

TRIBUNE

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TRIBUNE

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Letter From The Editor

HOUSING FOR THE MASSES has now become one of perennial problems of governments in all parts of the world. In the last decade numerous conferences have been held in Colombo and in every important capital of the world on the subject of housing. Last May Sri Lanka hosted a conference of South Asian Housing Ministers. Though some people tend to regard these conferences as futile exercises in wishful thinking, there is no doubt that these conferences have begun to promote fresh thinking about housing—and more especially low cost housing. Admittedly, the main attention, so far has been focussed on urban housing. There have been only cursory reviews of rural housing. Statistics have been compiled about the shortage in housing in urban areas (with indifferent guesses of the situation in the countryside). Estimates have been publicised about the number of housing units that would be required to solve the problem and the public has been told that pre-fabricated housing and self-help housing will bring the problem under control within a foreseeable future. All these, it must be mentioned, relate to urban areas and semi-urban satellite areas. There are no proper statistics or estimates about the housing problems and needs of the countryside. But, even with regard to urban housing, the tragedy is that the estimates have been based on a western definition of "houses" which included only houses with brick or cement walls and tiled (or asbestos) roofing. There is no reason to think that our housing pundits even now consider rammed earth and mud and wattle buildings with thatched roofs as "houses". Even when they are, they are regarded as second or third class. If such second and third class type of housing (including shantytown plank and tar-barrel-sheets units) are taken into consideration, the housing problem will assume a new dimension. In the rural countryside first class type of houses are few and far between. The real crux of the problem is to be able to utilise modern technology to provide good housing in urban and rural areas within the funds available to governments and individuals. Great publicity has been accorded to pre-fabricated housing and the factories set up to turn out prefabricated houses, but nowhere in the Third World (not even in Sri Lanka) has the pre-fabricated housing made any significant impact, and there does not seem to be any possibility that such housing will solve the housing problems of the masses in the Third World. The smallest prefabricated housing unit is expected to cost upwards of Rs. 5000 each and this is a sum which the overwhelming majority in Sri Lanka, who need housing, cannot afford. The real solution to low cost housing will revolve at least in the rural areas, in modernising the old techniques of house building so that peasants and villagers can have houses which they can build within their financial resources. The Government, unlike in the past, should provide the civic amenities (in both urban and rural areas), but the task of building should be left to the individuals themselves. They should be assisted in utilising traditional building materials in the best manner possible. It is a notorious fact that the costs of even the so-called governmental low cost housing have become prohibitive because of the use of sophisticated and scarce materials and administrative overheads. The house-builder must be freed from the burden of overheads and sophisticated materials like cement and steel. In different parts of India, especially in Kerala, a great deal of work has been done on self-help low cost housing utilising locally available cheap materials. What our Government must remember is that it is not enough to provide housing for the well-paid wage-earner but also provide shelter for the millions hovering on the brink of the poverty line. Concepts of housing are changing daily. It is no longer thought of as a static artifact which should stand the ravages of time for generations. Housing today is regarded as a continually changing form capable of being adjusted to changing family needs—consistent with a functional relationship to the environment. In this, it is not only the covered space that is important. More important is the functional aspect of the open space in and around house which has been integral to the traditional dwellings in Ceylon. Such open spaces will provide opportunities also to harness wind and solar energy. The picture on the cover is a traditional house in a Sinhala village with functional amenities. What is needed now is that there should be research on the stabilisation of mud and in improving techniques of manufacturing bricks and lime. We will revert to this topic often in the coming months.

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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

The No-Confidence Motion

ELSEWHERE IN THIS ISSUE, we have published for the record the No-Confidence Motion in the Prime Minister tabled in the National State Assembly. The motion has been sponsored by the members of the LSSP and the SLVB in the NSA. According to information available, as at present, the motion is likely to be debated on December 23.

There has been a great deal of low-key whisperings in political circles about the no-confidence motion. As it has been in the air for a long time, there has been really no undue excitement about it. Nor have there been speculations about major political upsets as a likely fallout of the no-confidence motion. The fact that it has come up at all is what has intrigued many.

The LSSP's *Nation* (5/12/75) and the UNP's *Journal* (also 5/12/75) have both published the no-confidence motion in full. There was no comment in either paper about the no-confidence motion—this is only to be expected as the matter (which is sensitive) is now before the NSA for debate. But whilst the UNP's *Journal* played it on a softer note on page 2 (of its four page paper), the LSSP's *Nation* went to town with the text of the motion. The *Nation* had a banner spread across the front page of its 4-page paper with descriptive sub-headings to highlight certain features in the transactions which constitute the basis of the no-confidence motion.

At one time when the news about the possibility of this no-confidence motion was being talked about in the corridors and lobbies of the political world, certain circles who have only recently turned hostile to the SLFP and the PM had been confident that the UNP and FP too would sponsor the no-confidence motion together with the LSSP and the SLVB. Whilst from the start, there had been serious doubts about the UNP getting involved in the no-confidence motion, it was known that a certain hardline section in the

TUF was pressing hard on the top FP-UF leadership and its Parliamentary Group to sponsor, support and vote in favour of the motion. The fact that the Parliamentary Group of the TUF has not sponsored the no-confidence (together with the LSSP and the SLVB) is a clear indication that the TUF's parliamentary fraction was (and is) not in favour of the proposals of the hardline group.

As early as September/October 1972, knowledgeable political circles were aware of the land transfers which are the subject matter of the no-confidence motion. It was also known that a number of other such transfers had taken place and which had been 'okayed' by the Land Reform Commission. Transactions by other persons, however VIP, have little or no political implications, but where a Prime Minister is concerned, it is a different matter. It was also known that UNP loyalists were on the track of these deeds as early as the beginning of 1973 and that true and certified copies were being obtained and photostats made—no doubt to be used at the appropriate time. But these UNP circles have so far not made use of these documents which were in their hands for over 30 months now.

Why?

Is it because that certain UNP bigwigs and supporters had also indulged in such transfers? Or did they want to keep the bombshell secret to be used only as a prelude to a general election? Or were the astute strategists of the UNP

keeping this dossier to bring subtle pressures in certain places? Whatever it is, there are no indications that the high places concerned had in any way succumbed to UNP pressures as a consequence of UNP's awareness of these transfers. And, it is not likely that the Prime Minister will vary her politics because of these disclosures.

One question that will naturally be asked is why the LSSP hierarchy, which must have been aware of these transactions and transfers *cum* mortgages from the second half of 1972 (as every political group knew), had kept quiet about them all these months and years. If the LSSP had been morally agitated about these transfers, they should have, ordinary people say, quit the Government and made an issue about them (just as the LSSP Finance Minister should have quit each time Budgetary proposals he had announced in his Budget speech in open Parliament were rejected by the Cabinet).

Why bring the matter up only now?

This is an argument which will be flung against the LSSP from many quarters during the debate. It will be contended that the LSSP having condoned these transactions by their silence, they cannot be heard to complain about them now. But the LSSP is very hot and bothered about the matter because the LSSP leaders seem to think that such disclosures about the PM would bring about a cataclysmic change in the political situation. LSSP calculations on this matter are not likely to be

FROM THE UNITED STATES

PORTABLE KITCHEN FOR OUTDOOR ENTHUSIASTS

For outdoor enthusiasts who don't like campfires, there is now a portable kitchen on the market. TRAILCOOKER II is lightweight (weighing 42 pounds—19 kilograms), strong (made of high impact molded plastic) and can be set up in seconds. It is folded compactly and carried in its own case. TRAILCOOKER contains a two-burner, propane gas stove. It has a sink with running water provided by using either a pressurized water system or the gravity flow water container included with the unit. The kitchen has work counter tops, shelves and utensil drawers. When set up, it has a five-foot (1.5-meter) long food preparation area. When folded, it is just over a foot (30 centimeters) wide. TRAILCOOKER costs about \$ 100 for the standard model, \$ 154 for the de luxe. The manufacturer also sells accessories, such as a portable fluorescent light with a 25-foot (7.5-meter) cord that can be plugged into any automobile cigarette lighter. The portable kitchen is sold by IHA, Incorporated, Box 321, 51 Lake Street, Nashua, New Hampshire 03060.

fulfilled if one takes into consideration the state of public opinion in urban as well as rural areas as at this moment.

The UNP seems to be conscious of this mood among the common people. The UNP would naturally like to derive the maximum political advantage for its own sectarian party interests. But evidently the UNP did not also want to have a boomerang assailing it—in the same manner that the Party's adventures into extra-parliamentarianism (like satyagraha and civil disobedience) had turned out to be. In these circumstances, the UNP may seek to side-step the LSSP-sponsored motion by suggesting that the matter merited only investigation by a Select Committee of the NSA and that it was yet premature to be made the basis of a no-confidence motion. The UNP could easily take the position that a Report from a Select Committee of the House was necessary because it was possible the Party to decide on the merits of the subject matter of the motion. One does not know what attitude the UNP will take vis a vis the motion during the debate, but it is bound to be interesting and significant, strategy-wise. The UNP Journal has not, so far, given any clue about what the line the UNP will take during the debate. But, it is clear from recent UNP writings and speeches that the UNP is not likely to rush to the

rescue of the PM or the SLFP. Will the UNP abstain in the voting after loudly proclaiming the high moral principles which should be observed? The UNP is also in a position to take *we-knew-it-all-along* and *we-knew-that-it-would-come-to-this* approach to the matter.

For the UNP, the no-confidence will be a source of great political consolation. It will serve to accentuate the confrontation between the LSSP and the SLFP. It will place the CP, which inside the UF, in the most embarrassing position. If the CP is compelled to quit the UF and the Government as a result of this motion, it will subserve UNP strategy which has all along wanted the SLFP to break with all its leftist allies. If the no-confidence motion succeeds in edging the CP out of the UF, there is no doubt that the SLFP can be pushed to becoming right-of-centre without any difficulty. The LSSP, when it was in the UF and the Government, had wanted "unity" in order to prevent the kind of polarisation the UNP had wanted from 1970. But the motion sponsored by the LSSP now, out of the Government, will create a situation which the UNP can utilise to the fullest to secure the kind of transformation in the SLFP which it has always wanted. How the CP will play its cards is yet to be known. The CP is conscious that the UNP should not be allowed to become the beneficiary of the split which

has arisen in the UF, but will the high-minded doctrinaire pundits in the CP be able to view the matter in a flexible, realistic and dialectic way without being carried away by LSSP tantrums?

The UNP already realises that it will be the only beneficiary of the no-confidence motion. Even if it does not support the motion it will be the main beneficiary. And, there is no need for the UNP to oppose the motion either to derive the benefits that are likely to accrue to it.

The FP-TUF seems to be taking a distant (and objective) view of the matter in spite of the hardline pressures from within it. The extremists see in the motion an opportunity to carry on a (guerilla) parliamentary war against the ruling circles of the Sinhala political hierarchy. But the more realistic leaders do not see any advantage in taking sides on this matter. The older and more mature leadership of the FP seem to think that if anyone is to be censured for these land transfers it is not the landowner but the Land Reform Commission for not having rejected the transfers, and also the Minister of Agriculture and Lands who constitutes the final authority in appeal over the Land Reform Commission. Although this view may seem "legalistic" to political moralists of a particular breed, there is no doubt that there is a great deal to be said for this logic among the top leadership of the TUF. Every landowner, even if a Prime Minister, will naturally endeavour to derive the maximum benefits possible under any law, but it is not the landowner who should be penalised or censured when there is a statutory body and a Minister who had been entrusted with the implementation of the law. How strongly the FP-TUF will put this view forward is yet to be seen, because the leaders of the Tamil minority may be carried away into the realm of emotionalism to fall back upon repetitions *ad nauseam* about the "plight of the Tamils" (which however true has become a stale chorus even to the public which is sympathetic to the Tamil Minority).

