided to call the students back to the Campus to follow lectures from tomorrow: five heads of department of the Engineering Faculty of the Peradeniya Campus, including the Dean of the Faculty, yesterday tendered their resignations from the offices they held in protest against a transfer of a lecturer to the Katubedde Campus: the Science Students' Union of the Colombo Campus called off their boycott of lectures—CDN.

According to the *Daily Mirror* the Students' Council of the Peradeniya Campus decided to ask only the students whose first term does not end on June 27 to report back and follow lectures—CDM. Two agreements were signed in Colombo yesterday under which Sri Lanka will be granted Rs. 52 million as maintenance and development aid by Britain—CDN. Mr. Felix Dias Bandaranaike, addressing the first meeting of the Steering Committee of the Colombo Master Plan Project under UN aid said that plans are now being drawn to tax employed migrants in the city of Colombo—CDM. A UNP party member's meeting ended up in chaos at Colombo North when members during question time attempted argue certain matters connected with the position inside the party with the Secretary of the party, Mr. Ananda Tissa de Alwis—DM. The Eastern Paper Mills Corporation has taken steps to annually issue 240 tons of printing paper exclusively for the use of writers, printers and publishers—VK. According to a survey the high prices of spare parts in the international market and foreign exchange difficulties have caused serious problems for the smooth operation of the CTB—CDN. Indian Prime Minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, in a broadcast to the nation, said that firm action had been taken to safeguard the country's unity, stability and

integrity : nearly 700 political opponents were arrested yesterday and the Premier appeared to be in firm control of the situation : China on its first comment of the Indian situation said yesterday that Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had committed a "bitter mockery of bourgeois democracy" by declaring a state of emergency in the country : Russia voiced strong approval of the state of emergency and the arrest of Opposition leaders and commented this as measures aimed to protect the country's progressive achievements. For the third successive day sterling on Thursday dropped to record lows on foreign exchange markets, increasing pressure on Britain's Labour Government to take swift anti-inflationary measures—CDN.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 29 :** The judgement of the Criminal Justice Commission's main insurgency in cas which several leaders of the proscribed Jathika Vimukti Peramuna were sentenced to jail is now being published as a sessional paper : this Sessional paper is expected to be a best seller—CO. Several foreign press agencies have requested their correspondents in Colombo to send them details on the current situation in the UNP—SLD. The Central Advisory Committee of the Inland Revenue Department had brought to the notice of the Minister of Finance and the Prime Minister attempts made by interested parties to hush up inquiries against certain persons and private firms regarding foreign exchange malpractices and income tax payments—JD. Gems worth Rs. 2 million and 2,000 dollars were taken and handed over to the Inland Revenue Department by a Customs raiding party from a house in the Cinnamon Gardens section of Colombo : the raid followed a detection made at the Katunayake airport where a Japanese national was caught in an attempt to smuggle gems and currencies worth Rs. 150,000 : the Japanese and a Ceylonese who was arrested along with the Japanese national were handed over to the Police as they failed to pay the heavy penalties imposed on them—VK. Prime Minister, Mrs Sirima Bandaranaike, addressing a public rally in Beruwela yesterday said in spite of the difficulties the UF Government faced during the last five years it has done good service to the nation and she pledged to continue this good service in the future too—SM. The last British Judge in Ceylon, Sir Alan Rose, died at the age of 76—TOC. President Tito of Yugoslavia sent a letter of support and sympathy to the Indian Prime Minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, on the current situation in the country : Marshall Tito warned Mrs Gandhi of aggressive forces behind the whole situation : in a fresh address to the nation Mrs Gandhi said that certain foreign forces were instigating the Opposition parties in the country to revolt against the Government : the Indian Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Mr. I. K. Gujral, had been replaced by the Minister of Planning, Mr. V. C. Shukla.

**MONDAY, JUNE 30 :** Mr. Shirley Amarasinghe, Sri Lanka's permanent representative in the United Nations, had reported back to the Government that his efforts to persuade the Big Powers to follow up the UN resolution to make the Indian Ocean area free of big power rivalry had met with failure—CDN. Delay by the Government Press to print the necessary forms has stalled the implementation of the Declaration of Assets and Liabilities Act which was approved by the NSA nearly six months ago—CDM. Teachers of the Engineering Faculty of the University's Peradeniya Campus decided to stage a one day token strike in protest against what they termed as attempts made by the present Vice Chancellor

of the University to undermine and disrupt the functioning of the Faculty of Engineering of the Peradeniya Campus—CDM. Students of all campuses of the University are expected to attend lectures today—DM. The Sangaraja of Thailand left the island yesterday after a two week's official visit to Sri Lanka—LD. The Ministry of Justice decided to do away with the practice of obtaining the services of private lawyers to appear for state corporations and departments : from the 1st of August this year all such work will be assigned to the Attorney General's Department : this decision has been taken after it was found that large sums of money had been spent by state institutions as lawyers fees—JD. Nearly 500 members of the UNP Youth Leagues were yesterday summoned to the party's headquarters to help to work out programs for Mr. J. R. Jayewardene's campaigns at the forthcoming Colombo South by election : meanwhile the main opponent of Mr Jayewardene, Mr. J. R. P. Suriyapperuma, has challenged Mr. Jayewardene to summon if possible the MP for Dedigama, Mr. Rukman Senanayake and Mr. Jinadasa Niyachapala, to speak for the UNP—DM. According to the *Madras Hindu* Indian Prime Minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, has set up a Cabinet Sub Committee to deal with all aspects of the current situation in the country in which senior Cabinet members like Messrs Jagjivan Ram, Y. B. Chavan, K. B. Reddy, Swaran Singh and OM Metha were included. A major fire broke out yesterday at the television station of All India Radio and the Police suspect this to be the work of the Opposition parties : newspapers were out yesterday for the first time in New Delhi since the emergency four days ago.

\* \* \* \* \*

### A WELCOME CHOICE

THE Government, and more especially the Ministry of Finance, must be congratulated in the choice of the new Secretary to the Treasury. Traditionally this post has been the plum of the Public Service reserved for a bureaucrat who has reached the top through the rungs of seniority surviving the pitfalls that beset a public servant under the different political masters the country has known — colonial to republican. Lal Jayawardene is an outsider who has made an excellent bureaucrat, although by rights he is an academician. He is undoubtedly one of the best among the younger economists the country has produced. He has an eminent academic record of accomplishments in several universities abroad. He is held in high esteem by top economic circles in the West. It is known that the Vice-President of the World Bank in charge of Asian affairs, Chenery, regards him as one of the best. Nevertheless, Jayawardene is one of the few in this intellectual elite aware that the future is with socialism and is not willing to let red tape stand in the way of democratically achieving socialist objectives. His wife Kumari is an academician and researcher in her own right and her book the *History of Trade Unions in Ceylon* is a classic in its field. It is only when young people of this calibre are placed in positions of responsibility that this country can look forward to its future with hope.

## Death of a Dancing Master—2

— concluded —

By Herbert Keuneman

DINGIRIYA GURUNANSE took after his father in that he was that rare thing in the village: a naturally quiet, self-contained and content man. This is not to say he was lacking in spirit: what he believed in he stood for against any comer. But he stood first for quiet, he had not

*... the restless will  
That hurries to and fro  
Seeking for some great thing to do  
Or secret thing to know'.*

I think this was what first attracted me to him. For all his dancer's strength and stamina—he once told me that in his youth (at his own dancing-master's insistence; for this, his teacher had said, this utter subordination of the physical body to the will, was the Dancer's basic emotional equipment) he had for a season danced from eight to ten hours a night for 47 days—he seemed, body and mind, at rest.

