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Mystery Fire In Central Bank: Was It A Smokescreen For Attempted Counterfeit Fraud ?

The fire in the multi-million luxury building in the Fort on last Thursday morning has not caused any major upset because it was quickly brought under control and the damage is said to be slight. The usual investigations by officials is now under way and it is likely that everything will soon be forgotten. The Fire Brigade Chief has, however, pointed out that safety measures against fire were inadequate and that it was a mistake to have kept the fire escape locked, particularly during working hours. These defects can easily be remedied. It has also been suggested that the fire was probably caused by a lighted cigarette butt as the Electrical Department has reported that there was no short circuit in the electrical system.

Press reports have hinted that sabotage has not been ruled out and that it was significant that the fire broke out on pay day at the Central Bank. Whispers along the

grapevine have come to *Tribune* that in the highly respectable VIP underworld of Colombo there were hush-hush discussions about a major operation that was timed for the fire stampede at the Central Bank: that an attempt was planned to switch a bagful of top class counterfeit Ceylon currency for the genuine currency held by the Central Bank. If the attempt had succeeded, these counterfeit notes would be distributed by the Central Bank itself. Whether the attempt has succeeded or not is not known, but the Bank authorities have declared that there was no shortage of cash or currency after the fire. What the Central Bank should check is whether *all* the cash now in the Bank, part of which was "out" of the vault for payments and the like, is genuine or counterfeit.

Tribune had drawn attention in the recent past that counterfeiting Ceylon currency is now an

international racket at a very high level of professional efficiency—efficiency in the quality of the counterfeit notes and efficiency in the manner of distribution. Some of the counterfeit notes often pass the infra-red test and come a cropper only if the original serial number comes up to the same authority as the counterfeit. It is known in responsible circles in Ceylon that counterfeit notes of high quality are circulating in this country. Was the mystery fire in the Central Bank only a smokescreen to cover a major switch of the counterfeit for the genuine ? Or was it to cause some other diversion for the same purpose ? This is a matter worthy of close investigation. Are fool-proof counterfeit Ceylon currency notes "imported" into this country at favourable discount rates in exchange for "smuggled out" foreign exchange, gems etc? Are tourists who get "package clearance" at the Customs not an excellent medium for this business?

USA

New Communist Daily Newspaper

New York

Daily World, the new daily newspaper of the Communist Party of the United States, has made its appearance. It replaces the weekly and mid-weekly *Worker*. The paper advances as its major tasks the struggle for the needs and demands of all the poor and deprived Americans, irrespective of race and language, the liquidation of racial inequality, a change in the U.S. foreign policy, against the U. S. aggression in Vietnam and America's interference in the affairs of other South-East Asian countries. Basing itself on the principles of scientific socialism and guided by Marxist-Leninist theory, the new paper will wage the struggle for the victory of socialism not only by criticising capitalism but by explaining to the American people the essence of Socialism as a social system, most fully in accord with the interests of the American nation,

THE *Daily World* will strive to unite the widest anti-imperialist forces, in the first place all who oppose American imperialism, will work for setting up in the country a powerful front of left forces capable of countering reaction. "Forward to the struggle for peace, democracy and socialism" - such is the *Daily World's* motto.

The paper will devote great attention to the conditions and the struggle of the 35 million Americans who live in poverty and deprivation. The first issue carries an article showing how the poor are plundered to make the rich richer analysing the reasons for the instability of the U.S. economy the *Daily World* warns the American working people that the capitalist monopolies intend to place new burdens on them and an increase in unemployment and a reduction in production lies ahead.

The *Daily World* points out that one of the most acute and urgent problems of present-day America is the development of a mass movement against the American aggression in Vietnam. The first issue counters the official government anti-DRV hate propaganda with facts showing the real state of affairs, how the Vietnamese people are fighting for a bright future for their country.

Being the only daily Marxist paper in the United States, the *Daily World* naturally devotes considerable attention to the activities of the Communist Party of the United States. The paper describes in detail the new programme of the Communist Party of the United States which on the basis of Marxism-Leninism will help the American working class, the Negro people and the nation as a whole to advance towards peace and freedom, towards socialism.

The diversity of the materials carried in its first issue shows that the *Daily World* will occupy a prominent place in the struggle for the interests of the American working people.

Letter To The Editor

Bouquet For Tourist Board

Sir,

While expressing my sincere appreciation for the good and profitable work done by the Tourist Board at comparatively little expense by planting trees and looking after roundabouts, I must say that the aesthetic appeal of the city is greatly reduced by shabby buildings some of which are public owned or used. In addition to painting them or effecting little improvements

here and there, I suggest that local

bodies be requested to give a tax rebate to those who keep buildings in such a way as to improve the beauty of the city. An increase in the general rate can cope up with the rebate, if necessary.

Beggars are also seen right near the Passenger Jetty. A few rickshaws give the country a bad impression. The few rickshaw pullers should be registered and they should be given employment as harbour labourers or be given an allowance. A camp should be established for beggars. Some body in authority should walk in the city and pull up those who do not enforce laws.

M. K. Anawaratne

"Maithree Vasa",
Udahamulla,
Panadura,



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Headlines Of The Week

THURSDAY, July 18—Two new Roman Catholic Bishops for the Archdiocese of Colombo were yesterday consecrated at a unique ceremony held at a special stadium at St. Benedict's College, Kōtahena. Five fishermen of Beruwela were drowned when two boats capsized in the high seas of Beruwela and Induruwa yesterday. Tension prevailed at the Maviddapuram Kandaswamy Temple after a member of the depressed class was burnt in the stomach by a torch bearer when the deity was about to be taken out on its customary procession yesterday. A bloodless coup led by unknown officers toppled the Iraqi government stripping President Arif of his powers. It was also reported that the President had been sent out of the country and his Prime Minister dismissed from office.

FRIDAY, July 19—The Government is paying Rs 20,000 a day to the owners of an American ship which has brought a consignment of flour to Ceylon. The Ministry of Health will shortly intensify its campaign against quack doctors, both Ayrvedic and Homeopathic. The *Sun* reported that several proposals designed to create employment opportunities to one hundred thousand persons would be announced by the Minister of Finance in the Budget Speech on August 2. The Minister of Housing and Scientific Research, Mr. M. D. H. Jayawardena, has directed that all buildable land, especially in and around Colombo, be acquired by the Department, blocked out and made available to individual house builders. The Soviet Union and four of her communist allies have openly charged Czechoslovakia new liberal regime with allowing recent developments within the country that are completely unacceptable for a socialist country. The appointment of Major General Bakr as President of the new Iraqi government has given rise to speculation that the coup in Iraq has been masterminded by the disbanded Baathist leaders.

SATURDAY, July 20—Tension mounted soon after police announced that Duraisamy Kurukkal, Chief High Priest of the Maviddapuram Temple was missing and had probably been kidnapped by parties interested in the temple entry dispute. Approval has been granted by the Ministry of Industries for the manufacture of radio components and radio sets in Ceylon by four local firms. The Czechoslovakia Party leader Alexander Dubcek has won unconditional approval of his defiant stand against the Soviet pressure moves from the Czech Communist Central Committee. The new Iraqi Prime Minister has formed a twenty-six man Cabinet retaining three of the outgoing Ministers. President Johnson welcoming the South Vietnamese Prime Minister pledged continued American support to defend South Vietnam and said that attempts at deception by Hanoi at the Paris peace talks would be resisted.

SUNDAY, July 21—The *Observer* reported that a trade union conference summoned by the General Clerical Service Union for July 24 will elect a leadership to guide the strike campaign. All government pensioners will now receive one set of railway warrants for himself and his wife per year free and a ten percent rebate in their bills at the government hospitals. The Ministry of Land, Irrigation and Power has reserved ten thousand acres for pasture land to set up a livestock industry ten miles from Polonnaruwa. Czech leaders were yesterday stalling on a Russian demand for a meeting and were apparently waiting until the last Soviet soldiers were out of the country. The Philippines announced that it was ordering the withdrawal of the chief of mission and all but one member of the Philippine Embassy in Kuala Lumpur.

MONDAY, July 22—The Prime Minister Mr. Dudley Senanayake said in Parliament that as a result of a distortion of facts and false propaganda, the majority of the people are opposed to District Councils and it was not his intention to force anything on the people. The Minister of Housing has appointed a top-level committee to examine all aspects of national housing with special emphasis on building materials, building techniques and designs which would cost the minimum. Tension was heightened by the detention of two West German and two American newsmen following Russian troops moving across Czechoslovakia towards home. They were later released unharmed. Representatives of Federal and Biafra met to negotiate on the resumption of talks to end the year long civil war.

TUESDAY, July 23—The Minister of Nationalised Services has appointed a four-man Committee to inquire and report into the purchase of redundant spares to the tune of Rs 7 million by the CTB. About 11 lakhs of eggs were destroyed over a year, according to the latest administration report of the Marketing Commissioner. Moscow's decision to sell arms to Pakistan dominated the opening of the Indian Parliament's session. President Thiệu of South Vietnam said at a press conference that any future American President would be digressing from the history of the US if he pulled American troops out of Vietnam.

WEDNESDAY, July 24—Four persons were yesterday remanded by the acting Mallakam Magistrate in connection with the high caste-Harijan clash on Tuesday at Maviddapuram Hindu temple. The general strike planned by the GCSU and public sector trade unions will not be launched before the Budget. Mr. R. G. Senanayake, leader of the Sinhala Mahajana Pakshya, charged Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike with undemocratic behaviour and acting unconstitutionally in expelling him from the SLFP. The Soviet Union was building up pressure on Czechoslovakia with continuing onslaughts on leading Prague officials and the launching of military manoeuvres along Russian western frontiers. The Malaysian Government has decided to continue diplomatic relations with the Philippines.

Comment On Current Affairs

● FUTURE OF TEA : is East Africa a threat to Ceylon ? Mr. Moosajees' fears and sales talk

A "leading businessman" in Ceylon had recently unburdened himself to the *Times of Ceylon*, after a visit to Mecca and thereafter to East Africa, that there would soon be a million acres of tea in East Africa and that this would have a depressing effect on the Ceylon tea market. He also made it a point to stress that planters from Ceylon and Assam had helped in establishing tea plantations in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania and that Brooke Bond was selling a tea called *African Pride* which was "as good as Ceylon tea". To drive the point home that East Africa was a major rival to Ceylon, Mr. Moosajee stated that tourism also had made great strides in that area and that the climate in many areas was not dissimilar from what obtained in this island. Good hotels and resthouses (or their equivalents) had been built in every part of East Africa and Mr. Moosajee was of the view that Ceylon had many lessons to learn from East Africa. From tourism, this businessman went to the "food problem" and confided to the readers of the *Times* that "maize was grown on a large scale in Africa. It was the staple food of the Sudanese and the Ethiopians. The soil and climate of Ceylon were suitable for growing maize on a large scale. If maize could be grown on 10% of unremunerative tea estates in Ceylon, it could be self-sufficient in maize. If the people of Ceylon could eat one meal of maize a day, it would not only help to build a strong and virile nation, but also help to solve the nation's food problem".