How the SLFP is likely to meet the challenges implicit in the no-confidence motion is yet to be seen. It will not be difficult for

CIGAR UNITS IN DOLDRUMS

"Kind of Indian cheroot" is the meaning given for "trichinopoli, trichi", in the Concise Oxford Dictionary in a Conan Doyle novel, smoking of Woriyur cigar is considered a mark of aristocracy. Winston Churchill is said to have smoked only Woriyur cigars. Foreigners visiting Tiruchi, look to it as the best memento. *But these are things of the past. To-day the cigar and cheroot industry in Tiruchi is languishing. It may be no wonder if it is extinct in the next decade.*

With the Europeans leaving India after independence, the demand for Woriyur cigars started dwindling. The change in the pattern of smoking with the preference for cigarette and beedi, accelerated the trend. In the boom period, over 5,000 workers were engaged in cigar and cheroot manufacture in Woriyur and Tiruchi town in over 200 companies. To-day there are 16 concerns, with only 80 workers, leading a hand-to-mouth existence, catering to local markets. The high cost of cigar, normally considered the rich man's smoke, is another reason for the decline of this industry. Taxation and labour policies have added to the industry's burden. In exports, it faces competition from machine-rolled cigars made in foreign countries. Existing producers will be able to continue their business if the State Government exempt the cigar industry from the cigar and Beedi Workers' Employment Conditions Act.

the Government to make a catalogue of land transfers which took place at this stage and which had been approved by the Land Reform, and in the light of such transfers the PM's transactions may not seem as heinously unique as the LSSP would like to make them out to be. Secondly, the LSSP cannot afford to throw stones. They can't tell that they should remove the beam in their eyes before seeking to make much of the speck in somebody else's. There is bound to be a great deal of talk about people in glass houses, but in the time available an authenticated indictment may not be possible—an indictment of a moral kind which will go down with the public which has suffered many disillusionments about the LSSP in recent times.

The debate on the no-confidence motion is bound to provide many surprises just as there is bound to be a plentiful cleaning of dirty linen. With the alignment of forces in the NSA and the known refusal of the UNP and the FP to sponsor the motion, the LSSP, and the SLVB are likely to be the solitary champions waging war to denigrate the reputation of the PM and the SLFP. How far the charisma that still envelops the PM will be dented is yet to be seen, but realistic political observers seem to think that the no-confidence will be only a little more than a minor storm in a tea cup. If anything more significant than a minor storm emerges from the debate it will

be something that nobody has yet been able to envisage at this stage.

The Nation has expressed the greatest disappointment with the UNP. In the Notes and Comments column in its issue of 5/12/75, it had stated thus under the heading **The Silence of the Sphinx**

The silence of Mr. J. R. Jayewardene and the UNP as a whole is a matter which speaks louder than words. A party which claims that it will be the next party in power must surely have something to say about current events and political shifts. Why this silence? Why this disinclination to be associated with the Non-Confidence Motion against the Prime Minister? The UNPers generally make out that they are no longer interested in joining Mrs. Bandaranaike's Government, that the phase is now over because they are confident of winning the General Election. But if this is so surely one would expect them to make political capital of the break of the UF and the disarray among the anti-UNP forces. But far from it—the party's political energy is lukewarm. One of two explanations, not unconnected are possible. Either Mr. Jayewardene sees in the present situation a opportunity of renewing the overtures to the SLFP and joining the Government or there is so much disunity within its ranks that it finds it impolitic to force any major decision on the party cadres. With the entry of the LSSP into the Oppo-

sition Parliament has once again become a focal point of interest (which it was not when the UNP constituted the main Opposition) and it seems clear that the best course which recommends itself to Mr. Jayewardene is to preserve his sphinx-like posture of non-committal composure. A question of mass response to the present situation has obviously to be answered before the UNP can decide to show a more positive stance. Will the break-up of the Front and the rightward swing of the Government help the UNP or the SLFP? Will the bulk of the middle groups in the political spectrum who had drifted towards the UNP now go back towards the SLFP? Alternatively, will those who prefer the present policies to those that preceded them consider that they might choose the genuine and traditional champion of the private sector and inclination towards the "West" in foreign affairs inc. the UNP to one that is at best a pendulum swinging between the LEFT and the RIGHT? If the UNP and the right-wing of the SLFP answer this question to their mutual satisfaction there is nothing to prevent the Prime Minister from performing another bit of surgery and inviting the UNP in and even forming a Front in the country. We shall wait and see.

Such is the LSSP view. No other Party has set out their attitude to current developments yet.

CHRONICLE

Nov. 28 — Dec. 4

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; TOCSL—Times of Ceylon Sunday Illustrated; DM—Dinamina; LD—Lankadipa; JD—Janadina; VK—Virakesari; ATH—Aththa; SM—Silmilina; SLD—Sri Lankadipa; JS—Janasathiya.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28: An oil facility amounting to 43.5 million Special Drawing Rights and a stand-by credit of 24.5 million Special Drawing Rights has been granted to Sri Lanka by the International Monetary Fund: Mr. Felix Dias Bandaranaike, Minister of Finance, announced this in the NSA yesterday—CDN. The Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike, replying to a question by Dr. N. M. Perera, former Minister of Finance,

as to why the subject of external resources was not given to him, said it was because the Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs was under her: she also said because it was under her charge that the country was able to get foreign aid—CDN. The Prime Minister replying to further criticism levelled against her by Dr. N. M. Perera and Mr. Leslie Goonewardena during the discussion of the votes of the Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs in the NSA said that although the LSSP was now attempting to sling mud at her and her family by attacking them personally she was not scared and the people knew how the LSSP had worked and would give the latter the proper answer—CDM. The Prime Minister referring to the management of Air Ceylon said that she had asked Mr. Goonewardene to remove Mr. Sam Silva when he was Chairman of Air Ceylon but the Minister did not do so and instead allowed him to resign and leave the country—CDM. The Department of National Housing decided to deduct the housing loans from the pay packet of Government servants—LD. The Ceylon Shipping Corporation decided to buy a oil tanker to bring crude oil to the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation Refinery—ATH. The

Tamil United Front giving evidence before the Delimitation Commission advocated the creation of a new electorate to provide representation for the Sinhalese population of Trincomalee—CDN. Following British Governmental action to curb private practice the British Medical Association, the main professional body of doctors, gave the go-ahead for the 30,000 odd doctors who are members of the body to treat only emergency cases: this move is said to be an industrialist action of a kind unprecedented in the 27-year old history of the British state health service. A US Federal jury found Lynette Fromme, a follower of mass murderer Charles Manson, guilty of attempting to kill President Ford.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29: Mr. Maithripala Senanayake, Minister of Irrigation, Power and Highways, announced in the NSA yesterday that the Cabinet had approved and legislation would be presented in the Parliament, for the levy of a land betterment tax which will be applicable in all parts of the country: the land betterment tax will be instead of the UNP's proposal of Rs. 40 water tax which only those coming under the Mahaveli Development Scheme would have had to pay: the Minister announcing the tax proposal posed the question as to why the land owners whose properties appreciate in value as a result of Government development work such as construction of roads, supply of electricity etc., should not pay something for the development of the country—CDN. A Soviet naval ship with highly sophisticated naval gear and computer arrived in the island yesterday: this ship is a gift by the USSR for the country's naval training—CDN. According to the Ministry of Finance, the private sector has keenly responded to the Government's call to invest in new short term and long term projects that would generate production and employment—CDN. Mr. Leslie Goonewardene, former Minister of Transport, replying to certain remarks made by the Prime Minister in the floor of the House on Air Ceylon said that when the Prime Minister requested him to remove Mr. Sam Silva from the post of Chairman Air Ceylon he requested the Premier to have a discussions with Mr. Silva and if she was still not satisfied he agreed to remove him—CDM. According to the *Daily Mirror* what might have been one of the worst-ever railway disasters was averted by the action of two railway guards: the incident occurred when the driver of the mixed train from Batticaloa and Trincomalee failed to exchange tablets at Morogollagama: the driver of the train who was alleged to be under the influence of liquor was later produced to the Police. Libya decided to donate Sri Lanka Government with modern telecommunication equipment as a gesture towards non-aligned policy followed by the Government—CDM. The Salusala informed shirt manufacturers that synthetic material allocated for them would be handed over to the co-operatives if they fail to buy same before the 20th of this month: 140,000 yards of synthetic material has been reserved by the Salusala for shirt manufacturers—DM. The Ministry of Education has made arrangements to release the results of the GCE O level and NCGE examination to be held in December within one month; eight million students will sit these examinations—VK. Mr. P. B. G. Kalugalle, Minister of Shipping and Tourism, said that reason to disallow tourist arrivals during the time of the Non aligned conference was to provide more security for delegates attending the conference—ATH. Bangladesh President, Abu Sadat Mohammed Sayem,

has retained the nonpartisan and non-political character of his interim Government with the expansion of his advisory council to eight members. Portugal's ruling military hierarchy which successfully defeated a coup attempt by armed forces extremists has started to work on a full scale purge of military leftists.

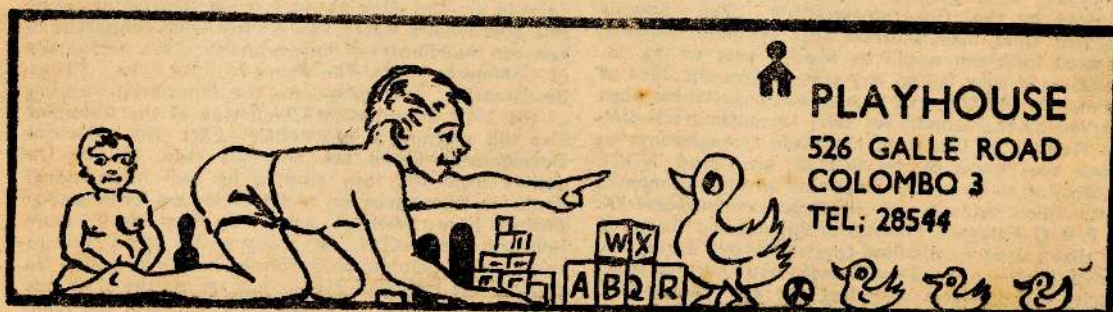
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30: Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike, told the *Observer* that the reason for banning the book entitled "Tamils need a nation—Why?", was because it was inflammatory: the Prime Minister added that the book distorted the history of Sri Lanka in a manner that would not be acceptable to a large section of the population of this country. According to the *Observer*, university teachers of the four major campuses, Colombo, Peradeniya, Vidyodaya and Vidyalandara have protested strongly against the proposed amendments to the University Act: at the Vidyodaya campus the resolution of protest has been jointly signed by the teachers, students and workers. Police Vice Squads have been instructed to intensify their raids on blackmarketeers of essential commodities and other items the prices of which were slashed by the Minister of Finance in the recent Budget—ST. Police patrols in the city have asked the Department to re-issue more sophisticated arms which were withdrawn from them soon after the insurgency: according to the crews of the Police prowl cars adequate weapons are necessary to bring violent situations such as mob attacks, gang wars and rioting under control—CO. Following talks between officials of India and Sri Lanka the Prime Ministers of both countries will soon sign an agreement pertaining to the territorial limits on sea of both countries—VK. Teachers' trade unions who have planned to stage a day's token strike on December 4, have requested parents to refrain from sending their children to school on this day—VK. According to the *Janasathiya* since the ousting of the LSSP from the UF the functions of Transfer Boards, Workers Council and JCTUO branches of State Corporation and Department have come to a standstill. The Ceylon Shipping Corporation has made a nett profit of Rs. 90 millions during the last four year period—SLD. President Ford who left for China said that his mission was aimed at consolidating peace in Asia. The ruling Labour Party lost the elections in New Zealand.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1: The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce in a circular sent to its members setting out guidelines for answering a questionnaire on the private sector investment plans, based on relief offered in the Budget, said that guarantees of maximum security which a foreign investor would want will be incorporated in the Foreign Investment Guarantee Law: this questionnaire was drawn up following consultations between the Ministry of Finance and the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce—CDN. The Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike, will inaugurate the Ministerial Meeting of the 25th Consultative Committee of the Colombo Plan this morning at the BMICH—CDN. The Industrial Development Board has informed that 200,000 US dollars from the loan granted by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for industrial projects have been set apart for the small scale industry sector—CDN. A group of Sri Lanka citizens residing in London have formed an organisation to counter the malicious propaganda against the Sri Lanka Government being circulated by a section of the Tamil