Perhaps this quality was heightened by his deafness (which was marked) for he displayed that singular sweet gravity and closeness of concentration that can be so complimentary and attractive in conversation in those hard of hearing who instead of dissipating themselves in a futile resentment of their disability accept it with dignity and can thus afford more uninterrupted attention not only to excogitation but to deeper, sincerer communication with others. In Dinga's case the charm was increased by a peculiarly sweet and gentle smile.

At the time when his brother died and he began to realize that upon him, now, lay the ancestral burden for a *Kattadiya's* calling imposes a burden no less than it yields status and rewards with pride—Dinga was running, with considerable success, the village *kade*. It took even his determined mother a couple or more years to finally persuade him that what he felt was a calling and not merely a sense of family duty, and maybe—as usual—she overpersuaded him; for I, personally, always had the impression that with Dinga it was the artistic rather than

the occult aspect of his profession that claimed his greatest enthusiasm. Yet one cannot tell. There can be little question that he believed implicitly in such a personage as Kadavara Deviyo, whom he served, and that the occult ceremonies he performed swayed the deity (who is no demon but a Being On a More Than Humanly Efficacious Plane, a little too interested perhaps in women but well disposed toward humankind).

However all this may be, there is no question but that when Dinga finally made up his mind to be a *kattadiya* he took no half-measures. He abandoned his prosperous little shop and devoted himself to his occult calling entirely; and I hope I said enough in my previous article to make clear how great a degree of moral, and even physical, courage such a step called for. He threw himself on naught but his fate, altogether.

As a *kattadiya* Dinga did well. He attempted no such reckless *coup de theatre* as had ended so tragically for his brother—not, I feel sure, because he feared to; but because he did not in reckless terms—but he soon acquired a reputation, and a clientele, widespread in the area. Within limits, he did well even financially.

YET HE was artistically unexpressed. As soon as the child was old enough he had begun to teach the Dance to Wilbert, his eldest son (none of the other sons showed much promise or interest). When little Lansina, the eldest daughter, could toddle, however, things became different: she seemed to have the Dance born in her. I believe it was his success with her that made up his mind. At all events, when she was still only eight or nine he set up—although he could ill afford it—a fee dancing school. This was the school we so often went to visit. It was a simple shed attached to his house (but the largest part of his house) with the *dandiyama*, the *barre*, in one corner and the *gabadava*, the store, in which the dancers' costumes and all the paraphernalia for the Kadavara ceremonial were respectfully deposited.

Of all the contents of that store there was nothing more reverentially prized than a very rare and ancient Kadavara mask. When after many years of friendship, and pleading on my part, Dinga at last permitted me

to photograph it, he handled it as though it were part Portland Vase and part fused bomb! It was certainly the most interesting thing of its kind I have ever seen. Its material, of red sandalwood, was dark as rosewood from the centuries. It had an articulated jaw (which gnashed most impressively) garnished with a fearsome moustache made, as far as I could judge, of sambhur mane. Its huge protruding eyeballs and the great tusks that curved out and downward from the maxilla were of silver. A brattice of cobra's hoods wide spread crowned the whole. Protruding eyes, tusks and fangs, cobra crown, it had in common with all other Kadavara (=Gara Yaka) masks; but its ears, standing outward and large as saucers, bore instead of the lotus roundels that usually decorate these features a human effigy: representing, I was to learn, the twins that Giri Devi the sweetheart of this Fanged Prince bore in his ill-fated incestuous human days, in one version of the Kadavara legend.

Dinga trembled as he replaced his terrible numinous treasure in its box, and worshipped before he left.

Dingiriya Gurananse was not a great dancer (he was great in that he danced at all, despite generations of neglect of his art, despite bare association with other dancers; and in that he still preserved an authentic and rare tradition, that of the Kadavara *kankariya*, while the Kandyans dancers proper dance the Kohomban *kankariya*), but he was a great teacher. His pupils loved him, and I am sure they learned to love the dance; but none of them save his son dances now, for they were 'high caste' children who saw as soon as they began to grow up that instruction in a small village dancing-school would not suffice to get them jobs as Dancing instructors: which is all the dancing high-caste villagers are interested in. He was humble enough—and devoted enough a dancer—to recognize his own lack. But he was a realist, too, as the following can only show.

WILBERT was only 15 and not a finished—though a highly competent—dancer when his father decided he must 'take ves': ceremonially don the wide-brimmed silver headdress that distinguishes the *yakdessa*, or Passed-Master, a term I use for one must never forget that the Dance is primarily a magical ceremony.

Dinga was enough my friend for me to protest. I ventured to suggest that Wilbert would not have qualified to take ves a generation back. Dinga said he could not agree more!

'Then why give up the old standards, you of all people?'

'Sir,' said Dinga, 'we live in new times. When I take my troupe to a *perahara* every other *gurunanse* has ves dancers but I. The School to which I have given my life is harmed. Of those other ves dancers many are children of 10 or 12, they have not had time from their mothers' breasts to win the ves for themselves, they wear it only because their teachers have arbitrarily given it them, many of the teachers are unworthy to wear it themselves; yet what do the crowds that see the *perahara* go by know of, or care for, all this? All they remark is that while that dog Kiriganita, of nowhere, has four ves in his troupe, Dingiriya Gurunanse of the Divulleva School—of whom none has not heard—must dance with little boys in *tanikachchi* and *ura-mala*!'

'But can Wilbert winning his ves too cheaply like this—even though he is twice as good as those others—learn to love and respect the dance, as you do?'

Today, Wilbert is perhaps best known as the drummer for the twice-weekly 'trances' into which Matara Achchi—a settler from the South—calculatedly throws herself in a brand-new *devala* she has recently and not unprofitably set up for purpose!

'I do not know. But my girl Lansina... she loves the dance, and before she must cease and raise a family her name will ring in the land!'

So, the ves-bestowal went through (and Wilbert did not disgrace his teacher) at a great Kadavara Kankariya the like of which had not been seen in local living memory. In point of fact, such a thing is seldom seen anywhere, for as Paul Wirz remarks in his *Exorcism*... the ritual demanded 'is one of the most expensive, and therefore much less often performed ceremonies'. As a result, this was the opportunity I have earlier mentioned which made it possible to obtain generous contributions both State and private on Dinga's behalf. There were forthcoming not only grants toward the cost of the *kankariya*—of which all was spent for that purpose and no other:

and there can be no better testimony to a villager's integrity—but also an increased official grant-in-aid to the School; a temporary Tutorship (though in an honorary capacity) at the Government School of Oriental Dancing in Colombo for Dinga himself; and an assurance that if Wilbert could enrol as a pupil in that school he would require but two years—at most—of the regular 6-year course to qualify as an Instructor on a government-approved salary... but he was two years under-age!

I SUPPOSE that night of the *kankariya* was in a sense the peak of Dinga's career. I know he was over-whelmed by the crowd of experts—dancers, *afficionados*, researchers, Pani Bharata, and the urbane and delightful Head of the Department of Culture: M. J. Perera himself. But I think what pleased him best was when for the first time ever 16 cars in a line (and half-a-dozen others came later) crawled up the broken rutted road to Dinga's place, a spectacle at least as impressive to his fellow-villagers as the *kankariya*!