Mr. Moosajee's enthusiasm for maize is understandable. He has a Special Lease from the Government for 1000 acres (or is it more?) for food production, and on this land he has apparently concentrated on growing maize, presumably as the basic constituent for the cattle and poultry food which his firm markets. He has no doubt made many millions from maize which is part of his poultry and animal food, but if human beings in Ceylon are also induced to develop a "craze" for maize, the millions will be multiplied many fold especially when the maize on the large Special Leases' acreage comes into bearing. He holds out the promise that Ceylonese would become a "strong and virile" nation and that the food problem too would be solved. It is just as easy or just as difficult to grow the extra rice (as growing maize) needed to make Ceylon self-sufficient in food, but this "sales talk" about strength and virility derived from maize eating is plain rubbish. The staple food of a nation is what nature has endowed a country, and the food habits of people

in Ceylon are based on rice. Maize has been grown in the past ever since it was introduced into the country (and that was long before the Moosajees came here and our cows and hens became dependant on Moosajee foods), but maize has never made any headway in becoming even a major subsidiary as a staple food. And, now comes Mr. Moosajee with his gratuitous advice that Ceylonese would become a "strong and virile" nation, by eating maize. If human beings in Ceylon could be made to eat maize, then the price of cattle and poultry food would shoot up and maize would fetch higher prices. Self-interest and profit are permissible in our society, but ordinary people should be on guard against "sales talk" of this kind.

And as for Mr. Moosajee's fears about the future of Ceylon tea as a result of the one million acres coming into production in East Africa, it is necessary to examine this gloomy prognostication in its correct perspective. Even in a world solely regulated by private profit and private enterprise, the extra acreage of tea coming into bearing in Africa will not be able to satisfy the demand for tea by the fast increasing world population with higher standards of living. If living standards and world population were stationary, then tea in East Africa would be a threat to Ceylon. But, in spite of the limitations imposed on world economy by the profit greedy tycoons of the capitalist system, living standards are improving little by little. If private profit were replaced, at least in some substantial measure, by socialised profit, the living standards of ordinary people will improve by leaps and bounds within a short time. World trends indicate that more and more people want to curb the greed of capitalist profiteers in order to improve living standards. But whatever form of government comes into power in any country, it is certain that it cannot hope to survive for long unless the government ensures progressively rising standards of living. In this context, tea and all other commodities have good markets provided also that the standard of living in the exporting country also steadily improves. If Ceylonese are able to import more and more from other countries, it will be able to sell more and more tea (and coconuts, cocoa, etc. etc.) To be able to do this, living standards must continuously increase in this country. If Ceylon is able to buy more, it will be able to sell more. This is no doubt a *circle*, but it becomes *vicious* only when the economy has been permitted to become stagnant. The present crisis in Ceylon is due to the fact that our economy has been stagnant far too long, and conditions will become worse unless the stagnation is ended. It is not East Africa with its million acres of tea that threatens the future of our tea; the threat is due to the stagnation in our economy—which is in no way caused by the setting up of tea plantations in East Africa. Eating more maize will not end this stagnation and it will augur well for the country if responsible newspapers will not permit "sales talk" of businessman to pass for sermons on economic development.

In Retrospect

- ★ Premier On District Councils
- ★ GCSU On Strike
- ★ Budget
- ★ Buildable Lands

NO ONE was in the least surprised when Prime Minister Mr. Dudley Senanayake announced in the House of Representatives last week when he wound up the debate on the Throne Speech that it was not his intention to force anything on the people. He was referring to the controversial District Councils. He said that as a result of a distortion of facts and false propaganda, the majority of the people were opposed to the District Councils.

Mr. Senanayake said that he had opposed the Bandaranaike-Chelvanayakam Pact and still opposed it and would continue to oppose it. It was not necessary for him now to speak about the wide gulf that existed in the B-C Pact, and the proposals made by the government for the setting up of District Councils. He said that he would not again go into all the falsehoods uttered about DCs. Mr. R. G. Senanayake had stated that if the DCs were set up the Sinhala fishermen would not be able to go to the North. He did not propose to educate the Member but would only ask him to read the proposed draft Bill.

Mr. Senanayake said that he had tried to bring the two communities together. He might or might not succeed in that endeavour, but he would tell the House that he would continue in his endeavour.

Now that the final word has been said on the District Councils, it seems most unlikely that the Federal Party will make any move to defeat the National Government. The *Daily Mirror* reported that the view of the Federal Party leadership was that any such move would be detrimental

to the Tamil people. The report said that the leadership would go all out to convince its members that the party should not quit. The report also said that the leadership was already busy trying to convince their supporters, particularly the youth leaguers, that if the National Government was toppled the next Coalition Government would be avowed to a policy of exterminating the Tamil race.

The abandonment of the District Councils is to be followed up by a series of pahan pujas, mal pujas and alms giving in all the Buddhist temples all over the country. The *Sun* of 21/7 reported that all the three Nikayas—Asgiriya, Malwatte and Amarapura — would lead the nation in holding pinkamas to offer the country's thanks to the gods for saving the country from the threatened national calamity. It also said that arrangements were also being made to send Sandesayas and appreciative letters to the Prime Minister for accepting the majority verdict of the people on the District Councils and for his democratic decision to withdraw the proposal in acknowledgement of this verdict.

IN the North the caste issue still remains unresolved. Last Tuesday it erupted into violence when a bloody battle between the Harijans and the so called high caste broke out. The Correspondent of the *Observer* reporting from Jaffna said that a bloody battle broke out lasting a full twenty minutes in the Maviddapuram Kandawamy Temple during which several persons were despatched to hospital with serious injuries.

Mr. N. Sanmugathasan, leader of the Peking Wing of the Communist Party, has called for the arrest of Mr. C. Suntharalingam. The *Observer* reported him as saying: "Everybody is agreed that it is Mr. Suntharalingam who is causing all the trouble. Why can't the Police take him into custody".

Is the General Clerical Service Union getting ready for a strike? This is the question which many have already begun to ask. The *Observer* of 21/7 reported that the trade union conference summoned by the Union for 24/7 would elect a leadership to guide the strike campaign. In a statement to the *Observer* the President of the GCSU, Mr. I. J. Wickrema said that there was extreme discontent in the public service and it was not enough to talk militantly but lead the public servants into action at the proper time in fairness to the demands put forward on their behalf. Every public servant, he said, realised that a Salaries Commission would not solve the problem of a wage increase as it was usual for such a Commission to take at least three to four years in the formulation of its report and that by then the public servants would be more dead than alive. The Government would get a bird's eye view of the discontent in the ranks of the government service when they hold a demonstration and a rally. They had no alternative but to resort to direct trade union action as their efforts to get the Prime Minister to give the public servant a basic salary increase had failed.

With only a few days more to go for the Budget Speech on August 2, the *Sun* reported that several proposals designed to create employment opportunities to one hundred thousand persons would be announced by the Minister of Finance, Mr. U. B. Wanninayake. It said that the Government investments which were expected to provide the most employment were those in the industrial and agricultural sectors where the principal objective next year would be the creation of

more job opportunities through its programme of import substitution. The report went on to say that in industrial investments, the private sector would be relied on to provide employment for more people this year than in the past as a result of the introduction of the Foreign Exchange Entitlement Scheme, and that through this scheme the Government expected a spectacular upsurge in industrial production leading to greater recruitment of persons to these industries. It also said that the chief industrial investments in the public sector which were expected to give employment were in the textile, cement, steel, tyre, leather, paper and ceramic industries.

It is generally agreed that the directive of the Minister of Housing and Scientific Research, Mr. M.D.H. Jayawardena, to the Department of National Housing to acquire all buildable land in and around Colombo and to make them available in blocks to individual house builders is one step further for the realisation of a house owning democracy in this country. The Department of Housing has already called for by public advertisement owners of such lands who are willing to hand them over to it. It is not known at the time of writing of these notes whether the Department will purchase the buildable lands at the price stipulated by the owners or at a price determined by the Government Valuer. The general consensus is that the lands should be bought at a price valued by the Government Valuer.

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Europe

GDR And West Germany: The New Travel Curbs

Berlin

TWO WEEKS after the passage of the West German Emergency Law, which has been widely condemned as draconian legislation meant to establish military dictatorship, the People's Chamber (Parliament) of the German Democratic Republic on 11 June adopted certain measures to enforce the sovereignty of the socialist German State and to tighten its security system.

These measures are: (1) All West Germans and West Berliners must obtain a transit visa to travel through GDR territory. (2) All West Germans intending to visit the GDR should have a GDR visa on a valid passport. (3) Citizens of non-Socialist countries and Stateless persons residing in the GDR will have to take exit and entry visas before going to West Berlin. (4) A transport surtax on trucks buses barges, etc., going from West Germany and West Berlin through GDR highways and waterways. (5) Prohibition of transport of neo-Nazi literature and other anti-peace material. (6) Members of the neo-Nazi National Democratic Party will not be allowed to enter the GDR. (7) GDR roads will not be open for highranking West German officials and Cabinet ministers to dash to West Berlin for provocations against the GDR.

The new Constitution adopted by the East Germans in a nationwide referendum two months ago proclaimed GDR a sovereign Socialist state and provided for independent citizenship. No one respecting international law could oppose the right of sovereign States to introduce visas, collect visa fees or levy transport taxes on their territory. The present GDR measures are comparable to travel regulations governing transit between India and Pakistan since the partition

and formation of two sovereign States.

The new measures do not prejudice or prohibit journeys undertaken by West German or West Berlin citizens. Nor do they restrict West Berlin's economic and cultural relations with the outside world. They do not curtail in any way the rights of the three occupation powers (USA, Britain and France) in West Berlin or their access routes to the city.

ALL THESE YEARS the GDR authorities were hoping for some kind of understanding with the West German Government. Until the adoption of new GDR Constitution there was only one German citizenship for the two States, and West Germans could come to the GDR without a visa by merely showing identity cards at frontier checkpoints.

The GDR had always expressed its readiness to normalize relations with West Germany. A number of proposals were sent to the West German Chancellor to settle the German question through direct negotiations. Bonn rejected all these proposals.

The culmination was the Emergency Law passed on 31 May, which means that in future the West German Government on orders from NATO can declare a state of emergency and rule by decree.

On 14 May, two weeks before the passage of the Emergency Law, GDR Prime Minister Willi Stoph wrote to Chancellor Keisinger: "The Government of the GDR raises its voice once more in warning and points out that the passing of the Emergency Law will further aggravate and worsen the relations between the two German states. If the Government of the Federal

Republic does continue along the road of Emergency Legislation, it and it alone will be responsible for heightening the tensions in the heart of Europe. New, serious obstacles will be put in the way of normalizing relations between the two German States".

Mr. Kiesinger ignored this warning and pushed the Emergency Law through the Bonn Parliament.

