

TRIBUNE

CEYLON NEWS REVIEW

Vol I

COLOMBO, SATURDAY, MAY 8, 1954

No. 2

EX-PREMIER OBJECTS TO SECRETS BILL

At the Government Parliamentary Group meeting held early this week, ex-Premier Mr. Dudley Senanayake objected to certain clauses in the Official Secrets Bill which the Government hopes to place before Parliament shortly. In particular, he is stated to have objected to the provision which casts the burden of proof on the accused. He is also said to have insisted that this Official Secrets Bill should be made applicable only in times of war. He urged the Prime Minister to reconsider the Bill with his Cabinet once again.

Mr. Dudley Senanayake, it is believed, also pointed out that the Bill was not drafted on the same lines as the British Official Secrets Act, and is said to have declared that what was good for Britain was more than good enough for us, especially because our judicial system and jurisprudence was largely derived from that country.

The draft Official Secrets Bill of Sir John Kotelawela, unfortunately, is modelled on the lines of witch-hunting McCarthy-inspired enactments in the United States. Under the provisions of the Kotelawela Bill "it shall not be necessary to show that the accused person was guilty of any particular act tending to show a purpose prejudicial to the safety or interest of the state, and, notwithstanding that no such act is proved against him, he may be convicted if, from the circumstances of the case,

or his conduct, or his known character is proved, it appears that his purpose was prejudicial to the safety or interest of the State."

A great many offences are listed in the Bill, and persons found guilty will be liable to 14 years imprisonment or to a fine of Rs. 20,000 or both.

This Bill violates every known tenet of British jurisprudence,



wants bill reconsidered

and militates against every accepted principle of democratic rights. In the hands of an unscrupulous executive, this Bill will provide opportunities for a fascist regime where every political opponent, from the mildest liberal to a revolutionary Socialist can be cast into prison on mere suspicion or on the whims of a person in authority.

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THREAT TO DEMOCRACY

At a public meeting held in the Town Hall last Sunday, under the auspices of an organisation with the grandiose name of Tri Sinhala, the most rabid communalist and racial-hatred inciting speeches were made. The Tri Sinhala claims that Ceylon should be made safe for the Sinhalese. The organisation, it would appear, want all others in this island to be thrown out, and their particular venom seems to be directed against the Tamils, both Indian and Jaffna. Ceylon Muslims and Burghers too are a menace who should be removed, according to Tri Sinhala.

When this openly fascist organisation reared its head a few months ago, it took cover under the cloak of an anti-Indian pro-Kandyanery. Certain interested parties even made use of the Tri Sinhala agitation, which is bolstered up by certain sections of the press, for purposes of political bargaining with Mr. Nehru over the

Indo-Ceylon problem.

The Tri Sinhala agitation is not merely a matter of anti-Indian or anti Jaffna Tamil problem. It has much wider implications. It is a threat to democracy and a threat to the democratic way of life. It is a threat to the communal harmony that is prevailing in this country.

The Tri Sinhala is seeking to set up a pseudo-military organisation. Military titles and military uniforms are being offered to likely members. The military titles have a swabasha flavour about them. It is not known what the uniform looks like.

The central theme of their propaganda seems to be that there is a grand conspiracy conceived by the Jaffna Tamils to "take over the country" with the aid of Indian Tamils. Having conjured up this imaginary bogey of a Tamil conspiracy, Tri Sinhala want the Sinhalese to drive the Tamils and others out of island.

The Government must take steps to nip this manifestation

of fascism in the bud. Further, the public too must make it clear that Ceylon will not tolerate this threat to the democratic way of life.

EX-PREMIER OBJECTS

Continued from Page 1

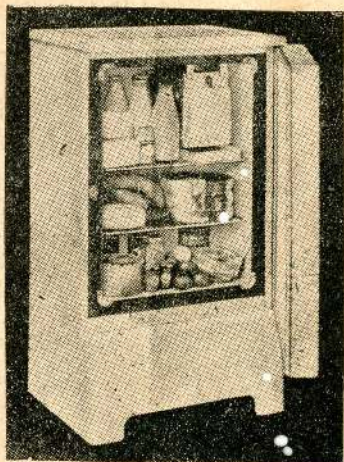
This Bill is to come up for discussion at the Government Parliamentary Party again and it is expected that a great many members of the U. N. P. will follow Mr. Dudley Senanayake's lead in wanting the Bill re-drafted on the British model and making it applicable only in times of war.

Such pressure, it is hoped, will persuade Sir John Kotalawela that he has been badly advised in bringing up this Bill in this form. If he persists in wanting it without fundamental changes, he will be inviting opposition from all thinking sections in the U. N. P. as well as in all other parties and groups in this island.



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CEYLON DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS

C. I. C. CHANGES NAME

The Fourteenth Session of the Ceylon Indian Congress held at Gampola on the April 30 and May 1 is significant for a number of reasons.

This political organisation, which is numerically the biggest in Ceylon having 169, 081 dues-paying members this year, has decided to call itself the Ceylon Democratic Congress. Though members of other communities besides Ceylon Indians were entitled to membership for sometime now, this fact was not known. With this change of name, the organisation assumes a broader and more comprehensive role.

This change of name, it would appear, is not a mere superficial camouflage. Enquiries reveal that this change was debated within the organisation for two years now. Moreover, the trend of speeches of its leaders for sometime now indicated that some change of this kind was being contemplated.

