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Letter From The Editor

SRI LANKA still has its beggars. Some beg because they are unable to do anything else—they should really be in Homes for the Aged or Incurables. But their services are hired by mudalalis who 'look after them' and collect a packet every day from the money these cripples are able to wheedle out of kind-hearted men and women who feel sorry for them. The State must take steps to end this racket. There are innumerable reports now in the archives of the Social Services Department which have unravelled the mysteries, intricacies and mechanics of the mudalali-run business of collecting money through crippled beggars. At different times, Governments have sought to end this menace and taken these unfortunates to State Institutions. But they have always crept back to their mudalalis who keep them happy on a little ganja or opium. The State has to deal with this problem in a realistic and imaginative way. For one thing it is necessary to make the Homes for the Aged or Incurables attractive even without ganja—but the trouble is that the attendants and officers in charge of these institutions exploit the helpless cripples even more than the mudalalis who use them professionally. There is another class of "beggar" who is a professional of another kind. It carries a social stigma which is one of the remaining relics of the feudal caste system in Sri Lanka. The rodiya woman who comes to town from their ancient settlements is a street prostitute when she is young and attractive, but becomes a beggar when she is diseased, old and haggard. Then we have an amorphous class who live on our pavements without homes or any place of regular work. They are, by turns, beggars, pickpockets, thieves, thugs, pimps and what not. Colombo cannot be a clean city until all these elements are persuaded to leave the pavements and are given some gainful employment. Prime Minister Premadasa has a big task before him in finding satisfactory homes for the crippled, and employment for all others who now beg, steal and live on our pavements. Not all of them can become pavement hawkers. At the time of the Non-Aligned Summit all the beggars and the indigent population of pavements of Colombo were bundled into police vans and taken to detention camps for the duration. This kind of action is only possible under Emergency Raj. But such action does not provide any remedy. All those taken to camps were back on the streets of Colombo no sooner the camps were shut down once the Summit was over. It is well to recall that in the last two decades detailed reports have been written about the beggar problem. A full list of beggar mudalalis and even beggars in the city were compiled. Yet, the beggar menace continues. A few salient points are worth remembering. Beggar monarchs have divided the city of Colombo into reserved zones for organised collection of street and house-to-house collection of alms. No one can beg in any part of the city or its suburbs without being admitted into the "guild of beggars" under different zone mudalalis. If any new outsider attempts to come into any zone he is dealt with summarily by the strongarm thugs of the mudalalis. It is this organised system of using cripples and others to collect alms on a zonal basis by mudalalis that must be ended. This is not to merely make the city more attractive to foreign tourists. The city of Colombo cannot be considered clean until organised beggary is ended. Prime Minister Premadasa has already done a great deal to make Colombo brighter, cleaner and more attractive and there is no doubt that he can end the menace of the beggar mudalalis. The pavements in most parts of the city have been re-built. The children's park on Muniswamy's Island has turned out to be a major draw. The Vihare Mahadevi (Victoria) Park once again looks like a park. The jungly stretches which the previous Municipal administration had permitted for illicit lovers have been turned into the gardens they once were. The Open Air Theatre has been restored. The water fountains at Vihare Mahadevi Park have turned out as popular as the ones in Independence Square. The city is better lit. There is little or no refuse uncollected at street corners. All this and more has been done in less than six months. Ordinary people have confidence that Mr. Premadasa can tackle and solve most of the problems facing Colombo and the Greater Colombo area within a reasonable length of time. If Colombo sets an example other towns in the country will be compelled to follow. The co-operation and participation of all residents of the Colombo area will expedite the fulfilment of Mr. Premadasa's plans to make Colombo a model region.

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BETWEEN THE LINES

BY SERENDIB

● Press ● Rice ● PL 480

***PRESS AND THE NSA.** In the *Tribune* last week we published ("For the Record") the *Daily News* report about the action the NSA took in regard to the mixing of captions in the *Observer* of January 30 in which the Minister of Foreign Affairs, A. C. S. Hameed had been made to appear in a light that had hurt him. This mixing of captions in only 900 of the 5,000 copies of the paper's print order, from all the reports available, seems to be a case of negligence and printer's devilry rather than any *mala fides*. It would also appear that the negligence was mainly because of the inadequate prominence given to the apology published in the paper the day after the mixup of captions.

Nevertheless the NSA chose to demonstrate its powers as a Court of Law under the Parliament (Powers & Privileges) Amendment Act and hastened to make it clear to the Fourth Estate that the amended legislation had "teeth". There was an element of stage-managed melodrama when the two Associate Editors of a government-owned newspaper were brought to the bar of the House. It was all very reminiscent of what people nostalgically believe are the supreme sovereign powers of the British House of Commons. Whilst moving away from the British parliamentary model on the question of Executive power, the Sri Lanka NSA sought to follow the practices and procedures of Westminster in regard to protection to be accorded to its powers privileges and immunities.

Then Prime Minister, J. R. Jayawardene, had made it clear that this action taken against two of the senior editors of *Lake House* was really a reminder and a warning to certain newspapers of the Opposition published by the pro SLFP, LSSP and CP elements. The *Dinakara*, *Janadina* and *Aththa* were specifically mentioned. There is no doubt that on many occasions these and other papers have deliberately violated what responsible newspapers in a parliamentary democracy would regard as good journalistic ethics. These trans-

gressions—especially of language and idiom—have tended to verge on what is sometimes described as "yellow journalism".

If the new amendment to make the NSA a sovereign and all-supreme court of law in regard to breaches of parliamentary powers and privileges, and the rather precipitate manner in which the associate editors of the *Ceylon Observer* were dealt with on February 2, was mainly a warning to newspapers to abjure yellow journalism, then nobody can have any quarrel. But, if the new powers of the NSA are used to smother honest constructive criticism, then it would be a negation of democracy.

A new Code of Conduct has been tabled in the NSA. Every newspaper, in acceptable language and idiom, without flavouring it with a touch of malice, libel, falsehood or vulgarity is entitled to point out, in the public interest, every violation of the Code by Ministers, Deputy Ministers and MPs. A Code of Conduct and proclamations about a free press would be meaningless if members of the NSA attempt to seek immunity and refuge from violation of the Code behind the Parliament (Powers & Privileges) Act as amended on January 31, 1978.

***RICE AT RS.2/90 A MEASURE:**

Mr. R. Kahawita has sent us this informative and instructive note on the question of supplying rice at Rs. 2/90 a measure. We publish the note in full: "The Government has undertaken to make rice available at a retail price of Rs. 2/90 a measure. The paddy cultivator too has been guaranteed a price of Rs. 40/- a bushel with a possible increase as stated by the Prime Minister at a rally on 28.1.78. The two guaranteed prices are inter-related. To enable the Government to retail rice at Rs. 2/90 a measure with a fixed price of Rs. 40/- per bushel of paddy to the producer, there are certain prerequisites to be achieved. They are: The varieties of paddy to be grown should be such that in the process of husking polishing and pearling, the percentage of "edible rice" in the process of milling should be high. This characteristic is achievable in breeding, post harvest drying and post par-boiled drying. This is a matter to be studied by the Rice Research workers."

"Already our Rice Researchers have achieved considerable success not second to any in any other country where such work has been undertaken. Today there are several varieties of high quality, high yielding varieties giving very good results in the field and in milling. Some of these varieties are BG 11-11, H4-BG90-2, BG 348 etc. To encourage the farmers to grow high quality varieties the guaranteed price should be varied. According to presently known varieties, BG 11-11 may be placed at Rs. 40/- per bushel, H4 at a similar price and the lowest to be around Rs. 33/- per bushel. A scheme of this nature will gradually improve and increase the quality and grade of paddy grown."

"The next step is to improve the milling machinery, and mill operations to guarantee a high rate of conversion. In this respect the standards expected are—70% to 65% in the case of par-boiled rice and 65% to 50% in the case of raw rice. A target achievable in these two grades is under local conditions is 60 to 65% in the case of par-boiled rice and 60% to 55% in the case of raw rice: These targets will have a significant effect on the retail price. To illustrate what this is, let us examine what a measure of rice will cost to the consumer at the present guaranteed price to the former. A bushel of paddy will cost Rs. 45/- inclusive of paddy at 40/- plus 5/- for handling, par boiling, milling, profits to the miller, and transport to the storage point. With conversion rate at 60%, quality of rice per bushel of paddy is 19.2 measures and the cost of rice per measure is Rs. 2/35 at the stores. Retailing at 2/90 per measure leaves a margin of 0.55 for handling, transport and profits to the retailer. This selling at Rs. 2/90 to the consumer is possible with a fair margin of profit—it may even be marketed at 2/75 per measure with a margin of 40 cents to cover the cost of getting it to the consumer inclusive of all expenses

"The miller will have another source of revenue by the sale of paddy husk and good quality rice bran for animal feed. To get the

THE EDITOR'S NOTE-BOOK DOES NOT APPEAR THIS WEEK. THE EDITOR IS ON HOLIDAY.

Price Of Rice

maximum return from this source, hulling should be separated from polishing. This involves two operations compared to one operation as is the practice with some of the millers today. The additional cost in two operations is amply compensated by the higher sale price for pure bran. Rice bran is an important ingredient in animal feed and with a programme of live stock breeding, Government should make it obligatory on all the rice millers to equip their mills with machinery to separate the two operations to produce good quality bran".

"To maintain the retailing of rice between Rs. 2/75 and 2/90 per measure it will be necessary, as discussed above, to take certain measures. They are (a) A set of guide lines should be issued to the millers regards cleaning, par-boiling, drying and milling to reduce breakage during milling—optimum conversation rate to be 60/65% for par-boiled and 50/55% for raw rice; (b) Milling machinery to be standardized so that hulling and polishing are separated to maintain a high percentage of conversion and at the same time produce high quality bran; (c) In the research programmes of rice breeding, the search should be, in addition to other factors influencing the choice of a variety for multiplication, good milling quality should be taken into consideration; (d) The viability of seed of proved hybrids should be maintained and steps taken to multiply these varieties and maintain a steady supply of seed material; (e) Farmer education to keep him informed of the new varieties of seed paddy available and also to educate him on the degeneration of Hybrids after repeated use of seed from the same stock; (f) a graded guaranteed price scheme for quality paddy—It may range from Rs. 40 per bushel for high quality to Rs. 33/- to poor varieties—The criterion being good milling quality and consumer acceptability. In this respect more research and breeding will have to be undertaken."

"With the adoption of these measures it will be possible to maintain a consumer price range of Rs. 2/50 a measure to Rs. 2/90 a measure."

*WORLD WHEAT OUTPUT.

The following particulars released in a report by the International Wheat Council (IWC) will be of interest to our

readers: "World 1977 wheat production is now forecast at 383.0 million metric tons against the 385.0—390.0 previously estimated by the International Wheat Council (IWC). This reduction has resulted in an increased IWC world wheat and wheat flour 1977-78 trade estimate of 69.0 to 71.0 million metric tons (excluding intra-European Community trade) up 1 million from the Nov. 1 IWC forecast. These factors have led to a reduction in the projected end year stocks for the five major exporting countries at 51.6 million metric tons, down 3.4 million from the previous forecast and 2.7 million below the 1976-77 level.

"The five major exporters include the US, Canada, Australia, Argentina and the EC. In its market report released Monday, the IWC note that 1977 production of 383 million metric tons would be the second largest output on record, although it is 8 per cent below the 1976 record of 417.9 million metric tons.

"The USSR grain crop shortfall, officially announced last month, was the main reason behind the IWC reduction in world wheat output. The IWC now forecasts Soviet wheat production at 90 million metric tons against the 95-100 million forecast in early November. In addition, Southern Hemisphere crops have diminished more, with Argentine output now anticipated at 6.5 million metric tons, including around 300,000 metric tons of durum, down 40 per cent on last year. IWC notes Australian output is officially forecast at 9.3 million metric tons against 11.8 million in 1976.

"If the IWC forecast of 1977-78 trade at 69-71 million metric tons is fulfilled, it would exceed the 1972-73 record of 68.3 million and substantially surpass 1976/77 trade of 61.3 million. IWC expects the Soviets to import 7-8.0 million metric tons of wheat from its previous forecast of 6.5-7.5 million, as a result of lower output. Egypt is now expected to import 4.3 million metric tons, an increase of 200,000 metric tons. The EC imports have been revised to 5.3 million, up 300,000 metric tons, due to a revision for durum wheat imports, now put at 1.3 million. World durum trade is estimated at 4.1 million metric tons, versus an early November IWC estimate of 3.8 million".

"Total 1977-78 wheat supplies in the five major exporting countries is forecast at 187.6 million, down 1 million from the previous estimate, but 1 per cent up on the 185.4 million the previous year. Combined domestic usage by these countries is up 5 per cent on 1976-77 at 74.7 million metric tons with total wheat exports forecast at 61.3 million against 59.8 million in 1976-77. Major exporters closing stocks, at the end of their respective crop years, was reduced to 51.6 million metric tons by IWC due to stock reductions in Argentina, Australia and Canada. However, in the US, closing stocks are expected to rise 1 million metric tons. Aggregate world closing wheat stocks, excluding China and the USSR are projected at 72 million metric tons at the end of respective 1977-78 crop years."

* IMPACT OF PL 480.

A letter from our reader, Fr. Michael P. Rodrigo, OMI, of the

COVER

WHY BEG?

THE WOMAN ON THE COVER was caught by our cameraman when she was attempting to beg for alms. Why must she beg? She is attractive enough to be a queen or a film star. She is young, healthy and sturdy enough to earn a living by hard work. The child is carrying may be her child—or may not be (the little one may have been hired for the day to provide colour for the begging act). The picture was taken some years ago and one wonders what has become of her. What does she look like now? Is she now one of the haggard-looking beggars on the streets of Colombo today? Or has she found a haven or refuge with some man in an agricultural colony in some rural area? Or is she one of the cleverer sparks in the under-world army of pickpockets and petty thieves? Speculative guesses can be limitless. Some people seek to explain such phenomenon by the magic word "rodiya" but can Sri Lanka any longer tolerate such plots on her good name? Some people whisper "karma", but is it? There is a great deal to be done in this country. Everybody must get together to get it done.