residents in London—CDM. Mr. C. Kumarasuriar, Minister of Posts and Telecommunications, informed the NSA last week that a satellite earth station will be commissioned next month—CDM. Mr. M. A. de Silva, former Editor of *Dinamina*, has been appointed by the President as a member of the Press Council—ATH. The *Aththa* in a editorial comment referred to the accusations by the SLFP and the LSSP against each other said this clearly revealed the fact that both parties have been guilty of hiding these facts from the public for the last few years: the editorial requested both parties to come out with all what they had been avoiding from the public in the past years. Mr. C. Kumarasuriar, Minister of Post and Telecommunications, addressing the 17th anniversary meeting of the Sri Lanka Post and Telecommunication Service Union said that it was vital for the SLFP to have the backing of the LSSP and the CP to achieve socialism—ATH. Dr. Jayantha Kelegama, Secretary to the Ministry of Trade, and a team of officials left for UK yesterday to discuss the confirmation of British buyers of tea that they would continue to buy Sri Lanka tea even after the nationalisation of sterling company estates—DM. Sri Gurbachan Singh, newly appointed High Commissioner for India, arrived in the island on Saturday—DM. Mr. Prins Gunsekera, MP for Habaraduwa and General Secretary of the newly formed political party, Lanka Vimukthi Balavegaya, told the *Virakesari* that discussions have already taken place to join the LSSP and a few other organisations to form a true socialist front. Pakistan has denied reported Indian allegations that army officers who killed Bangladesh President Mujibur Rahman sought political asylum in Pakistan. Lebanon's two top rival leaders sank their differences and in a broadcast to the country said that fighting could spread across the country's borders unless checked by an act of national reconciliation.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2: Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike, in her inaugural address to the Ministerial Meeting of the 25th Consultative Colombo Plan at the BMICH yesterday said that there are nearly 500 million people who are affected by acute malnutrition the world over and it is only an effective policy of income distribution and an assurance of minimum levels of income that could eradicate the problem of malnutrition: the Premier stressing the need for the agricultural extension said that she was somewhat disappointed by the response of the international community to the issues raised at the World Food Conference held in Rome—CDN. Following

complaints to the Minister of Transport, Mr. K. B. Ratnayake, that Workers Councils in the CTB and the CGR have almost ceased to function since the Cabinet reshuffle in August this year: the Minister has decided to dissolve these councils—CDN. After the recommendation of Mr. T. C. F. Perera, District Traffic Inspector CGR, who inquired into the Batuwatte train collision on November 19, the Department suspended the services of sixty trainee drivers who were allowed to run locomotives from working as engine drivers: Mr. Perera has been interdicted by the Department of Railways after the publication of his preliminary report in the *Daily Mirror* on November, 24—CDM. The cost of living index which showed a upward trend during the last 15 years dropped by .7 points from its level of 199.9 as at October this year—CDM. "The Islamic Socialist Front wanted the Colombo Central electorate to function as three different seats", said Mr. Halim Ishak, speaking at a meeting in Colombo: Mr. Halim Ishak is a top ranking member of the ISF and a candidate of the Colombo Central electorate at the last general elections on the SLFP ticket—VK. Mr. R. Premadasa, First MP for Colombo Central, told the NSA that a Select Committee of the NSA should be appointed to probe the administration of the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation—VK. The inquiry by the UNP Working Committee into the affairs of Mr. Rukman Senanayake, MP for Dedigama was postponed for December 6, after a six hour discussion that was held on Sunday—VK. According to the *Lankadipa* the American Government has decided to temporarily suspend the formation of the military base in Diego Garcia in accordance with a request made by the Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike: this has been revealed to the *Lankadipa* by a high official of the Prime Minister's office. According to the *Aththa* a sum of Rs. 20,000 has been wasted by rearing fish in the Bolgoda lake in the Kalutara district under the District Development Scheme: the Scheme has since been abandoned. Prime Minister, Nagendra Prasad Rijal, of Nepal, has resigned. Indian Defence Minister, Swaran Singh, was dropped in an important Indian Cabinet reshuffle announced by Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi: the Premier took over the portfolio herself. President Ford arrived in China yesterday on a five-day mission aimed at improving the sagging Sino-US relationship: President Ford received a slightly bigger welcome than the former President Nixon who visited China in 1972: Chinese Vice Premier, Teng Hsiao-Ping, Peking's third ranking leader was at the airport to receive the President, his wife and daughter.



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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3: As a result of representations made to the Government against the amending Bill to the University Act by all four campuses the Minister of Education, Dr. Badiuddin Mahmud, has decided on a number of amendments: according to a spokesman of the Ministry of Education the presidents of the various campuses of the University met the Minister yesterday and indicated their objections to the bill—CDN. Mr. Laksman Jayakody, Deputy Minister of Defence and Foreign Affairs, told the NSA yesterday that an expenditure of Rs. 245,298,445 was being incurred on development projects connected with the Non-Aligned Conference to be held in Colombo in August '76: the Deputy Minister also said that these developments were long envisaged and would be of lasting benefit to the country well beyond the Non-aligned conference—CDN. A foreign minister's conference would be held in Colombo prior to the Non-Aligned conference to decide on the new admissions to the non aligned community—CDN. According to the *Daily Mirror*, the Jayewardene-Senanayake clash within the UNP has now filtered into the trade union sector: several members who were in the UNP sponsored Jathika Sevaka Sangamaya have broken away from the union and formed new union by the name Eskath Jathika (Ekabaddha) Sevaka Sangamaya, which is pro-Senanayake. A No-confidence motion signed by 16 MPs of the Opposition against the Prime Minister will be taken up for discussion in the NSA on December 23: all MPs of the LSSP and the MP for Habaraduwa, Mr. Prins Goonesekera and MP for Matale, Major General Richard Udugama, have signed the No-confidence motion—ATH. The Minister of Health, Mr. George Rajapakse, decided to abolish all post graduate overseas exams for medical men that were held in this country instead a new scheme will be introduced after January next year to have local post graduate examinations—LD. Dr. W. Dahanayake, MP for Galle, requested the Government to take steps to avoid the mass token strike by teachers scheduled for tomorrow and to grant the just demands of the teachers: meanwhile eight major trade unions have made all arrangements for tomorrow's token strike—VK. A resolution calling for a zone of free nuclear weapons to be established in the Middle East was introduced in the main political committee of the United Nations. US President Ford yesterday opened talks with a Chinese side headed by Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-Ping in Peking's Great Hall of the People: according to an American spokesman the US President was yesterday suddenly summoned by Chairman Mao Tse-tung and both had discussions.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4: According to the *Daily News*, eight teacher's trade unions decided to call off the day's token strike scheduled for today following talks with the Prime Minister at the Temple Trees last night: earlier the Ministry of Education issued a communique warning the teachers that the Government was left with no alternative but to strictly enforce emergency regulations in the event of teachers going ahead with the proposed token strike: last night the Minister of Education, Mr. Badiuddin Mahmud, appealed to the teachers to call off their token strike in view of the fact that examinations are scheduled for this week. According to the *Daily Mirror*, though the Government declared the one day token strike of teachers illegal they will defy the ban and continue to strike. The Secretary

to the Ministry of Public Administration in a circular to all heads of Department and State Corporations said that insurgents who were freed after detention should not be discriminated when recruitment for jobs occur—CDM. The failure by Mr. Pieter Keuneman, Minister of Housing and Construction, to speak on the Budget and the divergent views expressed by CP MPs on the invitation of foreign capital, a proposal in the Budget, has caused consternation in the SLP parliamentary group—CDM. Mr. Felix Dias Bandaranaike Minister of Finance, has informed heads of departments and state corporations that officers drawing a salary above Rs. 560 in government departments and above Rs. 600 in state corporations should declare that they would not indulge in politics and should forthwith resign from any post of office bearer they might hold in political parties—CDN. Mr. M. C. W. Pinto has been appointed Ambassador to West Germany in succession to late Mr. Ratnavale—CDN. Mr. T. B. Subasinghe, Minister of Industries and Scientific Affairs, disclosed at a press conference yesterday that the American Government has decided on a policy of expending a part of the money lying to its credit in various countries under the PL 480 agreement to the development of agriculture in the country itself—LD. The *Aththa* in an editorial comment criticized the attitude of the Government for banning teachers' token strike scheduled for today and said that every section in the Government must feel disgraced for this action: the editorial further said that this action is a sort of black-legging not thought of even in a UNP Government, leave alone the SLFP-CP Government. President Ford and Chairman Mao had a one hour fifty minutes discussion but neither side revealed the subject of the talks: the New China News Agency reported the meeting as "earnest and significant discussions.... on wide-ranging issues in a friendly atmosphere."

* * *

MINISTER K. B. R. ON COLLISIONS

MINISTER K. B. Ratnayake must be congratulated for having frankly told the NSA that the recent rail collisions were due to the negligence of the drivers who ignored signals and the ordinary precautionary rules of the CGR. He has also tabled the report of the Inquiring Committee about the Batuwatte accident—and this in every way bears what had been stated by the Traffic Inspector and who has been interdicted for bringing the Public Service in "disrepute" because the *Daily Mirror* had scooped his report. The Minister has not resorted to the circumlocution and humbug of Railway bureaucracy in trying to fool the public that every precaution had been taken by the drivers and other employees. The GMR must adopt new methods of public relations in dealing with the public and the communiques he issues must be consistent with facts.

FOR THE RECORD

No Confidence Motion In The Prime Minister

The following is the full text of the motion of no-confidence in the Prime Minister.

That whereas the Bill for the Land Reform Law, No. 1 of 1972 was published as required by the Constitution in the Gazette of 23rd June, 1972, was presented to the National State Assembly on 7th July, 1972, was debated in the National State Assembly from 1st August, 1972 and was passed by the National State Assembly on 18th August, 1972; and

Whereas the said Bill became a Law of the National State Assembly when the Speaker endorsed his certificate of due passage upon it on 26th August, 1972, that is to say, eight days after it was passed by the National State Assembly, and

Whereas the said Law vested in the Land Reform Commission as from 26th August, 1972, with absolute title and free from all encumbrances, any agricultural land owned by any person on 25th August, 1972 in excess of the ceiling of fifty acres imposed by the said Law; and

Whereas section 13 of the said Law expressly provided as follows:—

- (1) Where on or after May 29th, 1971, any person who owned agricultural land in excess of the ceiling has alienated any agricultural land to any other person, such alienator shall, within three months of the date of commencement of this Law, report such alienation to the Commission in the prescribed form
- (2) Where the Commission finds that any alienation of agricultural land on or after May 29th, 1971, has been calculated to defeat the purposes of this Law the Commission may by order under its hand declare that such alienation is null and void: and Whereas 29th May, 1971, was the date on which the Cabinet of Ministers, with the Prime Minister presiding, decided to fix the ceiling at fifty acres, and Whereas, in face of the knowledge gained by her as Prime Minister

of the provisions of the Land Reform Bill even before, and well before, the Bill for the Land Reform Law published in the Gazette of 23rd June, 1972. Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, Prime Minister, a person who on and after 29th May, 1971 owned agricultural land in excess of the ceiling, entered into or carried forward arrangements to alienate land owned by her, and

Whereas on 18th August, 1972, that is to say, the very day on which the National State Assembly passed the Land Reform Bill, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, Prime Minister, and her three children, namely Sunethra Dias Bandaranaike, Chandrika Dias Bandaranaike, by her attorney Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike and Anura Solomon Priyadarsi Bandaranaike, all persons who, to the knowledge of the Prime Minister, on and after 29th, May, 1971 owned agricultural land in excess of the ceiling, alienated, that is to say, sold and conveyed by Deed No. 556 dated 18th August, 1972, and attested by M. G. Wijesekera, Notary Public, Colombo to Lloyd Wettasinghe of No. 41, Ske'ton Road, Colombo. Lot 1 of the land called Malwatte situated in Nambadaluwa in the Udugahapattuwa of Siyanekorale East, in the District of Colombo, and depicted in Plan No. 567 dated 10th August, 1922 made by S. Dharmawardene, Licensed Surveyor for a sum of Rupees Two Hundred and Eighty-Five Thousand (Rs. 285,000); and

Whereas the said Lloyd Wettasinghe was at the time of execution of the said Deed No. 556 Chairman of the Ceylon Hotels Corporation, a State financed Institution, and has continued to be such Chairman up to the present day; and

Whereas the Member for Habaraduwa produced a certified photostat copy of the said Deed No. 556 in the National State Assembly on 14th October, 1975 and with reference to the sale on the said Deed No. 556 the Minister of Agriculture and Lands stated in the National State Assembly on 14th October, 1975, as follows:—

"The Member for Habaraduwa produced a deed, I wish to say a word about this deed. In the month of January 1971 a certain gentleman—I think the gentleman called Wettasinghe—obtained permission from the

Industries Ministry to start some industry. In order to start that industry the possession also of this land has been obtained in 1971. That gentleman has also paid a portion of the money. The Hon. Prime Minister asked about this. I said that if her land also had been given, if money also has been taken in that behalf, give it to that person himself. I shall take the full responsibility."—Hansard, 14th October, 1975—Col 1823, and

Whereas the Notary in his attestation of the said Deed No. 556, acting on the express requirement of sub-section-(20) (b) and (21) of section 31 and of FORM E' of the Notaries Ordinance, Chapter 107, has stated as follows "I further certify and attest that out of the consideration herein mentioned a sum of Rupees One Hundred and Fifty Thousand (Rs. 150,000) was paid in my presence by Cheque bearing No. D/21 092151, dated 18th August 1972, drawn on the Bank of Ceylon Foreign Department and the balance consideration of Rupees One Hundred and Thirty-Five Thousand (Rs. 135,000) was secured by Bond No. 596 dated 18th August, 1972 attested by V. G. Cooke, Notary Public of Colombo ...and'

