

TRIBUNE

WAR ON PROFITEERS

Within a few hours of the Anglo-French attack on Egypt, the blackmarketeers of Ceylon declared war on the people of this country. This totally unjustified and undoubtedly aggressive onslaught on innocent consumers by local profiteers must be resisted by all sane and decent sections of the population just as much as everything must be done to mobilise world opinion against the avaricious bankers of Tory Britain who want to continue making the unconscionable profits they have done in the past from their investments abroad with the help of gunboats and machine guns.

The Government of Ceylon must be congratulated not only for throwing its weight against the rapacious acts of Anthony Eden but also for promulgating measures to check profiteers in this country. Even though we live in a society in which the profit motive is the basis of all incentive, it has been found that profit can (and must) be regulated in such a way that its worst evils are checked. In a socialist society, however, the

profits of industrial and agricultural undertakings are generally applied for the benefit of the community at large, but in the capitalist society in which we live the least that can be done is to control prices (and thereby profit) to prevent vermin called profiteers and blackmarketeers from inflicting unnecessary hardship and suffering on their fellow beings.

Local War

Britain and France started warlike operations against Egypt on Thursday November 1. Within a matter of hours the local war by the profiteers on the consumers had also started. On Saturday November 2 the price of a pound of potato in Colombo had jumped from 75 cts to 90 a pound. Sugar which had fetched 60 cts a lb was unavailable on Sunday, November 3 even at Rs 1. Similarly, milk foods, cigarettes, butter, cheese, onions, dhals and practically all other consumer goods became "scarce" during the same week-end. From all inquiries we have been able to make there were sufficient

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stocks with the wholesalers and retailers to meet several months needs, but the "scarcity" arose because these gentlemen, dreaming of the fantastic profits made during the last war, pushed all their stocks underground in the hope that in a few weeks time the normal prices of these commodities would have trebled or quadrupled.

The Government has done well to promulgate laws to establish controlled maximum prices and at the same time threaten action against profiteers and hoarders. It is our view that the punishment which Parliament must impose for these crimes should be specially heavy. Even the least grievous act of profiteering or hoarding should entail a gaol sentence because monetary fines is no deterrent. *A repetition of the offence by a trader should be visited with a cancellation of the licence to trade. It is particularly necessary to see that the owner of a shop should be penalised if an employee is convicted of profiteering. The right to trade may in the first instance be suspended.*

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TRIBUNE

CEYLON NEWS REVIEW
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EDEN'S INVESTMENTS

This month's war moves against Egypt were directed by a London banker who is also an African mine owner. He is no mystery man, however. He can be seen in the House of Commons almost any day. For he is the Rt. Hon. Anthony Eden, the Queen's Prime Minister.

Eden has much in common with his friend and rival, John Foster Dulles. Each has a deep personal interest in the profits of imperialism. Each has a deadly fear that the example set by Egypt in nationalizing the Suez Canal Co. may spread. For each is a banker and colonial mine lord. And each is a the Number One man in a Cabinet of millionaires. In Britain it's not a "Cadillac Cabinet." However it might be called the "Rolls Royce Cabinet" instead.

Eden, like Dulles, was a director of companies with assets of more than a billion dollars altogether, before he took office. He had to drop these directorates when he entered the cabinet. He didn't have to drop his stock holdings, however. Nor give up his desire for maximum profits on his colonial investments.

The Prime Minister's firms include the Rio Tinto (copper mining) Co., which net millions from semi-slave African labor.

This company used to get its copper from Spain. But its biggest winnings have come from the copper mines of Northern Rhodesia in the last decade. And, year by year, director Eden heard his company chairman (The Earl of Bessborough) report that African copper was boosting dividends higher and higher. These maximum profits are based on wages of a few shillings a day. And the exploited African workers have to enter Eden's mines or go to prison. They are jailed if they refuse to dig copper to pay the colonial head tax.

This African mine land was stolen by British adventurers more than 60 years ago. An agent of Cecil Rhodes, the "Empire Builder," tricked Lobangula, the Matabalee chief, into putting his mark on a

document, which he couldn't read. And the brave Matabalee warriors were mowed down by machine guns when they resisted the steal.

Eden's Rio Tinto has to share these Rhodesian profits with the J. P. Morgan banking interests of Wall Street, however. For Rio Tinto's investments are in the big Rhokana and N'changa mines, in which Americans have a major interest.

Eden has to split his mining profits with the Americans in the Belgian Congo as well. These Congo dividends come from copper, and from uranium—the atom bomb fuel. For Rio Tinto invested some of its surplus profits in a British holding company that has a big interest in the Belgian Congo's mining monopoly. This British holding company is called "The Tanganyika Concession." And much of its stock is owned by Morgan and Rockefeller interests.

Bank

The Prime Minister's most powerful corporation, however, is the giant Wesminister Bank in the old City of London. This bank is one of the Empire's "Big Seven." Its

This article was written before the present Middle East crisis, but it lays bare some of the hidden motives behind Eden's action in recklessly launching the attack on Egypt.

finances vast British enterprises in India, Burma, Australia, New Zealand and the Middle East. And its directors sit on the boards of far-flung oil and mining companies and shipping corporations. And the bank's investments pay off richly.

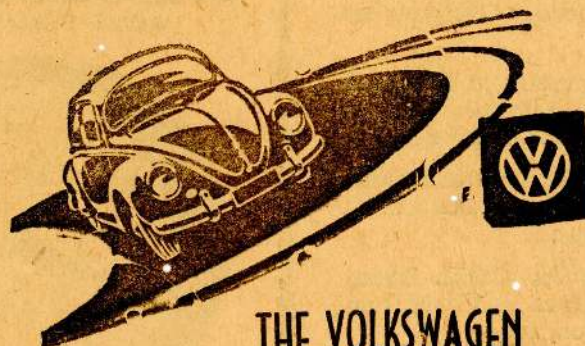
"We have been able to maintain the dividend rate at 18 percent," said Lord Aldenham, the Westminister chairman, in his annual report to stockholders last January.

