

TRIBUNE


BRITAIN MUST QUIT BASES

The Prime Ministers of the four Colombo Powers who met in New Delhi this week have rightly drawn attention to the dangers which arise from military pacts and foreign bases. They have demanded that such military agreements like NATO, SEATO, the Baghdad and the Warsaw Pacts should be torn up and that all troops should quit bases outside the territory of the respective countries to which they belong.

Last week, in commenting on the events in Hungary and the deviation from Panch Sila which has arisen there, Tribune emphasised that the solution to the problem lay in the total liquidation of foreign bases. Russia created the Warsaw Pact in order to meet what it contended was the threat of NATO and the stationing of several hundred thousands of Anglo-American troops, and large numbers of air planes with atom bombs in Western Germany. It was under the Warsaw Pact that Russia has sought to interfere in Hungary at the invitation of the *de jure* Government in that country.

Under NATO, SEATO, Baghdad Pact and other local and regional agreements, the USA has troops, warships and warplanes in over 50 bases in thirty odd countries outside her territory. Britain and France (and to a lesser extent Belgium and Portugal) have troops and military bases in foreign territory. Britain has two bases in Ceylon, and it seems totally unwilling to leave them in spite of pious wishes expressed in an agreement which Britain has signed with the Bandaranaike Government that she would quit the Ceylon bases on certain conditions.

The time has come for the people of this country to demand that Britain should quit Kaunayake and Trincomalee without any conditions. The events in Egypt and the events in Hungary have shown that the stationing of foreign troops in any country leads to friction and tension. What is worse, is that in certain circumstances such troops will seek to interfere in the internal affairs of the country. What guarantee is there (bearing in mind what has happened in



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Egypt) that British troops, airplanes and warships in the Ceylon bases will not seek to use force against the people of this country if they decide to follow a policy in internal and external affairs which is repugnant to a government which is in power in Great Britain at any particular moment of time?

Let us take a concrete case. Ceylon might well take the decision to nationalise all British and foreign owned tea and rubber estates in the island and seek to pay compensation on what it regards as a fair basis. British financiers, who would naturally prefer to draw the ten to fifty percent profit each year to a lump sum payment in final settlement will endeavour to force White hall to use its troops and planes in Katunayake and Trincomalee to attack the Ceylonese people and seek to overthrow the Government. History often repeats itself and what has happened in Egypt may very well happen here in Ceylon.

The British must be asked to quit the bases in Ceylon unconditionally. This is the only way that healthy, friendly and peaceful relations in commercial and cultural affairs can be maintained between Britain and Ceylon. In the same way only when American, British, French, Belgian, Portuguese and Russian troops quit bases in foreign lands that the peace of the world can be assured and the spirit of Panch Sila prevail in human affairs.

TRIBUNE

CEYLON NEWS REVIEW
COLOMBO, Nov. 17, 1956

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FILM

The Good Die Young

Lawrence Harvey, Joan Collins

English at the REGAL

Here is a film which tries to be different and succeeds. It is well directed and there is a moral too. The moral contained in the old song that money is the root of all evil.

Without sounding like a problem in Euclid, A, B, C, and D are four men accidentally thrown together in the vortex of the world. They come from different walks of life—boxer, airman, clerk and an aristocrat of no fixed occupation. But they have one common factor — wife trouble and money trouble. Two circumstances, I take it, that would plunge the generality of mankind into murder or a mental home. A, B, and C are what the Americans call nice guys with not a suggestion of a criminal record. D however is a real bad hat. We are told that he is bred in the purple. He has been decorated for valour at El Alamein. He is footloose, clockless and degenerate. His wife accuses him of sponging on her. D is really the villain of this piece. But I am afraid Lawrence Harvey does not make a convincing villain. He sounds too "refined" and looks the type that

spends his time reading Keats and listening to Scriabin. He is much too aesthetic to be mixed up in murder. However he inveigles the others to join him in robbing a Post Office van. Now British film makers haven't a clue about hold ups. The whole thing was very amateurish and conducted in the leisurely fashion of a Sunday picnic. No crooks in their senses would dawdle as these four just men do and subject the Police and every moving object to a ruthless enfilade. But even if you concede that it was an amateur affair anyhow, it was still an unnecessarily sticky do. However conscience gets the better of A, B, and C and they pay for it with their lives, being bumped off by D who in turn gets his just deserts in the way of a bullet from one of the others. The film ends with the stolen notes being symbolically blown out of a hand that didn't survive to count them.

I thought the acting was of a high order but as I have said Lawrence Harvey wasn't very convincing. Perhaps it wasn't his fault. A case of bad casting. I cannot remember who played the part of the boxer but if it was Stanley Baker out of this galaxy of stars, then he made a very good



job of it. I particularly liked Gloria Grahame, and Joan Collins was serenely beautiful even if she hadn't very much to say or do. Robert, looking more like Oscar Wilde than ever, delivers his few lines to near perfection.

Incidentally the name of the film was most unapt and misleading. The title made me expect the trials of tender teenagers tussling with the torments of T. B. Or something like that. But it was nothing of the kind. It was largely concerned with people being brutally cut off in the prime of middle age. Renaming films is an interesting game to play. This one had many possibilities.

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OIL and SUEZ

Before the Second World War the deserts of the Middle East produced 100 million barrels of oil a year. Thirteen years later, in 1952, the figure was 762 million barrels.

And in the countries of the Middle East — Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia the sheikdoms of the Persian Gulf — ever increasing numbers of people had become aware of two great facts: the fabulous wealth beneath the earth they trod and the foreign chains that wealth had brought.