Whereas by the said Bond No. 596 the said Lloyd Wettasinghe mortgaged to Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike and her said three children, Sunethra Dias Bandaranaike, Chandrika Dias Bandaranaike and Anura Solomon Priyadarsi Dias Bandaranaike, the self same land which the said four vendors had sold and conveyed to the said Lloyd Wettasinghe by the said Deed No. 556 to secure the payment of the said balance sum of Rupees One Hundred and Thirty-Five Thousand (Rs 135,000); and

"Whereas it is manifest from the Notary's said attestation in the said Deed No. 556 and also from the documents mentioned in the said attestation that no payment whatsoever in respect of the transaction embodied in the said Deed No. 556 had been made previous to 18th August, 1972 and that in fact the said cheque and the said bond cover the entire sum payable on the transaction embodied in the said Deed 556; and

Whereas it is also manifest that the Prime Minister's statement to the Minister of Agriculture and

Transfer Deeds

Lands that a portion of the consideration on the deed had been paid previously constitutes a grave misrepresentation of fact which could not but affect and, as the statement of the Minister of Agriculture and Lands in the National State Assembly on 14th October, 1975 shows, did in fact affect the judgement of the Minister of Agriculture and Lands when he told the Prime Minister to give, that is to say, to sell the land to Lloyd Wettasinghe: and

Whereas, again on 18th August, 1972, Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike, Prime Minister, and her said three children, Sunethra Dias Bandaranaike, Chandrika Dias Bandaranaike by her attorney Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike, and Anura Solomon Priyadarsi Dias Bandaranaike by **Deed No. 597** of 18th August, 1972 attested by V. G. Cooke, Notary public, Colombo, sold and conveyed to John Pavulu Irugalbandarage Piyadasa for a sum of Two Hundred and Twenty Two Thousand Rupees (Rs. 222,000) 16 acres and 26 perches and an undivided 8/18 share of 1 acre 2 roods 34 perches if the land called Malwatte situated in the village Nambadaluwa aforesaid and, to Dharmasena Premachandra Amarasinghe and Marambe Weerasinghe Mudiyanseelage Drusil Felicia Amarasinghe (husband and wife) for a sum of Twenty-Five Thousand Rupees (Rs. 25,000) an extent of two acres and an undivided 1/18 part of 1 acre 2 roods and 34 perches of the said Malwatte; and

Whereas by **Bond No. 596** of 18th August, 1972 the said John Pavulu Irugalbandarage Piyadasa mortgaged the land he bought on the said **Deed No. 597** to the said Anura Solomon Priyadarsi Dias Bandaranaike to secure the sum of Seventy-Two Thousand Rupees (Rs. 72,000) out of the consideration on the said deed No. 597, and the said Dharmasena Premachandra Amarasinghe and Marambe Weerasinghe Drusil Felicia Amarasinghe mortgaged the land they bought on the said **Deed No. 597** to the said Anura Solomon Priyadarsi Dias Bandaranaike to secure the sum of Fifteen Thousand Rupees (Rs. 15,000) out of the consideration on the said **Deed No. 597**; and

Whereas by **Deed No. 601** of 23rd August, 1972, attested by V. G. Cooke, Notary Public of Colombo the said Sunethra Dias

Bandaranaike, Chandrika Dias Bandaranaike by her attorney Mrs. Sirima Dias Bandaranaike and Anura Solomon Priyadarsi Dias Bandaranaike sold and conveyed to Kiribandara Muhandiram Appuhamilage Lionel for One Thousand Two Hundred and Thirty Rupees (Rs. 1,230) a land in extent 1 rood and 1 perch; and

Whereas by **Deed No. 602** of 23rd August, 1972, attested by V. G. Cooke, Notary Public, Colombo, the said Sunethra Dias Bandaranaike, Chandrika Dias Bandaranaike by her attorney Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike and Anura Solomon Priyadarsi Dias Bandaranaike sold and conveyed to Somalatha Edirisinghe for Two Thousand Four Hundred Rupees (Rs. 2,400) a land in extent 2 roods; and

Whereas by **Deed No. 603** of 23rd August, 1972 attested by V. G. Cooke, Notary Public, Colombo, the said Sunethra Dias Bandaranaike, Chandrika Dias Bandaranaike by her attorney Mrs. Sirima Dias Bandaranaike and Anura Solomon Priyadarsi Dias Bandaranaike sold and conveyed to Leslie Edirisinghe for Three Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty Rupees (Rs. 3,960) a land in extent 3 acres and 12 perches; and

Whereas by **Deed No. 604** of 23rd August 1972, attested by V. G. Cooke, Notary Public of Colombo the said Sunethra Dias Bandaranaike, Chandrika Dias Bandaranaike by her attorney Mrs.

Sirima Dias Bandaranaike and Anura Solomon Priyadarsi Dias Bandaranaike sold and conveyed to Wijesinghe Arachilage Jayatilaka for a sum of Five Thousand Four Hundred Rupees (Rs. 5,400) a land in extent 1 acre 10 roods; and

Whereas by **Deed No. 605** of 23rd August, 1972 attested by V. G. Cooke, Notary Public of Colombo the said Sunethra Dias Bandaranaike, Chandrika Dias Bandaranaike by her attorney Mrs. Sirima Dias Bandaranaike and Anura Solomon Priyadarsi Dias Bandaranaike sold and conveyed to Ranawaka Achchige Winial Gaminil Ranawaka for Nine Hundred Rupees (Rs. 900) a land in extent 30 perches, and

Whereas by **Deed No. 606** of 23rd August, 1972, attested by V. G. Cooke, Notary Public the said Sunethra Dias Bandaranaike, Chandrika Dias Bandaranaike by her attorney Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike and Anura Solomon Priyadarsi Dias Bandaranaike sold and conveyed to Imiage Don Senaratne for a sum of Nine Hundred Rupees (Rs. 900) a land at Wanduramulla in the Udugahapattu of Siyanekorale East, of the extent of 30 perches; and

Whereas by **Deed No. 607** of 23rd August, 1972 attested by V. G. Cooke, Notary Public, the said Anura Solomon Priyadarsi Dias Bandaranaike sold and conveyed for a sum of Fifteen Thousand Rupees (Rs. 15,000) an extent of 1 acre of the land called Horagolla

VIRTUES THAT WOMEN SEEK IN MEN

Women are less interested in sexual attraction than are men, according to a survey conducted by the Allensbach Public Research Institute in West Germany. Women give paramount importance to fidelity (62 per cent) followed by an affectionate personality (51 per cent). Sexual attraction only comes third on the list (45 per cent), according to the newspaper *Neue Ruhr Zeitung*. To the men questioned, the Institute put the question: "What quality do you look for the most in a woman?" Sixty-five per cent replied, sexual attractiveness, 54 per cent listed fidelity, and 53 per cent named thrift and an unspoiled nature. Forty-nine per cent mentioned cleanliness first. Among the women thrift only came ninth, with 35 per cent. Both hard work and efficiency were mentioned by 45 per cent of the women. Women were far less insistent (27 per cent) on cleanliness than men and mere nineteen per cent emphasised courtesy. Last of all came being able to keep a secret, with only eight per cent. Forty per cent of the men expected women to be good cooks. Good looks, honesty, diligence and prudence rated between 30 and 39 per cent for the men.

In comparison with previous surveys conducted in 1964 and 1970 the institute deduces that the housewifely virtues of yore like industry, thrift, keeping everything clean and tidy, have declined in importance as desirable qualities of the female.

Estate situated at Nambadaluwa aforesaid to Loku Helapilage Navaratne; and

Whereas by Deed No. 603 of 25th August, 1972 attested by V. G. Cooke, Notary Public, the said Sunethra Dias Bandaranaike, Chandrika Dias Bandaranaike by her attorney Mrs. Sirima Dias Bandaranaike and Anura Solomon Priyadarsi Dias Bandaranaike sold and conveyed to Dampadeni Arachige Senat for a sum of Rupees Four Thousand Five Hundred (Rs. 4,500) a land of one acre in extent being a portion of Attanagalla Group; and

Whereas the said Sunethra Dias Bandaranaike, Chandrika Dias Bandaranaike by her attorney Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike and Anura Solomon Priyadarsi Dias Bandaranaike by Deed No. 609 of 25th August, 1972, attested by V. G. Cooke, Notary Public, sold and conveyed to Ratupedige Nandasara: I Jamis, M. Mettananda and Yatiyana Kalunayake Alawela Arachige Somapala for a sum of Eleven Thousand Two Hundred and Fifty Rupees (Rs. 11,250) a land in extent 2 acres and 2oods being a portion of Attanagalla Group; and

Whereas by Deed No. 610 of 25th August, 1972, attested by V. G. Cook, Notary Public, he said Sunethra Dias Bandaranaike, Chandrika Dias Bandaranaike by her attorney Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike and Anura Solomon Priyadarsi Dias Bandaranaike sold conveyed to Mutugalpedigae Gunesekera for a sum of Twenty-Two Thousand Five Hundred Rupees (Rs. 22,500) a land 5 acres in extent being a portion of Attanagalla Group;

This Assembly:—

(a) is of the view that the Prime Minister has engaged in a course of conduct which reveals her to be unfit for the high and honourable office of Prime Minister; and

(b) has lost confidence in the Prime Minister.

* * *

FOR NEWS
BEHIND THE NEWS

read

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CHANGING WORLD

BY KAUTILIYA

India, Tamil Nadu, President Ford, China

EVENTS ON THE SUBCONTINENT of Hindustan have taken sharp turn during the last few months. New tensions and conflicts have appeared in the major countries like India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. With the Allahabad judgement against the Indian PM in regard to an election petition against her, the Opposition parties had sought to launch an extra-parliamentary campaign to secure the removal of Mrs. Indira Gandhi even before the appeal was heard in the Supreme Court. This had made it necessary for Mrs. Gandhi and the ruling Congress to resort to drastic emergency rule and even the amendment of the election laws and the Constitution. Under Emergency, an attempt was also made to implement a 20-point economic programme. There was also a major effort to enforce discipline in public life and work places apart from detaining a very large number of persons suspected of anti-social activities, smuggling, black-marketeering and tax evasion. These dictatorial powers vested in the Government have been condemned as undemocratic and anti-people, but Mrs. Gandhi and her colleagues have justified them on the ground that dark and sinister forces had sought to utilise extra-parliamentary campaigns and underhand devices based on chauvinistic communal and religious cries to subvert the Government and that the only way to preserve whatever democracy there was in India was by invoking these Emergency laws.

The coup in Bangladesh and the subsequent events have also been cited to justify the actions taken by Mrs. Gandhi to maintain the stability of the duly elected government of the Indian people. But the succession of coups in Bangladesh and the horrible murder of top political leaders has diverted attention from development in India. Judging from outward signs and from all available reports in the international press, conditions in India have become stable and settled. While Mrs. Gandhi's govern-

ment has secured internal stability, even in states like Kashmir, Nagaland, Misoram and other frontier areas, India's relations with Bangladesh have become more complicated. The relative ease with which such a prominent national leader like Sheik Mujibur Rahman was liquidated, the absence of any resistance to the new regime and the obvious growth of anti-Indian sentiment in influential circles in Bangladesh had given a new spurt of activity to the extremist opposition (both right and left wing) in India. The Jan Sangh and other groups, now underground, have stepped up propaganda against the Indira Gandhi government. In their leaflets, it is reported, they claimed that by her policy Indira Gandhi had "forfeited the gains of the Indian people" in 1971 (Bangladesh) and also contributed to the appearance of a "hostile state" along India's eastern border.

With the tensions within India and the tensions that had sprung up on her eastern boundaries, separatist forces within India began to think that new opportunities would be available to them to further plans they had long cherished. In this connection, observers in New Delhi have noted that the southern state of Tamil Nadu had become the home and refuge of some of the most vicious of oppositional forces, like the RSS and the Anand Marg organisation. It will be recalled that from 1967 Tamil Nadu had been controlled by the DMK (Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam) which was and is totally opposed to the Indian National Congress—both the Ruling and the breakaway Organisation groups. It would be useful to recall a few salient facts about the DMK.

The DMK, a nationalist party, built up its strength by advocating the slogan of a separate *Dravidistan*, i.e. the secession of all the southern states from India and the creation of an independent State under the aegis of the Tamils. During the 1967 elections the DMK scored an overwhelming victory over the Congress by making clever use of the so-called "anti-northern complex" widespread among the urban middle classes of Tamilnadu, and their hostile attitude to the Hindi language which is regarded as a symbol of "northern domination" in the south of India.