Sevaka Sevana, 14 Senanayake Mawatha, Bandarawela, would be an appropriate comment to the increasing quantities imported into this island. "The Daily News of February 3, 1978 carried a news item quite brazenly; PL 480: 100,000 tons flour. That was supposed to be good news, but is it really? The green revolution makes the Third World more and more dependent on certain big countries. Hubert Humphrey, who died recently, once said: 'I have heard that people may become dependent on us for food. I know that was not supposed to be good news. To me that was good news, because before people can do anything they have got to eat. And if you are looking for a way to get people to lean on you and to be dependent on you, in terms of their co-operation with you, it seems to me that food dependence would be terrific.' (H. Humphrey, 84th Congress First Sessions, Senate committee on Agriculture and Forestry. Hearings: Policies and Operations of PL 480. p. 129, 1957; also see Harry Cleaver jr. *The Contradictions of the Green Revolution*, in *Monthly Review*, June 1972, p. 82, ff. on How Food has become a political weapon of U.S. historically.)

"And we know what is generally meant by the term 'cooperation' in 'right wing democratic circles' of most foreign countries, i.e. no co-operation with those fighting for the underdog. Our people will feel their dignity impugned when they know that 'PL 480 has been achieved at no net cost to the US, while having indebted aid-receptient countries to the extent of some \$ 22,000,000 (22 thousand million) dollars, thereby tying them to the purse-strings of the US state Department for nearly twenty more years to come' (see Denis Goulet and Michael Hudson, *The Myth of Aid* (NY: I DOC, N. America, 1971 p. 74).

"Will our Rip Van Winkles wake up by 1991?"

BUDGET — 12

Conclusions

On November 15, 1977, after the tea interval the Minister of Finance and Planning, Mr. Ronnie de Mel had continued his Budget Speech in the NSA—the longest on record. This week we publish the final concluding part of his Speech.

Mr Speaker,

I now wish to summarise the budgetary effects of my revenue and expenditure proposals. You will recall that my pre-budget estimates of revenue was Rs 6,813 million. My post-budget revenue will now increase substantially to Rs 10,830 million as follows:

	(Rs. Million)
Pre budget estimates	6,813
Add increases in Revenue	
Export duty on tea	2,879
Less Reduction in tea (ad valorem) tax	184
	2,695
Export duty on rubber	840
Export duty on coconut	300
Export duty on other exports	10
Import duties	1,150
BTT on cigarettes	140
Excise duty (Liquor)	30
Non-Corporate income tax	15
Transfer tax on cars	10
Postal charges	7
Corporate income tax	150
income tax	150
	5,347
	12,160
Less decreases in Revenue	
FEECs	1,300
Corporate income tax	30
	1,330
Post-budget	10,830

While most of the items relating to increases in revenue has been referred to in my Speech, I must

perhaps explain the decreases in revenue enumerated just now. With the unification of exchange rates, revenue from the sale of FEECs would arise no more, since all imports and exports will only be at one rate of exchange. The decreases in corporate income tax of Rs 30 million I have allowed for, is on account of the reduced profits in the corporate sector, which would follow the increases in wages and salaries.

The pre-budget estimates of recurrent expenditure net of under-expenditure at 2 percent was Rs 6,641 million, inclusive of a net outpayment in respect of advance Account activities of Rs. 100 million. My proposals relating to subsidies, wage increases and others on which I am not allowing any further under-expenditure, would increase recurrent expenditure by Rs 3,429 million to 10,070 million as follows:—

	(Rs. Million)
Pre-budget estimate of recurrent expenditure	6,674
Less under-expenditure at 2%	133
	6,541
Add Advance Account outpayments (net)	100
Total pre-budget recurrent expenditure (net)	6,641
Add increase in expenditure	
Food subsidy	894
Wage increases to Public Servants	420
Income support for the indigent and persons without gainful occupation	645
Interest Payments	
(a) Domestic debt	150
(b) Foreign debt	60
	210
Interest subsidy to National Savings Bank Fertilizer Subsidy at 75%	430
Wage cost of employment programme	130
CTB reimbursement of losses	100
Petroleum Cor-	

Budget-12

	(Rs. Million)
poration reimbursement of losses	400
Other current expenditure increases	100 3,429
Post-budget Estimates	10,070
	====

The pre-budget estimate of gross capital expenditure is Rs. 3,764 million, inclusive of Sinking Fund contributions amounting to Rs. 967 million. Net of under-expenditure of 25 percent, capital expenditure of excluding Sinking Fund contributions would amount to Rs. 2,098 million. My proposals relating to capital expenditure would increase this amount by Rs. 2,115 million to Rs. 4,213 million as follows:—

	(Rs. Million)
Pre-budget estimate of capital expenditure	3,764
Less Sinking Fund contributions	967
	2,797
Less 25% under-expenditure	699 2,098
	====
<i>Increases in Capital Expenditure</i>	
(1) Cost of Buffer Stock Scheme	200
(2) Additional capital expenditure provision	1,400
(3) Development Bank	390
(4) Additional provision on account of higher exchange rate for foreign debt repayments	125 2,115
	====
Post-budget estimate of capital expenditure	4,213
Add-back Sinking Fund contributions	967
Gross Post-budget capital expenditure	5,180
	====

Thus, capital expenditure (net of under-expenditure which would now be around 15%) inclusive of Sinking Fund Contribution would be Rs. 5,180 million.

Mr. Speaker, with a revenue of Rs. 10,830 million and recurrent expenditure of Rs. 10,070 million, the current account surplus would be Rs. 760 million. With capital expenditure at Rs. 5,180 million, the new budgetary deficit that

emerges would amount to Rs. 4,420 million. This deficit would be financed as follows:—

	(Rs. Million)
Rupee Loans	1,750
Commodity Aid	1,620
Project Aid & Grants	1,200
	4,570
	====

The pre-budget estimate of Rupee Loans was Rs. 1,600 million. With the increase in interest rates and the consequential increase in its deposits, the National Savings Bank should be in a position to increase its subscriptions to Rupee securities. With the increase in wages and salaries all round, I expect contributions from the Employees Provident Fund also to increase. These contributions should enable the Government to raise by way of Rupee Loans, an additional sum of Rs. 150 million. The higher amounts for Project aid (including grants) and commodity aid basically reflect the higher exchange rate at which this amount is now valued. With total available financing of Rs. 4,570 million, the excess of Rs. 150 million will be made use of to repay Administrative Borrowings of the Government.

Mr. Speaker, taking into account all the changes in respect of revenue, expenditure both recurrent and capital and the financing items, the 1978 Budget will be as follows:—

	(Rs. Million)
Recurrent expenditure	—10,103
Less Provision for under-expenditure	+133 —9,970
	====
Add Advance Account out-payments (net)	.. — 700
	.. —10,070
Revenue	.. +10,830
	====
Current Account surplus	.. + 760
Capital expenditure	— 5,879
Less Sinking Fund contributions	+ 1,092
	— 4,787
Less Provision for under-expenditure	+ 699
	— 4,088
	====

Add back Sinking Fund contributions etc.	— 1,092	—5,180
	====	====
Overall Budget deficit	..	— 4,420
<i>Financing</i>		
Rupee Loans	+ 1,750	
Commodity Aid	+ 1,620	
Project aid and grants	+ 1,200	
Repayment of administrative borrowings	— 150	+4,420
	====	====

IN CONCLUSION, Mr. Speaker, I thank Honourable Members for their patient hearing. I was conscious of the length of my Budget Speech, but I consider it my duty to give Honourable Members and through them the people of this country a clear and comprehensive account of the State of the Economy. I have endeavoured to place before this House the true financial and economic situations. I have not tried to conceal our difficulties or the magnitude of our problems. I have tried to indicate in a broad and general way the policies and programmes that can pull this country out of its present mess and I am confident that with the co-operation of all sections of the people, we will overcome all our present difficulties.

I must thank everyone who helped me to prepare this Budget. The preparation of this Budget entailed very hard work, and many sacrifices on the part of all those who helped in its preparation, particularly for two reasons:

(1) It had to be done in three months.

(2) It is a prelude to the transformation of our whole economy.

Let me, therefore, express my deep gratitude to all officials of my Ministry from the peons, typists, stenographers, clerks and translators up to my Secretary. They worked long hours both day and night to complete this task. Let me also thank all the officials in the Central Bank and other Ministries and Departments who helped us in this work. Without their unstinted loyalty and support I could never have presented this Budget. This Budget will also entail several more months of even harder work in its implementation in several Ministries and

Nuclear Policy Under A Cloud

BALTIMORE SUN,
Editorial Jan. 4

India's rebuff to President Carter's nuclear non-proliferation policies is only the latest in a long, sad series. West Germany, France, Brazil, Japan, Spain, Iran, South Africa, the list goes on of countries that in various ways have successfully thwarted Mr. Carter's well-intentioned effort to stop the spread of nuclear technology with a weapons potential. Although the administration condemned West Germany's five billion dollar deal to sell Brazil a complete nuclear fuel cycle, it has extracted from Bonn only a hedged undertaking not to sign future deals. As for Brazil, it has hung tough and won. One week before Secretary Vance's November trip to Brazil, the administration caved in, permitting the sale of uranium fuel to Brazil. It got nothing in return. Japan provides another example. When Mr. Carter moved into the White House, Tokyo was informed it risked a cutoff of uranium supplies if it insisted on going ahead with its experimental Tokai Mura Reprocessing Plant. Yet in September, the administration had to sign a face-saving agreement permitting initial stages of reprocessing to begin. In Iran, the President's party made much of the Shah's willingness to accept stringent US controls over the operation of four nuclear reactors Tehran may purchase. Although this does indeed shut one bar door, others are open. France and Germany already are building reactors in Iran which are not covered by the US controls. In India Mr. Carter was overheard complaining about Prime Minister Morarji Desai's "adamant, resistance to full-scope US safeguards over its entire nuclear power industry. Instead, India merely accepted safeguards on a small reactor that the United States built years ago. No longer pressing the point aside from his plans to send Mr. Desai a "cold and very blunt letter", Mr. Carter agreed to supply uranium the US had cut off. Uncowed by Mr. Carter's complaints Mr. Desai epitomized world reaction to the President's nuclear policies soon after Air Force One took off yesterday for Saudi Arabia. "If there are safe-

Departments. This is not an exercise which one Ministry or one Department can do. This is an entire transformation of a whole economy and a whole country.

With this Budget we are abandoning the path of economic stagnation and starting on the long and difficult road to economic growth and prosperity for our people. The succeeding years will be years of production and years of growing employment for our youth. In the difficult tasks that lie ahead of us, we cannot do better than follow the advice given by that Great Sage and Teacher, Lord Budha:

"The duty of a ruler is to protect his people. He is the parent of his people and he protects them by his laws. He must raise his people like parents raise their children, giving a dry cloth to replace a wet one without waiting for the child to cry. In like manner, the ruler must remove suffering and bestow happiness without waiting for people to complain. Indeed, his ruling is not perfect until his people abide in peace. They are his country's treasure. Therefore, a wise ruler is always thinking of his people and does not forget them even for a moment. He thinks of their hardships and plans for their prosperity."

We will go forward thinking of the people and of their hardships and planning for their future prosperity. This is the path which the J. R. Jayawardene Government has set for itself. This is the path we will follow in the years to come.



THE WORLD TODAY

● CARTER IN INDIA

● VIETNAM

by The Recorder

India And The Atom

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR,
Editorial, Jan. 4

President Carter's electronic bloopers in New Delhi was unfortunate. His comment—to Secretary of State Vance and into some activated microphones—that Indian Prime Minister Morarji Desai is "pretty adamant" about the nuclear

issue and that a "cold and very blunt" letter should be written to him seemed to belie the mood of friendship and goodwill which the visit to India sought to create. But the Prime Minister graciously chose to downplay the remarks and one can hope the incident in itself will not adversely affect Indian-American relations. But, bloopers or no bloopers, the fact remains that Mr. Carter appears not to have made significant progress on the one issue on which there now is serious disagreement between India and the United States—that of nuclear safeguards. This is a cause to which the President is deeply and properly committed. Before long Congress is expected to pass Mr. Carter's proposed legislation to require certain kinds of tightened safeguards before enriched uranium could be exported abroad. India is prepared to accept safeguards on nuclear facilities built with outside aid but talks at any onsite inspection at those set up entirely by its own effort (there are now two such). It is suspicious that safeguards are only a ruse to freeze India into second-class citizenship and to hamstring its technological development. It regards the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, which it has not signed, as discriminatory and asks in effect: What if China threatened India? What if Pakistan does not accept safeguards? Washington's position that the whole concept of safeguards makes sense only if everyone participates—that the problem is a multinational one—is unassailable. Other countries like Japan and West Germany have already accepted such safeguards and this certainly has not impeded their technological progress.

In the end, of course, it is a matter of mutual trust and it remains to be seen how much trust the President managed to build up in New Delhi. The United States, in part because of its past policy of "tilting" toward Pakistan, has a history to live down in India and it will take an ongoing dialogue and understanding to dispel Indian suspicions and sensitivity. One thing which should aid this process is the conclusion of a nuclear comprehensive test-ban treaty, a development which Prime Minister Desai apparently believes would give him more political flexibility on the safeguards issue. Bloopers aside, the task now is to move forward on all these fronts.

uards which can be accepted, they will be", he said. "If there are difficulties, they will not be accepted."

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India, The Atom And A Candid Microphone

NEW YORK TIMES,
Editorial, 4

Although Mr. Desai made no commitment, he told the President that completion of the pending Soviet-American agreement to halt all nuclear explosions "might be enough of a change to warrant some modification" India's position. Mr. Desai has already pledged publicly that there will be no Indian nuclear explosions while he is Prime Minister. There also are some indications that he has privately shifted India's nuclear program away from so-called "peaceful nuclear explosions

Indistinguishable from the military variety. But Mr. Desai is 81 and his successors may not share the devotion to nonviolence that led him recently, on receiving a silk garland to criticize the admiring donor for killing silk worms. The American effort to turn Pakistan away from nuclear explosives and to stave off their spread elsewhere would benefit enormously if India would permit international inspection not only of American-supplied nuclear assistance, as now, but of all nuclear facilities and materials. The 102 nations that have ratified the nuclear non-proliferation treaty have done so.