These are the basic reasons for the swift emergence in a few years of the Middle East as the most explosive political area in the world. Oil is inflammable. When it is mixed with Arab nationalism it sooner or later produces an explosion and shakes the very foundations of imperialism.

Fundamentally, that is the cause of the present Suez Canal crisis in which oil is mentioned as frequently as the name of Col Nasser, Egypt's President.

The balance of oil has shifted. In the 19th century the centre was in the United States. At the turn of the century Russia came into the picture; just before the First World War Mexico startled the world. After the war the move to the Middle East began — first Iran, then new areas adding more and more weight until the enormous recent discoveries in Arabia and Kuwait.

More than half

By 1954 the Middle East was known to have more than half the world's proved oil reserves outside the Soviet Union, compared with America's quarter. Most remarkable of all, America herself had become an importer of oil, facing exhaustion of her own wells in 14 years if no new domestic sources are discovered. Which is another reason for the potential explosiveness of the Middle East under growing U.S. exploitation.

In the preceding half-century seven mammoth oil corporations — two British, five American — had emerged from a jungle warfare of

To understand the full implications of the crisis in the Middle East it is necessary to know that oil is the basic factor that underlies all international political activity in the area. This article provides information that will help readers to understand the events in the Middle East today.

profiteering to dominate all oil outside the Soviet Union.

Standard of New Jersey, greatest of all; Socony-Vacuum; Gulf Oil; Texaco; Standard of California are the U.S. firms; Royal Dutch Shell and British Petroleum the British. They each have trade turn-overs exceeding the total budgets of all but the largest countries. They have the kind of power that controls and overthrows the most powerful of governments — including the U.S. government — in the sphere of the U.S. firms

Between them in their greed for profit, they pillaged and criminally

wasted one of the greatest assets of mankind. Their record is set down in an important new book, *The Empire of Oil*, by an American expert, Harvey O'Connor, whose studies of American economic history are well-known.

In America the big companies and the many thousands of small "wild cat" firms have drilled between them about a million wells only 400,000 of these are now producing oil, mostly in dribbles of a few barrels a day. The loss in wasted capital for unnecessary wells is estimated to be at least five thousand million dollars.

More important, needless wells, releasing subterranean gas that forces oil to the surface, have left a great proportion of the oil irrecoverable. With the gas gone — and itself wasted — there is nothing to push up the oil.

Of the first 24,000 wells drilled in the East Texas oil-field from 1900 onwards, at least 21,000 were unnecessary, according to the U.S. National Resources Planning Board.

Waste

In 1915, the U.S. Bureau of Mines estimated that 80 to 90 per cent of the oil was being left in the ground. Today about a third of the oil is brought to the surface by greater control and improved drilling methods.

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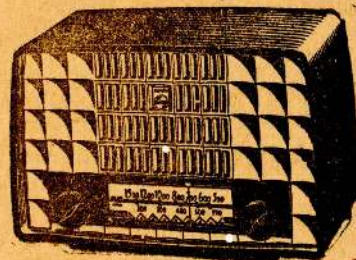
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OIL and SUEZ

continued from page 419

Most of the early wastage was caused by sheer greed — by a reckless race for profits in which companies large and small bored frantically on the edge of rival areas to steal each other's oil, each trying to drain the local underground lake before his competitor.

In the marketing of oil, waste has been equally great. Though prices are tightly controlled everywhere and no one company may undercut another in this ring of profit-makers there is considerable competition in provision of "service."

For instance, a survey in California showed that of 12,600 gasoline stations 8,600 were unnecessary.

Harry S. Sinclair, leading oil magnate, said: "We have overbuilt service stations, wasted manpower, cross-hauled million and millions of unnecessary miles and thrown away hundreds of millions of dollars in marketing expenses."

You pay for the oil men's greed and waste every time you buy a bus ticket. You pay for it in the cost of goods transported by road and diesel locomotives. Somewhere in everything you buy there is a charge for the wasteful greed of the oil men.

The Middle East is at this moment the world's greatest source of oil though untapped reserves in the Soviet Union are believed to be even greater. And production in the Middle East is quicker, cheaper than in America; 1952 statistics showed that while the average U.S. well dribbled 12 barrels a day the Middle Eastern wells gave 5,000 barrels. Moreover, Middle East labour is far cheaper.

Nevertheless, Middle Eastern oil has never been allowed to be sold cheaper than U.S. oil, whether it is produced by a British or an American company. And the pricing arrangements are so complicated that even the British government's representatives in the British companies cannot calculate the true cost of production, or separate dollar from sterling costs.

Standard of New Jersey had an income of \$585 million in 1954 Royal Dutch Shell made dollar 377 million. In 1952 the industry's profits were the highest ever gained by any industry in any year.

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WAR and PEACE

LOCALISE THE CONFLICT

"The troubled Middle East has set the stage for another major international crisis. While the world was still recovering from the shock of the surprise night attack by massed Israeli forces which took them through Egyptian territory almost to the banks of the Suez Canal, Britain and France proposed by unilateral action virtually to reinstate their troops in the original British base in the Suez Canal Zone.

"The greatest need of the present moment is that this conflict should be localised and secondly, that peace be restored as early as possible. Neither of these aims can be reached if the rest of the world permits Britain and France to regain, at one fell swoop, strategic advantages at Egypt's expense. Current trends in the Middle East have been declared in no uncertain fashion in the strong anti-Western vote at the recent Jordan elections—and the Anglo-French move might well be the spark that sets the Arab world ablaze. It is to be hoped that the Asian countries will bend every effort to secure condemnation of any unilateral power moves by Britain and France and instead press for a cease-fire under United Nations supervision."