New Approach

The organisation has also adopted a new flag. Until this, the C. I. C. used the flag of the Indian National Congress with the spinning wheel on the tricolour of orange white and green. The new flag of the C. D. C. has the same tricolour (without the spinning wheel) but with a vertical strip of blue with a five-pointed star in red at the pole end.

Thirdly, the speeches made and resolutions passed at this Session all point to the fact that a new political approach has crystallised among the members of this organisation and therefore the Ceylon Indian community.

It must be stated that the charge has often been made, and not without justification, that the C. I. C. had not evolved definite political policies and attitudes in regard to the position of the Ceylon Indian community in the island. This

In this article our Staff Correspondent draws attention to an important political development. In a future article, the aims, objects and the constitution of the CDC will be examined.

The Editor invites correspondence and comments from readers on the vexed problem of the Ceylon Indians.

cannot now be said of the C. D. C. There are, however, sceptics who are uncertain how far this policy would be put into practice.

Unemployment

What are the more important features of the new political line of the C. D. C.? What do they really amount to?

The new political approach is based on an analysis of what is termed the "anti-Indian cry". To quote from the report adopted at this session:

"It must be recalled that the first time the cry against the Indians in Ceylon was raised was in the year in 1934 when the world depression that started in 1931-32 resulted in widespread unemployment in the Island.

"The attempt to squeeze out persons of Indian origin from employment in Ceylon that started in 1934 went on till war started in 1939-40 when fuller employment was possible owing to the war effort. During the war years, when labour was scarce, there was no 'Indian question' as such. But as soon as the war was over, and employment connected with the war effort ceased the 'Indian question' once again reared its head.

And the report adds:

"There is also no doubt that this attitude to the Ceylon Indians is a short-sighted policy. Whether it is Sinhalese, or Ceylon Indians or Ceylon Tamils or Muslim or Burghers who are out of employment the responsibility is ultimately that of the Ceylon Government. Persons of Indian origin now in Ceylon who have made this country their home and have nowhere to go in India will remain here whether they have employment or not, and they will be a charge on the Government as much as anyone else. The fact that they do not have a vote or civic rights makes their position a little unenviable, but it does not make the responsibility of the Government any less serious.

"For the Ceylon Government, therefore, the throwing out of Ceylon Indians from employment would have use and meaning only if they are at the same time repatriated to India.

"It is the consciousness of this fact that has perhaps led to a serious attempt on the part of the Ceylon Government to seek a solution of the Ceylon Indian problem in Ceylon with the Government of India. The refusal of India to meekly accept all those whom Ceylon officialdom choose to brand and deport as 'illegal immigrants' also made it clear that there was no unilateral solution to this problem.

It is in this background and context that the problem of the Ceylon Indians is being viewed by the C. D. C.

Government Responsible

Both in the report and in the speech of the President, the blame for the economic plight of the island is laid at the door of the Ceylon Government.

Said Mr. Thondaman: "One does not need to be an economic pundit to say that Ceylon finds itself in this economic plight because Government has not evolved a

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MAY DAY AND MATA HARIS

If India has been amused at Pakistan Premier Mohamed Ali's Command Performance at Colombo, she has been highly disturbed at the Karachi-Colombo axis in bowing to the American "request" to allowing their death carrying Globe-masters to Saigon to perpetuate French rule over a section of Asian people.

Though Colombo's lame explanation of treating the death-cargo as any other normal merchandise has not been able to fool even the most credulous, Karachi's attempt to muzzle Parliamentarians raise the question in the Pakistan Parliament was understandable.

The Colombo Conference has helped, in the eyes of the diplomatic observers in New Delhi, reveal an important sinister aspect to newly freed South East Asian hitherto European directed politics. It reveals beyond a shred

of reasonable doubt that there are vulnerable points in the structure of the Asian solidarity which could be be ripped at some one else's bidding.