Much of Eden's banking profits come from the war industries, which Westminister finances. The bank's ties with these Merchants of Death are especially close. One of Westminister's chief directors (Sir Ronald Weeks) is the chairman of the Board of Viker's, Ltd. This is a giant holding company for war and electrical industries. And its profits have zoomed during the war scares that Eden has fanned in recent years.

Another Westminister bank director (Sir Walter Benton Jones) is chairman of the board of the United Steel Co. This giant firm

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THE PEOPLE'S CAR



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Middle East

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which was nationalized by the Labor Party was returned to its private owners after Eden got in. And steel profits have zoomed with the Eden war maneuvers.

Nationalization has special terrors for one of Eden's banking directors. This is the millionaire club man, Frederic Evelyn Harmer. This gentleman is a director of the Anglo-Iranian (now the British Petroleum) Co. And he can never forget the day when Premier Mossadegh moved into the company's offices in Abadan and the British moved out.

This was the oil men's saddest day in Empire history. It is true that Harmer got back part of the property when Mossadegh's Cabinet members were shot during the oil men's counter-revolution..... The Americans grabbed the rest.But his troubles aren't over. For he fears the Egyptian action on Suez may encourage Iran to control those oil fields again.

Meanwhile Eden's pretext for military action against Egypt is shown up as poppycock. Eden was going to seize the canal to "protect British shipping." But British shipping is having no trouble at Suez, as the Westminister bankers know. Director Harmer's oil cargoes are passing through the long ditch. So are the ships of the New Zealand Shipping Co., which Harmer controls. And so are the vessels of other big shipping firms—such as the great P. & O. Line—in which Westminister directors are interested.

Eden's real purpose in Egypt has nothing to do with the safety of shipping. His real purpose is:

1. To protect the British shareholders in the Suez Canal Co. at the risk of war;
2. To protect British investments in Africa and Asia from nationalization, and—
3. To protect his personal wealth.

As to Suez: The record shows that Eden is closely linked to the Suez Canal Co. by his financial associates.

One of those links is Sir Alexander Cadogan, the British bank-

er and diplomat who sat for years on the lush Canal board.

Americans remember director Cadogan well. For he led the British delegation at the United Nations through several cold war years. But Eden knows him much better. For the two men were directors of the big Phoenix Assurance Co. of London.

Eden was a director of this enormous insurance company before he entered the cabinet. And Cadogan still sits on the board of this Empire firm, which has hundreds of millions of Pounds Sterling invested in British, Canada, Africa and Asia.

The nationalization of the Suez Canal Co. was a bitter blow to the London bankers and the Rolls Royce Cabinet members and their fellow shareholders among the "Two Hundred Families" of France. For the canal shares were among the best "blue chips" on the London Stock Exchange and the Paris Bourse.

The rate of profits on this Egyptian waterway were fabulous indeed. The shareholders' net

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amounted to about one-third of all the toll money, after all expenses and taxes were paid, according to "Barron's Financial Weekly." And this annual net of 29 to 30 million dollars and more cannot be replaced by the shrinking British and French empires.

But the canal was stolen goods from the beginning.

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ANCIENT SUEZ

At a time when the Suez Canal has loomed as a point of international conflict, it may be of interest to students of history to go back to its earlier history which is roughly 4,000 years old. The precursor of the present Suez Canal, its conception and fulfilment and how it has always influenced the life and history of the entire people of Egypt, will be interesting to examine.

Geography of Suez

Unlike Panama, the entire configuration of the ground at Suez with its low levels and marine penetrations, and still more the signs of previous inundations, seemed like an invitation from nature.

According to an old legend reported by Herodotus, the Egyptian priests believed that at one time the Red Sea and the Mediterranean were connected. Numerous scientific observations, such as the mixed marine fauna at Kabret south of the Little Bitter Lake, and sea shells from Suez on the Moquattan Hills at Cairo, certainly confirm the existence at an early period of a gulf and a salt water strait over all of what is now the delta and the isthmus.

The process by which it was transformed must have started when the most easterly or Pelusian branch of the Nile began to fill in the strait with its sediment. At the same time a rising of the earth's crust brought the Mediterranean Sea floor to the surface, and also steadily dried up the extreme easterly channel of the Nile which today is quite dry.

The formation of the isthmus must have remained long incomplete, for during the time of the Ancient Egyptians the Red Sea penetrated as far as the present Bitter Lakes by way of a gulf thirty miles long. This gulf was ill defined, being traversed by shallows and liable to tidal invasions. In the end a sand bar grew up and cut off the Bitter Lakes. Yet, even in 1860, Linnet Bey observed that at Spring tides the sea penetrated some ten miles inland.

Building of the ancient canal

The ancient Egyptians were remarkably well equipped to carry out great public works and as they were particularly expert at building canals, it was only natural that they should have concerned themselves with the linking of the Nile and the Red Sea. Nature herself seemed to suggest it, and after all it only meant building one more canal. From inscriptions and the accounts of contemporary travellers, we know that this task was achieved, and we can still see traces of the old earth works.

Death of 120,000 labourers

Several facts stand out as probable from a mass of conjecture. According to a Greek legend the canal must have been begun as early as the Middle Empire most likely under the 12th dynasty between 2000 and 1800 B.C. It was undoubtedly in existence at the time of the 19th — dynasty between 1350 and 1200 B.C. Its course began on the Nile at Bubastis (near the modern Zagazig) and ended at the Great Bitter Lake which at that period was still part of the Gulf of Suez when the Great Bitter Lake

A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT has delved into a number of books on the history of Suez and has provided our readers with a background that is informative as well as revealing. Long before the Anglo French engineers thought of the Suez, ancient Egyptians had operated the Canal as a working proposition.

was more or less cut off from the Sea by a ridge of sand that had filled up.