Daily News
31. 10. 56

ALBION'S LATEST PERFDY

"The Anglo-French cease-fire order had only one meaning and intention: the colonial powers could never have been naive enough to expect Egypt to lay down her arms at a time when Israel had crashed through to one of the banks of the Suez Canal: and quite obviously they planned on using Egypt's refusal as an excuse for "active intervention" in Suez in the "interests of international rights and peace". Israel, sitting pretty deep within Egyptian territory had actually no choice in the matter when she was ordered to do so by her Western masters; and, even if she had, would have been happy to agree to a cease-fire at such advantageous

terms. No wonder the reactions from Cairo are so bitter."

Observer
31. 10. 56

ACT OF BRIGANDAGE

"With the landing of British and French troops in the Suez Canal zone, it is patent even to the merest political innocent that a war of imperialist aggression against Egypt has been launched. The two Western powers have unashamedly seized on a transparent pretext to use force in order to move once again into the Canal. It is clear now that the whole action is a conspiracy to re-establish British and French domination over Su^z.

"There must be the gravest suspicion that the Israeli attack was made with the connivance and at the instigation of Britain and France. It is inconceivable that Israel would have pitted her own strength against the Arab world had she not been assured of Western support. Her only importance has been to provide the British and French with a fig-leaf for their aggression....."

The following extracts from the editorials of the English language daily papers published in Colombo provide a record of the most dangerous phase of the current international crisis as seen through Ceylon's eyes.

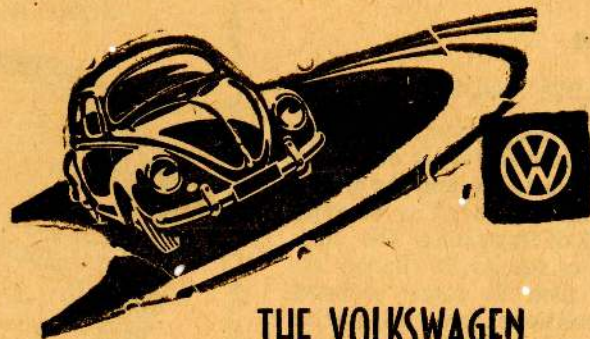
"Not the least reprehensible part of this act of brigandage is that Britain and France have openly flouted the authority of the United Nations. Any genuine action to keep the peace between Egypt and Israel could be taken only by the U. N. as a body. Britain and France have displayed their contempt for international law, not only by acting over the heads of U.N. but also by vetoing the extremely moderate resolution of their own ally, the United States.

"It is ironic that at the same time that the West has been condemning the Soviet Union for its military intervention in Hungary, the British and French should be themselves using the mailed fist in Egypt."

Daily News
1. 11. 56

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THE PEOPLE'S CAR



THE VOLKSWAGEN

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War and Peace

continued from page 421

EDEN DISGRACES BRITAIN

".....Instead they delivered a shocking ultimatum to the victim and have now begun to invade his territory. Such an act of shameless and utterly contemptible brigandage is without parallel in modern history except in the case of Hitlerite Germany....."

"We are glad, for Britain's sake and for humanity's sake, that once again, in the House of Commons yesterday, the Labour Party stood up valiantly for principle and honour and denounced Sir Anthony Eden who seems determined to make Britain a jackal among nations."

"If the British people wish to save themselves from the scorn and contempt of the world they must now make it perfectly plain to Sir Anthony Eden that they repudiate his leadership, disown the crime which has been committed in their name, and compel the Tory Government to respect Britain's international obligations. Today's censure motion, so scathingly worded, is unprecedented in Britain's history for it is moved when the country is at war. The motion will, of course, be defeated by the Tory majority in Parliament, but it will we hope, be pressed home by the British people. Only thus can they purge themselves of the disgrace Eden has brought them."

Morning Times
1. 11. 56

NAKED AGGRESSION

".....But if Egyptian sovereignty justified Nasser in July it continues to justify him today and the civilised world must bend all its energies to the task of frustrating the consequences of the Anglo-French attempt to filch by force of arms what international law and justice have all along denied them. This will be no easy task. Possession, whether legal or illegal, has always been nine-tenths of the law and the expulsion of the robbers from the Canal Zone will be a formidable undertaking. But there is hope in thought that the Arabs from Morocco to Iraq will rally to the side of Egypt and there is encourage-

ment in the fact that the entire civilised world is unanimous in its unequivocal denunciation of the Anglo French return to the age old profession of their fathers."

Times of Ceylon
1. 11. 56

CRIMINAL CONSPIRACY

".....We are horrified when Britain, with whom we have so many close business and cultural ties, behaves like a common thug, and are even more horrified at her pathetically naive attempts to lie her way out of the situation by trying to make out that Egypt, which is now being battered by British aircraft, is the real aggressor! In the face of this duplicity the Asian members of the Commonwealth should seriously ask themselves whether there is any purpose in continuing such an association, however slender the links may be."

Observer
1. 11. 56

BRITAIN MUST NOT USE BASES

"The British and French governments stand morally isolated today in the face of universal condemnation of their action in Egypt. The

Afro-Asian group in U. N. has forthrightly denounced this "recrudescence of imperialism in its most objectionable form." Within the Commonwealth itself the Prime Ministers of India, Pakistan and Ceylon have all opposed the British and French action. Even the white dominions and the United States are clearly embarrassed, and in spite of the pre-election pressure of a considerable body of Jewish voters, President Eisenhower has been constrained to express disapproval of this allies' immoral adventure....