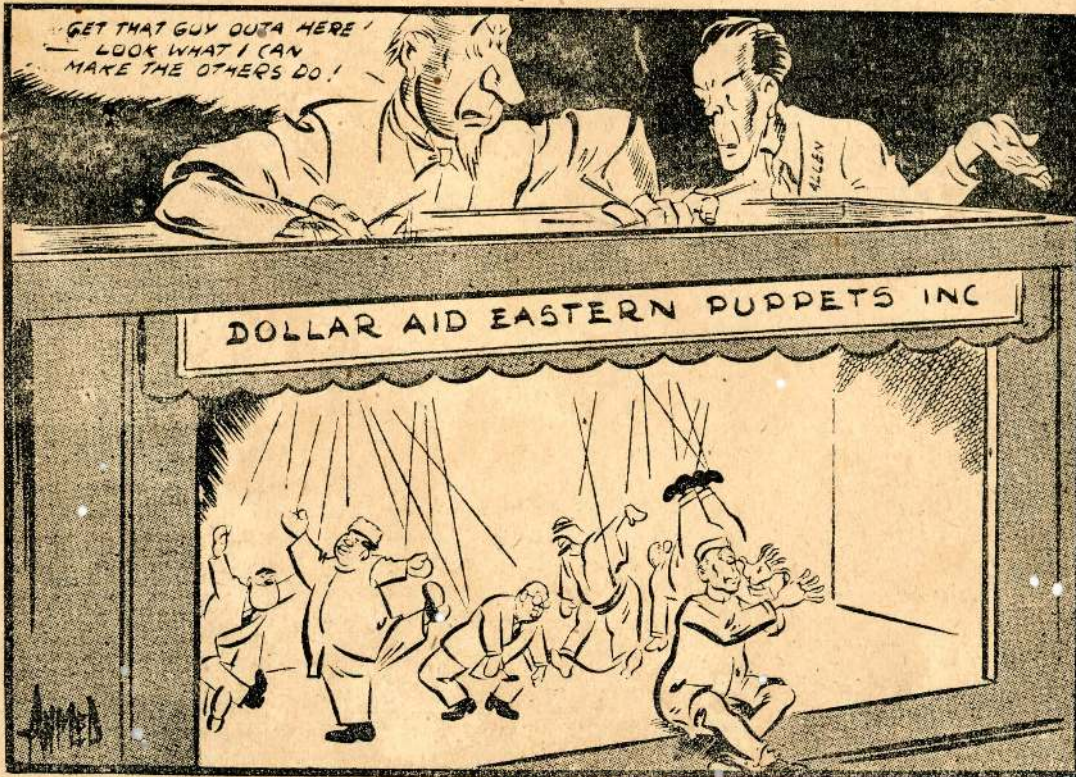
G. D. Birla's pro-government

Hindustan Times carries a revealing and significant cartoon to this effect which displays pithily a puppet dance drama under Uncle Sam's "Dollar Aid Eastern Puppets Inc".

May Day

On May 1 millions of Indian workers came out in colourful mirthy processions all over the country in which State Ministers gaily participated. From early in the morning the processions began parading the streets of Industrial cities; in the evenings they terminated with mammoth meetings all over. In New Delhi an interesting episode took place on this day in which Soviet Embassy was made a target. Let the politically influential columnist of

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SPOILING THE SHOW

With kind permission of Hindustan Times

PEACE IN ASIA

JOHN FOSTER DULLES WARNED THAT ASIANS WILL NOT FIGHT ASIANS

by A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

After all the contrary headlines in the Ceylon papers, and after the stupendous efforts of Mohamed Ali to make the deliberations futile, the South East Asian Premiers succeeded in issuing a communique setting out the matters on which they were agreed.

Non-Involvement

This communique, if it does not achieve anything else, has made it clear to the rest of the world, that countries in this region want peace and that they were unshakeable in their determination to keep out of the cold and hot war between the two blocs.

The *Ceylon Observer* discovered too late that an American correspondent was anxious to dub the Conference a failure even after some measure of success had been achieved. Lake House took umbrage when the Indian weekly *Blitz* publicised a story from its New Delhi correspondent on 17-4-54 that the Americans were out to "scuttle" the Colombo Conference.

Foreign Agent

Mr. Philip Deane's talk over Radio Ceylon on Sunday May 2, finally convinced the *Observer* that this gentleman, who has been in Colombo for sometime doing his best to "scuttle" the conference through newspapers reports and comments, that he was a (to quote from its editorial) one of "the contumacious agents of Western Imperialism and Communism to give the impression to the world that Asian parleys were doomed to failure."

The editorial continued: "His (Mr. Philip Deane's) views on the Asian Prime Minister's Conference were to be expected: he watched

the progress of the talks through a bedroom window of the house of the American Embassy's public relations officer, who was his host during the conference."

Differences Exaggerated

Mr. Philip Deane, it is said, was very close to Mr. Mohamed Ali right through the conference, and all the news leakages which exaggerated the differences between the Premiers are now believed to have originated from this correspondent.

Differences there were, but not to the extent made out in certain papers. The Indonesian Premier, in his farewell talk over Radio Ceylon, mentioned that the position of Indonesia had been mis-stated or inadequately stated quite often during the deliberations in press reports.

It was also, it is learnt, on the insistence of India and Indonesia that the deliberations went on to Saturday and Sunday. Both these countries together with Ceylon were extremely anxious that something concrete should emerge from the conference. Burma seems to have been lukewarm about everything, but finally in spite of the fact that her pet aid scheme was not discussed is believed to have insisted on agreement on some points at least.

Americans Frustrated

There is no doubt that the Americans feel frustrated about the outcome of the Colombo talks. For months now, the Americans were building up a big propaganda campaign to persuade the South East Asian Premiers to turn this region into a *third area* to lead a crusade against communism (meaning the participation in a war for the conquest of mainland of China).

Certain newspapers in Ceylon also contributed towards this campaign by shouting about this third area (of *peace*, the yankee way) from the house-tops day in and day out.

The South East Asia Premiers have made clear that they will have none of this regional bloc and this gives the death-blow to the Dulles plan for a SEATO. They have declared that they wish to operate through the U.N.O.

The Premiers have also indicated that they desire peace in Indo-China by negotiations between the Viet Minh and others in the dispute. This goes contrary to the American State Department line that the Viet Minh should be wiped out and they were not a party fit enough for a conference table.

Recognition of Red China

In wanting full international recognition for Red China, the South East Asian Premiers have cut the ground under the feet of the Dulles' Far Eastern policy of treating Peoples' China as an outlaw.

The Americans wanted this conference to start a crusade against Communism. This has turned out to be a resolution against colonialism, and an exchange of views on what communism really is together with a pious re-affirmation of faith in democratic institutions and a warning to *external* communists and anti-communists to keep off Asia. By this word *external* the communique gives the impression, that the Premiers envisage that the democratic freedom for persons to join national communist parties is not curtailed.

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OURSELVES

To interpret events in the context of Asian and world politics, to reveal the facts behind the complex news of the tumultuous days in which we live, and to explain how they affect the interests of the ordinary people and taxpayers in Ceylon, will be the primary function of this paper. Before us, will also be the constant objective of helping to build an economically independent and politically democratic Ceylon which will participate in the bigger task of creating a better world that will banish war and secure peace.