Perhaps, if the cars and the celebrities had been less... At all events, as imperceptibly as a river begins to slide downhill from a watershed things started soon after to fall apart. The village began to express itself in open acts of malice. Murder was threatened. An utterly unskilled rival opened a 'dancing' class and found pupils! Dinga's own pupils grew up and began to drift away; and with such counter-attractions as insurgency lessons to tempt them none replaced those that withdrew. When on one occasion between my residences in Ehetuwewa I drove past the old School I was surprised and distressed to find it in ruin. Not even the *gabavava* seemed to stand. In the house I could meet only one of Dinga's younger sons, too young to recollect me. He told me his father lived now in the Soliwewa 'colony'.

Gradually, after I came again to live here, was I able to piece together from local gossip—none of Dinga's family ever told me; and Dinga himself on the rare occasions when we met closed his face, as it were, whenever I approached the subject—something of what had happened.

Apparently Dinga had arranged a marriage for Lansina with a 'nephew', an employed Dancing Instructor. I knew the not-so-young

man and I confess I had no great admiration for him. I did not see how Dinga could have had, either. But what he seemed to have in mind was that with this marriage Lansina could and should continue with her dancing until 'her name rang in the land'. But Lansina, lacking none of her father's fortitude, opposed this marriage and went through with one of her own to 'a nobody in the Kandyan hills'.

I do not know whether Dinga's heart was broken or his mind unhinged, or his faiths shattered. I do know that one day he brought out without ceremony his priceless Kadavara mask and hacked it into chips with an axe and burnt these till the silver eyes and tusks melted and were lost in the ashes. Then he went away.

I used to think, when he confirmed that he now lived in Soliwewa that he was a regular colonist and worked a land there. But I now hear it was only a *pied-a-terre* between expeditions as a kind of jobbing shaman.

A week ago he came back to Divulleva ready to die. He gave minute instructions, before he was taken to hospital in Kurunegala, about the manner of his burial in the event he did die. He even chose the tree which should stand over his grave. And that is where he lies, a man outrun by his times.

## KAZI—13

### A Snake Bite

By ANATORY BUKOBA

May 7,

It was dark. There were footsteps behind me, and two people hove into view. One of them spoke my name and told me that his brother, to whose house I was on my way, had been bitten by a *polonga* two hours before. The patient was not alarmed, as far as I could see. There was a crowd of people there and the *vederala*, who was at work, I had known nine years before when he was a boy. It was strange to see him reading out from a book, the man more or less in charge. But first they all elected to try a snake stone. The green poultice, looking like a *malling*, was removed, the wounds cleaned and dried.

The patient had been bitten in two places, and this presented us

with a poser, as to whether we could manage with one snake stone. We had not an instrument to draw any blood. The blunt instruments that we used seemed to me to draw only that white fluid associated with wounds. Some said it was blood, and the stone would not stick. Later on, when we tried once more, when another, presumably more senior, and so a more experienced *vederala* turned up, and a young man himself, too, we tried once more, using two stones, with no better results. Meanwhile, however, the poultice had been replaced, and we spent our time running round collecting various herbs, as the first *vederala* called them out from his book.

The book, when I saw it later, seemed to be a number of manuscripts neatly collected together in a cellophane binding or cover. The herbs, that we were asked to get, were all growing wild along the roadside, or in one or other's garden. Everyone seemed to know exactly where to find them. A theory was brought out that because of the lapse of time since the venom had entered the body, there was no blood in the area of the wound. This was hard for me to swallow. The only time the patient showed any distress while I was there was after the failure of the snake stone the first time we put it on.

I think he had a pain in his chest and head, and one of his brothers said later, to me, that he had been jolly alarmed about it at the time and had thought that it was all up

with his brother. Coconut trees had to be scaled, all by torch light. At one well-laden tree, the young lad who climbed had to disappear right among the branches to get at the nuts, to the alarm of some of the men, experienced in these matters, who were on the ground. They were afraid that a branch would give way and bring him down. After the second *vederala* turned up, there were some physical changes in the method of treatment. For instance, a little contraption was made, and something was poured down the patient's two nostrils at once. This made him keep coughing saliva up.

The last thing that I saw, before going off to bed, was the patient in a sort of inhalation box, and what it was made of I just cannot remember. That, too was made up on the spot when it was wanted, and as the whole patient had to enter in, it needed a big brew. Chanting entered into the cure, too, or I should say, *manthrams* I suppose. The sounds, or succession of certain sounds, would have had some effect on the nervous system, I suppose.

When I heard that Kalidiya Pokuna, that very famous bathing place, was bone dry, I could not forbear having a look at it, for years before I had bathed there regularly. I had also had an adventure there. A lad had swum across, and he was determined to swim back from the other side, and so I had no option but to accompany him, as there was a doubt if he would make it. A far stronger lad, than I was at the time,

man though I was, was swimming with us, and I said he would have to keep us company in case I needed help with the other swimmer.

Nearly half way, the weaker swimmer got into difficulties, and I grabbed his wrist, and holding him at arm's length, so that he would not throttle me, I kept on swimming with my free hand and both legs. He had perforce to do so with the other hand, and cajoled by me, he made with me to the bank. The other swimmer had made off at the critical moment, and he reached *terra firma* before us. He said he wanted to make a line by tying clothes together, as you would do sheets with a window, and throw one end to us. I remember I was never clear what clothes or garments he was going to use to perform this feat.

This was not the first time I had been let down by a swimmer in this way. The other time was in the Suez Canal, when I had tried, foolishly, to swim back across the canal with another man's rifle, ammunition pouches and small pack. I was deserted all right, but a total stranger had seen me, and he swam out to meet me. I made it without help in the end, but it made a great difference to me having him there. I have no more space for more adventures.

#### INTRODUCTION TO SEMINAR

## On Liberation Of Tea

BY TISSA BALASURIYA O.M.I.  
Director, Centre For Society  
and Religion

**THIS is the text of the introductory speech delivered by Fr. Tissa Balasuriya, O.M.I. at the inauguration of the Seminar on "The Liberation of Tea" organised by the Centre for Society and Religion in June 18. The Seminar is scheduled to go on until September 2 with a sessions on every Wednesday evening.**

In inviting the Hon. Minister for Plantation Industries to inaugurate this, may I say a few words as an introduction to this 12 session

#### STUDENT COUNCILS OUT OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS

FAR REACHING AMENDMENTS are to be made to the University of Ceylon Act No. 1 of 1972 in the wake of recommendations made by the Kularatne Commission of inquiry into ragging. One such amendment stipulates that representatives of Student Councils should be excluded from the Board of Governors of the University of Sri Lanka. Student representations in the Boards Campuses and Senates will be confined only to student welfare measures. Dr. Badiuddin Mahmud said that another amendment will empower the Minister to appoint Deans, Presidents or the Vice-Chancellor of the University as done now. Under the present Act these officers could be elected though this provision had not yet been implemented as the 'transitional period' in University reforms is still on. This means the status quo remains. Other amendments relate to defining the powers of the President of a Campus, providing for a residence and Discipline Committee by appropriate additions and deletions, setting up another authority called the Board of Discipline headed by the Vice-Chancellor with Presidents of all Campuses. Dr. Mahmud said these amendments have been approved by the Ministers and would be tabled in the Assembly shortly.

—Daily Mirror.  
3.7.75.

## Urgent National Task

weekly seminar on the Liberation of Tea.

Within the overall effort for the integral liberation of our country, tea is an extremely important area. No advance towards a socialistic and truly just society is possible without our tackling the grave problems that confront the tea industry at all its levels from the production on the estates to the purchase of the tea packets by consumers in different countries of the world. Tea is not only the life blood of our economy; it also determines many of the relationships and lifestyles among the social categories in our country.

We use the word liberation in this connection, because liberation is a concept that is wider and deeper than more productivity or development. It includes the freeing from the constraints which at present prevents the realization of efficient productivity with social justice in the industry.