Having come to power in Tamilnadu, the DMK leaders abandoned the slogan of a separate Dravidistan and called for the complete autonomy of the states, i.e. only questions of defence, foreign relations and monetary circulation were to remain in the hands of the Central Government. Simultaneously, the DMK leaders proclaimed an alluring programme which promised the population of Tamilnadu all the blessings of life—bread (or, to be more exact, rice), jobs, housing, and education. However, all these promises remained empty words. The DMK government became rapidly submerged in a bog of corruption, embezzlement, nepotism, and factional strife, smashing the "records" of all the previous governments in this respect. This evoked widespread dissatisfaction both among the population of the state and among the party functionaries who had placed their trust in the programme proclaimed by their leaders.

This dissatisfaction led to a split in the DMK. The party treasurer, M. G. Ramachandran, in the past a popular film actor, formed a new party—the ADMK—which rapidly developed into a formidable political force in Tamilnadu. Internal dissension and the growing economic difficulties undermined the positions of the DMK still further. A protracted drought and famine in many agricultural districts of Tamilnadu created a crisis situation in the state. The ADMK, the Congress and the Communist Party now form a powerful coalition against the DMK. The introduction of a state of emergency in India was also used by the DMK as a pretext to launch an organised campaign against Indira Gandhi.

The DMK executive authorised the party's president and secretary general to contact friendly forces allegedly in order to "defend democracy", but in actual fact to launch a struggle against Indira Gandhi. There are also suspicious that many of those who had managed to evade arrest, especially Jana Sangh leaders and extremists socialists who have always been hostile to the Indira Gandhi government have set up illegal headquarters in the state and control the activities of their underground apparatus in other parts of India. Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam emissaries had also sought to establish contacts with the non-Congress coalition

government in the state of Gujarat (now dissolved) and the separatist elements in the leadership of the religious-communal Akali Dal party in the state of Punjab.

All this has led many political commentators to note that the operational base for the campaign against the Indira Gandhi government had shifted from Bihar—where JP Narayan had staged his famous people's movement against Indira Gandhi—to Tamil Nadu. In this connection it is interesting to note that DMK elements in Tamil Nadu have begun to get involved much more than ever before with certain Tamil extremist elements in the North of Ceylon. Recent police and custom's seizures of subversive literature—about a separate Tamil State in Sri Lanka—clearly demonstrate the increased tempo of this activity—an activity which will tend to sour the relations between Sri Lanka and India. Such activity in Tamil Nadu when it impinges on the internal politics of Sri Lanka is bound to embarrass New Delhi as well prove troublesome to Colombo.

There are clear indications, however, that Indira Gandhi has begun to weather the storm and stabilise the position of the Congress Party at the Centre and in the States. It is significant that the Congress (O) in Tamil Nadu, which was tending to lean on the DMK in its anti-Indira Gandhi attitudes, has decided at its latest conference to seek merger with Mrs. Gandhi's Congress (R).

THE VISIT OF PRESIDENT FORD to China which had begun with powerful sermons against detente and Soviet hegemony by Teng Hsiao-ping and even Chairman Mao ended on a tame note with the US making firm assertions that the 1972 Shanghai Communique would be implemented. For the record, it would be useful to publish the speeches made by President Ford and Deputy Premier Teng at the final banquet given by the visiting US President to his hosts. This was on the evening of December 4 before his departure from the Chinese capital to Jakarta and thereafter Manila, (and Honolulu).

The text of the Ford speech was as follows:

Mr. Vice Premier, Mr. Foreign Minister and all Chinese friends here tonight: on behalf of Mrs. Ford and all the Americans present, I extend to you a warm welcome. Tomorrow morning we leave China. It has been a significant visit. The wide ranging talks which I have held with Chairman Mao and with Vice-Premier Teng have been friendly, candid, substantial and constructive.

We discussed our differences, which are natural in a relationship between two countries whose ideologies, societies and circumstances diverge. But we also confirmed that we have important common points. We reviewed our bilateral relationships. The visit confirmed that although our relations are not yet normalized, they are good. They will be gradually improved because we both believe that a strengthening of our ties benefits our two peoples. I am confident that through our mutual efforts we can continue to build a relationship which advances the national interest of the United States and the People's Republic of China.

In our talks I reaffirmed that the United States is committed to complete the normalization of relations with the People's Republic of China on the basis of the Shanghai Communique. Our bilateral ties are important. But both of us attach even greater significance to the international aspects of our relationship. It was certain common perceptions and common interests which brought our countries together four years ago. Among these is our agreement not to seek hegemony over others, and our fundamental opposition to the efforts of others to impose hegemony in any part of the world. This reflects the realism which is a hallmark of our relationship, and realism is a firmer basis than sentiment for sound and durable ties.

It is only natural that the People's Republic of China and the United States will follow their own policies and tactics, governed by their perceptions of their own national interest. The United States is firmly dedicated to an international order of peace, justice and prosperity for all. The task which confronts us, which confronts all peoples of the world, is not easy. It requires both firmness of principle and tactics adapted to particular circumstances. It requires national strength and the will to use it, as well as prudence to avoid unnecessary conflict.

It requires acceptance of peaceful change to accommodate human aspirations for progress. All must help to build a durable and equitable international system, though inevitably contributions will be diverse. I believe that our discussions this week have significantly promoted those objectives we share concerning both our bilateral relations and the international scene. They will benefit our two peoples as well as the peoples of the world. In closing, I wish to express the sincere appreciation of Mrs. Ford and myself and those travelling with us for the warm hospitality we have received. Mister Vice-Premier, I hope that you will convey my personal thanks to all who have helped to make our visit so pleasurable.

Mr. Teng Hsiao-Ping's speech was as follows:—

Mr. President and Mrs. Ford, Mr. Secretary of State, ladies and gentlemen, comrades and friends. President Ford will conclude his visit to China tomorrow. Here on behalf of my Chinese colleagues present, I would like to thank President Ford for giving this banquet on the eve of his departure. In the last few days, our two sides have held several beneficial talks on matters of mutual interest. What is particularly important Chairman Mao Tse-tung had an earnest and significant conversation with President Ford on wide ranging issues in a friendly atmosphere. China and the United States have different social systems. Our two sides have different ideologies and naturally there are differences of principle between us. At the same, in the present international situation, our two countries face problems of mutual concern and share many common points.

The direct exchange of views between the leaders of our two countries on this occasion helps to increase mutual understanding and serve to promote efforts by both the Chinese and American sides towards the direction and goals defined in the Shanghai Communiqué. Both sides agreed that the Shanghai Communiqué is a document of historic significance and constitutes the basis of Sino-US relations. As fact proves, it remains full of vitality today. President and Mrs. Ford and their party have also visited places of interest in Peking and come into con-

tact with people of various circles in our capital. Our American guests must have found that the Chinese people are friendly to the Americans. On the eve of the departure of President and Mrs. Ford from China I would like to take this opportunity to convey the best wishes of the Chinese people for the American people. I wish President and Mrs. Ford and their party a pleasant journey. In conclusion, I propose a toast to the friendship between the Chinese and American people, to the health of President and Mrs. Ford, to the health of the other American guests, and to the health of our common concerns at present.

It is interesting to note that President Ford has re-affirmed that the US would implement the Shanghai Communiqué to the full without setting any deadlines for its implementation. There was also a further assurance that the agreement between the US and China was "not to seek hegemony over others" and also that "our fundamental opposition to the efforts of others to impose hegemony in any part of the world." In the context of the controversy about the inclusion of the anti-hegemony clause in the Sino-Jap peace agreement (a clause which the Soviet Union has opposed most strenuously), President Ford's inclusion of a statement against "hegemony" is clear indication that the USA was willing to lean heavily on China in Washington's balance of power detente with the Soviet Union.

This was further confirmed by President Ford's formulation of what has been termed Ford's Pacific Doctrine in a speech in Honolulu where he stressed that USA's Asian policy was based on partnership with Japan, increasing friendship with China and economic corporation with all states in Asia. whether It is not certain President Ford's heavy tilt towards Japan and his willingness to make anti-hegemony statement (however innocuous) indicates potential trends in US policy in Asia. It is still problematic whether after the Ford performance, Japan will be willing to sign the peace treaty with China with the "anti-hegemony" clause is yet to be seen.

It will be interesting to examine the reactions in different countries to the outcome of the Ford visit to China. There is no doubt the countries in the Third World will watch developments regarding the Ford visit with great care. China continues to

make a strong bid to woo Third World countries, and even if the zigzags of Chinese foreign policy puzzle many people, there is no doubt that a large number of countries are impressed with China's doctrine of self-reliance which has obviously enabled China to become a very important factor in world politics with its near self-sufficient economy.

* * *

MULTIPLE CROPPING

The Magic Garden Of Richard Bradfield

By Carroll P. Streeter

AT THE BASE of Mount Makiling, about 30 kilometers outside of Manila, stand a dozen sweltering little fields: totaling only a few hectares, they may be the most productive plots on earth. Richard Bradfield, one of the world's most distinguished soil scientists, has used this land experimentally to combine new technology with a centuries-old technique called multiple cropping. This means raising three, four or even five crops a year on the same ground instead of only one or two.

Multiple cropping is best suited to the tropics, where a mild climate, sufficient rainfall, and lots of sunlight make year-round farming possible. And, in fact, it has been practiced for thousands of years in Asia without spectacular results. But with modern technology—short-season crop varieties, ingenious planting and harvesting systems, and the proper use of fertilizers and insecticides—there can be dramatic gains in output.

The recent Green Revolution in agricultural production—the phenomenal increase in yields that has made such a difference to Asia in the past five years—was based on years of experimentation with individual crops. The dwarf wheats of Mexico and the dwarf rice of the Philippines were agriculture's tour de force in the last decade. Multiple cropping emphasizes a new approach in methodology—taking in more harvests a year. "By going down both roads at once", says Bradfield, "we can multiply

food production in the irrigated parts of Asia by four to sixteen-fold, depending on local circumstances."

The key word in Bradfield's statement—and the experts know it—is "irrigated." Three-fourths of Asia's farmers can't irrigate. They must depend on an uncertain monsoon, when most of the year's rain falls in the space of three months. During those three months they may have too much water—the rest of the year almost none. And intensive land use is out of the question under these conditions. So multiple cropping is no panacea—no easy answer to the complicated problems of Asian farming.

But having pointed that out, Bradfield turns to the millions of farmers in the valleys and deltas who can irrigate—or who can extend their growing season by conserving some of their monsoon water. There are many rainfed areas where farmers settle for one rice crop a year and nothing else. In contrast—and admittedly under optimum conditions—Bradfield has raised four or five crops a year on each of his twelve plots.

This allowed him to harvest something about once a week. Richard Bradfield, 79, is a happy man. All of his life—all of his three lives—he has done exactly what he wanted to do, with very satisfying results. A revered scientist and teacher, Bradfield retired in 1955 as head of the Department of Agronomy at Cornell University. In 1961, having counseled The Rockefeller Foundation for more than 25 years about setting up agricultural progress in Mexico, India, Central and South America, he moved to Los Baños in the Philippines. There, at the International Rice Research Institute, he set to work quietly on his experiments in multiple cropping.

"At the present time," Bradfield says, "the tropics are that part of the world with the least to eat. But they could be the most food-productive areas on earth, far outdoing the temperate zones. And this could be true not just in terms of calories, but also in terms of the protein and vitamins necessary for a well-balanced diet."

THE TROPICS have two tremendous advantages that are not being fully utilized, Bradfield went on to explain. The first is sunlight—

four times as much sunlight as his experimental fields get back at Cornell University in New York State. The second is a climate that permits farming the year round—not just from April to October. Bradfield gets four crops a year with one of his rotations, five crops with another. In the northern United States, farmers get one; in parts of the South, two at the most.

Bradfield has already shown that in the tropics it is entirely possible to raise 25 tons of food per hectare.

Agricultural college graduates from Southeast Asia come for a six month's course in his methods. They spend most of their time out in the fields, actually raising crops. Soon there will be a corps of trained people all over Asia teaching thousands of farmers these multiple-cropping practices.

What is the basic idea?

"It's simply taking advantage of what's here—sunlight and temperature," Bradfield said. "The secret is to keep a layer of green leaves between the soil and the sun the year round." By hurrying one crop off and another on, his land was bare only 10 to 12 days a year—the rest of the time it was growing something.