These aims, we believe, can be achieved by scrupulous adherence, in letter and in spirit, to the fundamental human rights embodied in the Charter on which the United Nations Organisation rests. We are convinced that it is practicable and necessary that negotiation should replace threat and aggression in international relations and that disputes should be solved through discussion at conferences and not by resort to war.

Countries in Asia, awakening to new freedom after decades of colonial subjugation, have an unenviable role to play in the increasing conflict between the so-called Western bloc and the Socialist group. We must emphasise that Asiatic countries should disassociate themselves from the cold war between the West and the East, and that they should strive through friendly neutrality to both blocs to reduce tension, to remove suspicion, and do everything possible to establish friendly relations between the contending groups to pave the way for stable international peace.

In national affairs, this paper

will zealously guard the fundamental rights and democratic civil liberties of the individual, of whatever creed, caste or race, who has made this country his home and who is prepared to work for its betterment and prosperity. Only a contented community, free of racial rancour, unhampered by political or economic disabilities weighing down under-privileged sections, can constitute a proper basis for genuine economic reconstruction.

A better and happier Ceylon can emerge only through the combined efforts of all sections and groups of people inhabiting this country. We will untiringly promote all efforts directed towards the building of a truly free democracy in this island. For this purpose, we will measure all action, political and social, with the yardstick of national interest. We will support Government in all its endeavours that tend to promote the common weal; and we will not hesitate to criticise it when its actions adversely affect the people. In like manner, we will examine the policies and practices of the Opposition and other political parties. Every question will be discussed on its own merits and tested in the crucible of public good.

Conscious of our responsibilities, we will do the utmost we can to discharge the obligations a newspaper owes to the reading public. From our readers, we expect guidance, correction and encouragement so that we might be the better able to analyse, discuss, comment, criticise or support, as objectively and impartially as is humanly possible, matters and events of importance and consequence.

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* *The Views and Comments expressed by our Correspondents and Contributors are not necessarily those of the paper.*

* *Contributions from readers are welcome. As far as possible, Mss. should be type-written, double-spaced, and a stamped envelope should be enclosed for the return of Mss. not accepted for publication.*

SICK MAN

The *Times of Ceylon* can be said to be the Catholic paper of Ceylon. Mr. N.S.O. Mendis, Mr. Cyril Martyn and Mr. L. E. J. Fernando, three of the Directors are Catholics. The Editor, the Chief Assistant Editor, the Chief Sub-Editor and all the other Editorial staff are Catholics or Burghers or both. No Tamil Hindu or Sinhalese Buddhist has a place on the staff. It is essentially a paper written by Burghers, edited by Burghers for Burghers. That is why the circulation has not moved up from around the 20,000 mark!

Although now and then it gets scoops, as the recent Asian Premier's Conference decisions or the Pact with China, in its day to day news, it is very weak. It does not seem to care what news it misses. Nobody seems care. It does not seem to care in what people of the country are interested. Nobody seems to care.

It seems to be a paper which has no driving power behind it. It runs itself to ruin.

The owner of *Times of Ceylon* Ltd. is Mr. Sangarapillai, one of the most remarkable men in Ceylon. A simple adventurous Hindu, he takes risks and trusts people who run the paper for him. All the Directors who control the paper have no financial interests. This explains, to a great extent, why the *Times* is the sick man of Ceylon newspapers.

Neither fish nor fowl

The *Observer* is neither fish nor fowl. Because Tarzi Vitachy, who has a touch MacCarthy in him, is the new Editor of the paper, the *Observer* has been called by a wisecracker the *nit-vit-tachism* of Ceylon journalism. This, to a certain extent, does explain what the *Observer* is in its make-up and features. It goes for crime in a heavy way-in fact, so heavily, that within the past ten years it has published about the same series of famous English trials three times and in different guises. These fam-

ous trials have now become a great trial for the Ceylonese.

The *Virakesari* is the most popular of the Tamil papers. The *Thinakaran*, the Lake House Tamil paper, has been always suspect among the Tamils as it is controlled by a group of Sinhalese believed to be not sympathetic to the Tamils.

All these papers are printed on Rotary machines except the *Sinhala Jatiya*.



Jana

The recent birth of *Jana* the monthly "news magazine of Resurgent Asia and Africa" is noteworthy event in the history of journalism in Ceylon. It is a high class journal which, it would appear, has eaten up a good deal of money.

Anyway, the swell lunch given to inaugurate it at Galle Face Hotel did eat up more than the usual amount of money.

OF CEYLON

Well printed, well edited, full of good material, Lake House should pat its back in bringing this journal into the world.

One thing the magazine shows more than clearly. The Ceylon journalist is the Ape No. 1. of the world! *Jana* is modelled on *Time* and copies it to such perfection that even that meaningless top black line is there on every page.

This is the Ceylon version of coco cola journalism at its best.

Britain, sometime ago, tried this Yankee journalism in *News Review*. It was given up after a couple of years and a loss of a good tidy sum.

What does not succeed in Britain might thrive in Asia, one cannot tell. We in Ceylon have more Americanism among us than Britons.

Anyway, *Jana* shows what admirers of the Americans Lake House is.

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Comment

Globe Masters ... Indo-China

Bao Dai's ... Communism

The Ceylon Government

seems determined to allow more Yankee globe-masters to land and re-fuel at Katunayake. This decision was announced officially, and the Prime Minister himself took the responsibility for it.