"There is another important problem which the present situation poses for Ceylon, and that is the question of her bases. The crisis has broken at a time when discussions regarding arrangements for the transfer of British-occupied bases to Ceylon have not yet been concluded. Nevertheless, the principle that Ceylon has a right to take the bases back has been conceded by Britain. Clearly, it would be unjustifiable for Britain to make any use of the bases in a war which is not in Ceylon's interests and is bound to incur the detestation of national sentiment in this country."

Daily News
2. 11. 56

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● ELECTIONS

Ceylon like all other countries not directly involved in the warlike activities of the Anglo-French-Israeli attack on Egypt or the deviation from *Panch Sila* that has arisen in Hungary, has been awaiting the developments in the international arena with anxiety mixed with fear. The profiteering and hoarding indulged in by unscrupulous traders and other anti-social elements brought home the grim realities of war even at a distance to every householder in the island.

Whilst Government has with commendable promptitude taken measures to meet any emergency that may arise in regard to essential foodstuffs by introducing maximum controlled prices and emergency laws to check profiteering and hoarding, it is significant that Pettah which can be regarded as the nerve centre of all anti-social activity in the matter of sale and distribution of essential goods looks upon these attempts to curb its activities with a cynicism tinged with a feeling that can be summed up in the sentiment "we've been through all this before...we know how to get round all the laws..... give us a war and we'll make our millions....."

It is no doubt true that in the last 1939-45 war the traders and profiteers had it all their own way in spite of various measures adopted by the then Government. For one thing, all emergency regulations during the last war were brought into force too late and too tardily: in fact, it was like shutting the stable doors after the horses had bolted. For another, corruption in high places as well low helped the profiteer.

MEP

This time emergency regulations have been framed without undue delay. But it will be in the administration of these laws that the test of the MEP government will arise. Will Government provide the necessary administrative machinery

to make effective these laws? Will Government be able to root out corruption at all levels? Will Government be able to rouse the people into waging a popular campaign against profiteers and other anti-social elements?

And, above all, will the Government be able to arrange for the satisfactory obtaining of supplies the equitable distribution of whatever is imported?

These are questions which are on everybody's lips, and this is coupled with the more fundamental question: will the MEP Government, in spite of its noble protestations be able to solve the difficult tasks facing the country? Will the MEP be able to bring about an all-round development in the productive capacity of the country? Will it succeed in developing industries which can not only absorb the large numbers of unemployed and under-employed but also effectively increase the national wealth? Will the MEP

succeed in solving the problem of land and agriculture?

There are yet no indications that the MEP has even taken the first step towards a practical programme of economic development. It is true that a National Planning Council has been formed, but from the persons appointed to the Council and the total absence of any policy defining the work of this National Planning Council, the public have begun to regard it as yet another "stunt" similar to the many such *tamashas* organised by the UNP (including the famed Six Year Plans). A great deal has to be done, and done soon, if the MEP is to convince the thinking sections of the public that it can deliver the goods.

Municipal Elections

In the meantime, the Municipal Elections in the city of Colombo are fast approaching. In another month, on December 15 to be exact,

continued on page 431

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With November 18th the deadline set by the Government Medical Officers' Association for the report of the Implementation Committee appointed by the Minister of Health fast approaching, the G.M.O.A. cauldron which has been simmering with strike threats for some time past is likely to boil over.

We learn from reliable sources that the G.M.O.A. is going ahead with its plans for a strike, despite the fact that the Implementation Committee has been set up without undue delay, and in the face of the Health Minister's request to the Implementation Committee that it may make its recommendations "as early as possible, if practicable within a month."

We have made no secret of our attitude towards the proposed strike action by the G.M.O.A. and in our comments some weeks ago we said:

"Whilst we admit that the conditions and circumstance in which the vast majority of government doctors work is heart-rending, and whilst we support their claims for higher salaries unreservedly, we must frankly state that the threat of strike is not unbecoming of a profession that is expected to serve, suffering mankind."

We stand by the attitude that we then took up.

The Implementation Committee has got about its task without any provocative delay, and the doctors would lose not only the sympathy of the government (which has accepted in principle their demand for the abolition of private practice and a readjustment of their salary scales) but also, and what is more important, the sympathy of the public, if they were to launch strike action before the report of the Committee is out.

We therefore urge the G.M.O.A. to hold its guns (if it still wants to fire them) until the Committee has concluded its deliberations.

Last week's unfortunate incident in which the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. A. R. H. Canekeratne, is alleged to have described doctors as "dishonest" has no doubt put

the backs of the doctors up. Also the reported question by the Chairman: "Will you become swans overnight, once private practice is abolished?" may have given the doctors a genuine grievance at their being classed "along with ducks and quacks." And hence their decision not to make further representations to the Implementation Committee till an apology is tendered to them by the Chairman.

The point to be remembered is that the cause of the G.M.O.A. will not be served by cavilling at every passing remark, and getting hot under the collar at every little incident. Just as the deputation from the G.M.O.A. sat through the incident and gave its evidence without undue fuss, so must the G.M.O.A. bide its time till the report of the Committee is published. They have everything to gain from such dignified conduct.

We wish to recall to mind a few of the points chalked up in favour of the doctors. Although at first they protested against the appointment of a Committee, they accepted it later on the condition that the government should accept in principle their demands. Then came the tussle over the composition of the Committee and although initially they objected to the appointment of a Chairman without consultation with them, they finally accepted it under protest. In their memorandum to the Committee they whittled down an increased salary bill of seven million rupees to four and a half million rupees, and co-operated with the Committee when the time came to give evidence before it. Now all this good work and the goodwill gained thereby will be lost, if the doctors suddenly decide to cry "strike", just at the time

when their demands are to be adjudicated upon.