To get maximum production Bradfield did three things: 1. He used short-season varieties of crops. In the United States, where most farms harvest only one crop a year, farmers select varieties that will use as many days' sunlight as possible between planting time and the first fall frost. In the Philippines, Bradfield's strategy was just the opposite. In order to get four or five crops a year, he had to harvest one crop quickly in order to plant the next. 2. He interplanted—that is, he started a new crop between the rows before the preceding one was off. He usually had two crops, sometimes three, on the same ground for part of the time. With a garden tractor, he could make enough space for them. 3. He used some crops that could be harvested green without waiting for them to ripen.

In the Philippines, Bradfield concentrated on five crops; rice, grain sorghum, soybeans, sweet potatoes, and sweet corn. His simplest rotation was rice and grain sorghum. Before the rice was harvested he had grain sorghum growing.

Shaded and almost smothered by the rice (even though he used one of IRRI's new dwarf varieties), the sorghum fairly leapt up when the rice came off. Many Asian farmers settle for one rice crop a year, then let the weeds take over. Bradfield substituted grain sorghum for weeds—not just one crop of sorghum, but three in rapid succession.

Sorghum has the propensity of ratooning: after the crop is cut, new shoots spring up from the stubble and make a second crop often as good as the first. Bradfield let this happen twice and from his three sorghum crops took off a total of 17 tons per hectare. Seventeen tons in place of nothing! Sorghum is a major food for human beings throughout Asia and Africa; in addition it provides excellent feed for cattle and water buffalo. In fact, sorghum is the third most important food grain in the world, trailing only rice and wheat.

BRADFIELD'S OTHER ROTATION was rice, sweet potatoes, soybeans, and sweet corn. Each has significant nutritional values. Sweet potatoes, for example, are superior to Irish potatoes as a food. They are a particularly good source of Vitamin A. Within 90 to 100 days after Bradfield had taken off five tons of rice per hectare he got a yield of 25 tons of sweet potatoes. It amazed even him. "Millions of children in Asia are suffering from lack of Vitamin A," he says. "There are kids within 15 kilometers of this Institute who have gone blind for lack of it. Yet just one sweet potato a week would give them all they need. And see how easy sweet potatoes are to raise! Anybody can do it." Before his sweet potatoes were out of the ground, Bradfield had planted soybeans between the rows. Some of the beans he harvested green, like garden peas. Boil them five minutes with a pinch of salt, and they shell readily. All over Asia they are considered a delicacy. Or he would let them go another 30 days, harvest them ripe, and take 2.5 tons of dry beans per hectare. Not only do soybeans yield well in the tropics, they are highest in protein of any crop—about 40 percent, which is twice the protein in the mung beans long grown in that part of the world.

The most profitable crop in the rotation is the last one, sweet corn. Sweet corn needs the same quantity of heat to mature no matter where it grows. In the Philippines it gets the required amount in 60 days; in Iowa it must have 85 to 90. Bradfield used a variety developed by the University of Hawaii and got around 45,000 ears a hectare.

Add it up: five tons of rice, 25 tons of sweet potatoes, 2.5 tons of soybeans—a total of 32.5 tons per hectare, plus those 45,000 ears of sweet corn. This succession of crops provides calories, proteins and vitamins. "On this," Bradfield points out, "people can eat well—and I mean really well.

"I'm as interested in commercial agriculture as anybody. I want farmers to have something to sell. But first I want the farmer and his family to eat well. It doesn't take much land. One hill of sweet potatoes makes a meal for a family of seven. And you know, I've got an idea that I've been talking to our animal people about. I believe we could put livestock into this picture. Some of my economist friends scoff at this. They point out that it takes several pounds of grain to make a pound of meat, and that Asia can't afford this. It has to have the grain for people, not animals. But what they forget is that half of every crop is made of stalks and leaves that people can't eat. Animals can. If you're not going to waste all this good green stuff, you have to have animals to convert it into something that people can eat. Every farmer ought to have a pond or small reservoir to save some of the monsoon water and allow him to get at least two crops a year instead of just one. I'd put a few head of livestock right out alongside the pond so the manure could drain into it—making the kind of manure lagoons a lot of farmers in the United States have now. The manure would fertilize the algae in the pond and help the farmer grow at least 2.5 tons of fish per hectare, and it wouldn't spoil the fish for eating. The overflow water could irrigate a piece of land, carrying a little fertilizer with it. Very little fertilizer would be lost—and that's important, for fertilizer is a high-priced item over here."

Actually, it is not a strange idea at all. Chinese farmers in Malaysia

do exactly what Bradfield was talking about, and they have snails on the bottom of the ponds and ducks on the top for good measure. Not every farmer in Asia can match the exploits of Dick Bradfield, of course. Bradfield could irrigate and drain his land at will. He had the machinery and the labor to get one crop off and another in quickly. He had all the fertilizer and pesticides he needed, and all the technology of IRRRI behind him. But farmers are eager to learn the method and to follow him at least part way; his findings come at just the right time.

Parts of Asia, desperately short of rice and wheat just a few years ago, are on the verge of surplus in both crops. This is largely due to the new and improved varieties that have been adopted on a wide scale within the last couple of years, plus the package of agronomic practices that goes with them. The result has been a yield per hectare of twice, and sometimes three times, the former output. And even better varieties of both wheat and rice are on the way!

IN TAIWAN, the heavy concentration of people in a limited land area has produced an agricultural phenomenon. Not only is every bit of crop space used laterally, but as far as possible it is used vertically as well. For example, A-shaped trellises span irrigation and drainage ditches too deep for rice, and cucumbers are grown in the space over the water. Vegetables are planted under the branches of young fruit trees. Grapes hang in profusion from a wire latticework two meters above ground but by no means are they allowed to occupy the ground alone. In the winter when the grape leaves drop off, letting the sunshine through, a bountiful crop of staked-up tomatoes, cabbage, or some other vegetable comes on.

Two crops of rice a year are standard in Taiwan, one from early March to early July, the other from early August to November. That eaves a span of 40 days between the crops in summer and 90 days in winter. But the fields are never empty; vegetables take over both times. It might seem impossible to grow jute, which needs 120 days to mature, in the 40 summer days between rice crops. But the farmers of Taiwan do it by letting the plants spend their first 40 days

in a separate small seedling bed. During the second 40 days it is interplanted in the summer rice crop. The last 40 days, after the rice is harvested, the jute grows on the field alone, shooting up to a height of four meters before it is hustled off.

Taiwan probably raises more food per hectare than any other place in the world. As a consequence her small farmers eat very well themselves, buy what they need from their cash marketing, supply city people with a good diet, and provide the nation with substantial agricultural exports. The island now produces a surplus of rice and winter vegetables, so many small farmers are turning to other crops—mushrooms, bananas, litchi nuts, citrus fruits, pineapples, guava, hogs, poultry, and pond-grown fish—anything that commands a good price. Sizable quantities of wheat, soybeans and feed grains must still be imported, but of the crops and livestock that can be produced under intensive methods Taiwan has more than enough.

INDIA is now trying for a new breakthrough in production through multiple cropping. By 1966-67 her farmers were double cropping 14 percent of the cultivated land. Since then they have sharply increased such acreage thanks largely to the appearance of new short-season varieties that allow more crops to be squeezed into a year. Wheat, for example, has become an important crop for the first time in four of the most densely populated states of east India—West Bengal, Assam, Orissa and Bihar—because new short-season varieties of rice are harvested there by October, in time to sow wheat, instead of in January as before. Bihar has tripled its wheat acreage in the last three years while raising as much rice as ever, and west Bengal had 2,000,000 hectares of wheat in 1971 although it had practically none the year before. In the state of Maharashtra in western India, farmers with at least 250,000 hectares whose only crop had been cotton, now get an additional crop of soybeans.

India has a vigorous multiple-cropping drive in motion under the direction of Dr. Akrim Singh Cheema, who visited Bradfield in the Philippines and toured rural Taiwan a few years ago. Some of

the most exciting research is being done at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute on the outskirts of New Delhi. An irrigated field there formerly yielded one wheat crop a year and lay fallow the rest of the time. Scientists are now using it to grow four crops in 12 months—wheat, maize, mung beans, and either mustard or potatoes. In other plots they have various sequences of forage crops, pulses, soybeans, grain sorghum, cotton, and vegetables.

One interesting experiment involves sugar cane, a profitable crop that covers millions of hectare in irrigated parts of India. But it is a slow starter and occupies the land for nearly a year. To the late Dr. S. S. Bains and his associates it seemed that the land and the sunshine could surely produce more than that. Hence while the cane is small and growing slowly the scientists at IARI planted eight kinds of vegetables between the rows—radishes, potatoes, beans, onions, cowpeas, tomatoes, egg-plant and a species of melon. All ripen quickly, after which the cane grows up to make a normal yield. In other experiments wheat and cane are growing together, in still others cotton and cane. In much of irrigated India sugarcane farming may never be the same again.

Some of the unirrigated sections of the country can also benefit from multiple cropping although of course to a lesser extent. Those that receive 10 centimeters of rainfall a year may be able to harvest one additional crop, and those with 20 centimeters or more can sometimes get two extra crops. Among the crops best adapted to multiple cropping in rainfed areas are pearl millet, finger millet, grain sorghum, peanuts, castor beans, and the grams. THE POTENTIAL OF MULTIPLE CROPPING for increasing production is beyond question. Its progress in the future will depend on (a) whether farmers can get the credit to buy the inputs they need, including water, power and labor, and (b) whether it will pay them to raise the additional food. The profitability will depend on whether farmers can find a assured market for what they raise, whether they will be able to get their crops to that market, and whether they can get a fair price.

The problem is most acute with vegetables, which are highly perishable. Before he plants, a farmer needs to consider how many vegetables he can sell, to whom, and at what probable price; otherwise he may find a heap of rotting vegetables on his hands. In Taiwan some of the local farmer's associations conduct well-run community markets that help solve the problem. The associations maintain quality standards, and their markets have enough volume to attract a good many buyers who bid competitively. Even then, of course, total supply cannot exceed total demand without a disastrous effect on prices.

Grain farmers are not in quite such a precarious position because their crops can be stored. Their problem usually is that they have to sell at harvest, when prices are lowest. They need storage facilities and longer-term credit to hold their crop a few months longer. Buyers with storage facilities and capital are making the profits—after the grain has left the farmers' hands.

Because of such problems, farmers who are new to multiple cropping would do well not to commit all their resources to the system in the first year. They should adopt it gradually as markets, labor supply, and their own energy allow, stepping up the pace when feasible. Meanwhile they could at least provide their families with more and better food and might begin to sell something. Often they could furnish their own market for grain and forage by feeding their own livestock and poultry—grain chiefly for hogs and chickens and forage for cattle and buffaloes.

Despite all the problems, multiple cropping carries more promise of a better life for more people in the tropics and subtropics than anything else now on the horizon. These areas could far outperform the temperate zones, where most of the world's food is now raised. And these are the areas that need food most—where there are the largest numbers of poor and hungry people.

—Courtesy: Rockefeller Foundation

Illustrated



LETTERS

- * The Revolving Moon
- * Co-operatives
- * The Poor Shopper

Sir,

We do not know who was on revolving moon. Mr. Jayewardene is silent and is determined to remain silent:

Others abide our question. Thou art free.

We ask and ask: thou smilest and art still

Out-topping knowledge.

(Mathew Arnold)

His assurance, however, that no particular person was sitting or standing or otherwise posturing acrobatically on that revolving heavenly body in everlasting orbit round Mother Earth, is to be taken neither literally nor seriously but rhetorically.

In rhetoric, and especially so in parliamentary rhetoric, it is a well-known device not to name the person to be thus described who would reactively thereafter either sit fidgeting in his seat unable to make direct reply or remain glued to it too firmly or apparently unconcernedly to escape serious notice by such as sit observantly in his immediate neighbourhood. If openly named, he would in most cases start up violently, brusquely repudiating the aspersion, attempting at the same time to fling the cap back on him who had earlier flung it on him so brazenly and unceremoniously.

Advancing years have not staled JR's sprightly wit nor subdued the force of political invective dreaded so much by his foes over many of whom he does indeed tower intellectually. Yet even if literary memories are at times blurred by many a passage of arms as in this case where he plants his foe on the moon when Dryden lets him remain on baser earth, his native skill succeeds in creating a situation as exciting to the lighter emotions as unforgivable and unforgettable by the individual at whose expense it has been created:

The lines from Dryden (Absalom and Achitophel) are as follows:—

A man so various that he seemed to be

Not one but all mankind's epitome,
Stiff in opinion, always in the wrong,
Was everything by starts, and
nothing long:

But in the course of one revolving
moon,

Was chemist, fiddler, statesman,
and buffoon

E. Seemanpillai

Chenkaladi,

11. November 1975.

Reference is to Mr. J. R. Jayewardene's Budget debate speech reported in the C.D.N. provincial edition of 11. Nov. 1975.