This was the final blow against detente. Bonn has thus rendered impossible any reconciliation between the GDR and West Germany. In this grave situation created by Bonn, the GDR felt compelled to take appropriate measures (a) to make clear the GDR's existence as a sovereign state; (b) to rebuff Bonn's claims to represent all Germany (c) to retaliate against Emergency Laws illegally extending jurisdiction over all Germany; (d) to tighten the GDR's security system and prevent re-Nazification of West Berlin; (e) to deny the West German claim that West Berlin is a constituent of the Federal Republic; (f) to defeat Bonn's economic aggression and (g) to make good Bonn's debts to the GDR arising from services rendered.

WEST GERMAN financial authorities have for years been collecting transport surcharge from foreign and West German vehicles and firms even for the movement of goods over the territory of the GDR. While the GDR spends money for the maintenance of the autobahn largely used by West German travellers and heavy trucks moving goods to West Berlin, they never paid anything for this service. Bonn is very irritated now, for the transport surtax introduced by the GDR had hitherto been levied by Bonn but never forwarded to the GDR.

Besides thousands of trucks plying between West Berlin and West Germany along GDR roads, some six million West Germans use GDR highways and railways to go to West Berlin every year. Another five million visit relations

in East Germany. Under the new regulations enforcing the GDR's sovereignty, a normal visa costs 15 marks, and an extended visa 40 marks. This and the new transport taxes will yield the GDR a few million West marks every month. But the West German Government owes to the GDR over 1,000 million marks, accumulated in post and telegraph services rendered to the West Germans over the years. The West Berlin Senate also owes several hundred million marks to the GDR which services the entire sewage from West Berlin in the name of 'sole representation' claim, Bonn refuses to settle accounts with the GDR. But the Bonn Government is now offering millions of marks to aid the West Berlin Senate to pay for the new transport and visa charges. However, they will not repay debts to the DGR.

The Bonn Government is furious over the new measures because from now on every West German will feel the existence of the GDR as an independent State. Stamping of the visa of a "non-existent" GDR on West German passports is simply unthinkable for the "sole representation" leaders in Bonn. Neo-Nazi pride feels hurt!

Bonn being incapable of doing anything by itself, Chancellor Kiesinger turned to the Western Powers, especially the USA, to seek reprisals against the GDR. Since the GDR does not challenge any existing rights of the three occupation powers and every foreign entering the GDR has already been taking GDR visas, the occupation powers cannot do anything except issue formal protest to please their allies. Bonn, sore at the Western Powers' apparent indifference, hinted at refusal to sign a nuclear non-proliferation treaty unless its Western allies took strong action against the GDR. Such crude tactics are unlikely to impress anyone.

The GDR has made it clear that an international agreement over civilian transport to West Berlin has always been and still is.

If the West German Government, the West Berlin Senate and the GDR sit round the table and discuss all their problems of transport, access routes, debts, levies, etc, everything can be amicably settled. But Bonn refuses to do so. This attitude of hostility towards socialist Germany is the root cause of all the trouble in West Germany and the inconvenience caused to its citizens.

FIRST MELONS EXPORTED TO EUROPE STRAWBERRY EXPORTS DOUBLE

First shipments of "Ogen" melons, grown in plastic hothouses, have been sent to Europe. This season 800 tons of "Ogen" melon will be shipped to Europe (compared to 650 tons last year), and an additional 250 tons of fall and winter melon (compared to 100 tons last year). Early estimates of the strawberry season indicate that more than 300 tons will be exported this year, compared to 150 tons last year. During the recent heat waves, strawberries were transported from the fields to Lod airport in refrigerated trucks. Nevertheless, part of the fruit was damaged in the fields and excluded from export. Some 10% of the strawberry exports were the products of Arab fruit growers. Agricultural planners expect strawberry exports to reach 800 tons in 1968/69. By 1970/71, exports should hit 2,500 tons and areas covered by plastic shields are being increased accordingly. The growers' income from strawberries has been good, starting at IL. 4.50 a kilogram at the beginning of the season and going down to IL. 2.70 at the end of the season. Total exports of fresh farm produce will bring is about \$ 15 m. this year.

A Laudable Scheme

Acquisition Of Idle Buildable Lands

by A Tribune Reporter

PROSPECTIVE house builders will no doubt welcome the directive of the Minister of Housing and Scientific Research, Mr. M. D.H. Jayawardena, to the Department of National Housing to acquire buildable lands, especially in and around Colombo, and sell them to individual house builders who do not own a house either on their own name or in their wife's name or in the name of a dependent child.

One of the major reasons which has strongly militated against the building of houses by individuals has been due to the exorbitant price they have to pay for buildable land which since the end of World War Two has skyrocketed to dizzy heights, particularly in the city of Colombo.

A perch of land in Colombo 7 is around Rs 10,000. In other residential areas such as along the Galle Road between Kollupitiya, Bambalapitiya and Wellawatte it is around Rs 5,000 to Rs 7,000, and in Kotahena and Mutwal it is around Rs 2,500 to Rs 3,000, to mention only a few of the residential areas. If a person wishes to build a two or three roomed house within Rs 25,000 on a block of land consisting of fifteen perches he would have to invest about Rs 37,500 at Rs 2,500 a perch, which would be Rs 12,500 more than the cost of building a house.

There is no official estimate regarding the extent of idle buildable land in and around Colombo. But, if one takes a cursory look one will not fail to notice that there must be several hundreds of acres which owners are unwilling to dispose of to house builders, except at exorbitant rates which they can ill afford to pay.

In the expectation that they can obtain exorbitant prices for their lands, owners are likely to offer them for sale to the Department of National Housing. But the Government must not acquire them by paying the price demanded by owners. They should be acquired only at a reasonable price to be determined by the Government Valuer.

It is most likely that when the Government has recourse to compulsory acquisition by paying the price determined by the Government Valuer owners will resort to make this inoperative by indulging in litigation. The State should go all out to close all loopholes in the law relating to compulsory acquisition and to bring in legislation, if the need arises, against an appeal to court when the Housing Department has decided to purchase the land at the rate determined by the Government Valuer.

THIS is certainly not an undemocratic measure; because most of these idle buildable lands are either ancestral properties which have been handed down from father to son and which were bought at ridiculously low rates. If one traces the history of these lands it would be seen that in majority of the cases owners came to possess them by the most dubious methods. The Government need not entertain the fear that the payment of a reasonable price will make it unpopular and thus lose votes at election times because owners constitute a microscopic minority. It is criminal for any Government, be it right or left, which is pledged to a house owning democracy, to allow these lands to idle, particularly when there are several thousands of people in this country who are willing to construct their

own houses and thus relieve the acute shortage of houses with no financial assistance from the State. It is also heartening to note that the Housing Department is working out a scheme to attract private capital towards house building under which proprietors of private firms will be encouraged to advance capital to their employees who wish to purchase land and build houses. This will no doubt provide tremendous relief to them and help build better relations between employers and employees. In this connection, it may not be within the financial capacity of the smaller mercantile establishments to advance capital to their employees to purchase lands and to build houses. In such cases the Government would do well to direct the Department of Housing to sell acquired lands on an easy repayment basis spread over a period of twenty years or more. Together with this, the Government should direct the Bank of Ceylon and the People's Bank to lend money on an easy repayment basis for the purchase of building sites.

Housing shortage in Colombo over the years has become so acute with the exodus of the rural population in search of employment. It will become acuter and chronic as the years go by when more and more rural population trek into Colombo and its environs and landlords would never have had it so good when they begin to double or even treble the key money and the advance and the rents they now extort from tenants.

FROM HANOI

Republican leader in the US House of Representatives Gerald Ford has alleged that some of the recent anti-war demonstrations in USA were "planned and organised in Hanoi." The allegation refers to the normal contacts between the Left wing of the American peace movement and similar bodies in North Vietnam.

Document—Statement of New Committee

Samastha Lanka Rajaya Lipikaru Saugamaya

The Executive Committee of the S. L. R. L. S. at its meeting held on 18.7.68, has unanimously decided to release the following statement to the press. This is a translation from the original communique in Sinhala supplied by the Union.

In view of the campaign launched by certain newspapers, both prior to and after the last Annual Conference of the S.L.R.L.S. in order to mislead and confuse our membership and the working class by the publication of incorrect statements and false propaganda, it has become necessary to give a clear indication of the policies of our union. There is no basis whatsoever to the false statements published in the course of this campaign aimed at creating political rifts and disagreements.

The new office-bearers of the Union were elected in a democratic manner by the membership who are keenly interested in the welfare of the Union and the development of its activities. It will be seen that in the election of new office-bearers, the membership had taken into special consideration such matters as the record of work and the manner of activities performed in the past year, and the issues which arose from the Statement of Accounts of the Union. The utter bankruptcy of this campaign of vilification and false propaganda carried on against the newly-elected leadership of our Union could be seen from the fact that the former President of our Union who attended the "Language Meeting" at the Aiyanyar Temple was described as a staunch S.L.F.P. supporter!

Newspapers that are completely ignorant of our Constitution and methods in the election of office-bearers and of our "Voting" systems, have published false statements to comment adversely

against the manner of voting followed by our members at the Conference. We must remind such newspapers and other inimical sections who are forever trying to sling mud at our Union, that ours is an enlightened membership possessing a profound understanding of all rules and regulations of the Constitution and well acquainted with all the 'voting' procedures. Surely we cannot be surprised that these same newspapers which questioned the overwhelming majority of votes polled by the newly elected President this year, could have so soon forgotten the fact that the results published in respect of the past Conference between 1965 and 1967 show that it was he himself who received the highest number of votes on those occasions too.

It has become very necessary now to raise the tempo of the demand for a salary-increase of all public servants who are struggling to survive under severe economic difficulties, and to vigorously intensify the campaign in order to achieve that purpose.

Our Union stands for the demand for higher salaries. We believe that it can be won only by waging a mighty struggle; we believe that a united campaign by all Public Service Trade Unions is absolutely necessary to achieve that purpose. Our Union, which has been a constituent member of the Joint Committee of Trade Union Organisations from its very inception, endorses the view that the unity of all Public Service Trade Unions could be forged, and that a joint campaign could successfully be carried forward, with the guidance and support of the JCTUO. We have to record here that the fact that under the guidance of the JCTUO we were able to win Rs. 20/- out of the Rs. 30/- demanded last year. Our Union is also participating in

all action taken to broaden the campaign conducted by all Trade Unions to solve the salaries question and other burning problems of all Public Servants.

We have also decided to revitalise the "Rajaya Basha Arakshaka Trade Union Front" which was first organised under the aegis of our Union, and to conduct a vigorous campaign demanding the formulation of the Language Regulations of the Government. This item occupies a foremost place in our programme of activities for the current year.

We fraternally request our brothers and general membership to rally round the Union with greater vigour and solidarity for the purpose of achieving the demands on salaries and language matters mentioned above, and to obtain fruitful results from the programme of activities listed below:

1. To take action to get all punishments imposed consequent to the strike of January 8, 1966, withdrawn.

2. Commence a campaign to demand that all promotions to the Executive Clerical Class II and I, and other Special Grades, be done in a just and correct manner.