Liberation can be understood as LIBERATION FROM the obstacles and LIBERATION TOWARDS the more desirable objectives.

### LIBERATION FROM :

- .. in relation to tea includes a freeing of our tea and ourselves from a long standing foreign exploitation.
- .. the control by a small group of families of the local elite who collaborate with the foreign firms for their mutual advantage.
- .. the manipulation of the markets to our great disadvantage.
- .. the ignorances concerning its technical know-how in blending, packeting and marketing.
- .. ignorance of the power system that control the industry at all levels, both locally and internationally.
- .. the exploitation of the plantation workers.
- .. the marginalization of the kandyan peasantry.

### LIBERATION TO :

- .. be masters of our own resources, our properties and their product:
- .. be able to have a fair say in the determining of the prices of tea:
- .. be just to all concerned especially the workers on the plantations and the peasants in the rural areas.

- .. to achieve their social integration.
- .. advance towards the establishment of a democratic socialistic society in our country.

For such goals of liberation this seminar can, make some contribution however small.

- (a) by creating public awareness of those problems. Information can be disseminated more widely than hitherto specially with the help of the mass media.
- (b) Can help bring about a large area of consensus within the country concerning our policies towards this national resource. We are therefore glad that there is participation by various concerned groups: employers and workers, trade unions, political parties, technically competent persons, research groups and the mass media.

We think that the stage has been reached when this important national issue must be faced together by all of us irrespective of our political and other differences. We are struggling against a foreign stranglehold on our economic social life in addition to the national responsibility of justice to a million workers.

We would like to appeal to all groups concerned to come together in meeting this challenge. The securing of our economic independence cannot be achieved by a divided country. In fact it is even necessary that the producer countries and the so called "Third World" countries get together to work for their liberation from the pattern of economic and overall domination which has been imposed on them by the rich countries. How much more important them for the political parties of our country to work together for this common national cause?

- (c) We can encourage and support the government in its actions for the integral liberation of tea—especially following the recommendations of the Report of the Commission on Agency Houses and Brokering firms.

Our support to the government is also connected with our interest in the efficient and equitable functioning of its own services concerning tea. If the State take over of estates and agency house functions leads to a fall in their efficiency it would be a disaster to the country and to the cause of socialism. If their running is not more equitable than under the private sector it would be national disgrace.

We have confidence that as Minister for Plantations you are well aware of these issues and determined to try to resolve them. We are very grateful for your presence among us this evening both to tell us of your policies and to dialogue with us within the limits of an evening's encounter.

### UNMENTIONABLE, UNPRINTABLE

REFERRING to the acts of ragging at the Vidyalankara campus the report of the commission states that "the sex orgies caused to be performed would put even the Marquis de Sade to shame." Torture, obscenity, indecency, vulgarity and sacrilege were at their peak and the language used is unprintable. Some male teachers were subjected to cruelties of unimaginable forms the report adds.

"Police cannot be disentitled from entering the campus if they are satisfied about the authenticity of any information reaching them from any source. Otherwise the concept of equality before the law will be meaningless. There cannot be a 'state' within the State", the report states in this connection.

The breakdown of general discipline at the campus had reached such an extent that a female student who sat the degree examination in 1973 and who was thereafter employed in a bank had been sharing a room with a male within the campus.

—Daily News,  
3/7/75.

## GROUNDWATER IN SRI LANKA—2

**Strategy for Exploitation**

By A. Denis N. Fernando  
Senior Deputy Director Planning,  
Ministry of Irrigation, Power &  
Highways

**THIS is the concluding part of the Invitation Address at the Symposium on 'Water Resources' by the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science at the University of Sri Lanka, Colombo, on 14.6.75.**

The public are now reasonably aware of the great potential of ground water that has not been tapped. This was possible by the publicity given through the mass media in recent times.

The presenting a strategy for exploitation it would be necessary to analyse the main parameters that would assist or inhibit its development. A few facts are given below: (1) Quantity of ground water available for extraction; (2) Sizes of land holdings and ownership; (3) Available source of energy to lift the water-pumps and other lifting devices; (4) Credit facilities and marketing; (5) Types of crops to be grown; (6) Cultural practices and socio-economic patterns in the area:

**3.1 QUANTITY**

As pointed out earlier, the quantity of ground water available for extraction is dependent on the hydrogeology and the annual rainfall. They vary from area to area. In the wet zone and intermediate zones there is relatively higher rainfall so there is more ground water available for extraction both in the hard and soft rock formations in these areas.

The guiding factor in the extraction of ground water is in the cost of extraction. There are two costs firstly the capital invested and the second its maintenance or *running expenditure*. When costs are compared of surface and ground water for the development of water resources it must be based on the capital cost per acre and the cost of lifting or providing 1000 gallons of water to the surface plot. Today the cost of irrigation by surface and ground water has become competitive as you realise it is cheaper to get water for a field fill from below the

ground rather than transport it from miles away by canals. For the development of ground water all three types of wells have their place namely: (a) Deep tube well; (b) Open dug well, and (c) Low cost tube well.

**3.2 SIZES OF LAND HOLDING AND OWNERSHIP**

The size of land holdings is the chief parameter that determines the strategy for ground water exploitation. The large holdings of tea and rubber lands over 50 acres comprise those under the Sterling Companies which have been exempted from Land Reform and have a very low priority for the development of ground water. According to the Land Reform Act a person can own to a maximum of 50 acres of highland or 25 acres of paddy. This resulted in a large extent of coconut land which were held by Ceylonese to be broken up into units of 50 acres and less, while the larger extents got vested in the Government.

As the size of individual units ownership on these coconut estates has decreased. There is a greater tendency for new practices like inter-cropping to be attempted to increase the productivity in these lands. However, this category of ownership is restricted to a relatively small number of individuals compared to the rest of the community. It must be remembered that the pattern of land ownership is such that the great majority of farmers own less than 2 acres. Hardly any attempts have been made in practice to service the small farmer in respect of the inputs required by him.

There is also the question of multiple ownership of small parcels of land that are either left fallow or if cultivated at all are done with the minimum of inputs. These lands would naturally have to be brought within a programme of land consolidation if we are to expect greater productivity and investment in these small farms.

**3.3 ENERGY**

There are several sources of energy used to lift water. We have a choice between human and animal power, electricity, fossil fuels like petrol, diesel and kerosene and wind power.

With the skyrocketing of the prices of fossil fuels the cost of lifting water using this source of energy has become prohibitive. Moreover oil imports consume lot of

foreign exchange which too is a scarce resource in our country.

Electricity is a cheap source of power in Sri Lanka as it is hydro-based. A programme of rural electrification with the objective of using electricity in the field for lifting of water is of prime importance.

Very little use has been made of our wind power. Recently for experimental purpose I installed a small wind mill which can lift between 3000 to 5000 gallons per day, and suits the small farmer. This was an imported wind mill into which I incorporated a hand pump to be used in case there was a failure of the winds. This has worked satisfactorily. With the assistance for a well known firm of Engineers and with Sri Lanka's foremost mechanical engineer acting as consultant we are proceeding with the production of small wind mills using local materials.

Considering the tremendous man power resources available in our country we can start off by using hand pumps for lifting water for agriculture. No doubt with the monies earned from cultivation farmers would wait to go in for mechanical devices which also has to be catered in the future programme.

**3.4 CREDIT & MARKETING**

There is no approved system of obtaining credit facilities through lending institutions for those who want to dig wells and instal pumps. This is an area which has to be serviced. The absence of proper marketing facilities generally inhibits the farmer from undertaking extensive production of perishable food items. These problems without any doubt require attention as these would hinder the development of water resources for agriculture.