Necho, a Pharaoh of the 26th dynasty (609-593 B.C.), tried to carry the canal on as far as the Red Sea, but 120,000 labourers died at their work without finishing it.

Completion of the Canal

Darius the Persian King (521 — 486 B.C.) took up the task and this time it was completed. Nevertheless it was Ptolemy Philadelphus (285-246 B.C.) who really gave it its final form. It ran from the Nile to Arsinoe, the site of the present town of Suez, where a lock or 'diaphragm' held the waters in check.

Inscriptions recording the digging of a canal from the Nile to the Red Sea were found on fragments of

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Ancient Suez

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town images of the King Darius found at Suez. (Reference to this was made by Mr. T. Devendra in a note in the columns of the *Ceylon Daily News* not so long ago.)

Destruction

The last of the Ptolemys neglected the canal, but the Emperor Trajan (A.D. 98-117) re-established it. From then on it was called Trajan's River just as it had previously been called Ptolemy's River. Once more it was neglected, but under Constantine and Justinian there was a last period of activity before it finally fell into disuse at the end of the Byzantine period in the reign of Heraclitus.

It was not destroyed, however, for during the Arab regime Amr, who was governing Egypt in the name of the Caliph Omar, reconditioned it in A.D. 642 with very little trouble. He even wished to open up direct communications between the two seas, but the Caliph refused, fearing to provide a route for the Infidels. In the end the canal was blocked up by the Abaside Caliph, Aben-Jafar-al-Mansour in order to cut off Mecca and Medina, which were then in revolt. Perhaps he also wished to injure the Isthmus route, and so favour the overland road which led by the north to the Gulf of Persia.

However, the section from the Nile to the Bitter Lakes was in use for a long time, until sand eventually drifted over the entire structure, thus bringing about the actual death of the canal, after having lived for a thousand years or more. It was destined to wait another 1,100 years to be reopened by Ferdinand de Lesseps.

Accounts of contemporary travellers

Many contemporary travellers have described as it existed under the Ptolemys and the Romans. Herodotus who visited Egypt about 460 B.C., some half century after Darius had completed the work says, that the canal was wide enough to allow two triremes to pass abreast and that it took 4 days to make the journey. 'It is filled with water that, coming from the Nile, enters the canal above Budastis, a town on the Pelusiatic branch of the Nile. This town was the capital of Egypt under the 22nd dynasty.'

Diodorus, who travelled about about 60 B.C. at the time of Ptolemy Dionysus, left the following description. 'A man-made canal stretches from the Pelusiatic branch of the Nile as far as the Arabian Gulf of the Red Sea. Necho, the son of Psammetichus, was the first to undertake it; Darius the Persian continued the work but did not complete the work, for he was told that if he cut through the isthmus he would inundate Egypt. It was proved to him that the Red Sea was at a higher elevation than the ground level of the Delta at the time. This legend seems to die hard. Ptolemy was the last to try his hand at it, and at the most favourable point he had a very artistic and practical lock gate constructed. It could be opened when one wished to sail through, and closed again immediately afterwards.'

About A.D. 40 Strabo said that the canal was 100 cubits wide and deep enough to admit the largest boats.'

Pliny the Elder, who was to meet his death in the eruption of Vesuvius in A.D. 79, tells us that the canal, as excavated by Ptolemy, was 100 feet wide, 40 feet deep and 37,500 paces in length as far as the Bitter Lakes. He adds that the Egyptian rulers had not continued the work further for fear of floods, for it had been discovered that the level of the Red Sea was three cubits above the ground level of Egypt. Others, how-

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ever, did not attribute the interruption of the work to this danger, but rather to the fear of the sea water running into the Nile, which was their only source of drinking water.

Lucian, who lived in Egypt in the second century, tells of a young man who, after having embarked at Alexandria, sailed up the Nile and on as far as Chysma (Arsinoe) on the Red Sea.

From all these descriptions we gather that it was a fresh water canal fed by the Nile and functioning only at high water.

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During the past week, following Anglo-French action against Egypt, world opinion voiced its condemnation unmistakably against this other Hitler—Sir Anthony Eden and his Conservative Government.

Never since the world uproar against Hitlerite aggression has there been witnessed such universal *furor*, not only in the countries of the East, not only among the countries of the West, but even at Eden's very doorstep, by the millions of Britishers whom he claims to lead.

And a revolt is thus brewing in the very bastion of democracy!

Protest

Opinion in Ceylon crystallised equally fast as in other countries. Where once we would have been content to dance to the tune piped by the Imperialist masters, now, apparently we are not content with merely voicing our condemnation of Imperialist actions, but have even resorted to "violence" to protest against the use of violence by the Anglo-French powers that be.

The Executive Committee of the all-Ceylon Harbour and Dock Workers Union, passed two resolutions asking the government not to provide facilities for British and French ships in any port in any Ceylon. The resolutions read: "This Union condemns the actions of the British and the French in their action against Egypt and call upon the government not to allow any warships of these two nations to enter any port in Ceylon. The Union calls upon all members not to help provide any facilities to any warships of the French or the English that may call at any port in Ceylon."

The Opposition group in the House of Representatives on Saturday last unanimously resolved to urge the government to demand from the British government the withdrawal of forces in Ceylon as a measure of material support to the Egyptian people in the defence of their country against Anglo-French aggression.

The group also decided to ask the Prime Minister to summon an emergency meeting to consider the resolution as well as to voice Ceylon's condemnation of the Anglo-French action in Egypt.

The resolution demanding the withdrawal of British forces in Ceylon also seeks to deny any facilities in Ceylon to British and French ships and aircraft carrying troops armament, and supplies until the cessation of hostilities in Egypt.

The group asked for a two day debate to consider the resolution of the group and also to discuss arrangements to insure the availability of adequate supplies of essential foodstuffs and measures to arrest profiteering.