3. To establish a Debt Relief Fund for the benefit of the members; to see that the proposed welfare scheme is implemented.

4. In the matter of promotions and appointment, to see that steps are taken to give preference to in-service Graduates over those not in service.

5. To remove obstacles in the way of obtaining higher education.

6. To take action to effect the necessary amendments to the Constitution of the Union as had been desired by the membership for the past many years.

7. To inaugurate a scheme of activities to improve and educate

the membership in the various cultural, historical and art subjects.

Let us defeat all attempts made by enemy sections to break and hinder the solidarity and progress of our Union.

All victory to the S. L. R. L. S. !

More On Chesterton

The Ethics Of Elfland

by Titus Handuna

THE ETHICS of Elfland is the title of a chapter of G. K. Chesterton's book, *Orthodoxy*, and we will let the author speak for himself without more ado.

Chesterton:-

My first and last philosophy I learnt in the nursery. I generally learnt it from a nurse. The things I believed most then, the things I believe most now, are the things called fairy tales. They seem to me to be the entirely reasonable things. They are not fantasies. Fairyland is nothing but the sunny country of common sense. I knew the magic beanstalk before I had tasted beans: I was sure of the Man in the Moon before I was certain of the moon. Old nurses do not tell children about the grass, but about the fairies that dance on the grass.

But I deal here with what ethic and philosophy come from being fed on fairy tales. If I were describing them in detail I could note many noble and healthy principles that arise from them. There is the chivalrous lesson of "Jack the Giant Killer"; that giants should be killed because they are gigantic. It is a manly mutiny against pride as such. For the rebel is older than all the kingdoms. There is the lesson of "Cinderella", which is the same as that of the *Magnificat - exaltavit humiles*. There is the great lesson of "Beauty and the Beast", that a thing must be loved *before* it is lovable. There is the terrible allegory of the "Sleeping Beauty" which tells how the human creature was blessed with all birthday gifts, yet cursed with death; and how death also may perhaps be softened to a sleep. But I am not concerned with any of the separate statutes of elfland, but with the whole before I could speak, and shall

retain when I cannot write. I am concerned with a certain way of looking at life, which was created in me by the fairy tales, but has since been meekly ratified by the mere facts.

IT MIGHT be stated in this way.

There are certain sequences or developments (cases of one thing following another), which are in the true sense of the word, reasonable. They are, in the true sense of the word, necessary. Such are mathematical and merely logical sequences. We in fairyland (who are the most reasonable of all creatures) admit that reason and that necessity. For instance, if the Ugly Sisters are older than Cinderella, it is (in an iron and awful sense) *necessary* that Cinderella is younger than the Ugly Sisters. There is no getting out of it. It really must be. If Jack is the son of a miller, a miller is the father of Jack. Cold reason decrees it from her awful throne: and we in fairyland submit. If the three brothers all ride horses, there are six animals and eighteen legs involved: that is true rationalism, and fairyland is full of it.

But as I put my head over the hedge of the elves and began to take notice of the natural world, I observed an extraordinary thing. I observed that learned men in spectacles were talking of the actual things that happened - dawn and death and so on - as if they were rational and inevitable. They talked as if the fact that trees bear fruit were just as *necessary* as the fact that two and one trees make three. But it is not. There is an enormous difference by the test of fairyland; which is the test of imagination. You cannot *imagine* two and one not making three. But you can easily imagine trees not growing fruit; you can imagine them growing golden candlesticks or tigers hanging on by the tail.

BRAIN SIZE MATTERS

For hundreds of years scientists have theorized that mental activity might affect the size of the brain. Nothing was proved until now. Three US scientists report that experiments showed the brains of rats and mice increased in size and weight by as much as six per cent when the animals were exposed to an environment that stimulated learning. The research project was started 14 years ago. For their experiments, the scientists selected rats and mice born in the same litters and divided them into two groups. Members of one group were put in individual cages with solid walls on three sides, and lived in complete isolation. The others lived together in a large cage containing such animal "toys" as wheels, ladders and mazes. Each day members of this group were presented with fresh mental challenges, such as a new pattern of barriers to run in order to reach food. The scientists performed autopsies on members of both groups at different times, and made chemical and anatomical comparisons of their brains. It was found that "the cells of the brain increase in size as they are more active functionally." These changes were not due to chance but happened regularly. The stimulated brains were also found to contain an increased amount of enzymes.

These men in spectacles spoke much of a man named Newton, who was hit by an apple, and who discovered a law. But they could not be got to see the distinction between a true law, a law of reason, and the mere fact of apples falling. If the apple hit Newton's nose, Newton's nose hit the apple. That is a true necessity: because we cannot conceive the one occurring without the other. But we can quite well conceive the apple not falling on his nose; we can fancy it flying ardently through the air to hit some other nose, of which it had a more definite dislike. We have always in our fairy tales kept this sharp distinction between the science of mental relations, in which there really are laws, and the science of physical facts, in which there are no laws, but only weird repetitions. We believe in bodily miracles, but not in mental impossibilities. We believe that a Bean-stalk climbed up to Heaven; but that does not at all confuse our convictions on the philosophical question of how many beans make five.

THE MAN OF SCIENCE

says, "Cut the stalk, and the apple will fall"; but he says it calmly, as if the one idea really led up to the other. The witch in the fairy tale says, "Blow the horn, and the ogre's castle will fall"; but she does not say it as if it were something in which the effect obviously arose out of the cause, Doubtless she has given the advice to many champions, and has seen many castles fall, but she does not lose either her wonder or her reason. She does not muddle her head until it imagines a necessary connection between a horn and a falling tower. But the scientific men do muddle their heads, until they imagine a necessary connection between an apple leaving the tree and an apple reaching the ground. They feel that because one incomprehensible thing constantly follows another incomprehensible thing the two must somehow make up a comprehensible thing. Two black riddles make a white answer.

Granted that certain transformations do happen, it is essential that we should regard them in the philosophic manner of fairy tales, not in the unphilosophic manner of science and the "Laws of Nature". When we are asked why eggs turn to birds or fruits fall in autumn, we must answer exactly as the fairy godmother would answer if Cinderella asked her why mice turned to horses or her clothes fell from her at twelve o'clock. We must answer that it is *magic*.

Book Review

Beef Acceptable Food In The Vedic Period

BEEF IN ANCIENT INDIA,
By *Rajendralala Mitra* LLD, C.I.E.
(A Reprint of the Chapter VI of *INDO ARYANS*, Vol. 1) Published by Manisha Granthalaya (Private) Ltd., 4/3 B, Bankim Chatterji Street, Calcutta-12. Price Rs. 1.50.

WE are now living in turbulent times. Customs and modes of thinking have undergone a great change since the early social history of the Aryan race on this side of the Himalaya. Hindu-Muslim problem, once almost non-existent, has been now engaging the attention of the millions of orthodox Hindus and Muslims. This is partly due to the conscious efforts by the British rulers to disrupt the unity of our people and partly due to poor diffusion of knowledge and education among the masses.

The very title of this book may sound highly offensive to many of our present day Hindus but one with just a little sense of objectivity and patience is bound to be interested in the contents supported by the quotations from such highly respected ancient "fountains of knowledge" such as Vedas, Smritis, Mahabharata, Krishna Yajur Veda, Ramayana, Upanishads, Ramayana Charita,

Charak Samhita, Mahavir Charita, Manu Smriti and Asoka's edicts, etc.

IT IS more or less known that the vedic literature is full of evidence of inter-caste marriages, widow marriage, elaborate Yajnas, animal sacrifices and drinking of Soma. The caste system was also not so rigid as it is now, there being mention of the four castes only.

But very little is known that "the flesh of the earthly representative of the divine Bhagavati" was always a venerable article of food for Gods, Goddesses, Sages and the Brahmanas.

It was a time 'when not only no compunctious visitings of conscience had a place in the minds of the people in slaughtering cattle, but to slaughter the "fatted calf" in honour of respected guests or considering beef an absolute necessity by pious Hindus in their journey from this to another world and a cow being invariably killed to be burnt with the dead' (funeral ceremony of ancient Hindus) was a normal custom.

The publication of this book is very timely. The author is remembered as a great pioneer of Vedic, Budhist and Puranic studies. He was born in 1822 and died in 1891. Rabindranath Tagore, in his autobiography, had marvelled at the magnificent contribution of Rajendra Lala to Benagli literature. No less imposing has been his stature in the history of Indian archeology.

He carried on his vast and fabulous academic activity and the quality of his research works attracted widespread attention. Renowned Indologist Max Muller once said that "He is a Pa dit by profession, but he is at the same time a scholar and critic in the real sense of the word". The Asiatic Society had honoured him as its first Indian President (1855) and the Culcutta University chose him to confer its first LL.D. degree on him (1876).

THIS BOOK as such is a reprint of the Chapter VI of his book Indo-Aryans, Vol. 1. It contains extensive quotations and evidences from ancient writings.

He has, first, dealt briefly with the controversy whether a cow at the time of Gomedha or a horse during Aswamedha was actually slaughtered. Some people imagine that these rituals did not involve the actual slaughter and accordingly envelop them in mystery. And some even believe that the sacrificed animals were immediately revived by the supernatural powers of the sacrificers.

But the author has asked such persons to better look into the pages of Utra-Rama Charita. There, it is written that the venerable old poet and hermit Valmiki slaughtered a lot of calves expressly for the entertainment of his guests, chief guest among them was Vashishta the author of one of the original law books (Smritis) which regulates the religious life of the people. The revivification in that case must have followed the consumption of the beef by them.

And again, Vashishta in his turn, slaughtered the "fatted calf" when he entertained Visvamitra, Janaka, Jamadagnya and his other friends. Vashishta is quoted saying to Jamadagnya that "the heifer is ready for sacrifice, and the food is cooked in ghee. Thou art a learned man, come to the house of the learned, favour us by joining" (Mahavir Charita, Chapter 3).

Furthermore, Manu had authorized the consumption of animal food in all seasons with the slight restraint of first offering a bit of it to the Gods, or manes, or guests. In his list of animals fit for human food, he had observed "The hedge-hog and porcupine, the lizard godha, the gandaka (rhinoceros), the tortise and the rabbit or hare, and all quadrupeds, camels excepted, which have but one row of teeth" (Manu Smriti V, 18). And this obviously included cows which were well known to him as having one

row of teeth. On another occasion he had recommended Madhuparka rite or the 'honeyed meal' with beef for the reception of Kings and other great dignitaries.

One of the Rig Vedic verses has also referred to Madhuparka. After serving curds and honey and with elaborate preparations a cow was brought and offered to the guest, whereupon he had to say 'My sin is destroyed, destroyed is my sin' and then to order the immolation of the cow with the words 'Om Kurur' (accomplish, Amen). The host then immolated the cow in the name of some appropriate divinity.

AN ORDINANCE OF MANU even declared that the man who having in due form performed a Madhuparka ceremony, fails to eat flesh-meat, will be doomed to be born an animal for twenty one generations (Manu-V, 35) and that Brahma having created animals for sacrifices, their destruction in the performance of sacred rites cannot be injurious. They rise after death in the scale of creation (Manu, V-394).