**3.5 CROPS**

Crops selected should be selected so as to minimize the use of water in keeping with the soils and the climatic conditions so as to maximum returns. Sometimes, varying farm practices would have to be adopted to conserve the water, e.g. hand watering as against flood irrigation.

**3.6 CULTURAL AND TRADITIONAL PRACTICES**

The cultural and traditional practices play a great part in the development of all societies. It is clearly seen that the Jaffna farmer who has



a tradition of using water accepts it and uses it wherever he goes. The displaced Indian labourers from the estates who has settled in the Vavuniya area too have taken to the use of ground water like a duck taking to water. In the other parts of the country where there is no traditional use of ground water for agriculture it is like taking a horse to water. However, the severe droughts that have been occurring for the past few years have opened everybody's eyes and many are taking to it in a small way.

3.7 STRATEGY

In this context having spot lighted all different factors that assist and inhibit the exploitation of our ground water resources, I leave it to the participants of the Seminar to evolve a strategy for the ground water exploitation in our country.

IN U.S.A.

New Budget Accommodation Enable Travellers To Economise

International visitors who expect all accommodations in the United States to be expensive, high-rise hotels are in for a pleasant surprise. In response to a growing demand for low-cost accommodations, inexpensive motel chains and hotels are mushrooming all over the country.

Visitors can choose from a number of budget motel chains which offer clean, no-frill rooms for as little as \$6 a night, or from such inexpensive alternatives as guest houses, youth hostels, college dormitories and housing furnished by non-profit organizations.

BUDGET MOTELS

Catering to the cost-conscious traveler is one of the fastest growing trends in the American tourist market. Experts estimate that the number of so-called "budget motel" rooms increased six-fold between 1972 and 1974, jumping from 10,000 to 60,000 rooms. They predict that this number will double again by the end of 1975.

Days Inns, one of the major budget chains, is an example of this phenomenal growth. In 1974, it operated 180 motels and had some 70 under construction and more than 220 on the drawing board. Others, such as Econo-Travel Motor Hotels, Motel 6, Scottish Inns, Imperial 400 Motels, Regal 8 Inns, Family Inns of America, Chalet Susse, and Passport Inns of America, have similar expansion programs.

Even traditional motels, affected by the energy crisis and the growing price competition these new chains offer, are beginning to lower prices.

What is a budget motel, and how can it offer such low prices? The Budget Motels and Hotels of America, Inc., which puts out an annual directory, points out that its members are standard motels that have managed to cut costs by eliminating some of the frills most travelers don't need. These extras include large lobbies, on-premise bars and restaurants, meeting rooms and certain service personnel. Many of the motels are located further out of town on lower priced real estate than are more expensive units.

The goal of the budget chains is to offer clean, comfortable rooms at a reasonable rate. At the same time, they offer all the standard lodging features: full-sized rooms with baths, complete furnishings, air-conditioning and televisions.

One of the chains, Motel 6, sums up this philosophy in its advertisement motto: "Our rooms aren't fancy, but neither are our prices."

Most of the chains also offer rates on a per person basis, rather than just single and double rates, which allow great savings for groups traveling together. For example, one chain charges about \$9 for a single, \$3 for each additional adult and \$1 for each child under 18.

Visitors interested in obtaining more information on rates and locations can send \$1 plus return postage to Budget Motels and Hotels of America, Inc., 568 North Snelling Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota 55104, for their directory of more than 500 hotels and motels.

HOSTELS

International visitors may wish to use the chain of hostels operated by the American Youth Hostels, Inc., (AYH).

AYH is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to providing simple, clean accommodations, primarily for people who are traveling under their own steam (e.g. hiking or cycling).

AYH now has about 150 facilities in its network and plans to increase this number substantially by 1976. Currently, 95 are true hostels. They offer simple, relatively spartan lodgings for as low as \$1.50 to \$2 a night to AYH members. The remaining facilities are supplemental accommodations which have been leased to round out the lodging network.

The latter differ from the traditional hostel in that they may lack cooking facilities, are open to non-members and charge slightly higher fees.

The typical AYH hostel offers beds, mattresses and blankets in separate dormitory-style accommodations for men and women, as well as a common recreation room and kitchen.

Since one of the organization's prime objectives is to provide a means for inexpensive outdoor recreation and travel, the hostels are usually in rural locations.

Some sites are quite unique, and many are located in some of the United States' prime recreational areas and parks. For example, there are hostels at Yosemite, California; Big Sky, Montana; Jackson Hole, Wyoming; and both the Cape Cod, Massachusetts, and Point Reyes, California, National Seashores.

The hostel in Washington, D.C., a favorite with international visitors, is located in a lovely old hotel and is operated by a retired sea captain and his wife. In Philadelphia, hostellers can stay in turn-of-the-century style at the Chamounix Mansion, a beautiful restored mansion that sits high on the river bluffs in West Fairmount Park. In the Phoenix, Arizona, area the AYH hostel is located on 40 acres in South Mountain Park in a cozy country home with fireplaces, brick arches and sun porches.

The AYH hostels are open only to members. International visitors should obtain a membership card from their own national youth hostel association. Membership for a year usually costs \$5 for people under 18 and \$10 for others.

Although the organization was originally set up to provide low-cost simple accommodations for youths, it

is not limited to this age bracket. AYH officials note that while 50 percent of the membership is under 20 years old, a growing number of members in their thirties and older are taking advantage of the low costs and ambiance the organization offers.

AYH is growing increasingly popular with international visitors. In 1973, more than 15,000 foreign visitors used the AYH hostels and supplemental accommodations, almost 36 percent more than in 1972.

International visitors interested in obtaining a directory of AYH facilities can send an international money order for \$1 plus return postage, to the AYH National Campus, Delaplane, Virginia 22025.

#### OTHER OPTIONS

Another low-cost lodging option often overlooked by the international visitor is the network of lodging establishments run by both the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) and the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA.) Despite the name, these organizations are not affiliated with any church. They grew up as public service organizations in the early 1900's when the rapid influx of rural men and women to the large cities created a desperate demand for lodging.

Today, YWCA's and YMCA's are an important part of almost every major American city, offering both low-cost lodging and a variety of classes, lectures, social and athletic facilities and other services to the public. The AYH uses many of these YWCA's and YMCA's as their supplemental accommodations.

Visitors wishing to get a complete list of the cities and addresses where lodging is offered can write to: Young Women's Christian Association, 600 Lexington Avenue, New York City, New York 1022, and National Board of Young Men's Christian Association, 291 Broadway, New York City, New York 10007.

College dormitories offer another alternative to the international visitor who is traveling in the summer. Many dormitories are vacant during this period, and some colleges have opened their doors to tourists.

A new publication, *Mort's Guide to Low Cost Vacations and Lodgings on College Campuses*, describes the facilities and rates of some 145 colleges in the U.S. and Canada. Typical rates at a U.S. college would range

from \$3 to \$5 a night for a room, cafeteria prices range from 85 cents for breakfast to \$2 for lunch.

The guidebook can be obtained from the publisher for \$4.50, which includes postage and handling. Interested parties should write: *Mort's Guide*, CMG Publications, Inc., Box 630, Princeton, New Jersey 08540. As rooming policies change rapidly, users of the guide are urged to check with the university prior to arrival to make sure that it is still taking summer tourists.

Another useful publication contains information on hostels, guest houses and budget hotels. *Where to Stay USA from 50c to \$7 a Night* is published for the Council on International Education Exchange (CIEE) and can be obtained from either CIEE at 777 United Nations Plaza, New York City, New York 10017, or from Simon and Schuster, Inc., 630 Fifth Avenue, New York City, New York 10020, for \$2.50.