That after all the pious declarations at the Premiers' Conference about colonialism, independence, neutrality, cease-fire and peace, this decision to allow French troops to have facilities in Ceylon is indefensible. It would appear that the Ceylon Government is seeking to take cover under a quibble that they are entitled to do this until a cease-fire in Indo-China is a fact. Does it not realise that if more and more troops are poured in by one side, the cease-fire would become more difficult?

And whom are the French and the Americans backing in Indo-China? And why are they unable to make any headway? Let the *Times of Ceylon* give the reason. In an editorial on April 16, it stated: "But why has Ho Chi-minh so strong a following in Indo-China? It is not that the population are pro-communist. They are not. Half of Ho Chi-minh's support comes from nationalists who want the end of French colonialism, and a good portion of the remainder detest Bao Dai, the puppet of the West. The Foreign News Editor of *Time* last week cabled that very few people have a good word for this playboy. Most observers, he reports, say that 'he will not give necessary power to politicians who would be strong enough to rally the country, but prefers to balance off syncophantic, corrupt and bickering politicians while relying on the U.S. and France to save his skin. He hunts big game while villages burn'. It is no more astonishing that communists are daily gaining influence in Indo-China than it was surprising that Chiang-Kai-shek in China and Syngman Rhee in

Korea (both backed by the West) made the populace rally to the Communists."

And the Laniel Government which is carrying on this war against the people of Indo-China is tottering because the French nation seems tired of this war and wants an immediate cessation of hostilities.

All the Opposition Parties in Ceylon including the S. L. F. P. have declared their opposition to permitting American globemasters using Ceylon airfields whilst carrying troops. There are many within the U. N. P. who feel the same way. They have not forgotten that the late Mr D. S. Senanayake refused permission to the Dutch to carry troops and arms to Indonesia. All these persons, who feel that Ceylon should be neutral in spirit as well as the letter of its declared foreign policy, should make the weight of their opinion felt without delay.

COMMUNISM

Sir John Kotelawela has stated that he has allowed these globe-masters to land in Ceylon because they are taking troops to fight "communism". He does not seem in the least concerned that Premier Nehru and Premier U Nu, who have refused such permission, do not consider the war in Indo-China as a war against "communism". On the other hand, they seem to regard it as a war to perpetuate French colonialism.

Sir John is undoubtedly entitled to his opinion and he has invited Nehru and U Nu to follow his example after considering the weighty reasons he has given for his action.

It is unfortunate that the only political philosophy that Sir John has evolved is an obsession against "communism" and an admiration for the Yankee way of fighting it. He seems to think that the best way of fighting unemployment, poverty and all other ills in Cey-

lon is by starting a crusade against "communism". If he will only pause to consider the lessons of history, and recent history at that, he will find that the method he seems determined to follow is the surest way of inviting communism.

Communism, or any other ideology for a matter of that, cannot be defeated by repressive legislation. Another ideology, which is superior and more concretely practicable, can alone achieve the purpose. If Sir John desires to wipe out communism, and there are many who sincerely feel that it should be, the best manner in which he can do this is to set out a way of life more appealing than communism and, with its aid liquidate, unemployment, poverty and ill-health and make the lives of people happier.

"The lesson of communist expansion," declared the *Times of Ceylon* in an editorial on April 30, "is that military operations after communism has virtually been invited in through misgovernment and low standards of living, are a disastrous substitute for the proper channelling of nationalist aspirations and decent living standards in areas which have too long been subject to colonial exploitation or feudal banditry. If America and other Western Powers would, in good time, devote a little more energy towards helping Asia attain these objectives (instead of pouring in billions of dollars to prop up corrupt and futile regimes like those of Chiang, Rhee and Bao Dai) then perhaps genuine democracy in the East could look to the future with a trifle more confidence."

Sir John should take the meaning of these words to heart. If, however, he persists in his present ill-advised repressive policies, he will only spell disaster for the democratic way of life about which he speaks so much.

THREE VIEWS

ON



With kind permission of Shankar's Weekly

REBUKE

Writing editorially under the captain "Wild Talks" the *Pakistan Times of Lahore* referred to Mr. Ali's reported statement at the Colombo Conference that he would prefer colonialism to Communism and that Communism was more dangerous than the hydrogen bomb and said "the striking comparison must have turned Senator McCarthy green for even this gallant crusader has not yet been able to conjure up a more frightening picture of the cause of his nightmares.

"But the people as whose sockeman

Mr. Mohammed Ali chose to indulge in this shockingly wild talk will feel deeply smitten with a sense of horror.

PEOPLE'S RIGHT

The Daily added: "There could be no greater mockery of our People's love of freedom than to presume that they should countenance the perpetuation of imperialist rule anywhere in the name of the suppression of Communism; it is an insult to their intelligence to suppose that they will support the preposterous idea that an enslaved people forfeit their right to freedom the moment they decide to follow a

MOHAMED

ALI

HIS

MASTER'S VOICE

The following extract from is Ariel's column in the Times of India of May 2. Ariel is believed to be the pen-name of the well-known journalist Frank Moraes.

"Pakistan's Mohamed Ali is busy coking a multitude of snooks at India. The weight of American aid presses heavily on his shoulders. Mohamed Ali has many attractive qualities. He is genial, friendly with a ready smile and a warm handshake. But Washington's policies today dominate Karachi and, at Colombo, Mohamed Ali meekly records his master's voice. Pakistan it would seem is the first casualty in the cold war in southeast Asia. That is a pity, for left to themselves both Pakistan and Mohamed Ali would follow the Asian path. If the Colombo Conference ends with no positive decisions, Mohamed Ali must bear a heavy share of the responsibility. Doubtless he believes that the plaudits of Washington will drown the protests of Asia. We can only wait and see."

way of life or to establish a polity that does not suit the interests of their alien exploiters."