But holdouts include such important countries as Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Egypt, Israel, Pakistan, South Africa, Spain and Turkey. They could not help but be influenced by a definitive reversal of policy in India, the first developing country to explode a nuclear device—and the first to do so by diverting materials from a civilian program. Another reason to welcome the open Microphone incident is that it should end any uncertainty about Mr. Carter's determination to pursue full-scope safeguards. The President made it clear to India's leader that he fully supported a bill—overwhelmingly voted by the house and now pending before the Senate—that would cut off nuclear

exports to countries that fail to permit full-scope safeguards. The unintended public nature of the warning could stir some nationalist reaction in India to the benefit of Mr. Desai's opponents. But Mr. Desai did not seem seriously concerned and President Carter's later speech to India's Parliament was received enthusiastically. India's return to democracy and a closer relationship with the United States will not be impaired by plain speaking on the nuclear issue.

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"Chasing India's Bomb"

WASHINGTON POST,
Editorial, Jan. 4

The diplomats are aflutter over the possibility that Indians will be offended and their nationalism aroused by the chance disclosure that President Carter is not at all happy with their government's refusal to accept "safeguards" against diversion to military use, on their peaceful nuclear facilities. The rest of us, however, can be grateful that Mr. Carter did not know his microphone was "open". He revealed that he is not taking Prime Minister Morarji Desai's "no" on safeguards as final. He's writing "another letter, just cold and very blunt." Since an impression was about that the United States was averting its gaze from India's continuing nuclear irresponsibility, this is good news, indeed. Consider that the spread of nuclear weapons poses a danger to all nations. Consider that India has refused to sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. Consider that, since concern over proliferation became global, India is the one country to have cheated its way into nuclear status, exploding in 1974 a bomb it made by secretly diverting materials—including American heavy water—originally provided for peaceful purposes. To deter others from sneaking into the nuclear club, the United States should then have insisted that India accept international safeguards on all its nuclear facilities. Otherwise, Washington should have stoppée supplying enriched uranium to the American-built reactor at Tarapur, even though it's safeguarded. Jimmy Carter was unequivocal on the subject during his campaign. Once in office, however, he yielded to the argument that India's return to democracy,

and its general political importance, required approval of the twice-a-year fuel shipments to Tarapur, pending passage of legislation to prevent exports of fuel (or facilities) to countries rejecting safeguards. In the interim, the administration decided to elicit a no-second-explosion pledge from India and to ask the Indians voluntarily to put their facilities under safeguards. Mr. Desai offered satisfaction on the first count. It was his failure to satisfy on the second that produced the remarks Jimmy Carter made in New Delhi. But the fuel, as previously agreed is going through.

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Vietnam And Cambodia

Statement by the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam regarding the relations between Vietnam and Kampuchea

Hanoi, Feb. 5

In its Statement of December 31, 1977, the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam proposed that Vietnam and Kampuchea should meet as soon as possible at any level to settle the frontier question between the two countries in a spirit of fraternal friendship. This proposal has won the approval and support of the governments and peoples of peace and justice-loving countries as well as large sections of international public opinion. The Vietnamese people and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam sincerely thank their brothers and friends the world over for this approval and support.

It is very regrettable that the Government of Democratic Kampuchea has so far persisted to refuse the proposal for negotiations of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. On the other hand, the Kampuchean side has kept using its armed forces for attacks on many places on Vietnamese territory all along the border particularly in Kien Giang, An Giang and Tay Ninh provinces, perpetrating new barbarous crimes against the Vietnamese people. It is striving to arouse hatred against Vietnam. It continues making cynical slanders alleging that the Socialist Republic of Vietnam has made aggression against Kam-

Hostilities in Indo-china

THE MADRAS HINDU,
Editorial, January 9, 1978,

puchea, interfered in Kampuchea's internal affairs, carried out subversive activities against Kampuchea, and attempted to force Kampuchea into an "Indo-Chinese Federation" dominated by Vietnam. The Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam energetically rejects these slanderous allegations by the Government of Democratic Kampuchea. Obviously, Kampuchea is deliberately trying to increase tension on the Vietnam-Kampuchea frontier, to deteriorate the relations between Vietnam and Kampuchea and to make the settlement of problems concerning the relations between the two countries more and more difficult and complicated.

The Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Vietnamese people once again reaffirm that it is their unswerving position of principle to resolutely defend the independence, freedom, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Vietnam and at the same time to constantly respect the independence, freedom, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Kampuchea and other countries as well, and to uphold solidarity with Kampuchean people, to make incessant efforts to rapidly settle through negotiations problems concerning the relations between the two countries.

Vietnam and Kampuchea are two neighbouring countries, the two peoples have been long bound together in the struggle against their common enemy—the imperialist aggressors—to secure independence and freedom, now they have the earnest aspiration to strengthen solidarity, long-term co-operation, and mutual assistance in building their respective countries into prosperous ones, in keeping with the specific conditions of each country. The Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam is of the view that through negotiations in the spirit of anti-imperialist solidarity of the movement of the non-aligned countries and in the spirit of the UN's charter, the problems concerning the relations between Vietnam and Kampuchea will be correctly solved, in the interest of each people and for the benefit of peace and security in Southeast Asia and the world.

Desirous to reach an early settlement of the problems concern-

ing the relations between Vietnam and Kampuchea, the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam makes the following proposals: (1) An immediate end shall be put to all hostile military activities in the border region, the armed forces of each side shall be stationed within the respective territory five kilometres from the border; (2) The two sides shall meet at once in Hanoi or Phnom Penh, or at a place on the border to discuss and conclude a Treaty, in which they will undertake to respect each other's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, to refrain from aggression, from the use of force or the threat to use force in their relations with each other, from interference in each other's internal affairs, and from subversive activities against each other, to treat each other on an equal footing, and to live in peace and friendship in a good neighbourly relationship. The two sides shall sign a Treaty on the border question on the basis of respect for each other's territorial sovereignty within the existing border; (3) The two sides shall reach agreement on an appropriate form of international guarantee and supervision.

To create favourable conditions for the negotiations between the two countries, it is necessary to put an end to any propaganda creating hatred between the two nations to all divisive acts detrimental to the existing solidarity and friendship between the two peoples. The Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam calls on the Government of Democratic Kampuchea to make a positive response to the abovementioned fair and logical proposal, in the immediate and long-term interests of the peoples of Kampuchea and Vietnam and for the benefit of their friendship. The Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam calls on the Governments and peoples of countries friendly to the Vietnamese and the Kampuchean peoples, on international organisations and on peace—and justice-loving people throughout the world to support the proposal of the government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and to make positive contributions to bring about early negotiations between Vietnam and Kampuchea, for the benefit of peace and security in Southeast Asia and in the world.

The present state of war between Vietnam and Kampuchea cannot readily be explained in terms of the known political realities of Indo-China. Time was recently when the political relations between the peoples of the two countries were expressively characterised by their rulers as those between the lip and the teeth. In the war against the Americans and their allies, the nationalistic forces in these two countries and in Laos forged a very firm and powerful unity, co-ordinating their strategy and tactics closely for a sustained period and helping each other in their fight against the common enemy. Today, Vietnam and Kampuchea are involved in a series of ugly clashes that have grown out of a dispute concerning their common border, and a formidably equipped and cohesive Vietnamese army has clearly penetrated deep into Kampuchean territory.

The question is: Why have the leaders of the two countries, which have chosen more or less the same path of development, adopted this mode of settling their differences? Vietnam is making a valiant and determined attempt to repair the ravages of a long and devastating war and has already emerged as a power to be reckoned within the region, with the neighbouring ASEAN regimes all ready to establish smooth relations with it. It has actively promoted its international relations along the lines it has proclaimed in international forums; it has taken a prominent place among socialist countries and in the non-aligned movement. Kampuchea, which has also been involved in a grim battle to overcome the consequences of a devastating war, is much more problematical in relation to the internal policy of its rulers. All the evidence suggests that they are confronted with a host of complex socio-economic problems that cry out for solution. As for external policy, Kampuchea is very close only to China but not with other socialist countries like the USSR nor with the Western and the non-aligned worlds.

If the situation is not to be allowed to deteriorate in the cross-

fire of international rivalries, Kampuchea should make a serious effort to mend its fences with its neighbour, and the more solidly placed Vietnamese leaders need to recognise that their present course of action and offensive will not win them friends. It would be all too easy to see the present hostilities between the two Indo-Chinese States as the working out by proxy of the hostility between

the USSR and China. It is to be hoped that such a view is incorrect. So far there is no real evidence to suggest that either of the two big socialist powers has consciously, or as a matter of policy, contributed to the outbreak of hostilities in Indo-China, although it must be recognized that the extremely bitter relations between them do not at all help to repair matters. Vietnam and Kampuchea

must decide to end the state of tension, re-establish diplomatic relations and thus create a climate for conducting negotiations to settle the border dispute in a spirit of give and take. There are trouble spots enough in the world where the USSR and China work at cross-purposes, and it is crucially important that Indo-China is spared the consequences of this unedifying, growing and tireless polemic.

SRI LANKA CHRONICLE

Jan. 31 — Feb. 6

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

CDN—Ceylon Daily News; CDM—Ceylon Daily Mirror; CO—Ceylon Observer; ST—Sunday Times; DM—Dinamina; LD—Lankadipa; VK—Virakesari; ATH—Aththa; SM—Silumina; SLD—Sri Lankadipa; JD—Janadipa; DP—Dinapathi; SU—Sun; DW—Dawasa; CM—Chinthamani; WK—Weekend; RR—Rivirasa; EN—Eelanadu; IDPR—Information Department Press Release DK—Dinakara;

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31: The PM speaking after he unveiled the plaque to mark the inauguration of the accelerated Mahaweli Development Program said that within the next six years revolutionary changes will be brought in the country with the participation and support of the people in the political, social and economic spheres. Indiscriminate land alienation under the Land Reform Law by the previous government has completely destroyed 60,000 acres of prime tea land in the country. The Minister of Justice yesterday appointed a 12 member Legal Reform Committee to consider and report on the reforms which are considered necessary to the criminal procedure obtaining in our courts. The PM when he becomes President will donate the Padhanagara Maha Vihare, Maradana to the Maha Sangha. The criterion for entry into universities this year will be on merit, which will be judged by the marks obtained at the GCE 'A' level examination; the Minister of Education said yesterday that this would replace the 'standardisation scheme' which the government had decided to scrap from this year—CDN. A team led by Mr. Lal Jayawardene, Secretary to the Ministry of Finance has been appointed by the government to prepare a five-year employment oriented programme of economic development. A Pakistani sailor was nabbed yesterday by the Customs when he attempted to smuggle Rs. 10,000 worth of hashish round his waist—CDM. The government has decided to order a waiver of fines totalling over eight million rupees imposed on several persons by the now defunct Criminal Justice Commission. CID detectives have made a major breakthrough in the investigations into the shooting of the MP for Pottuvil. Disabled persons who were previously condemned to languish among the ranks of the unemployed despite their qualifications are soon to be absorbed into Government Departments, Corporations and Boards. The Indian PM, Shri Morarji Desai is ending a high-powered delegation led by Home Minister

Shri Charan Singh to Sri Lanka to participate in the Presidential inauguration. The Land Reform Commission will inaugurate a new land improvement scheme shortly—SU. The TULF has decided to participate in felicitating the PM in the NSA for his 35 year parliamentary career—VK. The Director of Census and Statistics states that the Colombo Consumer's Price Index for the month of January was 204.7 which represented an increase of 0.1 over the previous month's figure—IDPR No. 72. The Tyre Corporation has increased the price of tyres by 25%; as a result of this the price of an ordinary tyre will go up by Rs. 200. 15,000 will get employment when 5000 small scale farms are set up by the Janawasa Commission; these farms which will be set up in three years will cost 100 million rupees—DM. The Janatha Estate Development Board has decided to settle thousands of Sinhalese Muslim and Tamil families in up-country tea estates after giving them a special training. A new organisation called the Estate Service will be set up to develop land that has not been maintained during the last few years; the organisation will be under the Land Development Commission; 50,000 acres will be developed under the first stage of this scheme—DW.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1: Small time investors in rupee plantation companies have appealed to the government not to make payments of compensation for holdings to agency houses; they have asked that such payments be made straight to share holders in a joint appeal by these investors in several companies. A 15 member Parliamentary Committee appointed to examine a sustained increase in the prices of essential consumer items will launch a major offensive this month against profiteers, hoarders and corrupt traders. The Dhammachakka—Wheel of Righteousness—will be the emblem of the Presidential flag used by Sri Lanka's first elected Executive President. The Government was aware of the organisation which was behind the shooting of the 2nd MP for Pottuvil; it will however not be possible at this stage of the investigations to reveal the name of the organisation the deputy Minister of Defence said in the NSA yesterday. A Swedish housing company will invest Rs. 30 million in Sri Lanka in a joint venture with private companies to make pre-fabricated housing units—CDN. The TULF was the goigama party of the North and it always wanted to oppress the minority depressed classes said the Minister of Industries and Scientific Affairs in the NSA yesterday. No government in the future could rule the country under emergency rule for more than ninety days without obtaining the approval of the NSA by a two thirds majority said the PM when he spoke about the Public Security (amendment) Bill in the Assembly yesterday. Adequate stocks of rice have been despatched to the