*

Sir,

One of the real clever tricks we have pulled off has to do with our Co-operatives. One reads in the Newspapers that folks come here even from distant lands to study our co-operative structure. We have done a good job of window-dressing, though most of our co-operative managers could profit much by a short course on this latter subject! Fact of the matter is that, apart from the name, there is nothing co-operative about our co-operatives. I have been a member of one Co-operative for several years, and I hold over sixty rations books as guardian for sixty children. Not once in all these years have I been summoned to a Annual General Meeting, never have I been sent any sum of money representing the profits earned in any single year, nor have I been consulted about the appointment or discharge of any of the office-bearers. As far as I know, the one action I have taken is to stand patiently each week in the queue to accept whatever rations those in authority may deem fit to hand over to me. Not one of the officers have at any time suggested by any attitude or frame of mind that I was, so to speak, a share-holder in the undertaking. Co-operative my foot!

Bryan de Kretser

Prithipura,
Hendala.
11.11.75

*

Sir,

The Daily News of Nov. 7th (provincial edition) reported that a shopper asked for synthetic textiles at the new prices from a department store and received the reply, "These are old stocks being sold at the old prices". He turned

his feet to the liquor counter of the same store and he hopefully asked for two bottles of arrack at the old rates. The reply he had was, "These are new stocks, pay the new prices." He hoped at least to get the cigarettes at the old rate because they were of the old stock. The man at the counter told him to pay at the new rates. The poor shopper turned his feet to meet the authorities and explain the problem and find a solution but only to find an officer at the Inquiry Counter turning a deaf ear to him. The poor man in a dilemma got

to the bus stand to make his way home and there he met a clergyman of a religious sect and he told him his story. He (Linus Irvin AR) told the poor shopper that they too preach but never practice what they preach, but this is not the general principle anyhow. There are, he said, doers who are not preachers. The poor shopper hoped against hope that the day of judgement is not too far off when these will be brought to

Mathew Silva

Liyangahawela,
Bandarawela.

BUILDING A VILLAGE HOUSE—61

EATING MY CHRISTMAS PIE

—Budgets (Personal And National).

And Trouser Lengths—

by Herbert Keuneman

'Christmas is coming, the geese
are getting fat,

Please to put a penny in the old
man's hat;

If you haven't got a penny,
a ha'penny will do,

If you haven't got a ha'penny—
God bless you!

I qualify. Abundantly I qualify: I haven't got a farthing, even if any such coin survives. But if God is going to bless me or this village to any effect, He will have to be sharp about it.

Also, He will have to keep an eye on the *mudalalis* (including the ones that masquerade as Government Departments and Corporations) since no one else in authority seems to do.

I had better offer a word in explanation of how I come to be in such a predicament, I suppose. It is a predicament of my own choice, and perhaps with some considerable exertion I could extricate myself from it. But I do not want to. If this should appear to anybody as sheer cussedness, then the argument must be taken from there: there is simply not the space nor the fit occasion to attempt to justify myself, since (for the purposes of this article) it is only the fact I want to state rather than my reasons for getting stuck with the fact!

This is the fact: that when I decided to come and live, this second time and permanently, in Ehetuwewa, knowing that I should probably never be able to enter fully into the village ethos I decided that I could and would become at least so much a villager as to live upon a typical (if fairly well-to-do) villager's income; if I could not learn or did not wish to accept his beliefs and values, I could at all events accept the plain discomfort imposed by a regime of permanent frugality. Though once again without explanation, I beg leave to state that it was not, consciously, an instinct towards masochism that moved me. Maybe some substratum of insidious guilt-complex was there: 'the heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?' If not Jeremiah, certainly, not I! But by my lights I was being logical enough.

There are religious who take the vow of poverty, there are—or there used to be—those who go to live in slums (and anyone that went to live in Slave Island on a Colombo 7 income must be made) but if Freud knew something about them they didn't even, he would not have considered them adequately characterized as primarily masochists. I didn't feel in the least 'called' to my decision, and I didn't feel I was going slumming, not by a long chalk; but one

thing I knew—know—that a suffering shared, or even imitated, has a genuine sacramental value. (Not that my financial condition can by any stretch be described as 'suffering', as yet. Nevertheless it soon enough may be; and then I shall have a share with many where only a few have suffered at all painfully so far).

I have never been greatly impressed by the gibe commonly flung at professing socialists—not even when it was more commonly flung than it is today—'If he believes in the distribution of wealth, why doesn't he distribute his wealth?' exposing as, it does, a fatuity of economic understanding exceeding even my own. Socialists seek to change a system, not to change themselves, and if you distributed the combined wealth of all Ceylon's supertax-payers, or all the taxpayers in the Island, amongst all its population you'd be unlikely to end up with a ten rupee gift to each. I (for the reason I have given) was seeking to change myself. For nobody's good, certainly, nobody's immediate good, but my own. As I was saying, it seemed that if I lived at a village income level I might establish a field of rapport with the villager that my temperament and upbringing did not allow me to realize in other fields. I had started out in Ehetuwewa to give and to teach; now it seemed a good idea to learn and to receive.

Let me say that I did not intend to spend my 'village' income in the village pattern. I was going to keep my frug; nobody else in or near Ehetuwewa has one (although—just occasionally—they seem glad enough of mine). None is as hopelessly addicted to cigarette-smoking as I am; but I spend nothing on *kasippu* or gambling or status-symbols. I eat (by choice) one meal a day in order to save for pleasure I would rather enjoy, but the meal is a tastier one—and better balanced—than the three a villager insists must sustain him. I cook with LPG rather than firewood which is messy but can be had for the gathering. But it satisfies me that if our separate budgets end up with about the same self-denials or deficits, then the score is equal enough.

And this brings me to the point at which, somewhat light-heartedly I began. Watchman, what of the night-before-Christmas?

Let us drop this Christmas theme (purely topical) which has no relevance in the village. What of the future?

I believe that every villager looked forward eagerly to the Dias Bandaranaike budget...and is bitterly disappointed. There is little enough in it for me: a Rs. 15 increase in my monthly pension (which, incidentally, has not shown up in this month's voucher) but a Rs. 12 increase in the cost of my cigarettes; which leaves me each month Rs. 3 to the good! But what is there for Pinhamy? or Ranhamy? or Kaluhamy? Or even Ratu or Nil Hamy? A drop in the cost of paddy fertilizer; but what good is that, as Kiri Banda argued the other day; when we still have not the water to sow the paddy and reap the benefit! A reduction in the cost of 2-wheeled tractors; but—apart from the fact that even when a fully equipped Kubota was Rs. 6,000 or thereabouts only one man in Ehetuwewa could afford to own one—who can run one with kerosene twice the price of petrol in happier days not too long ago. A rupee less for off-ration sugar; but who in the village buys off-ration sugar; instead, the villager used to buy his sugar on the ration and sell it to the *mudalali* at a considerable profit though at a considerable sacrifice, but now that the off-ration price is less, so the price the villager can ask for his sugar ration which he used to sell.

Off-ration rice is now Rs. 3/65-3/75 a measure in Ehetuwewa where it used to be Rs. 4/25-4/50, and this would appear a very great boon. But how many villagers can afford rice even at the new prices for families that commonly run up to ten? As for rationed rice, what the villager saves is not 20 cts a measure but 10 (for his first 1/2 measure has always been free). It is the incometax-payer that reaps the greater, though negligible benefit. Again though, salaried workers and pensioners like me have Rs. 15 a month more with which to buy bread—though I repeat: my own increase hasn't yet shown up—the farmer, unsalaried, has no such relief logically enough in theory, it was doubtless taken for granted he had his own-grown rice to fall back upon. But in Ehetuwewa? where there has been no harvest for three years?

None that can consider the matter with sufficient detachment can fairly blame the Dias Bandaranaike budget for these things if he can regard it in perspective: that is, as a budget aiming at a long-term and viable solution to inherited dilemmas; and deliberate expediences thought up by brains of too, too solid gold! Nobody—thinking detachedly—could ask for yet another and another claptrap *pis aller*. But query: can the genuinely hard-pressed villager think all that detachedly? Oh, for one single unequivocal sign that the new disembarrassed SLP has thought of him! Oh (for example) that the government could make one single unmistakable demonstration that it not only entertained a diffuse and generalized sympathy for him against the guiles and crafts of the *mudalalis* but that it possessed, also, the power-draconian, if it must be—not merely to curb but to STOP! his merciless exploitation of the public.

I am only too well aware that this is typical pipe-dreaming arm-chair wishfulness; especially when I remember that such organizations as the State Sugar Corporation and the State Petroleum Corporation to mention no others, are amongst the biggest offenders of the lot, and that Mr Dias Bandaranaike could not immediately or for a long time to come do anything to reverse this years-old policy without causing economic chaos. And now the State Pharmaceutical Corporation has begun to go the same way, however it may rationalize itself by claiming a pragmatic necessity to rob Peter in order to pay Paul. But the villager is likely to be aware only of the fact, not of the 'need' to continue it however temporarily, and the awareness lessens his faith in the State and increases his sense of helplessness against the profiteer and justifies a little profiteering (where he can) on his own account!

I am well aware—and so is the villager—that the state Co-operative Wholesale Establishment is the Island's most prolific source for the black market. Is there nothing the government can do about that? Is there nothing it can do about this: that in a local Co-op two assistants previously dismissed for dishonesty have by political influence been re-employed and in the same Co-op?

Let us be fair. Let me mention that at the local *pojas* for the last two weeks the 'CWE' at Maho have been selling chintz (of poor quality and absolutely insupportable crudity of design; but, if that is the best Sri Lanka can do, let that pass) at the controlled price. I have seen the scramble for the stuff, inferior as it is, equalled only at a 'White Sale' at Selfridge's! But the controlled price is only 50 cts less than it was for a brief period around the national New Year. As Dinga points out, the real reduction has been in textiles only the well-to-do can afford; and who needs those?

Well, the local young men do if they can wheedle the price out of their parents—one of the village status symbols: a nylon trouser length—and so do I. So let me end with my Tale of The Trousers!

Several weeks ago, long before the fateful 5th of November, seeing that my boy Prema who though only part-time mine, has proved one of the best servants I have ever employed had borrowed a pair of PB's trousers to go to the pictures in, I promised him a pair of his own for Christmas. And he was delighted.

I had seen at Cargills a material I greatly coveted for him; but at about Rs. 60 a yard he had either to save the price or earn it. Meanwhile I used to go and gaze at it each visit I made to Colombo (for I thought that if I came lucky with Christmas presents I might even manage a second length, for myself) and each time it was there; fortunately unsold. But this was tempting providence, and early in November I decided to buy Pema's length, at last, on my account: 'Shop Early and Save Money!' But somebody then told me that on November 5 would come the Textile Revolution! So I hung about Colombo. On B-day plus 1 there had been no change in price. On B-day plus 2, the same. On B-day plus 5 I telephoned before again going into the Fort and found that Cargills had accepted the inevitable and come down to the new price but its entire stock of nylon suitings had been sold "to the staff."

On November 11, I tried the Fort again. At the CWE Retail depot the queue was so long it intimidated me. At a big Indian empo-

rium they were 'Out of stock.' At another they were selling admirable stuffs at the approved price, but only if you had the tailoring done at the same place; and the tailoring had suddenly climbed so high that it would have been the same thing if the material and the tailoring had remained at their old levels! At a Chinese shop in Chatham Street they were selling no trouserings because the management was 'at a meeting with the Controller'; two hours later they, too, were 'Out of stock.' The pattern in the Pettah was the same. I sent my mother's servant that afternoon to try places in the Havelock Town neighbourhood: he returned with the somewhat cryptic report that the Wellawatte 'CWE' was offering 'CRA redi' at Rs. 55 a yard; nobody else was offering anything. On November 12 I returned to Ehetuwewa thankful to have the darned trousers (the word is an adjective, not an expletive) I had on.

Yesterday (November 24) somebody brought me from the Galgamuwa Co-operative a sample of the 18/50 *kalisani-redi* supplied, he had been told, from Salu Sala. It was the first I had seen. It was also—by far—the worst I had seen: translucently thin, to the point of indecency; loaded to the point of paper stiffness; and (in this case) of a perfectly hideous sickly hedge-sparrow-egg tint. *la patavali-mylie tiyenne* (diluted dyes?) Anybody could produce such *kalisani-redi* yet make an unconscionable profit. 'eva-nam honda-ma naha!' Even Pema spurned it!