The paper stated: "Even before a single item of the promised American armament supplies has touched our shores we seem to have begun to pay for them, in a far more concrete shape than profuse expressions of gratitude."



Environment and

National Character

WHAT SHOULD WE HAVE IN OUR HOMES?

The blind copying that pervades our social and domestic life has not spared even the styles with which we decorate and furnish our homes.

Heavy upholstery thick curtains, drapery, silk cushions, warm rugs and carpets all these things and others with which we equip our houses are thoroughly unwanted in a climate like ours. They are all a blind imitation of English home styles.

In a cool country like England most of these items are, no doubt, essential, as it is necessary there to preserve a certain degree of

warmth and cosiness inside. Such items are also not uneconomic there because they form part of the array of weapons needed to keep "Mr. Cold" outside the home.

But what is the need for such protective armoury in country where the temperature is above 70 degrees all the year round?

Good Old England

The Englishman's undying and unimaginative desire to keep up the English "way of life", in whatever climate or whatever part of the globe he finds himself, is well reflected by the

interior arrangements of the houses in which he lives in Ceylon. Rigidly observing the choice of furniture and drapings that he is used to in his own land, he creates an "English home" atmosphere with thick curtains and upholstered furniture here too.

But the real tragedy for Ceylon is that the standard set by those above is in turn imitated by the upper middle and lower middle classes who are much less able to afford such folly. And at the end of the trail, even the working classes have absorbed the infection.

A typical pattern of this trend is the almost ridiculous "snob value" attached to upholstered furniture in urban Ceylon. Anything short of upholstered furniture is just not good enough to face relatives, neighbours and friends.

Must Suit Environment

The result of this imitative trend is that our houses have neither individuality nor national style about them. Our furniture and our interior decoration are not a reflection of our environment.

What is the type of furniture, the type of fittings that we should have?

Starting with chairs (for verandah, drawing room, dining room or anywhere else), what is wrong with rattan? It is cool, cheap, easily replaced, chair by chair, comfortable and clean.

Beds? Again what's wrong with rattan. It's one tenth the cost of box and what-have-you springs, and much more healthy so the so the doctors say. Even slatted beds with coir mattresses are more restful say the experts on human relaxation. Yet, still, by hire purchase or any other means that we can afford, we aspire to springs and feather mattresses—and then rue for electric fans to keep our slumber cool.

LEAKY ROOFS?

THEN IT IS TIME TO PUT

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BANKS MUST ENCOURAGE SMALL DEPOSITORS

By Rupee

Last week I had mentioned a view held by some leading Ceylonese banking business interests that foreign banks are competing with the bank of Ceylon for limited indigenous deposits. I countered with the suggestion that as long as cheque books remained the privilege of the upper middle classes, there could not be said to be any shortage in the available indigenous deposits.

I advocated that the Bank of Ceylon (together with any other Ceylonese deposit bank that might come into the field) should seek more custom through a policy of "Peoples Banking".

Extend Service

The first step for these banks [including the Co-operative Federal Bank, if it wants more finance to back the co-operative movement] is to give banking service to all who ask. No longer should the deposits of prospective customers be refused merely because they are unable to lodge an arbitrary minimum deposit of one to five thousand rupees to open an account.

Any banker in Colombo knows only too well that the size of the initial deposit is no indication of the average balance that will be maintained in an account thereafter. Apparently this does not worry the bankers for they are able to make good use of many balances which rarely again reach the starting level. What then is the sense of the initial restriction?

Small Deposits

Let the initial deposit for opening a bank account be therefore, not Rs. 5,000/- but Rs. 100 or Rs. 50

or even Rs. 10. Local bankers must take as their inspiration the history of the 12 big English Banks. One of them, Messrs. Glyn Mills & Co., has dominated the Britain South America Trade since the turn of the century almost entirely on the deposit strength of factory workers' current accounts at the hundred odd branches of its subsidiary, the Yorkshire Penny Bank.

This is a second of a series of articles urging a more vigorous banking policy.

The writer occupies an important position in the mercantile life of Colombo and for this reason has adopted a pseudonym.

The Editor welcomes contributions from all interested in the subject in support or against the views expressed in this series.

Bankers should not worry what is the motive behind new constituents, (there may to begin with be a few newcomers who seek only the prestige of a cheque book) as long as they get the deposits, however small, on which to base their own lending activities.

Suburban Shopkeeper

But when the banks have absorbed all the custom that comes right up to their doorstep, they must look further afield for fresh deposits. There are a large number of people in the country who already appreciate the advantages of banks but find the present times and locations of service inconvenient.

Such, for instance, are shopkeepers in Colombo's suburbs, who are well aware of the risks that go with stockpiling and dealing in cash. It is not many of these retail traders who can afford to operate vans or cars for daily transport of money to Fort Bank.

To attract this class of prospective customer, all the banks have to do is to open "cash receiving only" branches in all major shopping centres in the suburbs of Colombo.

Traffic Eased

Such a step would be equally appreciated by existing shopkeeper constituents who could bank their cash locally and their cheques by post. A quite incidental, never the less valuable advantage would be easing of daily traffic congestion in Fort between 10 a.m. and 12 noon.

And at such "cash receiving" branches, Ceylon bankers might, for once, give up their blind observance of traditional London banking hours. From eight to ten in the morning and from four to six in the evening as receiving hours would really suit Ceylon shopkeepers and other suburban constituents much better.