10,000 odd-distribution points throughout the country to ensure that consumers could buy rice at Rs. 2.90 a mea ure—CDM. The Worker's Charter was tabled in the NSA yesterday by the Minister of Labour in the form of a white paper on Employment Relations. A key figure of the Pottuvil MP shooting case, who enabled the CID to make a significant headway in their investigations, made good his escape from Police hands on Monday—SU. There will be equal distribution of appointments from each province when vacancies occur in government corporations, departments and other government offices in the future; a bill to this effect was detailed in the NSA recently. Information has been received about a 'tiger' organisation in the wake of the shooting of the Pottuvil MP—DP. About 10,000 teachers demonstrated outside the Education Ministry yesterday; in protest against certain actions of the government since they refused to disperse at the request of the police they were baton-charged and some of them were injured—VK. At the Cost of Living Committee meeting this morning it was decided that co-ops could use their discretion in the purchase of best quality rice but their selling price should not exceed Rs. 3 a measure; the CWE was directed to sell its stock of chillies at Rs. 9 per pound instead of Rs. 9.50; the Price Controller was asked to be vigilant over the distribution of condensed milk which was being sold at various prices at present; the Marketing Department is prepared to purchase pulses from co-ops in many districts—IDPR No. 4. The Janatha Estate Development Board has decided to re-open all the tea factories that are now closed—DW. The Fisheries Corporation's Boat yard at Mutwal will increase the production of boats from 40 to 100 from this year—LD. After requisitioning the ration books the price of rice has increased; a measure of good quality Samba rice costs Rs. 5/—DK.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2: Any government of Sri Lanka—past, present or future—which is indicted for gross abuse of power will be dealt with severely under the provisions of the Special Commissions of Inquiry Law the PM said in the NSA yesterday; he also said that the bill sought to cleanse public life of the future as well; it would be the best way according to him to check abuse of power and the misuse of public funds, and make the country have a stable and disciplined democracy. Major changes in the administration of the SLBC have been recommended in an interim report of the Ekanayake Commission, which is currently inquiring into the activities of the SLBC during the past seven years. The IMF was appreciative of the 'courageous measures' adopted by the present Sri Lanka government to stabilise the country's economy, said the Managing Director of the IMF yesterday. One of the TULF MP's, Mr. Sivasithamparam said in the NSA yesterday that the PM had every right to speak up for clean politics and that his party was happy that the bill had been introduced. The NSA yesterday passed without amendment the Parliament Powers and Privileges (Amendment Bill) with 134 voting for and 11 against it. The government yesterday decided to go ahead with the Rs. 2,200 million Urea Fertilizer Project at Sapugas-kanda. A Special representative of the US President Jimmy Carter will arrive from Washington to participate in the investiture ceremonies of the new President. Five categories of prisoners serving jail sentences ranging from death penalty to simple terms of imprisonment will be given a Presidential pardon on February 4—CDN. Substantial aid, running into hundreds of million US dollars would be given by the IMF in the

next three years in appreciation of the government's policy of shifting from consumption expenditure to investment for economic development said Mr. Witaveen of the IMF yesterday. The PM said in the Assembly yesterday only wrong-doers need be afraid of the Special Commissions of Inquiry Bill—CDM. A youth in the refugee camp in Nedunjeni has been arrested in connection with the shooting of the second MP for Pottuvil—EN. The Committee on National Reforms met this week presided over by the Minister of Education; he said that a Council of National Education will be set up on a permanent footing so that valuable ideas and suggestions would come from all sections—IDPR No. 7. A group of five senior officials of the Govt of India will be visiting Sri Lanka on an Observation Tour of Population Education and Family Planning Services in Plantations and Industry sponsored by the ILO—IDPR NO. 9. H.E. Mr. Jose Antonio Lara Villarreal who was appointed by the Govt of Mexico as Ambassador to Sri Lanka with residence in New Delhi presented his letter of Credence to the President today—IDPR No. 15/78. The Tyre Corporation has created a record by producing 19,560 tyres in January. A section of the TULF think that TULF MP's should accept the District Ministers posts, while another section think that they should not as it will mean that they are agreeing with the government policies—DM. The Commissioner of Inland Revenue has taken over the tax returns of prominent SLFP politicians; it is believed that this was done to see how they can be manipulated and used against these persons. Army personnel have had a pay rise; officers have had a Rs. 300 increase while others will get Rs. 180—DK. The Minister of Health has decided to get the assistance of the private sector to renovate and maintain hospitals—LD.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3: The Soviet people together with the Lankan people are preparing to mark Sri Lanka's Independence Day tomorrow; meetings and rallies of friendship will be held in Moscow, Leningrad and other major cities in the Union republics. The PM yesterday tabled in the NSA the Code of Conduct for Ministers Deputy Ministers and Govt. MP's. Party leaders have finalised and published in the addendum to the order book of the NSA the motion of felicitation of the PM on his assumption of office as the President. The NSA yesterday imposed a fine of Rs. 1000 each on the Editor and Associate Editor of the *Ceylon Observer* when it used the penal powers vested in the house under the Parliament Powers and Privileges Amendment Act with regard to a breach of privilege raised by the Minister of Foreign Affairs. The Japanese government has agreed to grant increased assistance to Sri Lanka; it has also agreed to provide Commodity Aid on a grant basis amounting to Rs. 80 million for the purchase of fertilisers, tractors and agro-chemicals. Sri Lanka is negotiating for an additional supply of 100,000 tons of flour supplied under the PL 480 aid this year—CDN. Bangladesh and Sri Lanka signed at official level at Dacca last week a convention for the avoidance of double taxation and fiscal evasion. Local importers had used a record sum of Rs. 885 million for imports under the new liberalisation scheme from November 15 to December 31—CDM. The PM said in the NSA yesterday that if he got the John Attygalle report on the insurgent movement, he would see that it was published immediately. The Police yesterday threw a dragnet in the northern peninsula to track down the key figure in the Pottuvil, MP shooting case, who had helped CID detectives to make significant headway in their investi-

gations and later escaped. A free-for-all between two factions of students of the Peradeniya Campus ensued yesterday morning, when a section of the students did not join the token strike organised by the Student's Council over five demands—SU. The strike by the workers of the Jaffna Municipal Council continued in its third day yesterday—EN. Since the price of tyres and tubes have gone up, the transport charges will also go up accordingly. Mrs. Bandaranaike has said that they were not afraid of any commissions; she also said that the government had abolished the bill but the Presidential Commissions Bill was more dangerous than that—DK. The Minister of Education has decided that 168 schools with all facilities will be constructed throughout the island. The CWE has decided to issue B. Onions to private dealers from today—DW.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4: The NSA at a historic session yesterday morning unanimously adopted a joint government and Opposition resolution felicitating PM, Mr. J. R. Jayawardene on his departure from the legislature after over 29 years of service in it to assume the office of the first elected Executive President of the Republic of Sri Lanka. Mr. E. L. B. Hurulle, Minister of Cultural Affairs deputise for the President of the Republic of Sri Lanka at the thirtieth anniversary celebrations of Sri Lanka organised by the Russian people on Tuesday 7 in Moscow—CDN. "May I be permitted to say to my colleagues on all sides of this house, turn the searchlight inwards; be a lamp unto yourselves; hold fast to the truth; no harm can come to you in this life or after it"; the PM said this in reply to the motion of felicitation on his assumption of office as the President. Soon after the proceedings of the assembly felicitating him ended, Mr. Jayawardene was presented with a silver plaque. Mr. Charan Singh, Minister of Home Affairs and special envoy of the PM of India arrived in the island last afternoon for the inauguration of the President of Sri Lanka—CDM. In times of defeat some leaders lost their nerve and gave up the flight but the dynamic leadership of Mr. J. R. Jayawardene slowly but surely lifted the UNP from the ashes to the heights of power said the Leader of the Opposition in the NSA yesterday. Soon after the new President is sworn in, he will visit the Colombo West electorate to bid goodbye to his voters—SU. Thousands of acres of new land for agricultural purposes under the Mahaweli Development Scheme will be given to companies and rich individuals and only a small amount to farmers—ATH.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5: There was pindrop silence among a crowd of several hundred thousands as Mr. Junius Richard Jayawardene took his oaths as Sri Lanka's first Executive President under a blazing morning sun on Colombo's Galle Face green at 8.58 a.m. yesterday. The proceedings yesterday started on the traditional religious note with the new President, the outgoing President, the Minister of Housing, etc taking part in the various ceremonies. The new President said that the government was engaged in a national development program on an unprecedented scale; gainful employment for the unemployed, cultivation of land that was hitherto uncultivated, an efficient and productive industrial sector, proper housing and improved health and educational services are some of the key areas which are currently receiving the highest priority—SO. The President addressed a special Independence Day message to Sri Lankans abroad when he said; "we require the unfailing support of every Sri Lankan whether in Sri Lanka or abroad in the national

effort towards the country's resurgence." The city of Colombo wore a festive garb yesterday and several thousands of sightseers from various parts of the country as well as foreign tourists thronged the streets of the city. The official function of the new President was to declare open President's College—a new school—ST. Over one thousand prisoners both from Colombo and the outstations were released yesterday under amnesty granted to prisoners of all categories on the occasion of the assumption of office to the new President—WK.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6: The President will attend the regional meeting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government scheduled to be held from February 13 to February 16 in Sydney, Australia. Socialist, Western and Middle Eastern countries have given firm assurances to the Government of Sri Lanka of their commitment to help this country with her development program and also help her economically. Two ministers yesterday evening declared open the Peace Pagoda Pinnacle exhibition at the International Art Centre, Colombo; the ten foot high pinnacle made of solid brass was donated by the D. A. Jayaratne family of Kalubowila. Revolutionary changes to the Employees Provident Fund will be made before May Day this year to enable the Labour Department to take over the entire administration of the fund. Rubber based industries which in the past had been neglected both by the private and public sector, will be given new incentives shortly. The Coconut Cultivation Board has launched an intensive program to re-vitalise the dwindling coconut industry which reached an all time low level of production in '66-77 with a record drop of about 50% from previous years—CDN. A large number of buses, lorries and cars imported under the liberalised scheme have become unserviceable due to the acute shortage of batteries; the government has therefore decided to give top priority to the import of batteries for these vehicles. The million rupee mark was topped for the first time in the history of the customs, at a single auction sale of goods conducted by that department—CDM. Bugging bureaucrats found guilty of hampering the country's progress through their inefficiency or incompetence are to be set on retirement with five years added to their service. The right to private practice is now being pursued by all categories of public servants; the latest to try cashing in on this are the State Counsels in the Attorney General's Department. Charges are to be framed departmentally against three SP's; two are to be charged with looting, while the third is to be charged with leaving station without permission and using his official car for private purposes. The Minister of Agriculture and Lands yesterday issued a gazette notification setting up a National Agricultural Diversification and Settlement Authority with a capital of 10 million rupees. Sri Lanka is to get a gift of 100,000 tons of wheat flour from America shortly. The PM and Minister of Local Govt, Housing has introduced a bill to amend the Protection of Tenants (Special Provisions) Act of 1970—SU. According to an official in the Ministry of Education students from rural schools, particularly backward villages will have at least 1000 places reserved for them in the new university admissions scheme—DP.

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FOR THE RECORD

Code Of Conduct
For MP's

A PERSON is not elected to Parliament to make money. If a person wants to make money he should go into business. As long as he is in politics, a member of Parliament should set an example to the community by leading a simple and clean life. So states the Code of Conduct for Ministers, Deputy Ministers and government members of Parliament which was presented by the Prime Minister, Mr. Jayawardene on the National State Assembly yesterday. The Code also suggests that once in six months, or at least once a year, Ministers, Deputy Ministers, and members of Parliament should attend a "self-correction conference."

Here is the full text of the code:

1. Ministers, Deputy Ministers and members of Parliament when they perform their duties and functions must be continuously mindful that not only are they the elected representatives of the people but that they have also pledged themselves to be in the service of the people. A person is not elected to Parliament to make money. If a person wants to make money he should go into business. As long as he is in politics, a member of Parliament must set an example to the community by leading a simple and clean life.

2. They should at all times conduct themselves in public and in their personal affairs in a manner that will win public approbation and regard. Once in six months, or at least once a year, Ministers, Deputy Ministers and Members of Parliament should attend a "self-correction conference."

3. They should constantly be alive to the difficulties that the people undergo and strive to find ways and means to mitigate and remedy these difficulties. Ministers, Deputy Ministers and members of Parliament should meet their constituents on one day in the week at least in the branch office in their respective constituencies. Ministers may employ a paid secretary to attend to this work on every day in the week at the branch office. On the "special day" of the week, allotted for the purpose, the constituents,

of course, can meet the Parliamentary personally.

4. They should consider it their prime duty to further the policies and the new image presented by the United National Party in the course of the election campaign.

5. Ministers, Deputy Ministers and members of Parliament should always be alive to the fact that they are members of the United National Party and should not by their actions or in public speeches or in private conversations, in any way, do or say anything that is derogatory to the Party or suggest that there is dissatisfaction within or a lack of unity in the Party.

6. The observance of (5) above does not mean that Ministers, Deputy Ministers or members of Parliament should not engage in constructive criticism or point out the defects in the Government or Party machinery and work. This is necessary; but such action should be confirmed to discussions with ministers, or in the Government Parliamentary Group or other similar occasions or within Party circles such as the branches, Youth Leagues, etc.

7. They should maintain communication with the people, visit their electorates regularly and be sensitive to the people's needs. Their attitude towards the people should disclose the same concern for their welfare as when they canvassed their votes during the election campaign.

8. Ministers, Deputy Ministers and members of Parliament should study and understand both the general problems of the country as well as the particular problems of their electorates. They should keep in touch with the various Ministers and not only be conversant with the schemes worked out for the solution of the problems of the people but should also convey to the people the efforts that are being made by the solution of their problems.

9. They should participate fully in programmes of national development, involve the people, especially the youth and the supporters of the Party in these programmes, and obtain their cooperation and advice in their performance.

10. Ministers, Deputy Ministers and members of Parliament should appreciate that the National State

Assembly is the sovereign, legislative body representative of the people in Sri Lanka and should at all times within the precincts of the Assembly maintain the highest standard of conduct and decorum even in such matters as proper dress so that the activities of the National State Assembly will evoke the respect and regard of the people.

11. Ministers, Deputy Ministers and members of Parliament should declare their assets in accordance with the provisions of the Declaration of Assets and Liabilities Law, No. 1 of 1975.

12. Members of Parliament should not interfere directly in the administrative affairs of Government Offices and Corporations in matters that may lead to the principles of fair play and justice being negated or result in the obstruction of work. Such matters may include undue interference in police activities or in attempting to get transfers and appointments, etc. made at departmental and sub-departmental level. It is appreciated that many matters may come to the notice of members of Parliament which they conscientiously feel action should be taken in the interests of the Government and it is the duty of members of Parliament to be continuously alive to acts of mismanagement and sabotage in government departments and corporations... The correct procedure to be followed in such instances is that the facts of the matter should be brought to the notice of the Minister or Deputy Minister in charge of the function to enable the matter to be authoritatively investigated and the appropriate remedial action taken.

13. Ministers and Deputy Ministers should always give due heed to the representations made by members of Parliament and have any matters brought to their notice investigated as a matter of priority. They should thereafter send a prompt reply to the Member of Parliament concerned outlining the action that has been taken.