One of the newest books is *America on \$8 a Night*. It is available from Christopher Travel Discoveries, P.O. Box 47, Milford, Connecticut 06416. The book and airmail postage cost \$5.40 in North America and \$6.95 in other parts of the world.

New and less expensive alternative accommodations are increasingly becoming a significant factor on the USA tourism scene. They are part of the reason the USA today offers some of the best budget touring opportunities in the world.

#### LETTER

## Food For Our People

READING a review on "The Politics of World Hunger" and another entitled *Bread For the World* reminded me that the general problem of our world is Food. In our tiny world of Sri Lanka also this is the chief concern of ordinary peoples. The authors of the two books agree that the population explosion must be stayed, but they also suggest that more resolute steps should be taken to stay the "affluence explosion" and the gadgetry explosion, cars, air-conditioners, bullets and the like. One writer points out that the food consumed by 200 million Americans

in a twelve month period could feed one and a half billion Chinese.

But to return to a consideration of the problems as they affect us in Sri Lanka. It is clear that for a successful resolution of our food problem the rural masses must come into their own. Despite Land Reform and the vast amount of money and skill put into the national effort, it would be dishonest not to admit that we are far removed from the goal of self-sufficiency. We have to ask why this is the case.

We have yet to stay the desire of young peoples everywhere to go to Colombo. Yet Colombo represents none of the values our youth must accept to be rural minded and agriculture oriented. For some years I have advocated the making of, Anuradhapura our political Capital, also because such a measure would 'emasculate' Colombo and root the centre of our rural ambitions in a milieu more kindly disposed to the Food campaign. As it is top Government folks and political leaders alike creep into Colombo at the slightest excuse. Their oft-repeated exhortation to ordinary folks to discover the fascination of village and rural life lacks conviction. It is clear from their behaviour that they themselves are more fascinated by the siren voice of the Metropolis.

**Instead of the absentee landlord exercising control of rural destiny as in the past, absentee political chaps and Government bureaucrats have taken over. The situation is hardly improved.**

To succeed in our national efforts to self sufficiency in Food we need together with good plans and adequate resources, a national inner drive pulling us together into a single team, harnessed to achieve this national goal. The Government plans, bills, schemes are beyond criticism. This Government has much paper work to its credit. Where it has failed is in creating the "inner drive". And it has failed to achieve this because actions talk louder than words. Ordinary folks do not see our leaders walking the village roads, working the mamotty, identifying with the masses, unless it is election time or some photographer as close at hand.

One of the disservice modern transport has performed is that it has created, a multiplicity of world organisations and conferences. These tend to be dominated by 'Developed

World' figures and ideas. And our leaders, partly because of an inferiority complex, get hypnotised by these Caucasian performances and ideas. Most of the ideas are not bad in themselves, but they are all theory. And our local chaps who attend these conferences give up much of their native soul in the process—they grow into excellent conference performers, but unfortunately grow also less and less happy when they get back to their local village. Can hardly blame the fellows really—only they are so transformed that they cease to be meaningful or relevant in the local climate. We ought to ban all conferences for ten years to allow Third World chaps to get on with the job, back home; I mean at Kekirawa, where the real action needs to be done.

Is this country Tourism has got out of hand. It plays a dominant role on a small island people already fascinated by all things Western. Its pervasive influence may even be seen in the tragic disintegration of morals at the University. To offer up our island as the playground for Western Tourists and to remain faithful to our ancient cultural heritage, may be possible for tired exhausted political leaders, it certainly will not work as far as our youth are concerned.

They have adopted Preethi hook line and sinker and with it most of the weaknesses of their much admired Western contemporaries. We must give our Youth more ideological fire, which I think, must be Marxist orientated but attired perhaps in Bandaranaike myth. But to achieve this we must "go it alone", as the Chinese did, to discover the native soul again. This task we may not be able to do alone. We may have to keep pace with India in these matters. They too alas seem to be in a mess.

BRYAN DE KRETZER

FOR NEWS  
BEHIND THE NEWS

read  
TRIBUNE  
regularly

## Frederick Dornhorst

BY JEPHARIS

THE 50th death anniversary of the great Frederick Dornhorst (1849—1926) in his day the "Lion of the Ceylon bar", fell on April 24. Frederick Dornhorst will be chiefly remembered as having fought and defeated Thomas Norton, "the lion of the Madras bar" over the Jeronis Pieris Will Case in 1903. Charles Peiris maintained that after his daughter Elsie's death in 1903, her patrimony should revert to him, his first wife Annie, eldest daughter of Jeronis Pieris, having died in 1891; while Jeronis Pieris' other children, Richard Steuart, Henry Alexander, Lambert Louis, Emily, Theobald and Caroline (Mrs. E. L. F. de Soysa), claimed Elsie's share of the patrimony. Frederick Dornhorst appeared and won the case for Charles Peiris, which explains how he, and later his only son Harold, came into possession of such broad acres. This was the first of three occasions that the great Norton came over from Madras to fight legal battles in Ceylon, the second being for the prosecution in the Dixon Attygalle murder case of December 1906 (when his brother-in-law John Kotalawala, father of Sir John, was involved—he was to die on April 20, 1907 by committing suicide in prison) and the third in connection with the Pedris shooting incident during the height of the Sinhala-Muslim Martial Law riots of 1915.

Frederick Dornhorst was the youngest and only surviving boy in a family of nine, his sisters included "Aunt Charlotte", Mrs. J. W. Mack (1829—1908), "Aunt Liza", Mrs. Johnny Prins (1836—1919), "Aunt Sophie", Mrs. W. F. Cremor (1838—), "Aunt Louisa", Mrs. E. H. Prins (1840—1912), and "Aunt Laura" (1847—). His nephews and nieces included the distinguished family of Macks, two lots of Prins', and the famous Arndt family, sons of the sub-warden of S. Thomas' College, Mutwal, who married his niece Hetty Prins, who incidentally with her sister Mary Prins ran an English night school for boys and girls in Mutwal, which later developed into Cathedral College, Kotahena, and Cathedral Girls' School, Mutwal. Frederick Dornhorst himself had 8 children, including one daughter, Freda de Saram, my grandmother.

Frederick Dornhorst had his early education at St. Thomas' and Royal (then known as the Colombo Academy)

and at the Training College, after which he was a master in the Academy for six years, where there is now a prize offered in his memory, before entering the legal profession, where as we all know, he distinguished himself for over half-a-century, in 1903 rising to be a King's Counsel.

While sorting out my grandmother's papers shortly after her demise, I came across the following document "To my children" written by her father, in my estimation about 1887-8, which we consider most opportune to publish at this time:

### TO MY CHILDREN

My dear children, I have determined to write a short account of my life, the perusal of which I must... be profitable to you. If I succeed in awakening in you a desire to live respectably and keep your name unsullied then I shall not have undertaken this task in vain.

I was born on the 26 of April 1849 at Trincomalee, and was the youngest in the family. At the age of five I lost My father of whom I have a very faint recollection. In 1856, when I was seven years old, my mother came to Colombo bringing with her my sisters, two of whom your Aunts Eliza and Louisa, were unmarried, and the other, your Aunt Sophie, was married to Mr. Cremor, who at that date was in the lunatic asylum in Colombo.