The author says that the ancient medical works were even more precise. The Charak Samhita which dates from the 5th or 6th century B.C. has said that "the flesh of cows, buffaloes and hogs should not be eaten daily". It indicates that the said articles of food were too rich for everyday use, like fish and barley cakes which were also prohibited for everyday use.

Elsewhere the author of the above mentioned work has recommended beef for pregnant women as it strengthened the foetus.

In its account of the Asvamedha, the Taittiriya Brahmana recommends 180 domestic animals to be sacrificed including horses, bulls, cows, goats, deer, nilgaos etc.

Tandya Brahmana of the *Sama Veda* recommends cattle of a different colour and age for each successive year. www.aavanaham.org | www.aavanaham.org

In the *Asvalayana Sutra*, one of the sacrificial ceremony is Grihya Sutra. It is called 'spitted cow', i.e. roast beef (Sulagava). The ceremony ensures to the performer long life, wealth, high position, great religious merit, and numerous herds and children.

Taittiriya Brahmana even describes the mode of cutting up the victim after immolation. It is too elaborate to be narrated here. And Gopatha Brahmana of the Atharva Veda gives all the details of how the meat is to be shared.

In short, the book contains all the original authentic evidences of widespread use of beef in ancient times. The author says that later on the Hindu mind was influenced greatly by the teachings of Buddha. A change gradually followed and Hinduism had no difficulty to replace unlimited meat offerings by faith, devotion and love, even to animals.

But the main point here is to draw the attention of the Hindu mind to the modes and customs of 'Hindu culture' and the author as well as the publishers deserve praise for it. Particularly, in view of recent boiling up of communal bodies like Jana Sangh and RSS over the remarks made by Jagjivan Ram, Union Minister for Food, this publication assumes more importance.

All those interested in the dissemination of knowledge of the truth must read this book.

VORA—in *New Age*

FAR-SIGHTED

Australian grocer Mart Kitson, 51, and his wife Thelma, 50, separated 22 years ago, but were reunited for their silver wedding. They parted again the next day. "We agreed that one evening was quite enough", said Mart.

Background

Malaysia-Philippines Trouble Over Sabah: What Next ?

What will be the outcome of the territorial dispute between the Philippines and Malaysia? Will it lead to an armed conflict between the two countries?

Politicians and journalists, diplomats and businessmen, who have recently been to the Philippines, speak of a noticeable growth of anti-Malaysian sentiment in Manila. President Marcos is under constant pressure to annex North Borneo or Sabah by force. Ismail Kiram, the Sultan of Sulu's heir apparent, recently claimed that his 4,000 trained followers would strike at Sabah without waiting for the Government's sanction if Malaysia continued "to dodge a settlement of the dispute". "We have arms", Ismail said, "and all men of Holo are soldiers". Holo is an island in the southern Philippines which is inhabited by militant tribesmen.

While the Philippines seems to be in an increasingly bellicose mood, the United States has declared its complete neutrality in the Filipino-Malay dispute. It has also assured Malaysia that it will not allow the Philippines to use American weapons that it has received through the SEATO, should a conflict take place between the two countries. What is causing concern in Malaysia is the fact that the Philippines armed forces are being trained by Americans and some so-called Americans belonging to the Special Forces participated in training the commandos for action in Sabah. Moreover, U.S. promises and assurances of not allowing its satellites to use American weapons against "friendly countries" have been honoured. The U. S. assurances to India in regard to Pakistan is a case in point.

SUCH ASSURANCES become all the more meaningless in the context of Washington's well-known annoyance with Malaysia for her refusal to send even a token force to Vietnam. Whether the current anti-Malaysia campaign in the Philippines is part of the U. S. game to pressurise Kuala Lumpur into seeking shelter under SEATO's wings is to be seen. It is not accidental that the Philippines threat to Malaysia has become more pronounced in the wake of the British decision to withdraw its

troops from Singapore and the general apprehension that the U.S. may have to pull out of Vietnam.

The seriousness of the threat to detach the North Borneo territories from Malaysia can be judged from the fact that both Manila and Jakarta are encouraging Abang Kifli, a self-styled General, to organise a "National Army of North Borneo" to carry on the struggle if the "dispute is not settled by peaceful means. A frequent visitor to Manila and Jakarta, Kifli during a recent trip to Japan held out the threat to start guerrilla warfare in the North Borneo.

According to observers some Filipino and Indonesian politicians entertain the idea of dividing Sabah, Sarawak, and Brunei, into their respective spheres of influence while allowing these territories to have nominal independence. It is interesting that Jakarta is keeping complete silence on the dispute between the Philippines and Malaysia. The only country that seems to be keen on avoiding a headlong collision between the two members of the newly floated Association of South East Asian Nations is Thailand.

Recently the Thai Prime Minister hosted the officials of the two countries in Bangkok in a bid to prevent the situation from drifting

into an armed conflict. But, as was expected, the conference failed to yield any positive results as Manila continues to insist on either referring the dispute to the world court or holding a fresh referendum in Sabah.

In 1963 at a tripartite conference between the heads of Governments of Malaya, Indonesia and the Philippines it was agreed that the wishes of the people of North Borneo would be ascertained before integrating the territory with the proposed Malaysian Federation. But the outcome of the referendum failed to satisfy either the Filipinos or the Indonesians. Though the first to declare an all-out war against Malaysia was President Sukarno. During the nearly two years of confrontation against Malaysia, Sukarno enjoyed the tacit support of the Philippines because of the latter's continuing claim to Sabah. The Indonesian confrontation having come to an end, the Philippines has now revived its claim to the territory and a near confrontation situation is gradually developing between Kuala Lumpur and Manila.

THE MALAYSIANS refuse to accept the Philippines claim over Sabah on the ground that if past history is made the basis for adjustment of borders, all the frontiers in the world will have to be changed. Having taken the position that the transfer of the territory by the British North Borneo Company in 1946 to the British Crown was lawful, the Malaysian Government regards the 1963 referendum, which was held under UN supervision, as final and irrevocable.

President Marcos' Government is evidently under some amount of popular pressure to press the Philippines claim to Sabah, and if necessary, resort to arms. The most agitated sections are the Filipino Muslims. A small minority in a predominantly Catholic country the Muslims feel that they will have a better place in the body politic of Sabah was returned to the Philippines. During the past two years secret organisations were formed

by them with Manila's tacit support in the southern parts of the country where commandos were trained waging the guerilla warfare in North Borneo.

Things came to a head in April when Malaysian authorities captured 36 armed Filipinos, mostly Muslims, in Sabah. The prisoners admitted that they had been trained in a secret camp at Corrigidor in the Philippines. The Malaysian Government has since mobilized all its resources in the North Borneo territory to meet the Filipino challenge. The Filipinos, on their part, have accused Sabah Chief Minister Tun Mustapha of instigating the Muslims living in southern islands of the Philippines to secede from the Republic. Though no one believes that Malaysians are in a position to instigate secession of any part of the Philippines, the cold war raging between the two countries may develop into armed conflict if emotions are allowed to have the better of reason. The Philippines have recently developed naval units and supersonic jets in the southern provinces to check the so-called intrusions into its territorial waters by Malaysian gun boats.

Of the five members of the AECSEAN, Indonesia and Singapore are keeping aloof from the Manila-Kuala Lumpur conflict. Only Thanom Kittikachorn has taken the initiative to bring the disputing parties together. Soon after his return from his global trot early this month he rushed to Malaysia to have secret confabulations with Tunku Abdul Rahman. The main topic of discussion was obviously Sabah. Yet the Thai Prime Minister is careful not to create the impression that he is acting as a mediator between the Malays and the Filipinos. Both Tunku Abdul Rahman and Field Marshal Kittikachorn are appealing to the Filipino's good sense on the ground that the differences between two important members of ASEAN will help "Communist China dominate all Asia, directly or indirectly."

THE PHILIPPINES claim to Sabah is based on the fact that British North Borneo Company, which had taken the territory on lease from the Sultan of Sulu in 1878 on an annual rent of 5,000 Malaya dollars, had no right to hand over the territory to the British Crown in 1946. The Sultan of Sulu, by virtue of accession from the Sultan of Brunei, became the sovereign ruler of North Borneo in 1704. The Sultanate of Sulu was reorganized by Spain, Britain and other European powers, Manila claims. The Sultan of Sulu was persuaded to lease out the North Borneo territory as the area was threatened by a Spanish expeditionary force. Later, Alfred Dent, the lessee, organized the British North Borneo Company and secured a Royal charter from the British Government to manage the affairs of the territory.

During the subsequent period, when the struggle for the domination of South East Asia became sharp among European powers, particularly the British, Dutch and Spanish, the British, Dutch and Spanish, the British Government through a number of letters and official statements in Parliament accepted the sovereignty of the Sultan of Sulu over North Borneo. Even the British flag was not allowed to be hoisted by the British North Borneo Company. In a letter to the Dutch Government dated November 21, 1881, the British Government assured the Hague that "the territories granted to Mr. Dent will be administered under the suzerainty of the Sultans of Borneo and Sulu to whom they have agreed to pay a yearly tribute. The British Government assumes no sovereign rights whatever in Borneo; and indeed, the charter contemplates the appointment of British consuls in the territories of the Company".

There was no change in the status of the territory till July 1946. Only six days after the Philippines regained its formal independence from the U.S. that the British Government took over the territory from the Company. In a special

proclamation the British Government said that "with effect from the 15th day of July, 1946, to the intent that the Crown should, as from that day have full sovereign rights over, and title to the territory of the state of North Borneo and that the said territory should thereupon become of Her Majesty's Dominions".

THUS nearly 66 years of private rule of a handful of British adventurers came to an end. Though legally the British had perhaps no right to assume sovereignty over the territory, the fact cannot be ignored that neither the Sultan of Sulu nor the Filipino nationalists ever made any attempt to end the private rule of a white "rajas" in North Borneo. The British took over the territory formally at a moment when in the wake of Japan's defeat in World War II the entire area was swept by a powerful wave of resurgent nationalism.

The rich natural resources of North Borneo could not be allowed to slip out of the British hands just because of a legal lacuna in the original deed of 1874. Even after transferring power to Malaya they did not think of according the same rights to the people of North Borneo. It was only after the emergence of Indonesia as a strong factor in South East Asia that the British thought of making the territory a part of independent Malaysia. They took care not to grant the right of self-determination to the people of North Borneo mainly because of the fear that they might be infected with militant Indonesian nationalism and thus create a threat to their economic interest in the territory.

Strange though it may appear the Philippines did not bother to fight the British over North Borneo even after securing its own independence. It woke up to the reality of the British rule only when the latter decided to amalgamate the area in the Malaysian Federation.

The Filipinos are not on stronger grounds when they press their claim to North Borneo on the basis of a century old document. If the British in the eighties of the last century did not want to assume sovereignty over North Borneo, it was not because of any respect for the so-called agreement between the Sultan and Dent. It was essentially an adjustment between the British and the Dutch who were competing for the domination of South East Asia. The British assurances to The Hague reflected the then balance of power in Europe.