At the time of going to Press, we learn that the Opposition request for an emergency session has been definitely ruled out by the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister who had discussions with his Ministers feels that no emergency meeting was necessary as all arrangements had been made.

Two questions

We would like to ask the Prime Minister two questions, now that those question will not be raised in Parliament?

What, pray, are the arrangements that have been taken to demand from the British government, the withdrawal of British forces from Ceylon?

What, pray, are the arrangements taken to seal our bases at Trincomallee and Katunayake?

And one question from the Minister of Agriculture and Food.

What are the arrangements taken to ensure the supply of our foodstuffs from foreign countries? Rationing and price control is all well and good, but how long can we stretch three months supply of foodstuffs (as claimed by the Minister) and only one months supply (as stated by his Permanent Secretary in a Press interview)?

The Opposition asked for a debate on matters of national and international importance. The

Prime Minister has thought fit not to consult them, leave alone not taking them into his confidence.

On Tuesday a mammoth meeting organised by the Lanka Kamkaru Bala Mandalaya, the Asian Friends Congress and the Lanka Progressive Friends Congress was held at the Colombo Town Hall. This was the platform for the government group and they voiced their condemnation of Anglo-French action in unmistakable terms. The questions that we asked earlier remain unanswered, although more than one Minister of the government spoke at the meeting.

Earlier a joint meeting of all Opposition parties was held at Silversmith Street and left hand right wing groups (in the persons of U.N.P. Members) roundly condemned Anglo-French action. The speakers included Dr. N.M. Perera, Dr. Colvin R. de Silva, Mr. Pieter Keuneman, Mr. V.A. Sugathadasa, Mr. Jabir A Cader, Mr. S.B.A. Hamid and Mr. M.I. Abdul Hamid.

The United National Party was less vociferous in its condemnation.

The Working Committee of the U.N.P. met on Saturday night in the seclusion of Kandawela and passed the following resolution: "The Working Committee of the U.N.P. deplors the use of force in international disputes. It considers the action of the United Kingdom and French Government's invasion of Egyptian territory as unfortunate. It is opposed to the unwarranted military action taken recently by the Soviet government against the people of Poland and Hungary. In times of tension the working committee appeals for a calm consideration of the events occurring in the Middle East and Eastern Europe and strongly supports the decision of the U.N.O. calling upon those using force to lay down their arms immediately."

It will be noticed that the working committee has incorporated two resolutions into one and they have characterised the Anglo-French invasion of Egyptian territory as "unfortunate." Yes how unfortunate!

G.P.

The worst of the nightmare caused by the Anglo-French attack on Egypt seems to have passed with the cease fire which Eden ordered on Tuesday night as a result of Russian threat to intervene in the war on the side of the victim of aggression. Though Eden flung back the taunt of the events in Hungary, it seems to be generally accepted that it was the fear that the USSR would help Egypt militarily that finally persuaded Eden to save his face by agreeing to a UN force being set up in the Canal area to secure peace. The Bulganin hint that the indiscriminate bombing of innocent people in an unarmed Egypt called for a missile rocket attack on highly armed Britain and France, seems to have had more effect on Eden and Mollet than all the resolutions passed in the UN General Assembly and the popular protests in Britain and in every country in the world.

It is significant that Eden has been preparing for war ever since the Canal was nationalised. Pressure of public opinion drove Eden's Government to go to the UNO, and to pretend that she was interested in the Menon talks to effect an amicable settlement. It was only on October 24 that Krishna Menon, on his return to New Delhi, released the full text of his proposals to bridge the gulf between the Anglo-French position and the Egyptian demand for a recognition of her rights over the Canal. It was in such a situation that Israel launched its lightning attack on Egypt on October 29. On the 30th Britain and France delivered their ultimatum to Egypt, and on Nasser's refusal to surrender his country's sovereignty, began the most shameful attack that a big armed nation has inflicted on a poorly equipped small nation.

Depravity

All that could have been said about the utter depravity of the Anglo-French attack has been said by our local daily papers. The *Times* group as well as the *Lake House* unanimously condemned the Anglo-French attack and echoed all the sentiments voiced in the United Nations and in all the capitals of the world, bar of course

Canberra and Wellington. This stood out in contrast to the rather quiet and cautious protest registered by Prime Minister Bandaranaike (who only saw "no justification" for the Anglo-French attack) and who surprisingly enough talked about Ceylon's *neutrality* in the conflict. It is not quite clear what our Prime Minister meant to convey by the term *neutrality*, but it would seem, he meant nothing more than to say that if the fighting had spread, Ceylon would not have joined the hostilities in a military sense on one side or the other. Critics declare that it was academic and unnecessary at that stage to assure Britain that Ceylon would be *neutral*, particularly when it was necessary to express one's protest in the strongest terms possible to make Britain realise its folly. Whatever be the interpretation one might seek to place on the word *neutrality*, it is recognised that if Britain had no bases in this island, the term *neutrality* would not have had the sinister significance with which it is being now invested by critics who want the Government to follow a more forthright foreign policy. There can be no doubt that no self-respecting nation can be *neutral* in the conflict between Egypt on the one side and Britain and France on the other. There can be no *neutrality* in the fight against colonialism, and no *neutrality* in the fight against aggression. However in the United Nations General Assembly, Ceylon's representative came out strongly against Britain and France and this more than anything else has made everyone forget that Ceylon's Premier used the word *neutrality* in the first and only statement he issued condemning the Anglo-French attack.

Hungary

What is important to guard against at this stage is an attempt by Britain and France to stay on in the Canal Zone under some pretext or other. Egyptian territory must be cleared of Israeli, British and French troops, and Anthony Eden must learn to respect the sovereignty of Egypt over the Canal whatever be the settlement reached in regard to its use. The UN must

★

HUNGARY

immediately see that Britain and France withdraw their troops to their bases and this would be the first step towards relieving the darkness and gloom which has enveloped the world in the last ten days.