14. Ministers, Deputy Ministers and members of Parliament should not in regard to any matter permit a conflict of interests in their personal affairs and their official activities. Neither should they sponsor by using undue influence

their friends, relatives or close associates interests in any official matters unless it is to rectify a wrong. There is, however, no objection to certificates of character of competence being given.

15. Ministers, Deputy Ministers and members of Parliament should keep in mind that public property, e.g. motor vehicles, telephones, etc. is the property of the people and are assigned to them for use on trust. They should not in any way abuse the trust reposed on them by making or allowing others to make unauthorised use of these facilities.

16. Ministers, Deputy Ministers and members of Parliament and their spouses should not receive foreign honours, gifts or favours by virtue of their official position. In the category of favours would fall such matters as the canvassing of trips abroad, sponsoring candidates for Scholarships, etc. The regulations governing "gifts" for public Officers are given below for guidance: "A Public Officer of a member of his family shall not accept any presents, gifts, or other benefits other than the ordinary gifts of personal friends, whether in a direct or indirect form, and whether in the shape of money, goods, free passages, services, unusual discounts on the cost of goods supplied or services rendered etc., The Officer will be held responsible for the observance of the rule in the preceding section by the members of his family.

Gifts given by persons such as visiting Heads of States, etc., which cannot be refused may be accepted subject to the following sub-sections. Gifts received by a Minister, member of Parliament or a State Officer from a Head or representative of a foreign State should be regarded as received by him solely in his capacity as representative of the State. A gift so received should be reported to the Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs."

17. Ministers, Deputy Ministers and members of Parliament should not accept invitations especially to functions of a private social nature merely because such invitations have been received. They should first assess the necessity of attendance in relation to the benefits that the country would receive by such attendance. Ministers, Deputy Ministers and members of Parliament should not ac-

cept lunch or dinner invitations or other forms of entertainment from businessmen or from persons whose motive, are in question or are questionable. The intention is that the politician should not put himself in a position where his integrity might be compromised. Exceptions to this would be in regard to purely personal matters, e.g., a politician can accept a wedding invitation from one of his constituents or an old friend.

18. Invitations received by Ministers, Deputy Ministers and members of Parliament from foreign Embassies, High Commissions, etc should generally not be accepted. The Cabinet will nominate one Minister to attend such functions on behalf of the Government. This rule would apply to National Day functions too. However, should there be a special reason for a Minister other than the nominated Minister finding it necessary to attend a particular function, e.g., the visit of an important foreign visitor, he should discuss the matter with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and arrange to be present, perhaps, substituting for the nominated Minister.

19. Members of Parliament receiving invitations of the nature referred to in (18) above should consult the Chief Government Whip before acceptance.

20. The guide lines set out in (18) and (19) above apply to functions of a public nature. They do not apply to dinners and small parties of a private nature and these may be attended without restriction.

21. Ministers, Deputy Ministers and members of Parliament should be careful of the levels at which invitations are issued or accepted. Generally a Minister or Deputy Minister will accept an invitation from an Ambassador, High Commissioner or Charge D' Affairs only, members of parliament should not accept invitations from any level below First Secretary.

22. In regard to (17), (18), (19), (20) and (21) above, the Minister of Foreign Affairs may be consulted in any matter of doubt.

—The Ceylon Daily Mirror, 3/2/78

Amnesty International's Briefing

The first part of Amnesty International's Briefing on Singapore appeared last week. This week we publish the second instalment. There will be two more instalments. This week, the Briefing examines the legal situation and the techniques under which prisoners are held and detained.

Singapore presents a number of issues which are of particular concern to Amnesty International: These are: (i) the application of internal security legislation, which originated in laws enacted largely to deal with armed communist insurrection during the Malayan Emergency of 1948-60, to repress legitimate, non-violent political opposition; (ii) the use of deprivation of citizenship and banishment as a means of political repression; (iii) the use of caning, which leaves permanent scars, as punishment for certain criminal offences; (iv) the imposition and actual carrying out of death penalty as punishment for certain criminal offences; (v) the control and intimidation of the press by the government, which has led to the arrest and detention of journalists.

THE LEGAL SITUATION:

(i) LEGISLATION UNDER WHICH PRISONERS ARE HELD: To Amnesty International's knowledge there are no sentenced political prisoners in Singapore at present. The usual pattern is for political prisoners to be detained without trial under the provisions of either the Internal Security Act or the Banishment Act.

Internal Security Act, 1960—The Malaysian Internal Security Act became law in Singapore in stages during the island's brief membership of the Federation of Malaysia (1963-65). Section 8 of the act empowers the Minister of Home Affairs to serve a two-year detention order, which is renewable, on any person if the President is satisfied that it is necessary to do so in order to prevent that person from acting in any manner prejudicial to the security of Singapore. The Act of 1960 stipulates

that all detention orders shall be subject to review by an advisory board at intervals of not more than six months. But in Singapore, while the Emergency (Internal Security and Detention Orders) Regulation, 1964, remain in force, detention orders are subject to review at intervals of not more than 12 months. The advisory board has powers of recommendation only and cannot direct the release of a detainee on its own authority. Although the members of this advisory board are former members of the judiciary thus creating the impression that the cases of political detainees are subject to judicial review, in fact it is a non-judicial body. Final decisions rest with the government. Most detainees have boycotted the hearings of the board because they regard it merely as an extension of the apparatus for imposing administrative detention without trial.

Banishment Act (Banishment Ordinance, 1959)—Under Article 61 of the constitution, the Singapore Government may by order deprive any citizen who is a citizen by registration or naturalisation of his citizenship if the government is satisfied that it is not conducive to the public good that the person should continue to be a citizen of Singapore. Under the Banishment Act, the minister has power to order the banishment or expulsion from Singapore of any person who is not a citizen, if such an order is conducive to the good of the republic. The exact number of detainees deported under the provisions of the Banishment Act is not known, but it is believed that about 30 may have been deported since 1965, mostly to the People's Republic of China.

(ii) LEGAL/ADMINISTRATIVE DETENTION PROCEDURES.

(a) *The judiciary*—The Supreme Court of Judicature Act established a Supreme Court consisting of the High Court, the Court of Appeal and the Court of Criminal Appeal. The lower courts comprise magistrate's courts, criminal district courts and civil district courts. Trial by jury for capital offences was abolished by an act of 1969 (see below: 9). Trial by jury in cases other than for capital offences was abolished in 1959. Whilst we would hesitate to claim that the whole judicial system is subject to general government interference, it is certainly true that individual lawyers are not im-

mune from political pressure. In recent years, two lawyers who have been particularly active in the legal defence of political prisoners have been suspended from practice for "improper conduct". One of the two was himself detained without trial for 18 months and is now hindered in the free practice of his profession as the result of restrictions imposed on him by the government.

(b) *Arrest process*—Under Section 74 of the Internal Security Act, any police officer may without warrant arrest and detain pending inquiries any person in respect of whom he has reason to believe that there are grounds which would justify his detention under section 8, and that he has acted or is about to act or is likely to act in any manner prejudicial to the security of Singapore. In all, no person may be detained under the provisions of Section 74 for a period exceeding 30 days.

(c) *Conduct of trials*—On 22 February 1975, Tan Wah Plow, President of the University of Singapore Student's Union, was imprisoned for one year after being found guilty of rioting. Two factory workers arrested with him were also found guilty and sentenced to one month each. Tan, who conducted his own defence, alleged that the charge of rioting was a "frame up." This case probably represents a rare instance in Singapore of political imprisonment following a trial, as opposed to political detention without trial.

An observer's report drew attention, *inter alia*, to the following features of the trial:

—on 5 December 1974, the Singapore High Court admitted John Platts-Mills, a British lawyer from London, as an advocate and solicitor for the specific purpose of defending Tan and the two other accused. Two days later, application was made for the trial to be adjourned until early in the year, when Mr. Platts-Mills would be able to travel to Singapore. This application was refused by the trial judge and the hearings began on 11 December.—By the time that certain witnesses, whom Tan had made several requests to call, had been brought to the court, Tan had already begun his defence without having had any opportunity to confer with them. The witnesses had been arrested on the

morning of 11 December and deported to Malaysia.

—During the trial, Tan was not afforded a proper opportunity of testing the evidence against him in relation to the alleged riotous incidents in which he was accused of being involved.

(d) *Release process*—Under the Internal Security Act, the minister may at any time after a detention order has been made direct that the operation of the order be suspended, subject to certain restrictive conditions which may severely limit freedom of movement, residence, employment and association. The suspension of a detention order has usually coincided with some form of political confession and recantation on the part of the detainee. Detainees may also be released on the orders of the President, at the recommendations of the advisory board. Under the Banishment Act, a banishment or expulsion order may at any time be revoked by the minister.

(iii) Internal legal instruments.

Although a member of the United Nations, Singapore has not signed or ratified the International Conventions on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and on Civil and Political rights, nor the Optional Protocol to the covenant on Civil and Political Rights. These instruments are designed to make more specific the obligations implied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

(To be Continued)

CARAVAN FAMILY—3

Galle To Dondra

by Ina Trimmer

Early next morning they were in the sea again before they sat down to a meal of crisp hot hoppers which Simon the driver had brought from a little house close by, then back on the road facing Galle-wards. Straight to the old Dutch Fort Daddy led them. They climbed the ancient ramparts built by the Dutch as a protection against the enemy, now covered with grass except for a narrow path all round. It was a wonderful fortification which has stood for over two centuries. They entered the old Church where the Dutch used to worship, and where some of

their dead were buried. The granite slabs are still there with their names and other data. After they had wandered about the narrow old streets some still bearing their old Dutch names—Leynbaan Street—with unbroken stretches of houses stepping close up to the edge of the road, so close apart on either side, that one could almost shake hands across, they went to lunch with Auntie. What a feast that was! Yellow rice with all its accompaniments—chilli sambol, chicken curry, prawn pol-kiri-badun. There seemed to be no end to the delicious food served. Then last of all curd and honey, the treacle made at home rich and syrupy, and the curd at its best, sweet and creamy.

After a short rest they set out again. Daddy took them to his old school Richmond College. They walked about the grassy slopes of the hill on which the buildings stood, a beautiful place indeed. They were loth to leave it, but Daddy said they must hurry before it was too late to see Ebony elephants made and tortoise shell articles. "Galle is the home of these industries," he said, "as also Beruwela or Galle Lace made by hand on stuffed pillows on a stand. It is therefore known as Pillow lace also. With bobbins, and pins, and fine reel thread exquisite patterns are produced. This lace is sold at high prices and yet, I suppose, considering it's hand-made the prices are not exorbitant."

Mummie agreed, "I use that lace quite a lot and it's very strong and lasts years."

The sun was setting when they were back at their camping ground after first driving up the steep road that leads to the top of Watering Point. Galle and its environs lay at their feet, a wonderful panoramic view of sea and land, a beautiful view indeed with its headlands and little bays, and the famous ancient Galle harbour. "If that water could only speak what wonderful tales it could tell us of past glories and civilizations long dead" said Daddy thoughtfully.

Jason ate up the road next morning. It was flat and shady under the coconut palms that met overhead, a road that hugged the sea most of the way, with headlands, and little bays, and huts of fisherfolk under the palms.

As they approached Weligama Nila called out "Look Mummie! Chatty mootees!"

At a little cottage on the right was displayed by the roadside a varied collection of colourful pottery. They stopped and bought Nila little sets of cooking utensils and Mummie some flower pots and coloured bowls.

They drove on again and came to a railway crossing. "Stop", said Daddy to Simon. Then they all got out and Daddy said, "we have stopped here specially to look at this figure of a man carved in this great rock. He is known as 'Custa Raja'. Tradition has it that he was once a long time ago, a ruler in Ceylon but investigations have revealed that he is actually a Bodhisathva (avalokitesmara), proved by the form of his head dress. He suffered from a cuthay or eruption which no one could cure, so in desperation he decided to die. One day he left his home, the beautiful palace where he lived and went away without a word to anyone. He walked and he walked till he came to a place where there were some trees which were very tall, with branches right up at the top. He picked up one of the fruits that had fallen some green, some dried up, large fruits. "I will eat these and die", he said and dashed one on the ground because it was so hard and broke it. There was water inside and he drank what was left in the fruit. Then he ate all the inside and rubbed it all over him, and lay down to die. But he fell asleep instead, and woke up the next day feeling much better. He did the same thing again. He broke open the fruit, drank the water in it, and ate some of the white flesh that was thick inside and rubbed it all over his eruption. This he did every day and instead of dying he got better and better till at length he was quite well. So he went home cured taking some fruits with him to show everyone about the wonderful tree that bore such fruit. Now, what is the name of that tree?"

"Coconut", said Varuni.

"Right every time. Coconut it is. The most wonderful and useful tree in Ceylon. It should be our National Emblem. I cannot imagine a Ceylon without its coconut palms."

He gave the order to turn and go back the way they came.

"Why are we going back?" asked Mummie.

"Because I want to take you all along the new Marine Drive, instead of the old road which runs through a clutter of houses and the bazaar. The new road starts from Kumbulgama where we bought Nila's chatty-mootees, and carries on along the coast for several miles, as far as Polathumodera where it joins the old main road that leads to the far south."

Soon after they entered the Marine drive they climbed a hill and then, before them lay the beautiful Weligama Bay which has no equal in Ceylon. Down the hill, to skirt the old Rest House a relic of early colonial days with its wide Verandahs and wind-blown coolness. Almost at the edge of the sea, the road ran. Opposite Count de Mauny's little island which a Frenchman many many years ago made his home, and which is till known by his name, Mummie asked Daddy to stop. "What for?" he asked. "To bathe in this beautiful bay. We cannot leave it until we have sampled the joys of bathing in this illustrious place."

So they stopped and soon they were all in the water.

"O-O-O", ejaculated Mummie, "I'm sure we can walk to the South Pole and not get drowned. Look how shallow it is, and how clear the water. I can see my toes in the sand. The little waves are like green jelly", as she dived into one.

They were loth to leave the calm waters of Weligama Bay, but Daddy hurried them out. "We must pay Matara a short visit before we go on to Dondra. It was a city of learning in the times of our kings, then when the Dutch came and conquered the seaboard they fortified Matara. The ramparts they built to protect their Fort are still there, so is the church, and a few other remnants of their day."