If any one can really claim the right to question the validity of the 1946 British proclamation, then it is the people of North Borneo and not the Sultan of Sulu who had sold them out like cattle for a few hundred Malayan dollars. But through referendum and general elections, they seem to have already affirmed their union with the Malaysian Federation. What the people of North Borneo have done cannot be undone by a nondiscript pretender to be the master of their destiny.

LINK



SICK MEN!

Die Zeit (West Germany)

India

Continuing Economic Crisis—Manifesting In new Forms: Some Facets Examined

The economic crisis which hit India with full force from 1966 onward is a crisis of the very path of development, the capitalist path chosen by the Congress Government. It can also be called a crisis of structure, a term which some Latin American Marxists use to describe the situation of their continent. It is a continuing crisis which now manifests itself in one form and now in another.

In the last two years the crisis took the shape, mainly, of absolute drop in per capita income, drastic slowdown in the growth of national income, sharp drop in agricultural production, serious slowdown in industrial growth and terrific rise in prices. One of the spectacular manifestations of the crisis, as also its general summary, was the virtual abandonment even of the limited planning that had been practised hitherto.

It would be of some interest to try to analyse some new facts of this crisis of the path of capitalist development. There is little reason no doubt that with the increase in agricultural production and some picked up in the industrial sphere, national income will rise quite a bit with per capita income showing an increase as well. What reason, then, can there be for continuing to describe the situation as one of crisis?

If by crisis we understand only the cyclical rises and falls then, of course, what we have this year is by no means a crisis. But if by crisis we mean not only this but also the crisis of path or the crisis of structure, then certainly we can say that the crisis continues.

THE capitalist path of development was embarked upon by the Congress leadership as it seemed

to them the best path to economic independence. They also boasted that it would lead to prosperity and social progress. Some advance was made along that path but by about the middle of the Third Plan a point of crisis was reached, a crisis that has not been surmounted.

It has been noted that despite the bumper crop in many places—Assam, Orissa, West Bengal, Kerala, etc. — food shortage and near famine condition persist. It has also been noted that despite this bumper crop, the prices of foodgrains have not come down.

In Punjab reports of foodgrains flooding the mandis coincide with the fact that the price of wheat is Rs. 81 per quintal as compared to Rs. 153 last year (UNI survey published on June 17).

Thus, prices of foodgrains and food shortage continue to pose acute problems. And should there again be some fickleness about the monsoons then, of course, the consequences would be catastrophic, thanks to the nature of the agrarian structure built up by the Congress.

But it may well be that with reasonable monsoons there would be some easing of pressure on prices as also on the food front as a whole. This, however, would not lead to any abatement of the crisis of the capitalist path.

The first facet of the new phase of this crisis that needs to be emphasised is the most serious situation on the front of foreign exchange. It has more than confirmed that the US foreign aid programme will be drastically cut this year to the lowest point in its history. India will be among those countries which

will suffer heavily. Given the whole position of the world imperialist economy, foreign and from the West as a whole is scarcely to be counted upon.

At the same time, aid in the pipeline is not much. On top of this, even after the debt rescheduling agreed upon, there is the debt repayment problems of 400 million dollars. Still worse is the fact that the estimated trade gap for 1968-69 will come to about 950 million dollars, despite the fact that the foreign exchange cost of foodgrains imports will be 200 million dollars less.

Thus, 1,350 million dollars of foreign exchange will have to be found after taking full credit for export earnings (estimated to be in the region of 1,734 million dollars). Where is this going to come from? And if it cannot be found what will be the important structural and policy changes that have to be made?

THE second fact will be the start of a veritable unemployment explosion, the element of which, of course, have been accumulating for some time. According to Venkataram of the Planing Commission as of now the backlog of unemployment is 13 million. If present trends continue then the number is likely to go up to 27.4 million in the next five years.

It has been found that the speak point of the rate of growth of employment was reached in 1963. This fell to 5.6 per cent in 1966 and to only 0.8 per cent in 1967. It has also been found that it is the public sector which is mainly responsible for the growth of employment with private sector lagging far behind. As a matter of fact, in 1967 employment in the private sector showed an actual decline.

Another feature of the employment situation is the huge and rising growth of educated unemployed. In the employment exchanges the number of educated unemployed

rose from 5.67 lakhs in 1966 to 10.87 lakhs in 1967. Last year alone the number of graduate and postgraduate unemployed rose by 30 per cent and that of engineers by nearly 63 per cent.

We leave out for the moment, the question of semi-employment, disguised unemployment and the staggering proportions of all this in the rural sector. But since employment, especially that pertaining to the educated stratum, depends on rapid economic growth, especially in the public sector, and since precisely what is not at all likely to take place in 1968-69, the unemployment explosion is possibly going to be detonated this year. Social dynamite is piling up.

The third facet is the question of savings. Even if the miserable growth rates projected in the "Approach" paper are to be attained, the rate of saving on the average has to go up by between four to five per cent (actually more if the foreign aid picture is taken into account). This would mean a big increase is required in the marginal rate of saving. Now how is this to be attained?

It can only be attained in today's conditions if the huge flow of income into the pockets of the the landlord and rural rich is tapped effectively. (We leave aside for the moment the question of the monopolists, black money, banking capital, etc.) This require, at the very least, a steeply graded agricultural income tax. An element of coercion is essential, even for the success of the rural debentures suggested by Dr. Gadgil.

The position now is that though more inflation and indirect taxation may be embarked upon sources of capitalist accumulation beyond a point this would be socially dangerous and create realisation or market problems. So now on the question of raising resources conflict within the capitalist class (even between the industrial monopolists and agricultural capitalist landlords) is likely to vastly sharpen.

To try to avoid this problem the question of resources is being evaded. Or an appeal is being addressed to the industrialists to sell consumer goods to the rural rich and the state would find resources through small taxes on profits or slightly raised excise duties. This strategy would not bring in even a quarter of the estimated annual additional Rs. 200 to 300 crores required even for Gadgil's mini-Plan.

Thus, from the side, too, growth that is capitalist growth, comes up against barriers created by itself.

Foreign economic relations, unemployment and savings—these would seem to be the specially pinching features of the crisis of the capitalist path in India in 1968-69.

MOHIT SEN

HELENA RUBINSTEIN (ISRAEL) ACTIVE IN EASTERN EUROPE

Helena Rubinstein (Israel) recently concluded a contract to provide a Yugoslav company with knowhow, technical assistance, unfinished products, and packaging. The Israeli cosmetics firm will also assist in advertising and marketing. In the first stage, the Yugoslav company will only package Helena Rubinstein products, which will then be distributed by a marketing company which was the Helena Rubinstein agent in Yugoslavia. At a later stage, the Yugoslav company will also produce cosmetic products with the assistance of Israeli experts. According to the contract, the Yugoslav company's turnover in the first year will reach \$ 1 m., of which \$500,000 will go to Helena Rubinstein in Israel. Negotiations are now under way for a similar arrangement with Rumanian and Hungarian companies.

THE BORDERLAND — by C. V. VELUPILLAI

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

BOND FOR LIFE

The Story so far

The beautiful Sundari lived alone in her estate bungalow. Of all her admirers Amaradasa was her favourite. Dr. Nayagam's nephew Ravi, came to spend the April holidays with her.

Mrs. Tilikeratne who came for treatment to Amaradasa later turned out to be his cousin. He promised to meet her in the village.

Amaradasa took Sundari and Ravi to a cattle farm. On their way back he noted Sundari's strange behaviour towards the youth.

That night Sundari was emotionally disturbed due to the presence of Ravi in the house. She locked herself in her room and she recalled her early love for Rajendran, his betrayal and the cause of her mental disorder.

Next day Amaradasa found further evidence of Sundari's queer conduct towards the youth. Their relationship was strained and Sundari and Ravi suddenly left for Colombo.

Amaradasa came to the village. In the atmosphere of his home and the company of his people he became a new man. There was a letter for him from his school friend Rajan.

In spite of the rigid custom of the "big house" Amaradasa visited Mrs. Tilikeratne. Her personality made a lasting impact on him. The same day Mrs. Tilikeratne (Menike) came to the Walauwa to assist Swarna. That night Amaradasa was disturbed by the song recited by old Kira and his helpless state brought Menike much closer to him.

Amaradasa met Rajan. They planned to bring the village closer to the estate in order to solve the Indo-Ceylon problem. Amaradasa confided in Rajan his love for Menike and asked his advice.

In the gathering night Amaradasa and Rajan reached the Walauwa. It was bright and warm. The old liard was seated in the porch and Rajan greeted him with poised hands.

"I remember, you have been here with my son".

"Yes. Many years ago."

"I hear of you often from the people. Please sit down".

With that little oration he withdrew leaving him on the hands of his friend.

PHILBY

Harold (Kim) Philby is one of the greatest double agents produced by the world of espionage in recent times. A top British intelligence executive he vanished from the scene four years ago and after getting world-wide publicity he surfaced in Moscow. He actually worked for the USSR's Committee on State Security known as KGB. Last week on his 50th anniversary, the KGB publicly praised Kim's services to the Socialist world. "Izvestia" proudly informed its readers in a five column interview how he outfoxed CIA and other Western intelligence systems. Philby had disappeared from Beirut where he was known as an Arabist and contributed learned articles on current international events. He also represented a popular British daily. But above all he was Britain's top man spying against the Soviet Union. In the interview, Kim has claimed credit for CIA's disaster and for sabotaging its conspiracies including the one hatched to overthrow the Albanian regime of Enver Hoxa in 1951. At that time he led a British intelligence liaison mission to Washington to plan the counter-revolution. In a top-level meeting with CIA Allen Dulles, he approved the plot while making a number of amendments. The CIA executive thought very highly of him, especially as an expert on Soviet affairs. But the operation ended in disaster. "All possible theories were analysed, except one—that a regular officer of the Soviet intelligence service was sitting in on the conference", Philby's interview revealed. Philby is no mercenary. He says that he decided to help the Socialist countries against Western conspiracies purely out of conviction.

"Rajan, would you sit here or in my room?"

"In the room as in the old days".

They went in and sat on Amardasa's bed and Rajan in one glance surveyed all that was in the room.

"This room remains as it was, young and fresh with its quiet charm. We have changed. I mean, we have grown old and stale."

"You did not say the same thing of your room."

"Well, this is an artist's room where you dreamed and made your early pictures."

There was a rustle of clothes outside and with it came Menike bearing the tea tray. Rajan got up. She left the tea things on the small table.

"Rajan, this is my cousin, Mrs. Tilikeratne".

"I am delighted to meet you, Mrs. Tilikeratne", he bowed.

Menike looked slightly nervous and excited in his presence. "Please sit down", she said softly and withdrew.

"A man must be lucky to have her as his partner."