The adjudication of the Committee, the doctors claim is not binding upon them. They have safeguarded themselves doubly by accepting the Committee under protest, and also by making it known to the Government that the report of the Committee will be presented to a general meeting of the Association before it is accepted or rejected. Then why this beastly hurry to have the report in their hands by the 18th of November?

We wish to get two points straight: first the doctors should generously overlook the alleged insult to the deputation and perhaps the whole medical profession. If they do not they might find themselves chasing after the shadow and losing the substance in the process; second the doctors have waited so long for redress of their grievances, and a week or two more is not going to materially affect their position.

If the doctors feel that they would be losing face if they do not strike as threatened, then they are to be pitied. For no one will sympathise with their strike action, under the circumstances.

This is not a battle of wits or a political struggle for the winning of cheap victories. This is a matter of grave import—on the one hand there is the doctor who belongs to a noble profession with the highest ethical standards, and on the other is the suffering patient whose health and even life lies in the hands of the doctor. The doctors are faced with a very grave responsibility.

We are confident that good sense will finally prevail in the discharge of that responsibility.

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DAHANAYAKE

I cannot help referring to profiteers again this week.

From Jaffna in the North to Dondra in the South, I have heard the most atrocious tales of disgraceful profiteering by traders and merchants. Keresone, sugar, onions, potatoes, milk foods — in fact, every item of essential consumer use — fetched unnecessary high prices within 24 hours of the Anglo-French attack on Egypt. And although a cease fire has come into force and an uneasy peace prevails over the Middle East, the profiteers in Ceylon continue their war against the people of the island.

The Government regulations fixing maximum prices unfortunately was operative only for the city of Colombo and related only to a few items. In the outstations, the fact that Government did not in the first instance promulgate maximum prices was taken advantage of by all traders to the detriment of the public. It is surprising why Government did not issue regulations to cover the whole island. The Food Department which has in its files all transport costs to the different centres — they now distribute the rice and sugar — should have been able to fix the maximum prices on an island wide basis in a matter of hours.

Prison

The decision of the Government to make a prison sentence compulsory for every act of profiteering is most welcome. This paper made an urgent plea last week for such punishment against profiteers. In doing this *Tribune* did no more than voice the general sentiments of the public — and several daily papers too reflected this trend in public opinion. The *Morning Times*, in fact, thought that flogging should be also a form of punishment that should be meted out to profiteers. Government, probably because of the Buddha Jayanti Year, seems to have decided against this method of checking profiteers.

Another suggestion that was made by *Tribune* is that the owner of a shop should be punished for every act of profiteering committed by his employees. As has been done

in several enactments, the burden of proving his innocence should be cast upon the owner or proprietor.

But more than punishment, there must be a popular movement to detect and report all instances of profiteering and hoarding and at the same time a determination by all consumers not to pay anything more than the controlled rates, even if it meant a certain amount of inconvenience at the early stages.

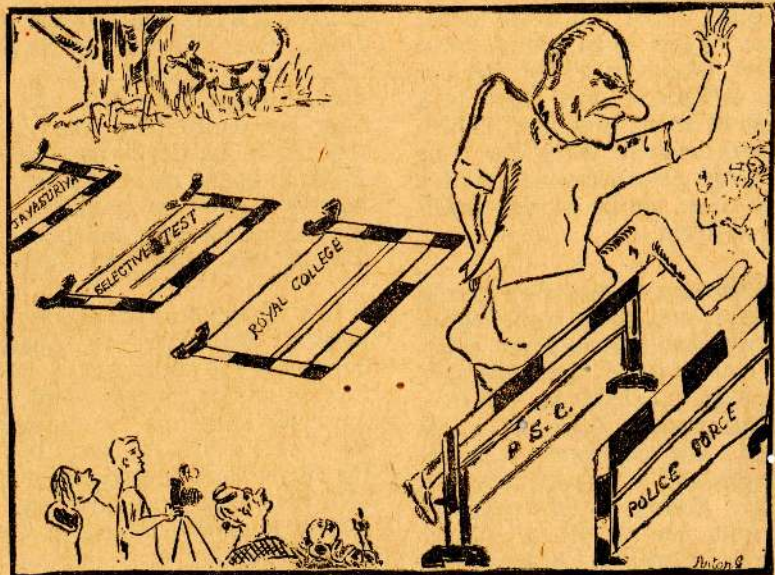
Nationalisation

I am still very enamoured of the idea of the Government taking over

up in secret centres in order to sell them at enhanced rates a few weeks or months later when they hoped the world would be in the midst of a new global war.

It is for this reason, I am told that Government imposed a ban on the transport of such commodities outside the Jaffna district. Such movement can be checked owing to the outpost at Elephant Pass, but I learn that before the Government order could be gazetted and promulgated most of the stocks had been spirited out of the district.

I hope all these secret hoards would be ferreted out and that these



Hurdler Dahanayake — still not disqualified

the import and wholesale distribution of all essential consumer goods. The habits of our Pettah merchants are so predatory that nothing will probably make them change their ways.

I am told that on the Saturday after the Suez attack, a brood of them descended on the Jaffna peninsula and went about buying all the stocks of rice, sugar, onions, milk foods and the like and thereafter rushing their new stocks to centres outside the district. What was happening was these vampires from Pettah were purchasing stocks on an island wide basis to store them

hoarders will meet with retribution — in any case they will suffer losses if there is no Third World War?

Dahanayake

Minister Dahanayake has become strangely silent in the last fortnight. Has he been overwhelmed by all the noise and thunder in the United Nations, in the Middle East and in Hungary? Has he stopped tilting at windmills? He has already knocked down a few hurdles and has still not been disqualified — that is how our youthful cartoonist views his efforts. He still has to knock down the P.S.C. and the Police Force!