They drove along the Marine Drive with the beautiful bay on their right all the way till they reached Polathumodera where the new road so recently made joined the old Main Road that led to the deep south. But the sea never really left them. Bays and headlands, some palm covered, others bare and rocky, greeted them in endless procession till at length they entered Matara. They passed close by a little Dutch fortification in the shape of a star, even now known as The Star Fort, almost at the entrance to the town, still in

perfect condition, with its own little ramparts still lived in, the residence of the Government District Engineer. Over the bridge that spans the Nil Wala Ganga (Blue Cloudy River) and in a few minutes they were in the Fort, entering it under the old main gate which had stood the test of centuries wonderfully, and is still in perfect condition.

The great old doors of the Dutch church were open. A flying visit inside where the usual granite tombstones of those long dead lined the floor, while cut glass chandeliers hung from the lofty roof, just as they used to do when Dutch Fans and Mynheers worshipped there.

A hurried drive along the narrow streets of the little Fort with endless rows of houses stepping right up to the road, then past the Rest House, and on to the seaside road, past Poulrier's Island, and on towards Brown's Hill which they climbed instead of rejoining the Main road, a delightful little resort of small hills and valleys where houses have been built by the lucky few who owned this land.

They rejoined the Main Road, having avoided the Bazaar area with its clutter of shops and houses by their detour of Brown's Hill. The sea was with them again and in a short while a headland appeared before them.

"That's Dondra Head, the most southerly point in Ceylon", said Daddy, "we will shortly be entering Dondra historic old city whose real name is Devinuwara which as you know means City of the Gods. There used to be a famous old temple here which was destroyed by the Portuguese in a fit of religious zeal. One of its ancient pillars stands to-day by the roadside, doing the duty of a milestone. On it is engraved 103 miles from Colombo. We shall pass it in a few minutes."

And there it stood, on their left, that ancient pillar with carvings still to be seen, an example of one of the worst types of vandalism.

Daddy gave Simon the order to turn down a narrow red road on the right. "This road leads to Dondra Head", he said, "we must visit that historic site before we go on. It bristles with tradition and ancient tales and we must not miss it."

They all got off when they reached the rocky promontory and Daddy pointed out several other pillars, about eight of them lying amongst the boulders. "These do not belong to the old temple. They are said to be part of a stone raft on which the God Vishnu came to Ceylon. They are very, very ancient and people say they give out a musical note when struck." He hit one with a stone but though the sound given out was not musical, yet there was a hallow rate as if the pillar was not solid.

"Let's carry on now. Jump in all of you, our next place of call is the Light House," said Daddy. In a few minutes they were at the gates. They drove up the narrow white path up to the Lighthouse Keeper's bungalow, built of granite. In front of them towered, the famed Dondra Light House that was of such importance when all transport to foreign lands was done in ships. It is the last light to be seen by any ship on the way to the Far East and Australia. Built by the British many many years ago, it was at that time controlled in England by the British Government, so important it was to communications by sea.

They all jumped off and stood in wonder before the great octagonal shaft of white standing on the flat promontory rockbound, rock-strewn, thrusting 162 feet into the blue sky.

"Why Goodness! What a Maha Aliya! (enormous elephant)" shouted Ranjit.

"Maha Aliya, it is", said Daddy. "I think it is the tallest light house in the East. Do you realize that it's almost the height of three very high coconut trees, standing one on top of the other."

After having received permission from the light House keeper to climb to the top they began the arduous journey, rising in series of spiral stairs and landings. At each landing windows opened out on every side now landwards, now sea each forming a picture, as they rose higher and higher till the last spiral was reached, a steep ladder that lifted them several feet. Then they crept through the little door that led outside, to the platform right round the lighthouse, protected with an iron railing to which they clung as they walked round, high above the earth. The caravan was just a little minute toy parked by the

lighthouse keeper's house, also nothing but a doll's house now. Human beings were mere specks, like little ants, far away at their feet. Landwards stretched a platform of green, palms and trees to the far hills beyond, while seawards an ocean that flows unbroken to the South Pole.

They crept back through the little aperture to watch the men getting ready to light the great lamp which revolves slowly, heavily, round and round from dusk to dawn to warn those at sea that here in this area was danger.

"The beam this lamp throws every minute is seen five miles out at sea", said Daddy.

They came down and at each landing running to every window to feast their eyes on nature's pictures.

"Let's spend the night here," said Mummie. "It is a delectable spot. Look at these rocky inlets with the waves rushing in, great rollers from the depths of the Indian ocean riding up so arrogantly to break in snowy foam over a thousand boulders."

So they slept the night, there after getting permission from the Light house keeper with the boom of the waves and the roar of the wind, and the friendly beam of light thrown ceaselessly over land and sea.

SHORT STORY

The Return

This story is written in the first person singular. That is a literary convention which is as old as the hills. It was used by Petronius Arbiter in the "Satyricon" and by many other story tellers in the 1001 Nights. Its object is, of course, to achieve credibility, for when someone tells you what he states, happened to himself you are more likely to believe that he is telling the truth than when he tells you what happened to somebody else. The 'I' who writes is just as much a character in the story as the other persons with whom it is concerned.

The scorching mid-day sun was streaming into my eyes as I opened

them. I couldn't bear the glare, so I quickly shut them again, but since everything appeared red through my closed eyelids, I turned on my back trying to shut out the light. It was mere escapism, like running away from facts when they stare you in the face, but aren't we all escapists at some time or the other? I did not want to face another day but just by turning one's back could one shut out the truth? For truth shall ultimately confront you just like the rays of sun penetrating your skin. Why the reluctance to face the coming day one is entitled to ask and the answer will be ennui, boredom, hopelessness, lethargy, call it what you will—in short the futility of life.

It was a passing phase no doubt, but one which could not be ignored and what was alarming was that the phases were recurring with greater frequency that one had to come to terms with them and deal with them in the proper manner. But were they all that alarming? Was it not more alarming if one never, ever, encountered them in life? For, was life a mere working, eating, sleeping and pro-creating? Was there no more meaning to it than that? Did one have to go on doing the things that everyone else did to ultimately achieve position, power, wealth, a 'standing' in society? When the best part of one's life was spent in trying to succeed in life—was the time for other things—beautiful things, to uplift one's soul?

I was reminded of Kahlil Gibran's lines in the "TEMPEST", where Yusuf speaks of his self-imposed exile: "I could have worshipped God while living among his creatures, for worship does not require solitude. I did not leave the people in order to see God for I had always seen Him at the home of my father and mother. I deserted the people because their natures were in conflict with mine, and their dreams did not agree with my dreams. I left man because I found that the wheel of my soul was turning one way and grinding harshly against the wheels of other souls which were turning in the opposite direction. I left civilisation because I found it to be an old and corrupt tree, strong and terrible, whose roots are locked into the obscurity of the earth and whose branches are reaching beyond the cloud; but its blossoms are of greed and evil

and crime and its fruit is of woe and misery and fear. Crusaders have undertaken to blend good into it and change its nature but they could not succeed. They died disappointed, persecuted and torn. No....."

My thoughts were abruptly disturbed by a loud knocking on my door and the one who knocked didn't seem inclined to take silence for an answer, for he kept on knocking till I opened. I was running away from mankind in my latest 'phase of futility' and didn't feel inclined to see anyone, least of all this man with his flowing white beard and all seeing eyes that seemed to be able to penetrate right down to my soul. This was a capacity that few others I had met seemed to possess. He could, I felt, read my innermost thoughts. I had encountered him on a couple of occasions but never exchanged words for I was hiding away like a tortoise in its shell. "I see things in your eyes that I saw in other eyes so many years ago. I see you are trying to run away, but what from?"

"From Life!" I said. Why should I live in a world where men are either pulling out their own or someone else's hair in jealousy? in anger? in hate? Where men do not realise that it is not necessary to blow out the other person's light to let their own shine? Why? ... I was stopped midsentence by his hand which was thrust in my face "Are you blind" said he that you see only what you want to see? Have you not looked at the other side of life where men show love? Compassion? Brotherhood? Have you not heard that there are none so blind as those who will not see?

Every so often there are idealists born into this world. They seek perfection in everything, run away from all the ugliness of life, wish only to see the good. But tell me, where does one draw the line between good and bad, between ugliness and beauty, for what is good to one is bad to another and what is ugly to one is beautiful to another. Besides there is good and bad in everything and beauty and ugliness in everything. The best way to get through life is to try and see what you feel is good in what you feel is bad and what you consider beauty in what you consider ugly. But my child, what I really want to tell you about is

a man such as I spoke about earlier, a dreamer, an idealist. He was disappointed in men because he expected much from them, and when they fell short of his expectations, he ran away from them all. He was seeking perfection in many things and he was disillusioned time and time again. So he decided to retire from the world that he had always known; he had obligations to fulfill but he did not stay and fulfill them, for he felt that were chains that held him captive and he was trying his best to break all bonds. Nor did he want to make any lasting relationships with men for he felt that they would be further ties that would hinder him. He had been born with ties he was trying hard to shake off and he didn't want to create new ones, for surely that laid open the path to pain. This was not to say that he was callous or hard. On the contrary, he was very compassionate and helped people wherever and whenever he could but he did not linger long in any place to become attached either to the place or the people.

Was he happy? This was a difficult question to answer for at times he was, very, at others he was not. Sometimes he felt so lonely he wanted to die, at others he was quite content with his own company. But happiness in life my child, comes mainly through the warmth of human relationships and these have to be created and nurtured carefully like plants or trees especially at the initial stages; later on they become strong and solid with roots spreading deep into the ground and will endure long."

"But" I said, "it is only some who need human relationships to feel happy. Others find it elsewhere, nature for instance—merely sitting by a river under a tree watching the water flow, admiring the beauty of a sunset or a sunrise, lying on soft, green grass with raindrops falling on one's face—these things can give happiness to some. If it is companionship that is needed, why, he can get it from an animal, say a dog, for they are devoted and faithful—unlike most humans."

"The Wise Man my child, should never run away from life, for it is not by running away but by living in the thick of it and achieving a sense of detachment that one reaches the ultimate goal. One should be able to live amongst men and

yet not get involved, for are we not merely on transit in the world?"

"But" said I, "if one had the choice between wandering, drifting dreaming and living in the thick of life, treading its mazes, why not choose what is uplifting to the Soul? Why not be like a ship without an Anchor?"

"And also a ship without direction?"

"A ship without an anchor is not necessarily a ship without direction. It may flounder a little at first, but will ultimately find its destination"

"But my dear child, listen well, a ship whether it is anchored or not will surely encounter all the difficulties that it has to—whether it be a storm, a current or even a tidal wave. One can never flee from Fate, for it will pursue one as surely as the sun rises every morning. And the man I told you about, the drifter, the dreamer, this is what happened to him. This was in the seventh year of his wandering. One night he was walking through a jungle in the hills when he felt a great weariness overcome him. He sought refuge in a cave in the hillside and when he slept that night, he dreamed, and it was a very significant dream, for he dreamt that he died and the henchmen of death carried him away bound up in chains. When he woke in the morning he was seized with a Great Fear, not the fear of death, as he was not afraid to die, but he felt in the marrow of his bones a chilly, creepy kind of feeling that he was lost, that he was going to be captured. He rose and went his way heavy of heart and weary of limb. He had not gone more than five miles when he spied an old man sitting under a tree by a stream who beckoned to him. So, he went and sat by the old man and in that instant knew that his wondering days were at an end. The old man was a 'seer' of old and he could read the fortunes of men in their palms. He had a wisdom which could not be acquired from books alone and a profound knowledge of human nature having for years dealt with men and their problems. The Old One had no need to look at the palm of the young one to know that his successor had arrived. "I have waited long for you and you have come at last" was all he said.

In the ensuing months he taught him all that need be taught and one

fine day the old one disappeared into the hills to meditate, leaving his humble abode as well as his beautiful daughter in the young one's care. Events beyond his control had brought him to this place and to this position. But the rebellious spirit was still within him, so he felt like running away once more, yet he managed to listen to an inner voice which kept telling him to stay and fulfill his duty. Through the years he had acquired a little more wisdom and a sense of detachment, but he was afraid of getting involved with human beings. So he asked the girl:

*"Will you accept a heart that loves,
But never yields? And burns, but
Never melts? Will you be at ease
With a soul that quivers before the
Tempest, but never surrenders to it?
Will you accept one as a companion
Who makes not slaves, nor will
become*

*One? Will you own me but not
posses?*

*Me, by taking my body and not
my heart?"*

She said "Yes" and so he linked his life with hers. He lived there three score years and ten and helped all manner of men. For the obligations he ran away from, he fulfilled to many fathers and mothers and sisters and brothers and children and children of their children. Life was by no means easy and many were the times when he regretted his decision to stay, but tell me, where in the world is life easy? Yet, he managed to carry on till one day he knew his work was at an end and that he was free, free to do as he wished."

I knew instinctively, without his having to tell me that he was that man and I was panic-stricken, but he said no more, merely walked away. Without volition I followed.

We walked long and hard, he and I, till ultimately he stopped and so did I. He said not a word but pointed in a particular direction and what I saw quite took my breath away. It was a place the likes of which I had never before seen. An island set in a tranquil blue lake. It seemed to be a green island, a mixture of greens in fact—the green of the sea, the softer green of the grass, the deeper green of the leaves—it was a paradise of lush, tropical foliage. The sky was blue with tinges of pink, orange and yellow, dotted with fluffy white clouds. There

were myriads of birds flying around overhead. We got into a rowing boat and rowed towards that enchanted island, an island of dreams where there was none save the two of us. The only noise was the occasional lapping of the ripples on the shore, the twittering of the birds and the droning of the bees. The island proved to be even more enchanting on closer inspection—the trees were burdened with ripe fruit and the gardens were full of colourful and exotic flowers. When we had sat down under a tall and spreading tree he indicated something with his hands and I looked. I realised that the place was not uninhabited as I first had thought. In fact it was teeming with life—some were running around picking all the fruits and flowers they could and storing them all away in baskets, bags and even in the folds of their clothes, others were running hither and thither but not really doing anything, still others were throwing stones at the birds or at each other; some were collecting honey from the flowers, many were digging up the ground with spades and shovels and even their bare hands, trying to unearth I know not what; still others were cutting down branches and some even trees; a few were watering the plants; many were getting into boats and rowing furiously away. Amongst all this hustle and bustle I spied a few, at infrequent intervals sitting down quietly admiring the beauty around them. I wondered how on earth they managed to achieve that sense of peace and tranquility in that *me-lee*. He and I looked at each other wordlessly, words were not necessary.