After their tea the two friends came out to the compound with a couple of chairs and sat down. In the night air there was the smell of orange blossoms and the musky aroma of spice. Menike came to Amardasa's room and the conversation outside attracted her. Much against her habit and wish she paused and listened.

"Amaray, unless a man is born unfortunate he wont lose her. You asked for my advice and my advice is that you must be very careful. In the first instance you must find out her true status. I have a feeling that she has burnt her boats.

"I too think so from what she told me. But should I not get confirmation?"

"What were you doing all these days, you medicine seller?" Menike suppressed a laugh.

"Amaray, you must sort out this all important question at once for I have a plan for your future. Your future must not be a sterile one. You must have a wife who would provide the base for your life's work. Have you been to a Hindu temple when you were in India?"

"Yes."

"Have you seen the lingam?"

"Yes. It is on a base."

"Woman is that base. She will propel any man to the height he aspires to reach. If he fails he will fall back on that base. That's what I mean when I say wife."

SPORTS BOYCOTT

"On the track I am cheered as a world record-holder. But in the dressing room or in the street I am nothing but a 'dirty Nigger', to be derided....."

This was the bitter comment of Tommy Smith, holder of the 200 and 400 metre world records, when he and many other American Negro athletes announced that they would refuse to take part in the Mexico Olympic Games in protest against racial discrimination. It was ridiculous, he said, to expect coloured sportmen to win medals for a country which refused to recognize them as full-fledged citizens. At the Olympic Games in Tokyo in 1964 the U.S. team included fifty Negro athletes who won 22 medals, and if the boycott is given full support by Negro sportsmen, the chances of the team will be pretty slim. The move for such a boycott has been supported by some of the civil rights leaders, including Dr. Martin Luther King. Floyd McKissick, director of the Congress of Racial Equality, said: "We support the boycott because it is directed against the racialism and injustice we are fighting". Some American Negro sportsmen, however, do not think it will be useful. The refusal to take part in the Games, they say, will hardly help the fight for civil rights. Jesse Owens, the Negro athlete who covered himself with glory at the Berlin Olympic Games in 1936, recently declared that by their participation Negro sportsmen would help assert their civil equality and expose racialism. Whether the boycott will help or not remains to be seen, but at any rate the statement made by Tommy Smith and his friends testifies to the Negroes' growing indignation with racialism in the United States.

"So you want me to get married and thereafter do what?"

"Briefly, you and your future partner must bring the village closer to the estate; reconcile the two. It cannot be achieved by press statements and public speeches or writing a book but by practical, earnest, hard work. You must live your message. It is a step towards a change of heart and change of living. The outside must influence the inside. Your village must have simple, good houses, sanitation and health facilities; schools for handicrafts, fine arts, small industries and farms. They must be designed to supply all the requirements of the estate folks and the money you get from them must provide the good things of life for the village. All this needs careful study and sustained work. Your centre of activity must be here and if you have a good wife she would be a great asset."

"I see what you mean. It is a splendid idea and one must be prepared to take all kinds of risks."

"Of course. You have to face them. Success never goes to weak people. You must keep moving and there must be somebody to push forward."

"Now it becomes all the more important that I should sound her."

"Yes. Think it over and then speak to her. Your people have lived long enough on starvation level and my people have no place to bury their bones. If you and I can meet and understand each other why can't they?"

"Yes. Why can't they? We must make it possible."

"If you have a base I'll join you."

Menike came out and announced dinner. She left timid and uncertain as if her heart was too small to bear all what she had heard. She left grateful to Rajan. To her he was the invisible hand of providence.

The table was laid with attractively cooked food. As the two men took their seats Menike served.

"You have done a splendid job, Menike", said Amaradasa.

"How do you know that before you started?"

"That's a good one ? What about you Mrs. Tilikeratne."

"Your customs and our customs are the same, Mr. Rajan."

They laughed.

After dinner Amaradasa and Rajan sat out.

"Amaray, the food has gone to my head. Let me be a bit personal. She has character, refinement and fire. What more does one want?"

Menike overhead this as she came to speak to Amaradasa.

"Mahatya", she said, "Mr. Rajan has a long way to go."

YANKEE IN SPAIN

A regular pitched battle was fought by U.S. sailors and local twonspeople on the embankment of the Spanish port of Alicante one day in late November. Employing such traditional weapons as stones, the Spaniards forced the Americans to beat a hasty retreat. The U.S. naval command stopped all shore leaves to save the seamen from being man-handled. The immediate cause of clashes such as this is the unruly behaviour of drunken American sailors who start fights, overturn cars, and generally run amuck. So it is not surprising that in the end the Spaniards decided they had had enough of that and took matters into their own hands. There is no telling how the affair would have ended had the police not intervened. The incident in Alicante is of course an exceptional case but it is illustrative of the growing anti-American sentiment in Spain, where the U.S. military formerly could do as they pleased. This sentiment is reflected most vividly in the widespread movement against U.S. bases in Spain. The present US-Spanish agreement on bases expires next September and Washington and Madrid are negotiating its prolongation. Judging by all the signs, the Franco government is prepared to allow the Americans to remain on Spanish soil on certain terms. Public opinion, however, is strongly opposed to the move. The new independent Madrid daily *SP* recently bitterly criticized American military presence in Spain. In its editorial entitled "Go Home", it wrote: "Gibraltar is a result of the British empire, just as the U.S. bases (in Spain) are a sign of North American domination".

"It's only twenty minutes drive from here, Mrs. Tilikeratne".

"True. But it is twenty minutes climb from here to the road."

"That did not strike me. Thank you very much. Then must take leave" of you".

"So, Menike you have asked him to quit."

"What do you mean? You want him to do the climb at midnight?"

"Very thoughtful of you, Mrs. Tilikeratne. I hope, I'll have the pleasure of meeting you here again."

She shot a look of surprise at Rajan. He was almost taken aback. He knew that the import of his remark was seen through by her.

"Yes, Mr. Rajan. I'll be here."

Amaradasa blinked as if he had received a blow on his head. The word "here" was stressed deliberately. And Menike wanted to make it plain to them that she was not going back.

"Goodnight, Mrs. Tilikeratne".

"Goodnight".

Amaradasa and Rajan went out and there was a man ready to take Rajan to the car.

The torch shot out a column of light cutting a pathway in the darkness and Rajan walked up followed by the guide.

"Mahatya", said Menike, as Amaradasa rejoined her, "we should have asked him to stay."

"He won't stay anywhere overnight. After this climb he would be at home within half an hour."

"You look worried. Is it because he asked you to settle something?" She teased him.

"You attend to your work. I'll tell you later."

"I have finished my work. You can tell me now."

Amaradasa lapsed into silence as he stood watching the hill side. At last the torch gleamed on its top and there was the hum of the car. He went direct to his room. Menike did not follow him. She felt like a reed. Her past began to fade.

Everything behind her was dark and there was only a flicker before her. As she made her way towards the kitchen she had an impulse to see what Amaradasa was doing. She peeped into his room. He was in bed in a crouching position resting on his right arm on the pillow.

THE DISUNITED KINGDOM

The recent victory scored in the by-election in Hamilton by the candidate of the Scottish Nationalist Party, which had not been represented in the House of Commons for more than twenty years, created quite a sensation. The London *Daily Telegraph* called it a "catastrophe, like its predecessor at Carmarthen", where in July last year the candidate of the Welsh Nationalist Party, which never had an M.P. in its ranks, took the seat away from the Labour Party. It is an ominous sign as far as the leading British parties are concerned. Nationalist leaders have already announced that they will contest the next general election in all their constituencies and that they expect to be successful.

The British press attributes the present situation chiefly to economic causes. Scotland and Wales have long been "depressed areas", for the economic difficulties of the past few years have hit them hard. In Scotland, for the first time in many years, the index of industrial output in the first quarter of this year was 3 per cent, and in the second, 1.5 per cent below the indices for the corresponding periods in 1966. Scottish and Welsh living standards are steadily declining. The Nationalist parties have made good use of the voters' discontent. British newspapers appear to be seriously alarmed about the "growing threat of Nationalists". The *Daily Telegraph* says "it is bound to affect the policies of Government and Opposition." And the London *Times* urges British politicians "to think in a fundamental way about Celtic nationalism before it is too late."

"What are you thinking, Mahatya?"

"You have a way of reading other people's minds. With you here I can't think of anything."

"Am I a distraction?"

"More than that, Menike." He sat up.

"Then I'll go home tomorrow."

"You told Rajan that you will be here always."

"I don't know why I said that".

"Menike, please sit here."

"No, no. I'll stand here."

"Menike, I have got something to tell you. I don't know how to begin. Would you be offended if I am wrong?"

"No."

"Have you left your home at Norton for good?"

"Yes. I have left everything."

"My friend has urged me to marry you if you will accept me". She lowered her head. Her voice was chocking in her throat.

"Do you want to take this second hand woman for you wife? I have nothing to give a man like you. Would you ever care for me? Would you respect me".

"Yes, Menike. You will be everything to me."

It was too much for her to bear. She felt utterly broken. She knelt beside him and placed her hands on his knees with her head bent low.

"Only care for me a little. That will do for me."

He got up and lifted her and held her close to him.

"Come with me for a moment, Mahatya."

She led the way and he followed her to the shrine room.

A tiny flame stood at the tip of the taper in the oil lamp and it lit up the face of the Buddha in the glass case. Amaradasa and Menike knelt before it their palms held together in worship. It was only for a brief while. In the silent hour of the night, at the meeting point of the flame and the wick that illumed the face of the Master, Amaradasa and Menike forged a bond for life.

As they rose and went on tip toe to the room, the old liard called out:

"Who is that?"

"I, Uncle."

"Go and sleep Putha. It is too late for prayers."



THE F-111 AFFAIR

Americans are past masters at the art of advertising. They'll try to sell you anything, from a soft drink to a bomber plane, even if the merchandise is not all it's cracked up to be. One good example is the F-111 fighter-bomber. The publicity campaign preceding its appearance in the arms market bears all the hallmarks of high pressure salesmanship. First its manufacture was shrouded in mystery through which there seeped hints about a "miracle plane". Immediately after the first test flights American newspaper reports about the F-111 fairly bristled with superlatives: it was a swing-wing fighter-bomber equipped with up-to-date electronic devices, it was superfast, supermanoeuvrable, super this and super that. The bait worked, and London placed an order for a batch of F-111s. Shortly afterwards the U.S. Air Force got a consignment of these "miracle" planes and put them to use in bombing the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. And it was then that it was discovered that its merits had been exaggerated, to put it mildly. The F-111s proved to be excellent targets for the Vietnamese anti-aircraft gunners. What is more, they often had to be grounded because of defects and accidents. In the end, the U.S. Command stopped using them altogether. Thereupon, Britain naturally decided to cancel the order. But she will now have to pay the Americans \$150 million in compensation for the cancellation. Quite a tidy sum for trusting an advertisement.