B U D D H I S M

CHINESE LITERATURE No. 3 of 1956: (Guozi Shudian, Peking)

BUDDHIST SCULPTURES AND MONUMENTS (Publications Division, New Delhi)

"The people of Simhala informed Fa-hsien that the distance of the voyage was about seven hundred yojanas. The country of the Lion is an island some fifty yojanas from east to west and thirty from north to south. To its left and right are about a hundred small islands, ten twenty or two hundred li from each other, all of which are under the rule of this large island. Most of these islands produce precious stones and pearls, and there is a district of about 10 square li which produces the mani jewel. The king has posted guards here and takes a levy of three tenths of the jewels that are found.

"There were originally no inhabitants here, only spirits and dragons when merchants from other countries came to trade, the spirits did not appear, but simply set out their rare merchandise with the prices marked. The merchants paid accordingly, and took away the goods directly. Owing to this traffic of merchants, the people of all the countries round heard how pleasant a land this was, and came here too. In this way a large kingdom was formed. The climate is temperate, winter and summer like. Plants and trees bloom the whole year round, and the fields may be sown whenever the people pleased—there are no fixed seasons....."

This is an extract from Fa hsien's "Record of Buddhist countries" which describes his travels in India and Ceylon, and is perhaps one of the earliest accounts of this country on record. I have quoted only the first two paragraphs of the accounts of 'Simhala, the Country of the Lion; in order to whet the appetite of the reader to read for himself the full account as it appears in a delightful book entitled *Chinese Literature*, published by

the *Foreign Languages Press and printed in the People's Republic of China.*

Fa-hsien as every student of history will know was one of China's great travellers, and his record of a journey to India and Ceylon is considered one of the earliest and important travel books in our literature. The "Record of Buddhist Countries" is believed to have been written about A.D. 414, the year after his return from the voyage through India, Ceylon and Sumatra Laoshan and is the earliest comprehensive account we possess of the geography, customs and history of Central Asia, India and Ceylon.

In a foreword to the article "Fa-hsien's pilgrimage to Buddhist countries" the author says: "Now that the Buddhists the world over are celebrating the two thousand five hundredth anniversary of the Parinirvana of Sakyamuni Buddha, the founder of Buddhism, Fa-hsien's Record of Buddhist Countries is arousing wide interest and attention for it describes the early contacts between China and India."

Apart from this article the book "Chinese Literature", the third quarterly publication for 1956, is replete with poems, folk tales delightfully told, and short stories which make absorbing reading. China it is well known has a great literature behind it, and this book gives a foretaste of the wealth that the country contains. Pleasant little stories of Avanti, the counterpart of our own Andare in Sinhalese literature, abound in humorous situations, witty interludes, and interesting adventures.

Four colour plates and imaginative sketches lend colour to the publication which is of a high order.

I do not know where the publication could be obtained locally but the Editor to whom I am deeply obliged for having passed a copy on to me will I am sure be able to enlighten anyone on that point.

I wish also to refer to another publication *Buddhist — Sculptures and Monuments* — this one by the Publications Division of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India. It contains a photographic record of Buddhist sculptures and monuments in India and the clarity of detail contained in the pictures make them suitable even for framing. That is why perhaps the pictures are made detachable, there being a perforated edge on the margin of each page.

The local Indian High Commission Office in Colombo ought to be able to provide copies for these interested in obtaining them.

G. P.

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DIET FADS

In recent months thousands of overweight men and women have been "hitting the bottle," and thousands more have been half-starving themselves under the impression that they have found the answer to their big problem.

It's a mistaken impression, and in some cases a dangerous one, for with rare medically-determined exceptions, these new fad diets which have swept the country are as much from hunger as the dieters.

The first of the diets to make the headlines via popular magazines was the so-called Rockefeller diet, which derived its name from the fact that it had been used experimentally by Dr. Vincent Dole and his co-workers at the hospital of the Rockefeller Institute. In principle, the diet is pegged to reducing protein intake rather than the more conventional reduction of calories in a balanced diet.

The second popular diet developed by the Rockefeller group consisted of a liquid formula approximately duplicating the nutrient composition of human breast milk. Its magazine publication caused drug and food stores to sell out their stock of dextrose, a sugar heretofore used principally for the formulas of unweaned infants.

★

Dr. Dole's purpose in devising both of these diets was to learn how reduced protein intake would affect certain metabolic processes (processes by which the body converts food energy for its own uses), and as he pointed out in a letter to the Journal of the American Medical Association, "neither of these diets is a cure for obesity."

There are many reasons why the diets which worked in some cases in the hospital would not work in everyday life. As Dr. Dole noted, the hospital patients were controlled as to eating schedule, activity routine and many other factors which

Dieting "to slim" is now a popular pastime with many people in Ceylon today. This article draws attention to the many dangers which are inherent in some of the "diets" recommended in glossy magazines.

cannot be so strictly supervised on the outside. And, possibly more important, unless there is close medical supervision, both diets carry considerable danger for long-term users.

These dangers are emphasized by another authority also writing in the *AMA Journal*, Dr. Norman Jolliffe, Director of the Bureau of Nutrition of the New York City Dept. of Health observes that the diets are below the minimum protein requirement for normal individuals, lack needed amino acid and are "woefully inadequate in iron."

Both proteins and amino acid are vital if the body's tissues are to

be maintained. Normally, cells and tissues are continually being used up. They must be replaced, and this is the essential role of nitrogen-containing protein. As for amino acids, they are so important to this replacement process that they are frequently called the "building blocks" of the system. Iron, of course, is essential for maintenance of a healthy blood supply. In other words, these diets, unless given under the direction of a doctor trained to detect the signs of nitrogen-deficiency, tissue starvation and anemia, can cause serious illness, especially over long periods.