It was I who rose first this time, but when we reached the shore the boat we came in had disappeared so we had to retrace our steps. When I walked through the island this time, I could see no one and since hunger was gnawing my stomach I reached out and plucked a mango off a tree, it tasted like nectar and the smell of flowers was intoxicating, making me feel light-headed, something like floating on a cloud. Soon I reached a stream and drank of the sweet, fresh water which cleared my head somewhat. Then I walked on till I could walk no more, I had lost my companion way back along the way. Finally, overcome with weariness I fell into a deep sleep.

From Our Readers

When I woke the sun was streaming into my eyes...and the words Joseph Conway were echoing and re-echoing in my ears;

"I would lie here in cons of green lost space,

hearing the tracery of insects and the wantonness of water,

object of a thousand secret stares, butt of creature gossip bruited by the breeze.

A long forgotten hairy ancestor lured me to these woods

I sit here hunched, exploring lice and licking wounds,

Here is my home.

Here would I stay

until decrepitude should lay me rotting in the dark leaf mold.

Here is my home; here would I stay. But day and night the voices come, hovering buzzing, burying their needles deep in me;

A baby whimpers, hungry in a shack in Watts.

-Un vato grita en el barrio, unshooled, uncared-for, unemployed An old man spits his lungs up on the city street.

A Mother weeps among the market shelves.

I would cap my ears, retreat deep in the woods.

But high up in a sycamore a dove intones;

"You, too, You, too, You too," And cocked among the cress a frog erupts;

"Go back, Go back, Go back."

VINODINI

+ + +

LETTERS

Code Of Conduct For Ministers

Sir,

Please permit me to make a few suggestions regarding the proposed code of conduct for Ministers. Cabinet Ministers tend to suffer from overexposure. Their routine includes far too many activities which bring them into the public eye and in particular they make too many speeches. Nor is it only in the form of speeches that top Ministers are now too often heard. They also give too many press conferences. It has become habi-

tual for them to talk to the Press at the Katunayake Airport whenever they leave for or return from an assignation abroad and of all press conferences these are perhaps the least desirable. Off the cuff answers are seldom helpful in matters which call for diplomatic treatment. It is moreover unconstitutional when Parliament is in session for policy statements to be made to the Press before they are made in Parliament. It is a matter of surprise that the National State Assembly has not made an issue of privileges of some of the statements which have been made at the Katunayake Airport.

2. While on official trips abroad, the Ministers should be accommodated at the Official residence of the Head of Mission. There could be a saving on expenditure.

3. The Minister should ensure that his family members do not start or participate in business engaged in supplying goods or services to the Govt or dependent on grant of licence, permits from the Govt. He should keep the Prime Minister informed if a member of his family sets up or joins in the management of any other business.

4. The Minister should not permit members of his family to contract debts of a nature likely to influence him in the discharge of his duties.

5. Ban on attendance at cocktail parties is restricted to only one day—National Day. It is on this day that the Foreign Mission has a get together. Of the balance 364 days there is no restriction on attending private dinner parties which will become the order of the day.

K. Ratnasamy

Canaga Vasa,
Puloly,
Pt. Pedro.
12/1/78

Police Special Branch

Sir,

I was not surprised when I read the allegations made by the Hon. Mr. Montague Jayawickrema in the floor of the NSA regarding the special branch maintaining a file on him branding him as an insurgent.

There are two reasons for this. Firstly the Special Branch has direct dealings and communications

with the Prime Minister bypassing the Inspector General of Police. Secondly, their allocation of money from the government is unlimited. I understand that even the Auditor General never audits their expenditure. As a result of this the Special Branch have their own way and do what they want. Very high rewards are paid to informants, and officers are reimbursed very lavishly for expenses incurred by them. Some officers, make capital of this fund and thereby enrich themselves. This also makes them corrupt and dishonest.

In Australia these Branches in the various states come directly under the Commissioner of Police and not the Premier. The Commissioners are responsible to the Premier and the Govt. for the proper running of these institutions. Recently some of the charges our investigating judge threw at the South Australia Special Branch files are as follows "Scandalously inaccurate," "irrelevant to security," "outrageously unfair to hundreds", perhaps thousands of loyal and worthy citizens." One of these files labelled a Senior Liberal politician as a communist because some decades ago he had been seen near a communist book shop. The Premier of South Australia held the Commissioner of Police responsible for this as the Branch was directly under him and sacked him. Files in my opinion should be opened only on criminals and on those engaged in subversive, terrorist and civil disorders and not on others.

Like in Australia a Private Committee should be appointed to go into these files periodically and satisfy themselves that they are maintained correctly. The members of this committee should not be policemen or party men but outside personalities of high integrity and honesty. The entire Special Branch needs reorganising and I have no doubt that Mr. J. B. Werapitiya, Deputy Defence Minister, will do this in due course.

J. Van Sanden

(Retired DIG
Police, Sri Lanka)

18, Seventh Avenue,
Camprie,
NSW 2194,
Australia.
23.1.78

+

Fast Dwindling Animal Population

Sir,

Your "Letter from the editor" in the *Tribune* of 21.1.78, I hasten to state that I find it hard to find words to express my appreciation and blessings for your admirable exposure.

During the last 23 years I had been losing 10 buffaloes and 5 bulls all working animals. At the prices prevailing today the ten buffaloes would have brought in 6,500/- and the 5 bulls Rs. 5000 if sold. In all Rs. 11,500 was lost. If the animals had not been lost, but working, I find it difficult to assess the gains. For a pensioner, helped to my children, and I get something from my land, 25 acres. I just manage, working daily the mamotty myself with my labourers, to pull through in spite of the water mismanagement. What about the poor dumb-driven peasants in this corner of the Paddiruppu Electorate who lose animals every night and get back the "lost ones" only on payment of half or one-fourth the price of the animals. If there is little delay in the transaction the animals get slaughtered and the meat shared by all the rogues and the Police. Who can dare expose these when doctors get assaulted and even an ASP got murdered by the subordinate staff?

On different occasions I had been in contact with the Vellaveli Police, SP Batticaloa, the Criminal Investigating Branch at Amparai, ASP Kalmunai, our MP Mr. Ganeshalingam and Mrs. M. de Mel (Private Secretary to the Finance Minister) but to no effect. Can you expect the poor, dumb-driven peasants also to do anything?

We despised the rule of the Britisher. During his time could the IGP have retained his position under such tragic circumstances? To go further, could a civilised Govt. have remained in power? It is for you to expose further to find everlasting enduring solutions!

If of course you wish further details, I shall do my best if you refer me to one of your investigators or direct me to go to you.

T. Arulanathan

Middle Class Allotment 21,
Bakiella.

Standardisation

Sir,

The following references to the subject of standardisation raised by S. Sri Kanka (*Tribune*, 28.1.78) as far as I can draw from memory will I think interest your readers.

When the communal bubble burst at the Peradeniya Campus in 1970 in protest against the members of Tamil students who had already qualified to enter the portals of the University, the Minister of Education appointed a commission headed by the Vice-Chancellor, a Sinhalese, to assess the marking of the Tamil papers, as I believe it was felt that the marking of this paper erred on the side of leniency.

The Commission reported that the markings were fair. It was then expected that the Tamil students who had already qualified according to the procedure adopted for decades would be automatically admitted. There was however a delay. I then wrote a letter to the press headlined "THE DELAY IS OMINOUS" and in that letter, published by the *Daily Mirror*, I pointed out that what could not be achieved directly will be achieved indirectly. And exactly as anticipated by me, the Minister of Education introduced the standardised scheme, and which later was amended to "District Quota" which even further penalised the Tamil students. This is one of the reasons why the Tamil youth want separation.

Though the Sinhalese leaders do not miss any opportunity to proclaim from house tops that all the races in Sri Lanka are equal and have equal opportunities and are treated equally, factually it is not so. When it comes to religion it is "Buddhism Foremost", to language it is "Sinhala Only", to heads of departments "Sinhala and preferably Buddhists only". The Sinhalese leaders should realise that proclaiming equality from house-tops is of no avail, it should be written into the Constitution.

In India there are 23 states some of which have only a population of one and a half million people but they have their own Legislatures, and their own languages as official languages and administer all matters (Education, Culture, Lands etc), themselves. The end result is that there are 600 million

people of different cultures, languages, religions, every one of the 600 million people continue to enjoy and exercise the rights they enjoyed at dawn of Independence and every one of the 600 million people enjoy equal rights whatever the religion, language or culture they belong to or region they occupy.

Their outlook is certainly liberal, their Governor Generals and Presidents, have been Hindus or Muslims. In Kerala, where I had the privilege of reading a paper on invitation, at the Malayalam World Conference recently, the Chief Minister is a Christian and the Governor is a Tamil (Madras). One of the key sessions at the conference was presided over by a Catholic Priest.

J. R. Sinnatamby

Deputy Surveyor-General (Retired)
Colombo.
30.1.78

Ministerial Visits

Sir,

I was fortunate to witness and participate in the visits of two ministers of our governments. Once in 1976 when a minister of the then government visited a scheme to ceremonially declare it open. He nominated number of days for this occasion and subsequently cancelled every appointment. At last he visited this scheme on a day for which sufficient publicity was given ever the radio, by hand bills and by public address system.

Buses were arranged to carry public to the place of ceremony. A temporary bus stand was opened. The access road was graded and sprayed with water to control dust. A platform with a roof over was constructed and decorated. Pandals were erected. School children, Hewisi, bands, dancing troops etc. were called in to receive the minister. Various other arrangements were done at considerable expense to the state.

On the day prior to the minister's visit, a special team of security forces came from Colombo, got the area in and around the platform cleared of bushes and other things which could be hiding places.

On the appointed day, the Minister was to arrive at a particular time. A large crowd had gathered and were waiting for the minister and his team.

National Harmony

He came late. Of course, his mode of conveyance was a helicopter. After the usual ministerial ceremonies of those days he left, for a lunch, at state expense.

The other occasion is in 1978. A minister of the present government visited the same scheme for inspection to get first hand information. It has almost a surprise visit. He informed the officers concerned just to be there, to inform him about the scheme and the problems of the officers working here. A particular date and time was fixed, for once, and he kept it. In fact the date was fixed at short notice. No publicity, no pandals and not even garlandings. It was simplicity thereby. With interest he gathered every piece of information, thanked the people gathered there and left. It was the real minister's visit to a scheme.

Witness

Moneragala.
21.1.78

Travails Of A Parent

Sir,

I have placed my young sons in village schools. Recently, as we moved to a new district, I tried to keep my ideals and arranged for the children to attend a village school. I took the boys to school—en route to their classes the Principal was very apologetic and warned me that conditions would be different from urban schools. The younger boy reached his class room (2nd standard) first—a fair size hall, no windows, no pictures and no desks—roughly 100 children (teacherless when we arrived) greeted us. The sight shook me. I left him with a deep sense that to leave him in such an environment was unfair to the lad.

Next day I tried another school. The Principal, *inter alia*, told me most of the Teachers had been transferred that week (opening week of Term), and in a school of 500 she had 4 Teachers only. Under pressure she agreed to take the lad but said I would have to go to the Regional Educational authorities 15 miles distant and have his approval before the boy could be admitted. Finally, she warned me there were 89 children in the 2nd standard and only one

Teacher (sick with cancer) to teach them.

Bryan de Krester

Hendala.

OBLATE CONGRESS 1978

Communique On National Harmony

Sir,

The attached leaf is the Communique released to the Press at the end of the Oblate Fathers' Congress held in Ampitiya, Kandy from the 2nd to the 8th Jan. 1978.

The Steering Committee and the Oblate Fathers and Brothers working all over Sri Lanka will be grateful to you, dear Sir and your paper if you could publish this Communique at your earliest convenience.

Thank you Sir.

The Steering Committee
Fr. Bernard Quintus OMI
Fr. Oswald Firth OMI
Fr. Corsini Perera OMI
Fr. S. M. Selvaratnam OMI
Fr. B. Gonzalez OMI
Fr. Philip de Zilva OMI
Bro. Stanislaus

Goona wardene OMI

De Mazonod House,
40, Farm Road, Mattakkuliya
Colombo 15.
27th January, 1978

N.B. Approved by the Oblate Fathers and Brothers who were at the Oblate Congress in Ampitiya, Kandy on the 8th Jan. 1978. The Day's procedure was Chaired by the President of the Drafting Committee Rev. Fr. Andrew Peter Fernando. OMI.

The Oblate priests and brothers working in Sri Lanka gathered together in Congress at the National Seminary, Ampitiya, Kandy, between the 2nd and 8th January '78 while evaluating on our various programmes of work and planning for the future, we became conscious of the tragic situation of our country, especially on Communal disharmony and violence unleashed in the recent past. Therefore, we have decided to make this statement to the Press.

Being concerned and recognizing that all persons have a right to their own identity, culture and language, we support all measures taken to promote such rights of all persons without discrimination.

Within our own work and in our Oblate Congregation, while respecting the culture of each and every member, it is incumbent on all our members to respect the culture of others. As a practical expression of this concern we urge all our members who are Sinhala to learn Tamil and vice versa and know the culture of other persons with whom they work.

We deplore all racism, discrimination, injustice, denial of fundamental human rights and consequent violence.

The Land Acquisition Act (Chapter 460) as Amended by the Land Acquisition (Amendment) Act No. 28 of 1964 Notice under section 7(1)

Reference No: 25/2/391

It is intended to acquire the land described in the schedule below for a public purpose. For further particulars please see the Gazette of the Republic of Sri Lanka No. 305 of 17/04/1978 (part III).

K. P. R. Gunatilleke
Asst. Govt. Agent,
Kegalle District,

The Kachcheri,
Kegalle,
8th February 1978

SCHEDULE

Situation: Situated in Kaudaulla, Kumbaloluwa Villages, Deyala Dahamunu Pattu, Kinigoda Korale D.R.O.'s Division, in Kegalle District.