* * *

KAZI—33

Around Galewela

BY ANATORY BUKOBA

August 8

Galewela is ten miles from Dambulla on the Kurunegala road and a part of those ten miles used to have probably the roughest stretch of road that any main route had in Ceylon. Secondary roads branch off at this town for Kekirawa and Matale. About that rough stretch of road, rains were the cause of it, although it was constantly being repaired, and I think it has at last been mastered. The town

seems to me not unlike Polonnaruwa in size and shape, and it also has its sister town or village not many miles away although this one is much smaller than Kaduruwela.

Some years ago, someone stopped me when I was walking along the main road between Galawela and her sister village, and he suggested that I stay at his home as the day was getting on. Fortunately for me, he underestimated the distance to his house, or I would never have gone with him. We went up hills and down dales on a two-wheeled vehicle, but mostly up, and when we turned off the main road, we seemed to have to go quite a bit into the interior. I was given a friendly welcome. I seem to remember that at that time, there was already an old invalid of a lady, bed-ridden. The mother ran the house, the father had been dead some years. We slept that night on the verandah on mats on the floor.

When I had a chance to pay my next visit to the place, I was given a right royal welcome, although it was at the dead of night. The eldest two sons were away doing some paddy cultivation, and I again slept on the verandah.

Then my life-style changed. I had less occasion to use this route, and I made more use of buses. I did not forget this family, and I was able to visit them again after some years had elapsed. If you had been there on this next visit, you might never have thought I had been away for so long. They greeted me with recognition as if I had been there just yesterday; but the old lady, the grandmother, had died after surviving many years since I had last seen her. The two eldest sons had jobs and were away. Later, one of them moved nearer home, and the other has moved near enough to be able to come home more often than his former monthly visits. One of the daughters goes out to work, and the other daughter can keep herself busy with a sewing-machine when she needs to do so. Hard by are cousins, and the children of the two families are like brothers and sisters. The children, some of them, now, grown-up men are all strong, there is no galsaying that, and it seemed to me, they are all very much home-birds. The mother looks almost like a teen-ager.

Their movements at night were not usually far from their house. The well, some distance away, and more of a water-course than a well, properly-speaking, was probably the furthest any of them went. Their cousins house was out of sight, but close, and everybody, seemed to move about, after dark, with facility, without lights, but they seemed never to be away for more than a few minutes.

Food seemed ample. I heard a thing or two about jaggery, which seems to all intents and purposes to be our Ceylon sugar or its substitute. The coconut flower, as I think it is called, gives a liquid, when it is tapped, which, when it is boiled, gives pure jaggery. I gathered rightly or wrongly, that two trees should keep a family in jaggery the whole year. Four more trees should provide a steady income of Rs. 25/- a week. Finally, trees produce more nuts when their flower are tapped. Government charges a very small fee for tapping trees for jaggery up to the number of five. Over that number, the fee goes up quite considerably, but it can still give you an income. Tapping trees for toddy, I understand, is quite a different proposition, and I do not know what the position is as regards the law.

The road to the house always presents a different appearance to me whenever I go there, and I have great difficulty recognizing the turn-off. Even when I am on the right road, I am not sure that I am. This must be because of the changing appearance of the vegetation along the path.

There is another family I know here in this region, about the same distance away in a different direction, but this other family has had connections with me since about the day I was born. I do not visit them much, but there, too, I had a right royal welcome, six curries, and ka-awngs to boot, and that refinement, a box of matches laid out beside the room lamp, beside my bed.



Inania of this, that and the other

O Felix No Culpa!

By Inna

I have before me the *Daily News* of November 6, 1975. Not having had the means of listening in yesterday, I waited till the CDN and am satisfied as I combed the Budget speech with a fine comb. May be there is more in it that merits study and discussion but I think the Finance Minister deserves a bouquet for even some of the little things therein.

For years and years, certain christian churches and so-called parishes and other places of worship of one or two denominations especially had made a fetish of Carnivals. Some had worked themselves up to a frenzy.

I now of a certain school where a girl challenged her teacher: "You tell us to keep holy and good and pure throughout the year, but you have dark-night dances and drinking-booths in the carnival grounds. Have I and my boyfriend to be good for the whole year except during the two week-ends of your carnival?"

In three months she was out, because she meant what she said: "Your carnival".

She disliked the Alma Mater's confusing activity and counter-witness. How many crimes have been committed in the name of liquor-booths and special permits. How many turned a blind eye because it was for the 'school-building fund' or the 'pool-building-fund' because the child or the wife or the mother was a school-girl from that school!

But, thanks to Felix D.B., the State has taken into their cause the attempt to keep things in proportion. No more will see secret liquor booths or open liquor shops at school or church Carnivals. Christians can say that the Holy Spirit's blowing can be rejected by clergymen but can be accepted by any man if he is sincere.

This move is much better than forced prohibition.

"I shall prohibit liquor shops from operating within a radius of half a mile from schools and places of worship—temples churches and mosques....."

May I hope and that's my *prarthana*: I hope that wiser counsels may prevail and that no principal or pastor may find a loophole and ask for (and be given) an exception. In my mind Carnivals must go. This blundering Italian pageant is not for Sri Lanka. Too much undermining of our school-children, too much taking back of what is given holly in the rest of the school year has taken place. Bouquets to our nation's leaders for this kind of suggestion for acting true and sincere. Drink to someone more than with eyes, with the cup that cheers. Wine does make happy the heart of man, but it is excess of wine that is bad. And growing people find it hard unless the ecology is set by elders.

Talk of forgiveness. It is not merely a virtue of a particular group. All religions have it deep down in their tenets. It was a grand sight to see N. M., and J.R. and Felix D.B. celebrating a birthday party together. Charles Lamb once said that he took food only with his friends.

Critics may say many things but let's see in this a sign of the future: we can get together as persons even if our policies may differ loudly. A man can be listened to, and where he merits it, agreed with. The invitation was gracious. The acceptance and presence are still more gracious. One thrills to recall the reciprocal relationship enshrined in the Buddhist ethos of the Sigalovada sutta (Gihivinaya) when we see people getting t-o-g-e-t-h-e-r.



NEXT WEEK

- * LIGHT AND SOUND
—by R. C. Thavarajah
- * UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS
—by D. C. R. de Silva
- * TROPICAL FORESTS
—Save them

Confidentially

G.M.R. And Rail Collisions—2

IS IT NOT FUNNY that the GMR should write to the *Daily Mirror* about news stories the paper published about the Railways? That he also uses the services of the SLBC to put over the air the inconsequential and petty debating points he seems to delight in raising and thereby by-pass the grave charges inherent in the new stories? That the letter from the GMR published on the front page of the *Daily Mirror* of December 8, 1975, is a supreme example of this kind of petty fogging attempt to throw "sand into the eyes" (as the Ceylonism goes) of the public? That the first part of the letter read as follows:

I refer to the news item which appeared in your issue of 29-11-75, under the heading, "Fatal Train Disaster Averted at Maho." This news report has overlooked to mention the date of the alleged accident, which was on 09-11-1975 several weeks before the publication of the news item. As the news item has given the impression that the incident occurred only just before its publication, this omission has to be pointed out. The news item has also stated that "what might have been one of the worst ever railway disasters was averted....." This is incorrect, as there was no possibility of a collision occurring till this train reached the next station, as no train would have been allowed to pass beyond that station. This is revealed on investigations carried out so far by the Operating Superintendent."

That in this connection it would be pertinent to refer to the *Daily Mirror* story of November 29 referred to by the GMR? That the full report, under the heading FATAL TRAIN DISASTER AVERTED AT MAHO, read as follows:

"What might have been one of the worst-ever railway disasters was averted by the action of a head guard and the under guard of a train who brought it to a halt by using the vacuum and handbrakes after the train sped past a station without

an exchange of tablets. The driver of the mixed train from Batticaloa and Trincomalee bound for Maho should have exchanged tablets at Moragollagama but the train sped on express without the exchange. At this stage the Head Guard, Mr. Terry L. Thomas and the Under Guard, Mr. T. B. Basnayake, brought the train to a halt, about half a mile from the station by using the brakes in the guard's van. Thereafter the underguard walked back to the Moragollagama station and got the signals lowered to get the train back on to the platform. When the train was backed, the station master refused to hand over the tablet to the driver as he appeared to be drunk. The Maho station authorities were informed and another driver was sent by the mail train bound to Trincomalee-Batticaloa. Thereafter the train was driven by the new driver to Maho and the original driver and the 2nd, engineman were handed over to the Maho police by the District Traffic Inspector, Mr. D. A. E. de Silva. The Maho police produced them before the DMO and later before the Maho Magistrate who released them on bail. A railway official said that if the Trincomalee bound mail train had left Maho, both trains would have collided head-on with fatal consequences."

That the *Daily Mirror* had in a subsequent report corrected a "mistake" that the engine driver and his assistant had not been produced before the Maho Magistrate but that they had been given bail by the Police? That it is surprising that the GMR did not also pick on this "mistake" as a fatal flaw in the news report? That it is significant that the main burden of the GMR's grievance was that the *Daily Mirror* report did not stress the fact that the incident had occurred on 9.11.75 "several weeks before the publication of the news item"? The GMR mourns that the news report gives the impression that the incident had occurred only a short time before the publication of the report? That though this petty little debating point may seem important to the GMR, to the travelling public who entrust their lives to the care of the CGR's engine drivers, (however), it would seem that the GMR was seeking to divert attention from the more important aspects of the incident? That the GMR does not seem to be in the least concerned that an engine driver who was alleged

to have been drunk had ignored all the rules of the CGR and rushed past a station without getting his tablet? That the GMR and his entire top hierarchy must be taken to task for having suppressed the news about this incident until the the *Daily Mirror* had spotlighted it? That if such lapses of engine drivers were publicised straightaway (together with the action the GMR had taken to prevent such defaults), then there is fair chance that drivers would not thereafter break all the rules with impunity and the public would have greater confidence in the Railway Administration that an attempt was being made to prevent rail accidents? That the GMR does not deny the basic facts of the Maho incident? That, with foolish abandon, he finds consolation that it was "incorrect" that a major train disaster was averted because the collision, according to him, would not have occurred because the train would have not been allowed to proceed beyond the next station? That the investigations carried out by the Operating Superintendent had satisfied the GMR that no accident could have occurred? That this is self-complacency at its worst? That the GMR does not choose to utter one world of condemnation that the driver had failed to exchange the tablets at the station? That the driver and his assistant are alleged to have been drunk? That he does not say what his Operating Superintendent (bless his soul after the Podi Menike-Hitachi and the Batuwatte disasters and the 20 rail accidents so far this year!) had reported about the Maho incident? That the satisfaction the GMR derives in saying that there "was no possibility of a collision till this train reached the next station as no train would have been allowed to pass beyond that station" shows his total ignorance of the realities that envelop railway communications? That the GMR is a layman who does not seem to have learnt anything of the technical aspects of his work in five years? That if he knew what he was talking about he will not seek to placate public opinion by saying that his Operating Superintendent thought that no accident would have occurred? That this column will next week deal with the second part of the GMR's letter in the *Daily Mirror* of 8/12/75?



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A Snake Stone

A stone that sticks to the wound caused by a snake bite and falls off when the patient is out of danger may sound very much like a fairy tale. But it is true. Here are a few facts.

Deep in the wild of Brazil a Jesuit Missionary came across remnants of a once famous Red Indian Tribe. All the years he worked among them, he noticed that among thousands of patients no one was ever brought to him to be treated for snake-bite. Yet, he knew the country well and he knew people were actually stung by snakes. One day, it transpired that the old village doctor had an infallible remedy for such snake-bites. Was it just sorcery or magic? Did he use any charm or chant any mantram? No, he only applied a small black stone to the wound, the stone stuck to the wound and fell off only after the patient was cured. Try as he may the missionary could not obtain the secret from the Red Indian. Yes, he had been good to them, he had been like a father to the tribe. But that was a secret handed down from his forefathers and that secret he meant to keep for his family. On his deathbed, however, the old snake bite specialist sent for the Missionary and revealed the secret to him. Diffidently at first, then with greater confidence, the missionary made large use of the wonderful stone. The results were quite amazing. The snake-stone of the old Red Indian Chief worked wonders. The missionary sent samples of it to his brethren working throughout South America and in far away Central Africa. From everywhere came news of the wonderful cures effected. But the formula of the wonder stone remained a dead secret. Hundreds had used it, thousands had been cured by it, yet, no one knew the secret but the old missionary from South America. How is it then we are in possession of the secret? Yes, strange though it might appear, we keep the secret now. It is a long cry from Brazil to Ceylon but the long and short of it is that the dying missionary confided the secret to two nieces and these, when unable to make any use of it entrusted it to a missionary leaving for Ceylon who in his turn left it to us.

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