★

AND TO ADD insult to injury, Dr. Dole asserts that his experiments demonstrated that "while both diets caused temporary weight loss, the majority of the patients quit the

continued on page 430

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War and Peace

continued from page 422

THE BRITISH PEOPLE MUST ACT

"It is the British people, with the Labour Party as their leader, that must act now—swiftly and decisively, for only they can so act. They must, as we said yesterday, make it abundantly clear to Sir Anthony Eden that the people of Britain repudiate this leadership, that they disown the crime that has been committed in his name, that they are determined to purge themselves of the disgrace which has overtaken their nation because of the lunacy—there is no other word—of their Prime Minister. The Labour Party has the weapons for an effective blitzkrieg against the Tory Party—they have the immensely powerful weapon of the Trades Union Congress which must, if everything else fails, be used to bring Eden and his fellow gangsters to their senses".

Morning Times
2.11.56.

POLICE ACTION INDEED!

"It is worthy of note that the Archbishop of Canterbury, the moral guardian of Anglican Britain, has denounced Sir Anthony's conduct as a betrayal of principle and wisdom. It is also noteworthy that the majority of the British Press—which, incidentally, is largely Conservative in home politics, has joined in the chorus of condemnation that is heard from one end of the world to the other. So far, only the Conservative governments of the 'white' nations of the Commonwealth have supported the Western conspirators. Strangely enough, the indications from the U.S.A. are that Adlai Stevenson, who has won so many friends in the East for his liberalism, of vying for the powerful Jewish vote in America by charging President Eisenhower with straining Anglo-American relations by not supporting the Anglo-French-Israeli move against Egypt.

"SIR ANTHONY's speech last night provided more instances of the cynicism with which the Tory Government has carried out this act of wanton banditry. Pressed to inform the House whether

Britain was at war with Egypt or not, his reply was that the invasion of Egypt and the carnage in Cairo, Alexandria, Ismailia and Suez were only the result of a "Police action".

Observer
2.11.56.

DECISIVE TEST FOR THE U.N.

"The conscience of mankind has spoken in the resolution of the U.N. General Assembly, which by an over-whelming majority of 64 to 5 has asked Britain, France and Israel to cease fire in Egypt. This means that apart from the three partners in crime, only two other governments have been found to approve of their aggression. The pretence of the Conservative British and French Governments that they have acted only to maintain order has, therefore failed to take in the world."

Daily News
3. 11. 56

RESIST REVIVAL OF IMPERIALISM

"It is clear from this that the British and French governments wanted to introduce a U.N. force under their own aegis, merely as a camouflage for their own aim of re-establishing domination over the Canal. The U.N. intervention in this form would have been merely an instrument of Western intimidation to brow-beat Egypt into giving in on the Canal dispute. It would have put the breakers of the peace back where they are, but in policemen's uniform.

"The Asian and African nations must, in keeping with the Bandung declaration resist the immediate danger to them of the revival of Western imperialism, just as they would have to oppose any threat to themselves from the Soviet colonialism of which the events in Hungary are a manifestation."

Daily News
5. 11. 56

EDEN MUST GO

"And Sir Anthony Eden has insulted the Assembly with three

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War and Peace

(continued from page 428)

counter-proposals which seek to achieve precisely what the aggression was in the first place intended to achieve: the occupation of the Suez Canal Zone by British and French armed forces. The Assembly has replied by reaffirming its cease-fire directive and asking the Secretary-General 'to report compliance forthwith and in any case not later than twelve hours from the time of adoption of this resolution.'

"One tragic result of the flouting of the United Nations by Britain and France is that the Soviet Union has been encouraged to commit renewed aggression in Hungary. And if Eden's is a "police action", cannot Khrushchev say so is his? After all, the counter-revolution has left Hungary in chaos and without any effective government. The Soviet Union will claim that it is moving in to restore order. What retort can Sir Anthony Eden offer to that? Eden's aggression is no less an outrage than Khrushchev's."

Morning Times
5. 11. 52



LAW OF THE JUNGLE

"The pity of it is that the Soviet Union dared to commit this offence against Hungary at this time, because the delicately balanced peace of the world had already been dangerously disturbed by the arrogant actions of Britain and France in the Middle East, which have distracted the attention of the world and because the Soviet Union can claim—and with some cogency—that the rule of international law and the dictates of international decency, as the modern world knew them, have ceased to have any validity since Britain and France last week cast them away on the rubbish heap of outmoded human ideals by attacking Egypt despite the pleas and warnings of an overwhelming majority of the nations of the world, including Russia pleas.

Observer
5. 11. 56

RUSSIAN HYPOCRISY

"While under cover of a complete news black-out the Anglo-French aggressors are probably launching their final assault on Egypt the Russians, it is reported, have made use of the opportunity thus provided to reimpose their stranglehold on Hungary."

Times of Ceylon
5. 11. 56



CEASE FIRE IN EGYPT

"The cease-fire ordered by Sir Anthony Eden at midnight 1st night came as the world seemed to totter on the very edge of the abyss of large-scale warfare with incalculable consequences. Direct Russian intervention seemed dangerously probable, and we say this not merely on the evidence of Marshal Bulganin's threatening letter to Eden and Mollet. That letter, expressing the Soviet Union's 'full determination to crush the aggression and re-establish peace in the Middle East through the use of force' went on to hope that 'in this crucial moment you show wis-

dom and draw the necessary conclusions.' It spoke with sinister significance of hypothetical rocket attacks on Britain and France. Possibly this was bluff.