Of our family history I have succeeded in gleaning the following information. My grand-father, the founder of our family in Ceylon, whose name was John Christian Dornhorst, is said to have come from Germany and to have been employed in the Dutch Service. I have not been able to obtain any authentic information as to what post he held, (I have since learnt he was an Artillery man. The tradition in our family is that he was a runaway from home who had enlisted.) but, if my memory serves me right, my mother told me he was a Constable, that is to say, a sort of petty magistrate. (Dutch for Gunner). He was I think afterwards employed under the English in the Naval Stores or Dockyard. I know nothing of his family, on which subject he would appear to have been reticent. But it has been told me by my mother, who heard it from my father, that he had run away from home and had changed his name. This may or may not be. I have with me an old

seal belonging to him, with his monogram crest and motto. It is a motto which I trust will influence you in life. "Virtutem Coronat Honor". From a memorandum left by my father which you will find among my papers and which I trust you will treasure, my grandfather died on 9 August 1828, aged 65 years.

Of my paternal grandmother I know nothing, save that she was one Miss Wirtebron and wore what is commonly called "the Misthiya Dress". She was of dark complexion and was of mixed parentage, either of Portuguese or Dutch descent but with native blood in her veins. She was a Roman Catholic while her husband was a Lutheran. She was commonly called 'Mon. Francina'. There were two children born to my grandparents, my father and my uncle John, who was married to Louisa, daughter of Mr. Ernest Godlieb Schultze. Of my mother's family I know more. She was the daughter of Mr. Jacob Frederick Schultze, who was Secretary of the Provincial Court of Trincomalee. There were, as far as I have been able to ascertain, two Schultzes in Trincomalee, brothers who had come from Germany. My mother's father was married to Miss Hartsz, the daughter of a Surgeon in the Netherlands army, who was married to Miss Simonsz, the daughter of the Commandant of Jaffna.

My parents had nine children, of whom four, two sons and two daughters, died in infancy. Your Aunt Sophie died in Calverly House in 18...aged....and at the time I write this, your other aunts are still alive.

In 1877 I married your mother. She was the daughter of Mr. Godwin Sisouw, a Proctor, who was married to Miss Brohier, a daughter of the Chief Clerk of the Colonial Secretary's office. Your mother's paternal grandfather was married to Miss Van Der Straaten, and after his death his widow married Mr. F. A. Prins. The old lady is still alive and is a fine specimen of a Dutch woman. On her mother's side your mother can claim descent from the noble family of Ranzouw, her maternal grandmother being the daughter of the Colonel Van Ranzouw, who I believe was a political exile. Your mother's maternal great-grandfather was Captain Brohier, an officer in the army.

You see my children that you have reason to be proud of your decent, and although your success in life and your social position will depend upon your individual character and although I should not like to foster in you the pride of family, still I would like you know that I have always been taught to lay stress upon respectability. While not despising others of low parentage you must make it your endeavour to live worthy of those from whom you are descended. Be select in the friends you keep, but be more select in the marriages you contract. Don't marry beneath your station, and if possible, don't do your children the injustice of being ashamed of their parents. There is a growing tendency in our midst to deprive the respectable Burghers of their undoubted social position.

It will depend upon you and others of your generation as to how far that tendency will be encouraged. When the time comes for you to settle down in life, choose your spouses from families having something more to boast of than wealth or only social position. I would rather that your future partners were poor and of good birth than that they were rich but of.... parentage. Don't misunderstand me. The pride of birth without individual character will be an offence and a stumbling block. But only remember that good birth to one who has attained a good social position is and will always be an inestimable advantage. Don't despise those who have worked themselves up to a high social level, because they have no....of ancestry to stand upon. But at the same

#### KULARATNE RECOMMENDATIONS

HERE are the recommendation of the Kularatne Commission which the Government is considering for implementation.

(a) Registration of students to be done by post. (b) New students to be admitted two weeks before the senior students are brought into the Campus. (c) Student Counsellors and entire academic and administrative staff to be in the Campus when new students come in. Senior students and student leaders who won the respect and regard of the academic staff must be invited to co-operate with the staff. (d) Accommodate new entrants in hostels and only final students may be given accommodation in the same hostels. (e) Wardens to be resident in the Halls. (f) No seniors to be allowed to enter a new entrant's room. (g) Students who have gained admission to be placed on compulsory labour on agricultural and other projects for a specific period of three months. (h) Student Counsellor to be selected from among the senior ranks who have won confidence of the students. (i) Appointment of a senior Buddhist monk as a Counsellor for Buddhist work. (j) Appointment of a Student Counsellor for female students. (k) Trained student counsellors to be appointed for every 500 students.

(a) Educate senior students to exercise restraint and control to protect the good name of the University by discussions, seminars and talks. (b) Locate students who have been victims of ragging and help them to overcome their inclination to "rag" the following years' new students. (c) To bring representatives of the community and communicate the reactions to students who should realise that they are not isolated from community life.

A Unit for College Psychiatry be established in a Medical Faculty to study Sociological, Psychological and Economic causes of student indiscipline including ragging.

Appointment of part-time sub-wardens from the Academic Staff in addition to full-time sub-warden from the non-academic staff.

Banning any form of ragging. Compulsory attendance at a certain percentage of lectures and tutorials.

The Police must be summoned to a Campus in the event of the likelihood of any break of the peace or the commission of any act by any student which is cognizable by our criminal law. In addition to the deterrent punishment such as expulsion, court action after Police intervention will be a salutary deterrent.

—Daily Mirror.  
3.7.75.

time while you mix freely with them in society you should avoid mingling your blood indiscriminately. Especially do I address my daughter now, for remember a man raises the woman, no matter who she may be, to his level, but a woman sinks down to her husband's position, if she marries beneath her. But enough of moralising.

Although I had the misfortune to lose my father when I was but a child, I had the special good fortune to have a woman for a mother, who was one of God's priceless treasures. My early life was spent in great poverty. My father during his lifetime had kept the family in easy circumstances and I have reason to believe that the Dornhorsts were respected by all classes of the community. My father was for a long time Secretary of the District Court of Trincomalee, and enjoyed the privilege, in those days accorded to Secretaries, of practising as a Notary. I believed he quarrelled with the District Judge and resigned and for a long while maintained his family upon the income earned from his notarial practice. He was subsequently appointed Head Clerk of the Fiscal's Department, in which I believe he continued until obliged by illness to give up his place. He would appear to have put by enough to buy houses and lands but like many of our class he lived beyond his means and was suicidal in his generosity. From what my mother has told me of his willingness to help those who appealed to him for pecuniary aid I have reason to fear that I have inherited his failing of not having the moral courage to say 'no' even to a most undeserving applicant. I think my children I have done you wrong by this weakness but I trust that the provision I intend to make for you will be such as to enable you to generously forgive this fault of mine. When my father died, all he had was sold except our house, which gave my mother a rental of £1 a month. When the family came to Colombo my mother's income was the pound above mentioned and an allowance of Rs. 7.50 given her by the Government. But my sisters came to the rescue and opened a school which helped to find us in curry and rice. Besides there was what was left, after providing for his maintenance, of Mr. Cremor's pay, which my sister Sophie, always large hearted and generous, placed

at the disposal of her mother and sisters and her little brother, your father.

In 1856, when I had just passed seven, I was sent to a school under the management of Mr. Blake. I knew to read and write figures, having been taught so far by a dear good old lady, a friend of my mother, in Trincomalee, Mrs. de Vos. My teacher at Mr. Blake's school, was Mr...who there had the title of 'appuhamy'. And we naughty boys used to worry the man's life by screeching the wretched Sinhala doggerel "Appuhamy pittu horra, Kawun kanda yothaya." Early in 1857 I was sent to a school in Small Pass kept by Mr. Loos. At first I was a day scholar, but my mother finding that she could not control me and keep me away from running about in the streets, boarded me, paying the one pound which she could ill-spare.