FILM PAGE

● **AMATIKAMA**, S. P. M. Movies latest production, released through Ceylon Theatres Ltd. now showing at *ELPHINSTONE, ROXY ASOKA* and 15 other centres, is a bold enough departure from the traditional mode of contents

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**The Fall of
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IN PANAVISION & TECHNICOLOR

**ELPHINSTONE
ROXY**

S. P. M. Movies'
AMATIKAMA
Directed by: Nihal Jayasinghe

**SELLAMAHAL
GAIETY**

M. G. Ramachandran
Jayalalitha — Saroja Devi
in

Arasa Kattalai

CROWN
DEV ANAND--ASHA PAREKH
in
**Jab Pyar Kisise
Hota Hai**

Music: Shankar Jaikishan

Air-Conditioned
SAVOY
Ann Margret -- Alex Cord
in
STAGECOACH
IN CINEMASCOPE AND COLOR

and presentation. The pace of the film is even with the many situations happening to keep audiences interested. Everything is provided for sheer entertainment, and enough of the gags to give an enjoyable time for cinegoers. One merit of this film is that ordinary cinema fans will be pleased on account of the diversity of the incidents. There are many sequences in the script which achieve the surprising combinations of pathos, irony and fun. Some are outright hilarious. What is really remarkable about this movie is that instead of becoming a grim and sordid subject, it blends humour and excitement in such fine degree that it becomes a highly enjoyable and absorbing affair, without much loss of seriousness demanded in the theme. The screenplay builds a series of very interesting incidents, all plausible and smoothly linked. Director Nihal Jayasinghe has skilfully interwoven this political satire, to make the story quite intelligible and appealing. The performances he has drawn from the artistes are good enough to meet the needs of the story and theme. The technical credits are well above the average, and the camera work by Jacob Selvaratnam is of good standard. One of the assets side of the picture is its music by R. Muttusamy. His compositions are pleasing on the whole and go well with the theme.

Story: Astrologer Babanis (D. R. NANAYAKKARA) a close associate of Piloris Muda'ali (JOE ABEYWICKREMA) a wealthy businessman, predicts to him, he will be elected as a member of parliament in the forthcoming general election, and would become a minister too. Piloris confident of the prediction decides to contest the seat in his area. Babanis then tells Piloris, to up keep the social standard, his daughter Nandika (SANDHYA KUMARI) must be married to a government servant holding a high position, and proposes Anil (MILTON JAYAWARDENE) a civil servant. Piloris agrees to the proposal, knowing

(H. R. JOTHIPALA), a journalist. Anil has an affair with Shiranee (IVONEE WEERASINGHE). Knowing the developments at home, Nandika meets Anil, and both scheme to be faithful to their respective lovers and out beat Babanis. Piloris is finally defeated at the elections by Bastian Nethasinghe (HUGO FERNANDO). Then Mr. Subasinghe, Anil's father and Piloris realising the real intentions of quack astrologer Babanis consents to their children's own choice in marriage.

● **NAAN** (Eastmancolor), Cinemas Ltd., release, now showing to crowded houses at *CAPITOL, PLAZA, MYLAN* and other centres, brings to the screen a harsh story of dramatic adventure, loyalty and deep friendship. Beneath the story, there runs crime and suspense, and another less obvious one, the story of three men (MANOHAR, RAVI CHANDRAN, NAGESH), who loathe one another because



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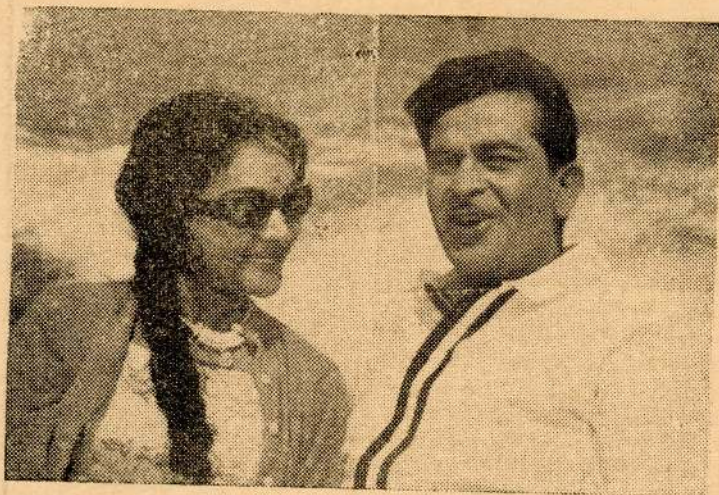
**PANAMA
PASAMA**

morally they are worlds apart, and trapped together in a mansion for days, and as they fight, the two (Ravichandran and Nagesh) grow to like and respect each other, so that after their escape they remain loyal to each other whatever the price. These two represent an obvious and basic moral confrontation, and by the end of the film each of them have gained tolerance and a reason to believe in friendship, a sense of honour and a reason to make sacrifices for someone other than himself. For the other, the gun proves useful, and when things do not work out as he desires, and begins to terrorise everyone, justice is finally done by his own mother as a result of a cunning twist in which, of the two a C.I.D. Inspector (Nagesh) plays an important part. The dramatic form is that of a spy movie with plenty of gimmicks and ultra-modern age gadgets, and the characters reveal themselves by actions rather than words. In this exhaust-crackling action packed Tamil film of moving grandeur, JAYALALITHA provides the feminine interest, playing her part with both wit and spirit. The colourful settings are just

as attractive as the story. The dances while being attractive are at the same time full of vigour. Dramatic incidents occur during chases on foot and cars all set against the splendid backdrop of gorges, mountain sides and in the wilderness. Directed by Ramanna, the movie is made in a way which gives full weight to the unexpected and to suspense. The lively musical score is provided by T. K. Rama-moorthy for this entertainer done in a lavish style.

● **THE PATSY** new Technicolor comedy from Paramount opening next at the *RIO CINEMA*, is about a group of show business professionals who's meal-ticket, a famous comedian and movie star suddenly dies. They decide to build a nobody into a star, substituting the new comer for the dead comedian, and continuing with their lucrative jobs. For their replacement they select a bellboy (Jerry Lewis) who shows sign of having talent, and what results is sheer bedlam. A special feature in the movie will be cameo appearances by leading stars and show business personalities. The film was produced by Ernest

D. Glucksman and directed by Jerry Lewis from a script he wrote with Bill Richmond. Included in the cast are Ina Balin, Everett Sloane, Phil Harris, Keenan Wynn, John Carradine, Phil Foster and Peter Lorre in what was to be his last movie. The film is Lewi's 30th motion picture.



Vyjayanthimala and Raj Kapoor in a scene from R. K. Films' Hindi movie **SANGAM** in Technicolor, produced and directed by Raj Kapoor. Cinemas Ltd. release now showing at **LIDO CINEMA, Borella.**

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2nd WEEK

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- JEYALALITHA
- NAGESH
- MANOHAR

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From Tommorrow

LIDO

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CAPITOL

1-30, 6 & 10-30 p.m.

- RAJKAPOOR
- VYJANTHIMALA
- RAJENDRAKUMAR

in

SANGAM

Eastman Color

GAMINI 5th Week

Daily 2, 6, & 9.30 p.m

- Roy ● Shiranee ● Stanley

VANASARA

New Trends In Pakistan?

Non-Renewal Of USA Military Base

Below we publish two extracts from the official *Pakistan News Digest* on the question of the non-renewal of the American base near Peshawar. The second extract is an editorial from the *Pakistan Times* published in the *Pakistan News Digest*.

PAKISTAN has given notice to the United States that it close its communications unit near Peshawar. This was announced by Foreign Minister, Mr. Arshad Husain in the National Assembly during question hour on May 20, 1968.

He said that under the agreement with the United States the notice was given on April 6, 1968, twelve months in advance of the expiry of the first ten-year period, after which the agreement would otherwise have been automatically renewed.

The Foreign Minister said that Pakistan had taken the step in "keeping with our policy of developing bilateral relations of friendship and mutual understanding with all countries." "We can have friendly relations with the Soviet Union, China and the United States without these being at the cost of any of the others," he added.

Mr. Arshad Hussain said that Pakistan's relations with the United States were very friendly. The United States, he said, had given ample evidence of its deep concern for Pakistan's economic building. Its economic contribution to Pakistan's nation-building, he said, had been outstanding. He hoped that these relations would continue to develop.

Answering a question, the Foreign Minister declared that if Pakistan's membership with SEATO and CEN-TO was found to be detrimental

in any way to its national interests, Pakistan would have no hesitation in leaving them. He referred to the great changes that had taken place and the gradual development of detente between the super powers since these treaties were concluded. He pointed out that both the Soviet Union and the United States had been developing cooperation in all fields with the members of CENTO.

The Foreign Minister also reaffirmed Pakistan's full support to the African majority rule in Rhodesia and the aspirations of the African peoples for self-determination. He said that Pakistan strongly condemned the unilateral declaration of independence by the illegal Smith regime. Pakistan had broken off all relations with Rhodesia and banned all trade with that country in pursuance of the UN resolutions.

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EDITORIAL SPOTLIGHT

The Government's decision not to renew the lease of the American telecommunications base near Peshawar is wholly in keeping with the dictates of Pakistan's balanced foreign policy. As the Foreign Minister Mr. Arshad Hussain, told the National Assembly on Monday, this country desires friendly relations with Russia, China and the U. S. "without these being at the cost of the others". The termination of the American base is in consonance with this aim. Whatever the special circumstances in which this arrangement took shape in 1959—a stage when regional alliances seemed to have acquired teeth and this country received adequate military aid from the United States as also a guarantee against aggression—the situation has radically altered in recent years, particularly after 1965. Among

other things, both the Soviet Union and China, who have lately given us valuable support, expect this country to give full effect to the principle of balance and bilateralism in our foreign policy. This basic principle was in danger of being compromised by allowing another friendly Power to monitor military installations and defence testing sites in Central Asia for elsewhere. The Peshawar base has, in particular, been a source of irritation for Moscow as well as Peking, if not an obstacle to this country's closer relations with these powerful neighbours. Its extra-territorial basis was also inconsistent with Pakistan's sovereignty. Thus, by seeking its removal Rawalpindi has reasserted its sovereign rights as a nation and given precedence to national interests over all other considerations. Earlier, to be more exact during the 1965 war with India, Pakistan has closed three U.S. installations and these "have not been allowed to be re-opened," as a Foreign Office spokesman put it some time ago! According to foreign agency reports, Washington seemed to be very keen to retain the "key base" at Peshawar and is reported to have proposed to Rawalpindi to replace the long term agreement with a year-to-year renewal, as in the case of the U.S. Air Force base in Turkey. Though the continuance of the base on a short-term renewal basis could have given Pakistan greater leverage with the U.S., it has rightly refused to indulge in any such bargaining. Its dominant object is to regulate its relations with big and small Powers on a bilateral basis. It goes without saying that Pakistan is keen to maintain close and friendly ties with the United States, which even now is our biggest source of aid. Thus, it is hoped that the closure of the Peshawar base notwithstanding, bilateral cooperation with the U.S. will continue to grow on the principle of equality, respect for sovereignty and mutuality of interest—the chief corner-stones of Pakistan's foreign policy.