"Possibly it was not. The letter possibility has to be considered in the context of other developments. Egypt, in its extremity, appealed to the Afro-Asian nations for armed assistance against the aggressors. Some hours later Nasser directed a similar request to the United States. Would Egypt have proceeded, in its agony, to appeal direct to Russia too? That seemed extremely likely, and what would have been the answer of Russia who had earlier yesterday proposed that the United States and the Soviet Union should take decisive military steps to stop the aggression in Egypt?

It is a sad thing for humanity that Britain and France should have waited for a threat of world war by an aggressor with his hands red with Hungarian blood, before they called off their own aggression in Egypt."

Morning Times
7. 11. 56

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DIET FADS

(continued from page 427)

diet after leaving the hospital and returned to their starting weights." In other words—nothing was lost that wasn't gained right back.

This of course is the key fault of all get thin diets whet er they bear the names of the Rockefeller Institute, the Mayo Clinic or just some patent medicine maker. They cause great fluctuations in weight, and many authorities are convinced that while overweight puts added strain on the vital organs and the health of the individual, such fluctuations are even more taxing and damaging.

Oil and Suez

continued from page 419

And a growing proportion of the tide of wealth comes from the Middle East.

But the Middle Eastern countries want — and are getting — more

The fact is that in most cases, bad eating habits are the cause of overweight because they result in taking in more calories than are used up in the day's activities. Eating habits are a long-range thing and their improvement must be on a long-range basis—one recommended and supervised by a doctor on an individual basis.

—By Courtesy
Federated Press.

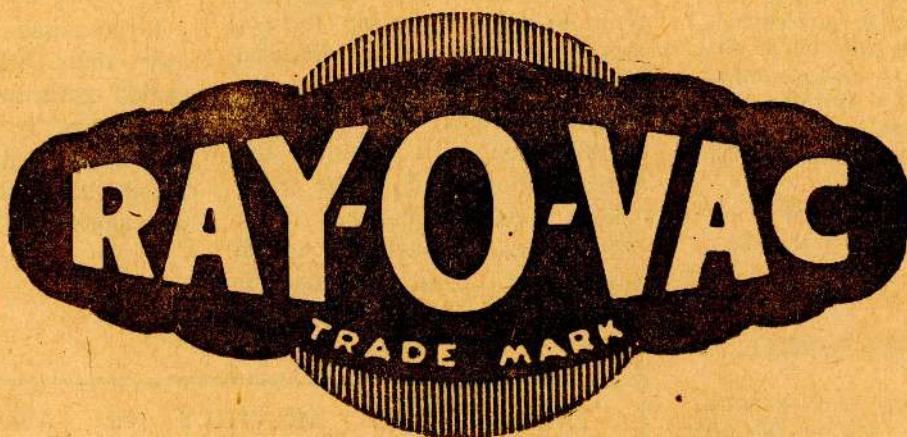
and more of the tide. Most of their share is at the moment going into the pockets of rapacious kings and sheiks. But not all. Slowly it is affecting more and more people.

And quite rapidly the consciousness of this wealth, the growing knowledge of the bonds imposed by Western nations for the sake of oil, is changing the political climate of the Middle Eastern countries. The demand for national freedom and control of national wealth grows louder and fiercer.

But the Western demand for oil grows more insistent.

And the clash between these factors is "the Middle East crisis" — of which the Suez Canal crisis is only a part.

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Week by Week in Ceylon

continued from page 423

the polling will take place. Cynicism, doubt and its deadly concomitant *apathy* seems to be slowly creeping over the voters of the city, and unless between now and polling day a great deal of enthusiasm is whipped up, it is likely that large numbers will not vote. Not many have much use for the UNP with its old record, but it is probable that a number of its candidates will be returned on a "personal" basis chiefly owing to the split votes of the Left parties. The MEP has lost much of its pre-general election glamour, and its record since it came to power has not been particularly encouraging on the domestic front, and it seems doubtful if its twin cries of *languages* and *religion* can carry it very far. However, the MEP should win a few seats particularly in areas where a number a candidates are in the field.

The LSSP and the CP have so far not been able to register popular enthusiasm owing to the failure of these two parties to have a united socialist front for the elections. Keen observers of the political situation are convinced that more than differences in "ideology", it was the clash of personalities (persons who want to contest seats) that has prevented the unity of the Left forces. This absence of Left unity is bound to cost the Left movement dearly.

It is significant that whereas in countries where the Left movement has grown visibly in recent years (as well as in the past) the main energies of the Parties concerned were directed to widespread propaganda in the first instance, in Ceylon the Left Parties ever since the inception of the movement have been overwhelmed by an inordinate desire to contest elections. It is the history and record of these Ceylon parties, particularly the CP, that "leading personalities" joined the Party only to obtain nomination

to contest elections and deserted it when they had no more use for it. The strength of any movement is reflected in the number and circulation of its newspapers, periodicals and publications. Judged by this standard the Left Movement has no firm or fundamental basis in this country. Even the MEP is insecure even though *Times* and *Lake House* decided to adopt and support the Government in power.

In these circumstances, the present indications are that no party is likely to win a large overall majority, in the Municipal Council, though it is generally admitted a LSSP-CP Front could easily have resulted in a working majority for these two parties. A MEP-LSSP-CP front on an agreed programme is the only combination that could have been assured of an overwhelming majority with a guarantee that the Rightwing reactionary UNP would have been shut out. As matters stand, the UNP is likely to be in the Colombo Municipal Council for the next term in sufficient strength to be a force to contend with.

S.A.

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