After absorbing the deposits of traders and officials who are already awaiting the offer of banking services, the next step would be to propagate the banking habit, to go out and meet the people, the peasants and villagers, the workers and clerks, and convince them not only that money is safe within the bank credit system, but also to show them the solid advantage that paying and receiving by cheque has over paying and receiving by cash.

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Ceylon Democratic Congress

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plan and a programme to place the economy of the island on a stable footing. Colonialism left this country with a lop-sided plantation economy which resulted in its revenue being totally dependent on the vagaries of world prices. The present rulers of the country have had opportunity during the last twenty five years, ever since the inauguration of the Donoughmore Constitution, to know what is wrong with the economy 'bequeathed to us by British colonialism, and they have had the opportunity too to remedy this, particularly in the years after the granting of the Independence in 1948.

"It is a profound mystery to many why the Government has not been able to work out a co-ordinated plan, not only to change the character of the economy from its colonial pattern, but also to utilise its natural resources and its manpower to the fullest to achieve full employment and a progressive increase in the national wealth. Planning to establish a balanced economy has been successfully carried out in so many countries in the world today that it is difficult to find an explanation as to why the government of Ceylon has not been able to do likewise.

Manpower Not Utitised

And, he went on to declare: "I am constrained to say, that if the Government had spent only a fraction of the time and effort it has expended on devising discriminatory legislation against Ceylon Indians on fashioning a properly co-ordinated plan and programme the country will not be in the economic plight it is today. If instead of decitizenising and disenfranchising the Ceylon Indian community, the Government had drawn them into grand adventure of nation building and economic rehabilitation, I make bold to say that the country would now be growing all the food it requires and that its exchequer would not be so depleted as it is today.

Instead of utilising the manpower resources of the Ceylon Indian community, which already

contributes great deal to the revenue, to develop the country economically, the Government by its inequitable laws has reduced this industrious community, which is as much a part of this country as any other, to a state of nomadic existence in a kind of no man's land. This does no good to the country or for its economic development.

They Belong Here

"I must stress, as I have stressed on so many occasions in the past, that inequitable laws will not make the Ceylon Indians disappear from this island. History and destiny brought them to this island several decades ago. They have worked and toiled for its development and prosperity. By the sweat of their brow they have earned the right to be in this land. By the fact that they have been drawn into the current of the life on this

island, they belong here and are strangers in India. They have roots only in the soil of Lanka.

"It is wrong to utilise the fact that a small percentage of the Indian residents in the island still have intimate connections with India and wish to go back to that country to cloud the issue and to damn all persons of Indian origin as temporary residents and birds of passage. It is this persistent attempt to draw a red herring across the trail of the so-called 'Indian' problem in Ceylon that has led to so much misunderstanding and tension".

Mr. Thondaman made it clear that the loyalties of the Ceylon Indians who had made this country their home was to their Lanka: "But whatever the Government does, it cannot make these persons of Indian origin who have made this country their home love this island any less. In spite of labouring under the gravest injustice,

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THE NEGRO

I am a Negro:

Black as the night is black,

Black like the depths of my Africa.

I've been a slave:

Caesar told me to keep his door-steps clean.

I brushed the boots of Washington.

I've been a worker:

Under my hands the pyramids arose.

I made mortar for the Woolworth Building.

I've been a singer:

All the way from Africa to Georgia.

I carried my sorrow songs.

I made jazz.

I've been a victim:

The Belgians cut off my hands in the Congo.

They lynch now in Texas.

I am a Negro:

Black as the night is black.

Black like the depths of my Africa.

Langston Hughes

An American Negro Poet

DOLLAR AID, MAY DAY AND MATA HARIS

Continued from Page 4

the British owned *Statesman* narrate the story as he puts it in his much read weekly column "The Political Scene":

"An unusual demonstration caught my ear and eye in New Delhi on Saturday. This was a procession of some 200 people carrying placards and shouting slogans against "Russian Slave Camps" and "Traitors to the Revolution" etc. As the procession rested in front of the Soviet Embassy, whose gates were tightly shut, it was possible to take a closer view of the participants. Almost all seemed very much like professional manual labourers from Rajasthan. They appeared shy and somewhat amused by their mission. When questioned, few knew what it was all about. A friend told me later of a business house in the USA called Demonstration Inc., which renders professional services for a consideration. Has the idea been imported into India?"

Women Spies

The idea may or may not have been imported from America but New Delhi has lately accosted two sensational women spies with colourful international past—one who was seen loitering for several hours right inside the well guarded Army Headquarters without a pass and said, "Oh, I am a friend of the General"—which she was not, and other who volunteered to work in an important semi-government organization of national importance and lost her personal diary which divulged her true identity.

Of course the Government has tried not to loose any time in putting the two adventurers in their proper place but this shows how a particular not too friendly country with pots of money to throw about can pump in her trained spies into the vital limbs of another far away country. And in this the government has also traced some high executives who played to the foreign tune, one of whom, a senior member of the

Indian Civil Service, was recently suspended in Bombay.

Tibet

While Geneva and Colombo kept India speculating for weeks, Peking and New Delhi shook friendly hands over Buddhist Tibet. No sabre-rattling, no high flaunting phraseology, no wishful thinking no interference from outside allowed, not even any publicity, but then the Sino-Indian Agreement over Tibet truly heralded a balmy Himalayan policy untroubled with diplomatic cocktails.

India's friendship with China, as of old, is growing deeper with the passing of days and Ceylon might take a cue from industrially fast changing New India that she is shortly deputing some of her top Engineers to study on the spot China's recent achievements in building dams across her mighty big rivers.