There are two observations which I wish to make in regard to this incident of my life. The first is that you are all better off than I was. You have a garden to run about and play in and therefore escaped the banishment from home which I had to undergo in my childhood. The other observation is this. Nothing more strikingly illustrates one trait of my mother's character than this act. She was fond, very fond, of me and had she allowed herself to be guided by mere sentiment, she would have let me have my own way and I would now certainly not be occupying the position I am proud to occupy. Her promptly boarding me, especially when she could ill afford the fees shows how far seeing she was and how rightly she estimated the advantages of early training and early education. Yes I never fail to be grateful for having such a mother, for had she been weak-minded and irresolute and stupidly indulged me, I should not bless her name as I now do. A woman with her character would undoubtedly have succumbed under the weight of poverty and straitened circumstances in a strange land. I was altogether about two years at Mr. Loos' school, and I retain very unpleasant recollections of this period of my life. Mr. Loos was a cruel man who exercised no moral influence over his pupils. He treated me so badly. Perhaps I was not altogether undeserving of the

severity shown, for I was a very mischievous boy; that one evening, smarting under the flogging I had received, I put on the clothes of a brother boarder, a boy much older than myself, and in that disguise ran away from school.

When I reached home my mother and sisters could not make me out in my new attire, and when I related to them how I had been treated I was forgiven and told I would not be sent back. I was nine years old at this time. In 1858 I was sent to St. Thomas' College and was put into the last class, of which kind hearted gentle mannered Mr. Bhutt was master. Here I began my Latin and to the good foundation laid here has been mainly due whatever improvement I achieved in my school life. An incident occurred when I was in Mr. Bhutt's class which I think is worth recording. Differences had arisen between Warden Baly and Bishop Chapman and all the Collegiate School masters had ranged themselves on the side of the Bishop. My sympathies were with the Warden, not because I thought he had justice and right on his side, because a little podian of ten can hardly be expected to enter into and decide the merits of a quarrel of so serious a character. My partisanship was due entirely to the fact that your Uncle Johnny was the Warden's Proctor. I was staying with your Aunt Eliza, whose house I must not forget to tell you was my home for many years. This you must always remember so that if at any time any of your cousins should require your help and you are in a position to help them, prefer their claims to those of all others. Well, the Warden came down one morning to the school and when he reached our class we all stood up as we had been wont to do in obedience to one of the standing rulers of the school. Upon this Mr. Bluets, our master and Mr. Bamforth our Headmaster ordered us to sit down telling us that Mr. Baly was no longer Warden. All the boys sat except myself and I narrowly escaped expulsion for this bold avowal of my partisanship. To go on with the history of my school life. In 1859 I was promoted and began Greek, Algebra and Euclid under Mr. Ellis. In Latin I went through a good deal of the....

(To Be Concluded)

# Confidentially

## The Postal Mess

IS IT NOT TRUE that the *Daily News* had reported last week that letters had not been collected from a letter box in Batticaloa for several weeks because the local postal boys had lost the key to open that box? That this discovery had been made because a resident had got into difficulties because letters he had written (making payments with cheques) had not reached their destinations? That the *Daily News* report also referred to the fact that two other post boxes in that region had also not been serviced (or opened) for several weeks because of lost keys? That if this was the situation in one local outstation town there is no reason why the situation was any better in other places or even in the city of Colombo? That complaints have poured into the *Tribune* office about letters that have not reached their destinations? That today no reliance can be placed on the postal service? That it is hoped that now that the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications has been discharged from hospital after the checkup (pronounced, it is learnt, fit and bouncing) he would take up the question of cleaning out the Augean stables with new vigour? That the *Daily Mirror* in an editorial on July 3 had concluded its remarks thus: "...we hope then that the Minister of Posts noted for his unbending opposition towards what is corrupt would probe the problems of the department. Even if all the allegations that pour into the "Mirror" office are not totally correct there is overwhelming evidence from the service the Department offers to warrant an inquiry into what goes on within its closed confines...."? That this column fully endorses the sentiments expressed and hopes that the Minister will set about the task of cleaning up the postal and telecommunications departments without any delay? That in certain countries a single scandal like the post boxes that were not cleared because of lost keys would have been enough to compel a Prime Minister to demand the resignation of the Minister concerned? That the constitutional convention that a Minister should be held

"responsible" for wilful and deliberate defaults in the departments in his charge makes it almost compulsory that a Minister must go when such scandals occur? That this convention has not been followed by the UNP, or the SLFP, or the coalitions they headed? That it is because this convention has not been insisted upon that so many Ministers since 1947 had continued in office unduly even though they should have been given the OBE (Order of the Boots' End) for the mess which prevailed (or they had created) in the departments in their charge? That this is all the more reason why Ministers in Sri Lanka today should bestir themselves even more than in other countries to provide the public with a decent and honest service? That it is because Ministers had not been sacked when they deserved such treatment that men who glittered on Ministerial thrones for a while have disappeared from the political firmament of Sri Lanka like so many shooting stars that flit across the skies? That total and complete oblivion will descend on those who hold the political stage in Sri Lanka for a while is inevitable in the future also (even more than in the past) because people are getting more and impatient about defaults like post-boxes that are not opened because some official has lost or misplaced the key?

IS IT NOT A FACT that the *Daily Mirror* was constrained to editorialise in the manner it did because of a communication it had received about the *Near Chaos in Postal Dept*? That this had been published in its column on July 2nd? That a *Postal Pensioner* had written to the *Daily Mirror* that "the Posts and Telecommunications Department is in a near chaos with several recent appointments, transfers, reinstatements, promotions, retirements, purchases of equipment (etcetera) made in an ad hoc manner without the normal procedures pertaining to the public service being rigidly followed...."? That the writer then went on to point out other misdemeanours that had brought disgrace to the department? That "although budgetary provisions," said the *Daily Mirror* correspondent, "had been obtained for certain posts, persons so appointed for them are employed for other purposes without the prior approval of the Treasury or the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications"? That this brings home the

charge so often made in the *Tribune* that the worthy Minister of Posts and Telecommunications was not aware of the deeds done in his name by new found bureaucrats who had suddenly shot into the arena in a mysterious manner? (That it is expected that such bureaucrats will disappear from the scene with the same alacrity they had been brought in to play their roles?) That in the communication to the *Daily Mirror* it was pointed out "...that certain sections of the Administration have been decentralised but the authorities are utilising postal clerks over and above the number the approved limits at these divisions and then incurring overtime for the resultant vacancies at the Head Office?..." That such a state of affairs is to be expected when trained bureaucrats are by-passed in favour of shooting stars, trapeze artists and busybodies (who successfully climbed into the UF bandwagon after May 1970 although they had been very much with the UNP earlier) and are entrusted with administrative work they are not equipped to handle? That ex-trade unionists and other adventurers who have crashed into the departmental administrative hierarchy by proclaiming bogus loyalty to socialism have brought a deep sense of frustration to all employees in the postal service? That according to the communication in the *Daily Mirror* a "sense of frustration and disillusionment" had spread throughout "the service which primarily caters to the masses"? That among the defaults listed was that "there are also said to be certain officers in the department who have used VIPs names and sought access to confidential files and vital documents when they are not entitled to do so"....? That name-dropping by charlatans to go places has become a major social evil in this country in the era of parliamentary elections and MP's Raj? That name-dropping has been taken to dizzy heights shooting stars can attain in the Postal and Telecommunications department? That it is time that something was done to end this?



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