This gloom was unfortunately accentuated by the events in Hungary. Full factual reports from neutral sources are not yet available as all news and comments in regard a Hungary have been highly coloured in the context of the conflict in the Middle East and the "cold war" in the United Nations. Western propaganda allege that Russian troops which are in Hungary under the Warsaw Pact (just as American troops are in Western Germany under NATO) have crushed a genuine nationalist uprising against a "puppet" Russian government, whilst Moscow claims that counter-revolutionary and fascist elements supported by foreign sources had attempted to take advantage of a change of government from a strictly Stalinist variety to a Titoist one by resorting to an armed uprising. In this situation, a new Government headed by a recognised Titoist, Kardar, has been set up under Russian auspices (it is alleged that Nagy went over completely to the ex-Horthy elements) and that the Russian Army was only helping to establish this government on a firm footing. *One thing is clear that Hungary has been the victim of a recrudescence of the "cold war" between the West and the East, and it is also equally clear that Russia has deviated from the path of "Panch Sila". It may be that the Russian Army has prevented a long drawn out civil war in Hungary, but in the interests of "Panch Sila" a civil war and self-determination thereby is always preferable to armed intervention by another state even on ideological grounds.* The time has also come for the Warsaw Pact, the NATO, the SEATO, and the Baghdad Pacts to be torn up and for the Big Powers to withdraw their troops, navies and air forces from bases outside their own territory.

HOARDING

I have never felt more depressed than I have been feeling in the last few days. It was not the attack on Egypt and the possibility of the Third World War which has brought about this sense of depression. It was more the little happenings in the little island of ours that has made me feel gloomy and sad.

The Middle East crisis flared up on Thursday November 1. On Friday afternoon I went into a shop where I usually buy my tooth paste and shaving stick to find hordes of men and women I knew buying up - literally - the entire shop. One got three cases of Cow and Gate (he has, as far as I know only one offspring, but a comfortable bank balance). Another bought up practically all the tins of talcum powder that was immediately available. And so on, nearly everybody else besides me, was buying up stocks for a long and weary war.

Hoarding

This unnatural and panicky craze for hoarding the little necessities of life made me feel that we have this country to wage a bigger war against the selfish anti-social elements in our midst than preach holy hatred against the rapacity of the bankers of London and Paris.

And the tales I have heard of the blackmarketing are astounding. Way out of Colombo in Talangama, just four miles from the outskirts of the city, no sugar was available for the love of money. On Sunday last, kerosine which was usually sold at about 12 to 14 cts a bottle had shot up to 35 to 40 cts a bottle. In Ratnapura, it had reached the phenomenal price of 50 cts.

From all over the country I have got reports of unimaginable prices demanded by shop-keepers for the goods that they sold.

A good part of the blame must rest with the people with bank

balances who created the panic by indiscriminate private hoarding. This encouraged traders and shop-keepers to send all their stocks underground and demand fantastic prices for their goods.

New Regulation

And what was the effect of the new regulations proclaiming maximum controlled prices? Every shop-keeper, particularly in the outstations, has started a rationing scheme of his own. He refuses to sell more than a fraction of what a person customarily bought every week at the controlled rates (for the balance he wants blackmarket rates claiming that is what he has to pay the wholesaler for the stocks).

For instance, in a village from which I have received some reports the local shop-keeper was willing to give a family that bought three pounds of sugar for a week only quarter pound at controlled rates. For the rest he wanted over Re. 1 a pound which is almost double the controlled price. The story seems to be the same in all other places, including the city of Colombo.

The price control regulations alone are not enough. The severest punishment must be inflicted on all offenders. But more than all this a popular movement must arise against not only all shop-keepers who hoard but also all other persons who seek to build up private hoards (for it is they who provide the basis for blackmarketing).

Pettah

I have heard some amazing tales of business racketeering from the Pettah. I have it on good authority that during last week-end goods to the value of millions changed hands at enhanced prices. Speculators with money bought up goods. They have sent these goods underground in the expectation of a general war.

Two merchants I know made as much as Rs. 2 lakhs in enhanced prices in respect of goods worth about five or six lakhs rupees. The speculators who bought them probably hope to make more than the 25% premium they have paid for the same. Speculators also are said to have bought up practically the entire stocks of milk foods and tinned goods which importers had in their godowns.

I hope that the cease-fire in Egypt will bring the prices tumbling down to the old level and that the speculators will be forced to sell the goods at the old rates.

Nationalisation

At the moment I am puzzled as to what action can be taken against this type of speculator and profiteer. Nothing seems to deter them, and I am being driven to the conclusion that the only alternative that sane and decent minded people have is to call for action by Government to be the sole importer and wholesale distributor of essential goods (really all consumer goods). In regard to retail trade, a system of licence to trade must be instituted and these licences should be reworked for any violation of regulations regarding maximum prices whether in normal times or in times of shortage due to local crisis, strikes, or international trouble.

I am conscious that to end private trade in import and wholesale distribution is a rather drastic measure, but from what has happened during the last ten days and is still happening in the expectation of a further international trouble, I cannot see any other alternative. The nationalisation of the import of all essential consumer goods and the nationalisation of the wholesale distribution of such goods is a measure which I think Government must pay immediate consideration. It is probably more urgent than the nationalisation of buses or life insurance. I am conscious of all the inconveniences and difficulties of nationalisation, but these dangers are less dangerous than what the public has to face from private trade.

WAR ON PROFITEERS

continued from first page

ed, and later must be permanently cancelled. The "Morning Times" has gone so far as to suggest editorially that profiteers should be flogged. This is indeed an excellent suggestion.