Jana

The bulk-distributed gratis copies of the newest Lake House publication *Jana* invited queries from well-meaning friends of Ceylon in New Delhi. "Is it" asks one, "the same Lake House which wanted to starve Ceylonese rather than support government import low-priced rice from friendly China?"

"Is it the same Lake House," asks another, "which gloated over Ceylonese Minister J. R. Jayawardene's signing of the Japanese 'Peace Treaty' at San Fransisco?... Are they going to voice, as they so loudly promise to do, the feelings of the resurgent Asia-Africa?" And finally, a newspaper columnist cum - radio commentator here wants to know if it is the same Lake House which called for the turning out of the "foreign coolies" from the Ceylonese island?"

To be saleable in India *Jana* has to don a cleverer cloak than at present but then have we not enough of newsmagazines like *Jana* which are air-rushed from America and which at least have a sleeker and better appearance than our Lake House monthly contemporary.?

SHIBDAS BANERJI

May 2, 1954
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Ceylon Democratic Congress.

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they continue to work for the betterment of the Sri Lanka. It is in this spirit towards the country that when the Government, which has discriminated against them in so many ways, issued a call for national savings to meet financial stringency, hundreds of thousands of Ceylon Indians on the plantations and outside responded unhesitatingly.

A Word of Warning

But he warned the Government: "I must, however, utter a word of warning to the Government. There is a limit to the extent of the injustice anyone can put up with. There is a limit to the patience that one can exercise. I dread to think of the day when Ceylon Indians, in their hundreds of thousands in the plantations, decide that they have had enough of it. The consequences that may flow from such a situation may have the most fateful implications. Many in positions of power and influence today may then regret they did not do more to solve the problem of the disenfranchised and decitizenised Ceylon Indians earlier."

Settlement

And he concluded on the note: "It is matter for great regret that the so-called Indian problem has been made an issue from which political groups and parties seem determined to drive strength and comfort by proclaiming that they could solve the economic ills of the island by greater discriminatory treatment of 'Indians' than their rivals.

"This kind of approach will not lead to a settlement. It does not even pretend to meet the realities of the situation. The problem is not one of reduction of population. It is a problem utilising the man-power resources of the Ceylon Indians who are part and parcel of this country through economic development plans to increase the national wealth. A settlement recognising these realities alone can solve the problem.

The resolutions passed at this Session are in keeping with this approach, particularly one calling upon the members of the C.D.C.

to join with all other communities and sections in the country in order to meet the problems that face the island.

Such is the political line of the Ceylon Democratic Congress on the major question that faces its members, and undoubtedly it is one of the major problems that face this country.

It will be interesting to watch the developments in the political field in the coming weeks particularly as to how the Government and political parties react to the Ceylon Democratic Congress. It is yet to be seen how active the C.D.C. is going to be in regard to recruiting members from other sections and communities besides the Ceylon Indians. In a subsequent article, an attempt will be made to examine the aims, objects and the constitution of the C.D.C. to see whether it can develop as a island-wide national organisation.

Peace in Asia

Continued from Page 5

Big Blow

This resolution is perhaps the biggest blow the American State Department has received. It knocks the bottom out of its world crusade against communism. And further, its own agencies like the U.S.I.S. become suspect.

In these circumstances, Mr. Philip Deane has reason to be annoyed. His attack on the Ceylon leaders as "formula merchants" arises perhaps from a belief he may have had (wrongly, it is hoped) that Ceylon was out to help "scuttle" the conference if the American line were not accepted. For Ceylon to have sought compromises was a betrayal of the Dulles-Nixon line of "no retreat in Asia" meaning the extension of the war in Indo-China as a war against Peoples China.

The Colombo Conference has made it clear to John Foster Dulles and his bellicose friends that Asians will not fight Asians and that Asians will not have

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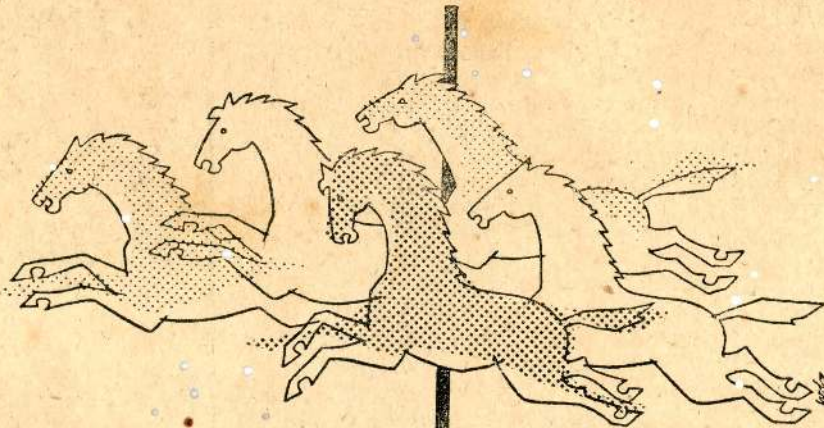
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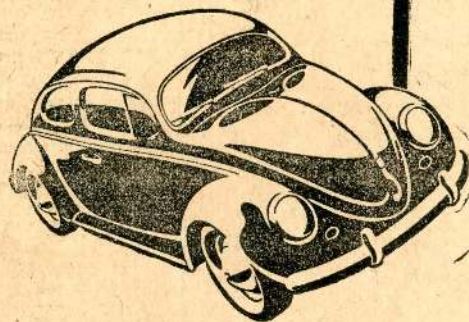
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