Name of Land	Plan & Lot No.
Maragala	Lot 1 in P. P. 25/2/391
do	Lot 2
Moragollahena	Lot 3
Harankawawatta	Lot 4
do	Lot 5
Walawwatta	Lot 6
do	Lot 7
Walawwatta, Kumbaloluwe-	
Walawwatta	Lot 8

At the same time we are conscious of our own past failures and omissions with regard to the issues that have affected the lives of a large number of persons in our country.

We will all commit ourselves to support the efforts to repair the damage done during the course of the past years and notably in the recent past, by sharing in the initiatives for the rehabilitation and reintegration of all whose lives and means of livelihood have been disrupted and whose human dignity has been trampled underfoot.

We endorse all efforts of the people and government of our country to grant full rights to all persons who choose to live and work in our country within the framework of our laws.

At the same time we urge that the rights of minorities be guaranteed effectively in our national Constitution. We pledge to work together to strengthen the unity of Sri Lanka based on justice and equality for all.

FOR ASIA

A Developing Dairy Industry

—An APHCA Feature

APHCA—Animal Production and Health Commission For Asia, The Far East And South-West Pacific. APHCA Secretarial, FAO Regional Office, Bangkok Thailand.

97% of the world's buffaloes, 30% of its cattle, are found in Asia—yet the Region depends heavily on import of milk products from abroad. Now steps are being taken to develop a dairy industry that may, in time, supply all of Asia's needs.

Coffee, tea—or milk? Although drinking fresh milk is not a customary practice anywhere in Asia except in the Indian Sub-Continent, Asians increasingly use milk in one form or another. Statistics show that more and more milk is being imported by the Region annually. In 1976, for example, nearly US \$ 950 million was imported, an increase of US \$ 157 million over the previous year.

If the practice of using milk is growing so rapidly, why the heavy dependence on imports from Europe, Australia and New Zealand? The answers are many; string them all together and they create a formidable myth that Asia, particularly the area called "Monsoon Asia," cannot develop a dairy industry extensive enough to supply the Region's needs.

Obviously, small farmers, operating independently, can produce only a small yield of milk. In fact, most do not milk their cows, either because they have no ready market for the product (it is highly perishable), or because their cattle are not of good quality dairy type. Even if they do have highly productive animals, they may not be able to supply them with sufficient quantities of nutritious feed. The struggling farmer, some-

times landless and ill-educated, often isolated from both neighbours and village centres, may lack not only technical knowledge but also veterinary services, credit facilities to develop and expand production, and encouragement to change his time-worn methods to more productive ends.

In rural Asia, milk is derived not only from cattle but also from buffaloes, goats, sheep, camels, yaks, and even some equine animals such as the donkey. The fact that so much milk must be imported by Asia annually is surprising when one considers that 97% of the world's buffaloes are found in Asia, and 30% of the cattle. Even so, only 13% of the world's milk is produced in the Region.

One solution to the need for greater production is the formation of milk co-operatives. A formidable task, indeed; yet Asian experts believe it can be done. They are determined to shatter the myth that this vast area is unsuited to the development of a sound dairy industry.

A major step in this direction will be the Workshop on Milk

The Land Acquisition Act (chapter 460) as amended by the Land Acquisition (amendment) Act No. 28 of 1964.

Notice under Section (7) I

Reference No: 25/2/472

It is intended to acquire the land described in the schedule below for a public purpose. For further particulars please see the Gazette of the Republic of Sri Lanka No. 305 of 17/02/1978 (part III).

K. P. R. Gunatilleke.

Asst. Government Agent,
Kegalle District.

The Kachcheri,
Kegalle.
8th February 1978.

SCHEDULE

Situation:- Situated in Penihela, Algama Medagama and h. mbugala Villages, Keeraweli Pattu (West), Beligal Korale (West) DRO's Division in Kegalle District.

Name of Land:- Penihela watta
Plan No. Lot No

P.P. කැ 738	1
P.P. කැ 877	1, 2, 3
P.P. කැ 1304	1, 2, 3
P.P. කැ 1311	1, 2, 3, 4

My No. EA/4/258

The Land Acquisition Act (chapter 460) as amended by the Land Acquisition (amendment) Act, No. 28 of 1964.

Notice under Section 7

It is intended to acquire the land described below for a public purpose. For further particulars please see the Gazette of the Republic of Sri Lanka, No. 305 (Part iii) of 17/2/78.

Situation	Name of land	Lots & Plan No.
Village of Moragalla,	(1) Paratolla-watta,	1-4 in P.P.K.
DRO's Division of Kalutara,	(2) Gammadu-wawatta,	1510
tara Tota-	(3) Hunukotumune South wawatta alias Kalutara Dis- Alensundara- rict in Wes- gewatta	
tern Province	(4) Wellawatta alias Karandagawatta	

(N. U. Yasapala)

Acquiring Officer, and

Assistant Government Agent,
Kalutara District.Kalutara Kachcheri,
2nd February, 1978

Co-operatives, to be held in Anand, India, March 6-12 of this year. Jointly sponsored by APHCA (The Animal Production and Health Commission for Asia, the Far East and South-West Pacific) and the Indian National Dairy Development Board, it will be the first of several workshops on dairy development to be held in 1978. (Two more will be held in Anand; others in Malaysia, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka). Experts from the 12 member countries will gather to discuss methods of developing co-operative dairy programmes.

A fine example for them all to observe will be close at hand: the milk-marketing co-operative known as AMUL, located in Anand. The name stands for the Kaira District Co-operative Milk Producers' Union Ltd., representing over 1000 villages covering about 2500 square miles.

The complexity of uniting farmers so widely scattered, many with just one or two heads of cattle, into a meaningful co-operative seems impossible; or desperately discouraging at best. The fact it has been done, and that the Anand Co-operative now ser-

ves as a shining example for visitors from all over the world, demonstrates how much can be accomplished by foresight, careful planning, and determined leadership.

The co-operative marketing system began operation in 1948, when 250 litres of milk from just two villages was handled; now the total surpasses 800,000 litres, from more than 800 villages. Processing is done in a central plant, and not only fluid milk but also powdered milk, butter, cheese, baby food, and other dairy products are produced under the AMUL label.

The Co-operative is a federation of 846 primary societies. Milk is collected twice daily at each, and the farmers are paid in cash. Grading of the milk is done at the local level. Before the central plant was set up in 1955, the farmers often found themselves with a surplus of milk in the winter, as buffaloes yield 2½ times as much during that period as in summer months. Now the excess is purchased and converted into other products. Farmers can not only count on a regular income, but members of the Union also receive a share of the Co-operative profits at the end of the year, in proportion to the value of the milk they have supplied.

Perhaps even more important is the fact that farmers need no longer feel helpless about problems that arise in their daily lives. First aid veterinary centres have been set up in about 640 villages, so help is close at hand. An animal health and hygiene programme, maintained by a system of 19 mobile dispensaries and a trained veterinary staff, makes rotational visits to the villages. A nutritious and balanced feed concentrate has been produced and is available to the farmers at fairly stable prices. In addition, AMUL runs the largest single artificial insemination station in the whole of Asia: improvement of breed by an outstanding breeding bull is yet another benefit for the farmer.

Changes of another kind have also enriched life for the farmer. Co-operative societies have made financial contributions toward construction of village schools, libraries, recreational centres and water supply systems. Thus the AMUL venture has wrought dramatic results, reaching far beyond its initial aims and into the very fabric

of village life.

The lessons of this successful venture will be closely studied by the delegates to the Workshop on Milk Co-operatives. There will be an exchange of experience among participants on Asia's dairy situation, and action will be formulated to develop similar programmes in other parts of the Asian region. Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Thailand have already demonstrated that there are vast potentials for the dairy industry, provided the necessary expertise and institutional back-up is made available.

Shattering myths is a slow business. Perhaps, however, in the next decade or so, the myth of Asia's inability to develop a viable dairy industry will begin to die. Then, when someone asks "Coffee, tea, or Milk?" we may find that the last is a local product—fresh from a neighbourhood co-operative.

—APHCA

The Land Acquisition Act. (Chapter 460) As Amended By The Land Acquisition (Amendment) Act No. 28 of 1964 - Notice Under Section 7 (1)

Reference No. 25/2/406

It is intended to acquire the land described in the schedule below for a public purpose. For further particulars please see the Gazette of the public of Sri Lanka, No. 305 of 17/02/1978. (part III)

K. P. R. Gunatilleke

Asst. Government Agent, Kegalle District.

The Kachchery, Kegalle, 8th February 1978

SCHEDULE

Name of Land	Situation	Plan & Lot No.
Boraluwehena alias Yalupotha and Thanipperu kalawwehena.	Situated in Uduwewala Village, Egoda-pattu, Galboda Korale East D.R.O.'s Division in Kegalle District.	4 & 5 in P.Plan No. 761

LETTER

Impersonation

Sir,

Hired Horses is the word people at Trinco have coined for persons who come from outstations to impersonate for the above examination for a very high fees.

Photos and identity cards have been exchanged with the connivance of postal authorities and re-stamped. Even the attesting of signatures have been done for false signatures. Imposters appeared for examination at a centre where the applicant is not known.

I understand this happened in Trincomalee and possibly at other places too.

This will reduce the examination to a farce and discourage the new entrants to this exam while a real dud will carry a certificate with good results.

I hope you will make further inquiries and if there is any truth in this matter stop repetition of this.

Disappointed Parent
Trincomalee.

Confidentially

Police And The Press

IS IT NOT AN ENCOURAGING SIGN that the *Sun* group should take up the question of press freedom and the rights of journalists in a big way? That it, so far, has been, quite rightly, mainly concerned about the denials of rights to journalists of the *Sun* group? That the time has come for the *Sun-Dawasa* group to take the lead in the matter of the Rights and Freedoms of the Fourth Estate in Sri Lanka? That it should take the initiative to convene a conference of all those interested in, concerned about and involved in the questions relating to the freedom of the press? That such a conference should formulate a Charter for the Press, for Proprietors, Owners, Editors, Reporters, Photographers, Cartoonists, Columnists, Commentators, Printers, etc etc. in the private as well as the public sectors? That unless this is done bureaucrats will act in the most uncertain, unprincipled and quixotic manner as witnessed during the ceremonies for the installation of the first elected executive President of the Republic of Sri Lanka? That Mr. J. R. Jayawardene had read the protest on the front page of the *Sun* of February 4 regarding the refusal of more than one single solitary pass for the many papers of the *Sun* group and that he had taken steps to set matters right? That the *Daily Mirror* which had withheld such a protest on the morning of February 4, (not wanting to strike a "discordant" note on a historic date), published a similar complaint in the *Sunday Times* of February 5? That the *Sun* in its issue of February 6 published a protest against the boorish and high-handed conduct of a police officer of gazetted rank who had not only "hounded out" a press photographer from the area close to the NSA on the morning of February 4 but had also "confiscated" the accreditation card issued to him by the newspaper? That the punishment meted out to the journalist was that the "confiscated" card would be kept

in the Colombo North ASP's office until "next week" when the photographer could call for it—at which time a policeman would undoubtedly deliver a verbal reprimand, a sermon and a warning to the journalist before returning the card? That in the days of the Emergency the photographer concerned would have been thrashed to an inch of his life for "talking back" to a gazetted officer who had the power to detain him indefinitely? That when the *Sun* appealed to a police higher up he had claimed that he was "aware of the incident" and was arrogantly boorish enough to want someone to call at the office to collect the card "on Tuesday"? That this higher-up cop, Commissioner Vamadevan, only cut down the number of days the card would be detained—from a vague "week" to "Tuesday"? That bossman Vamadevan showed no remorse or regret that one of his officers had committed a gross illegality by taking the law into his hands and "confiscating" the accreditation card? That the Emergency-era type of excuse Vamadevan thereafter trotted out for the "hounding" out of the photographer and pinching his accreditation card (even if admitted temporarily) was that the photographer was "security risk" and that "his men" did not want to "take any chances"? That it is surprising that a senior police officer should indulge in such an excuse today? That such an excuse may have had difficulties of getting by even in the Felixian age of Emergency and Police Raj? That the IGP should ask Vamadevan for the reasons why the gazetted officer had thought that the Photographer was a "security risk"? That it may be that the police "thought" that the telephoto lens was capable of "shooting" great distances?

That if the police had reasons for thinking that the photographer, well-known Dunstan Wickremaratne, was a "security risk", the police should have taken him into custody and not taken only his accreditation card into custody? That Vamadevan should be asked to substantiate his charge that he held the view that the photographer, Dunstan Wickremaratne, was a "security risk"? That it is a serious matter for a senior police officer to say that a citizen of this country was a "security risk" without having *prima facie* evi-

dence to support that charge? That if the photographer had a hidden revolver under his armpit with a silencer on it, then the gazetted officer and Vamadevan can claim that they had reasons to believe that the photographer was a "security risk"? That the *Sun* had, thereafter, to go up to DIG Lawrence (Metropolitan Range) who had then not only directed the card to be returned immediately to the *Sun* offices but had also expressed regret that it should have been confiscated? That more serious than the "confiscation" of the card was the allegation made by officer Vamadevan that the photographer ("in his view") was a "security risk"? That it is time that the Government, the IGP and everybody else takes up the question of the current attempt by some policemen to justify illegal action under cover of the smokescreen entitled "security risk"? That whilst police had been willing to help cattle-thieves and meat-hunters by persuading victimised cattle owners to accept a compensation for the serious crime of shooting and stealing other people's property, they want to ride roughshod over law-abiding citizens going about lawful business by "hounding them out" from public places (where they have every right to be) on the excuse that they are "security risks"? That it was suggested in the *Tribune* sometime ago that the reform of the police can start only when all officers below the rank of SPs (Grade one) are deprived of private ("official") cars and are made (as in other countries) to travel in public transport? That for official work they can use station-based jeeps and vehicles? That the 404s and 504s in which officers, from ASPs upwards, now rush around, has made them see a "security risk" in every citizen whose nose they do not like or whose demeanour disturbs them? That the *Sun* group is powerful enough to go up to the DIG or the IGP or even the President to set right a wrong committed by a gazetted police officer? That the ordinary citizen does not have such "pull" or "contact" to obtain quick results? That a written petition will take months before a DIG takes notice of it—if at all!

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