Immoral

It is necessary for the public to realise that it is in their hands to check profiteering. If consumers refuse to buy at blackmarket rates, traders will lose all incentive to hoard or send underground essential foodstuffs. If customers will report every attempt at profiteering, even though it may involve some inconvenience, it will go a long way towards eradicating the menace of profiteering. Government can, at best, provide only the machinery to check profiteering but it is the public alone—you, I and every man and woman in the street—who can give life and body to a popular

movement to stamp out blackmarketing and hoarding.

Whilst a duty is cast on a wholesaler and retailer not to profiteer, an even greater duty is cast on a consumer not to hoard. The Government should be responsible for maintaining adequate stocks and for a scheme of equitable distribution should shortages arise, but a consumer who takes the law into his own hands and builds up a private hoard is as guilty of anti-social activity as the trader who charges blackmarket rates.

It is not enough for us to decry the Anglo-French attack on Egypt. It is not enough to harangue against the international profiteers in Britain and France. It is necessary for us to fight the profiteer and hoarder at home. Above all, each one of us must resist the temptation to turn hoarders ourselves. Many of us, who have a slighter larger bank balance than our neighbour, have already committed the unforgivable sin of buying cases of milk foods, stocks of tinned goods, bags of rice, flour and sugar, and rolls and rolls of textiles. To think that one should

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meet an international crisis in this way is anti-social to the highest degree. Those of us who have done this are guilty of the same immorality—the question of the degree of culpability provides no saving grace—which drove Anthony Eden to attack Egypt.

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The Little Surprise

The white shape of the Stratheaden glided slowly into her berth in the Colombo harbour. Dagmar Grayson was coming home. Nihal could hardly wait. He did not know how he had survived three whole years without a sight of this creature. The moment of the fruition of all his hopes and dreams had arrived at last. He went on board quickly, before her clan swarmed in, and saw her leaning over the rails, alone and contemplative. His very being wanted to rush up to her and hold her in his arms and smother her in his caresses. But on second thoughts, he wanted her to see him and come up to him. In any case he wanted to have a good look at her. Yes indeed her photographs did not do her justice. She wore a simple summer frock and a pair of low heeled red shoes. Her coiffure was just right. The page boy hair style suited her admirably. She was the same yet vastly different. She was now the finished product. She spotted him quickly and came tripping towards him.

Oh Mr. de Silva. How lovely to see you again. She looked into his eyes and kissed his cheek gently.

Nice to see you too, Dagmar, he said using her Christian name for the first time. Your photographs hardly do you justice.

Thank you she said. But you always said the nicest things about me.

She spoke with great assurance and ease and she had a delightful accent without being affected.

Well are you ready. I've got a launch handy. I think you had better come with me. All your people are waiting ashore. Where is your mother incidentally?

Oh she must be in the cabin seeing that everything has been packed. I'll go down and fetch her.

In the launch on the way to the jetty she spoke of her travels. All those little indiosyncrasies about her which used to annoy him so much had vanished.

Well you haven't said much. What do you think of me. Are you pleased. You know that in everything I did I had you in mind. I used to say to myself. I am sure Mr. de

Silva would like this or that or disapproved of this or that.

I am very grateful Dagmar. I think you have done wonderfully... Are you coming back to us?

I don't suppose you will want me back anymore will you? As a matter of fact I've got certain plans which I must discuss with you. A little surprise too.

Good it can wait. When all the fuss is over come over to my flat this evening and we can have a long talk. I'll send you the car. About seven.

Nihal awaited Dagmar's arrival in his study. He couldn't concentrate on anything in particular. He wondered what the surprise she had referred to could be. Perhaps it was something she had bought him, something very special. He reviewed in his mind what he was going to tell her. He had waited long enough. She would know the truth at last. His liver coloured spaniel bitch lay on the floor eyeing him curiously. He would ask her out to dine tomorrow night and afterwards take her dancing. In the midst of these ruminations he heard a car draw into the porch: He did not leave his study but sent

This is the concluding instalment of the story *THE LITTLE SURPRISE*. The first two parts appeared in our last two issues.

a servant to ask the lady to come in.

He stood up as Dagmar entered.

Oh hello he said, I must say you are most punctual.

A trick I learnt in Europe she said smiling.

I am sure we've got a lot to talk about. Can I get you a drink?

Thank you no. Do you mind, could we talk another day? I seem to have so many things to do this evening. If it had been anyone else I would have put off this date.

I am most flattered, said Nihal rather disappointed.

But I must give you that little surprise. I am sure you will be very pleased. Let me go out for a minute.

Oh yes I can hardly wait.

I'll be back in a second. Dagmar left the room and Nihal poured himself a drink. He wondered what the surprise could be. He hoped she hadn't been unnecessarily extravagant on his behalf. Pre-

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The Little Surprise

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sently Dagmar entered with a short stocky little European with the hint of a moustache and his hair pasted down with brylcreem.

Meet my fiance she said. Bill Tompkins, a steward on Stratheden 'Ow are you gov'nor said Tomkins proffering a hand, 'eard such a lot about you. Dag and I decided to get engaged on the ship. Lucky man aren't oi?

There was a moment of stunned silence as Nihal viewed the creature in front of him. He felt a kind of revulsion for him which he had never before entertained for a member of the human species. It was incredible to him that this man should stand there in front of him so complacently and claim as his very own the one human being he had ever loved and lived for. His stomach turned and he felt very dizzy. He had a terrible urge to kick this little brute out unceremoniously and thereafter slowly and excruciatingly strangle the life out of Dagmar Grayson. But these primeval and atavistic urges the certain legacy of our savage beginnings soon evaporated into thin air. Nihal was soon in complete control of himself.

You are indeed a lucky man Mr. Tompkins. May I get you a drink?

He turned towards Dagmar and looked her straight in the eyes. They were empty and messageless.

Congratulations, Dagmar. This is indeed a surprise.

A pleasant one I hope.

Most pleasant indeed.

You see it all happened so suddenly. Didn't it Bill. Bill used to bring in the coffee every morning. He was so good and kind. Said his father had a ranch in Australia and asked me to marry him. Wasn't it sweet of him. No man had asked me to do that before. So I thought Bill must really be in love with me and I said yes. Mother was so thrilled too when I broke the news to her. At last she said our dear Dag has done something for herself. We are going to be very happy, aren't we sweet she said looking at Bill.

You bet we will, said Bill fairly bursting with pride.

This calls for a celebration, said Nihal, I really must toast the happy couple. He poured the drinks.

Well heres a toast to your happiness, both of you. I am glad for your sake, Dagmar. We shall miss you all the same.

Oh thank you. Its very sweet of you. Now I must tell you the present plans. I shall be leaving for Australia, Melbourne in about a months time. Bill will meet me there and we shall be married soon afterwards. Then I propose to either get a job. Or I might even go and join Bill's parents.

I see said Nihal. It was all he could do not to conceal his bitter disappointment. He longed to say a few cutting things. Again he thought he would tell Dagmar how he had loved her all his life. Tell her the whole truth. No, but he would not crawl. Not even to this creature. It had better be a complete write off.

One little favour, continued Dagmar, you must let me have that small balance which you said was left over from Aunt Emily's trust fund. That would I think be just enough to get my trousseau with and leave a little bit over to start married life on. Do you think you could do this for me. Bill has undertaken to pay for my passage to Australia.

Of course Dagmar said Nihal looking at her steadily without giving her the slightest clue as to what was going on in his mind. It is your money after all.

Oh that is wonderful. Now everything is settled. You must excuse us if we dash off now. We will have that chat another day I promise. The ship's leaving at midnight tonight. So I want to show Bill

around a bit before he gets back. And thanks for giving us the car. We'll send it back as soon as we can.

Nihal got up and bade them goodbye. As he took Dagmar by the hand he could hardly believe that this was the girl who a few years ago was taking down his letters. That this was the girl he wanted so much to be his wife. She was his creation. She was a bit of sculpture he had modelled over the years and so painstakingly put in the finishing touches. Now it lay at his feet crashed to a thousand pieces. But his grief was proud. He was satisfied that at least he had saved her the burden of gratitude for the rest of her life.

He saw them off in an absent-minded sort of way. Yes, yes she runiated bitterly, she must not keep Bill waiting. He felt the door closing forever on a very long chapter of his life, so long that he could not see how he was to start another. His book was nearly finished. He pulled up the venetian blinds and opened out the windows. There was a curious tranquillity in the blue stars. A solitary palm swayed gently in the evening breeze. The sea as he looked at it in the azure night, restless and undulating, synchronised with his mood of grief and hurt. He went back to his chair, lit a cigarette and stretched his legs. Suddenly there was a painful yelp from Susie the spaniel sleeping at his feet. He had accidentally tread on her paw. He lifted her hurriedly, mumbling an apology and stroking her head, while she whimpered and moaned. Then she looked up, wagged her tail, and licked his face.



LABOUR, EDUCATION & FREEDOM

Women's education was closely linked with the emancipation movement. In Tsarist Russia hired farm service or domestic service were the main occupations of women and 80% of the women in hired service were in these categories. In 1930 only 2.4% remained in such fields. In 1897 only 12.4% women were literate. Today all are literate.

In Uzbekistan in 1927 there was 98% illiteracy. Today there is no illiteracy. The abolition of illiteracy was taken up as a national task. Education brought women more and more into skilled jobs, social and political work. There is compulsory 7 year education, broad secondary education, and free industrial, technical and agricultural training. Three million adults in agriculture and industry are pursuing secondary and higher education after working hours. The school is separated from the Church and the Church from the State; but there is complete religious freedom which I saw and verified on four occasions. In 1917 there were 231,000 teachers. Now there are 17,700,000 — a sevenfold increase. Old Russia had 91 higher educational centres with 112,000 students. Today there are 765 institutions. By cutting down military expenditure 72,000 milliard roubles this year were allocated for education.

Labour

Labour is a necessity of the Soviet people and labour is honoured by them. Good workers are decorated. The speakers frankly admitted — "We have our short comings. We still have cases where a manager violates labour legislation for the protection of female labour while the Trade Unions do not always take timely measures against such a manager."

But when we were taken to factories and collective farms we invariably saw creches, kindergartens, polyclinics, palaces of culture and sometimes Homes for the Aged attached to work centres which give women a chance to participate in socially productive labour. Men and women not only enjoy equal pay but women on an equal footing with men, take part in the organization and management of the

country's economic life. We visited a textile factory in Moscow where the Deputy Director was a woman, the engineer a woman and 72% of the workers were women. We were able to meet workers who had graduated while working.

The Home for the Aged inmates were between 60—108. They looked happy. They received pocket money out of Factory Trade Union Funds and their pension was used for the expenses of the Home. They were interested in a television set presented by the factory where they had worked many years ago.

I was impressed by the network of special evening educational establishments at industrial plants. One of the most important aspects in the problem of equality of women is the chance for their promotion in work, which is in turn connected with chances of acquiring specialised knowledge and improvement of skill.

Labour law prohibits the employment of women on heavy or harmful work. On doctor's recommendation, Factory or Office is obliged to transfer an expectant mother to lighter work on the same pay. She gets 56 days before and 56 days after childbirth as Maternity leave.

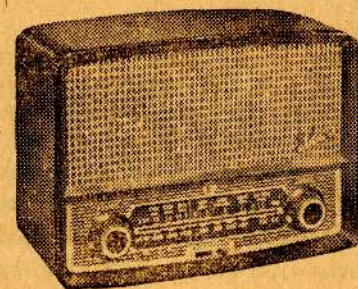
Collective Farms

The system of collective farming seems to have accelerated the opening of new lands on a colossal scale. One of the Uzbek collective farms of 2794 hectares we visited had 1,170 families united in it which in 1929 had only 189 families on 295 hectares. The main crop was cotton with smaller plots of lucerne, vegetable, potato and fruits. The income in 1955 was 22 million roubles and payment was made on working day units, the norm pending on work.

Other places of interest I visited were the Bolshoi Theatre, People's Culture Place, Children's Book House, Stalingrad Soviet and battlefields, the Moscow University which has 23,000 students, a boat trip down the Volga river and Don Canal, Sochi Sanatorium and Greek Orthodox Church Seminary.

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Soviet Russia - 2

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Children's Book House

The Children's Book House in Moscow is the largest of its kind in the U.S.S.R. In 1955, 507 different books were printed amounting to 88 million in 49 different languages. We saw a large collection of fairy tales of all countries, scientific books to assist children, in Poly-clinics classics and stories by contemporary Soviet as well as foreign authors, folklore, fiction etc: I was particularly interested in the one million copies printed for pre-school kids costing only 25 kopek each (half the price of a subway ticket). Last year the House had received 45,000 letters from children expressing their views of the books.

Individual freedom

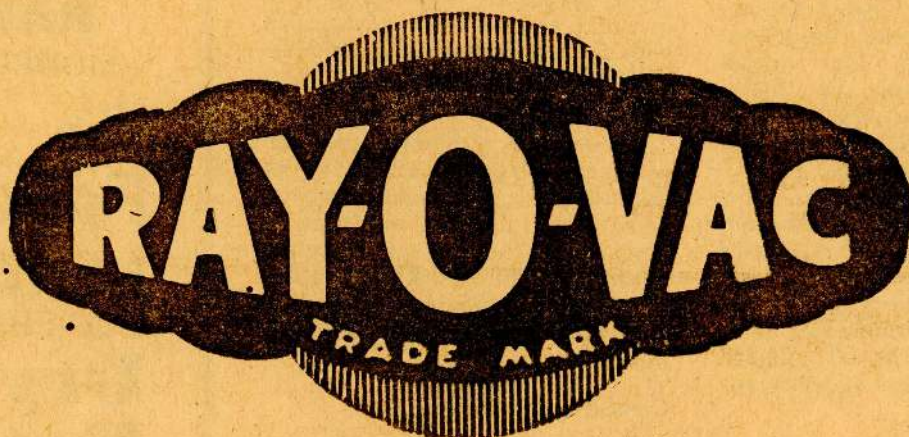
Catholic, Greek Orthodox Churches (I could not visit a Baptist Church) were overcrowded on Sundays but very few young people were to be seen; but this is a phenomenon not confined to Russia alone in the modern world. I saw people giving lavishly to the Sunday collections.

There is freedom within the Soviet framework. On questioning I learnt that one need not belong to the Communist Party for nomination to the Soviet elections. There are today 19% in the Supreme Soviet who do not belong to the party. Representatives of the people are criticised at the meetings

on their work or lack of work at the Soviets. This criticism is taken as a programme to be fulfilled. I was present at a case where a woman successfully fought a case for reinstatement in the factory. I also found that there was a sense of identification of society and state in this new order of the Soviet Union.

The value of the Seminar to me lay in understanding the history of the U.S.S.R., in relation to the background of the Tsarist regime and this is very important for the peaceful co-existence of peoples in the world of today. We were asked to speak at many banquets and receptions and anything I spoke was expressed with the above sentiment at the back of my mind.

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Berwick Law's class alone should carry him through the KADAWATTA PLATE. Fordyce will have to pull out his thought to land the spoils, because *Flying Weather* and *Arlington Heights*, will not merely be lookers on.

FORECAST SYSTEM

It looks like that we are going to have sticky going for the opening day of the November Meet. In which case, my selections, based on the handicaps, and written well in advance, will be on going that will be termed 'Fair'.

Fordyce will be seen in the saddle again, and it looks like that he will have his usual quota of winners. This meet will also see the inauguration of the "Forecast System" — a system whereby the punter has to pick the 1st & 2nd horses in 3 given races. This system is quite popular in other racing countries, and I am sure, will be as popular over here. Here's wishing the Club all success in this new venture, one of the steps they have taken to draw the crowd to the course.

The Chief event on Saturday's 7 race card, will be the LANKA CUP at 7 furs, in which 17 of our best middle distance Arbas in Class 1 have been entered. Should the withdrawals be light the race will be an excellent rehearsal for the Southern Cup at Boosa next month.

The GAL OYA PLATE for thoroughbreds in Class I should be a battle royal between *Cobscar* and *Jaffa II*. The latter has run with fair success abroad, and in more exalted company. After he arrived here, he won a few minor races, and then his form completely deteriorated. Now in Renga's care he has come back with a vengeance by winning his last 2 races like a useful 'un' and should be take his chance on Saturday in his 1st appearance in the top Class, he must be greatly respected. But it is to *Cobscar* that I will look for, to win this race. He will probably just get home, but his terrific initial speed will be his greatest advantage. *Verdict* is my choice for 3rd place.

At the handicap, *Santa Anna* looks a good thing in the RAKWANA STAKES, more so if the stable apprentice Isaacs rides him, as he will claim an useful allowance. *Lucky Number*, and *Mocking Bird Hill*, will be there to follow him home.

The MAYA OYA PLATE at 1 mile will certainly be one of the 'Legs' of the treble, as it has attracted 27 entries. *Linia* must command respect again but so easily did *Persian Approach* win her last race, that with 2 lbs: less to shoulder, must repeat the performance. It has been more than the exception that in these undivided races, we have always got a long priced winner. Should this be the case I am going to be quite bold in tipping, *Masur*, *Tanell* and *Lini* in that order.

In both divisions of the CHUNDIKULAM STAKES, a lot will depend on the draw and the start, as in both divisions, we have a lot of unruly ponies.

In the Senior Division I like *Madhar al Rafidain* to win for me again, from *Al Moj*, and *Jir Jir Hamed*, and in the other division, *Iltimas*, *Baz Mudharffar* & *Wathan*.

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