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FROM THIS ISSUE OF
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From Our Desk

THIS WEEK it will be two years since the Jayewardene Government came to power. The government and pro-government media have served the public with an overdose of articles, features, statistics, photographs, editorials and what-have-you to show that the Government has performed miracles not thought possible in this island. Newspaper supplements about government activities—beating the big drum of self-praise and self-glorification—have overwhelmed the readers of daily newspapers. Unfortunately, the propaganda has been laid on so thick and so fast, slurring over obvious shortcomings that nobody can ignore and pretending that corruption has disappeared with the last regime, that much of this government propaganda is counter-productive. The credibility gap between the ordinary people and the government is daily becoming wider. And it is also unfortunate that the most, if not all, of the leaders of this government, are either oblivious of this widening credibility gap or refuse to see it. The successes scored by the UNP at the May 19 Municipal and Urban Council elections has put additional blinkers on many who fail to see the credibility gap in which they are engulfed. The Opposition press too lays on its propaganda even thicker and heavier than the government's and people tend to dismiss what they write lightly. If what the Opposition Parties say approximates to the truth in a reasonable measure and the reports and comments are couched in realistic idiom, these Parties would have fared better in the local elections. The trouble is that the Opposition press has not yet learnt the lesson that under-statements are always more effective than flamboyant over-statements. In this situation, there is room in Sri Lanka for the growth of an independent media or even the growth of objective writing, reporting and comment in the existing Government as well as the Opposition media. The *Tribune* does not pretend that it can pave the way for the growth of an independent Fourth Estate, but the *Tribune* can always point out where the daily and periodical press of the Government and the Opposition fall short in their efforts to convince the public of the validity of the causes they espouse. *Tribune* will also in the course of the coming weeks publish evaluations of what the Government has achieved in the last two years and where it has failed. There is not the slightest doubt, however, that the Jayewardene Government has in two years successfully reversed policies and promises that have dominated Sri Lankan politics and economics ever since Independence and especially after the Bandaranaike revolution in 1956. This is an ongoing process, and students of history, economic problems and development strategies should pay due attention to the experiment (and the gamble) in Sri Lanka initiating a 180° right-about turn from pro-socialist perspectives to pro-capitalist strategies. The American newsmagazine *Time* of June 25, 1979 said: "Around the world the siren song of socialism appears to be losing its lure. Countries as diverse as Britain and France, Peru and Algeria are moving away from the creed of nationalization and towards freer market economies. None has shifted quite so far, so quickly, as Sri Lanka, the verdant island nation off the Coast of India that the world still knows as Ceylon." Is this verdict correct?

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Not Children Alone

THIS IS THE YEAR OF THE CHILD. But it is not for this reason we picked the picture on the cover showing a group of children at play in one of the parks in Colombo that have been brightened up after Prime Minister Premadasa took an interest in improving the city and its environs. The photograph is of a children's park in one of the less opulent parts of the city and it can be said that the kids have been togged up for the occasion—one more attempt, it will be said, at window-dressing the work being done by government. Even if these children have their Sunday best on, there is not the slightest doubt that children, not merely in Colombo but all over the island, are better dressed than they were two years ago.

And it is not the children alone. In the remotest villages of the island, *Tri-bune* has found men, women and children better dressed—in bright attractive clothes. There are those who bemoan that even in rural areas the cloth and jacket and the saree have been increasingly discarded in favour of the bell-bottoms and the skin-tight frocks. The sarong too has given way to the polyester slacks and denim jeans. And even those who still wear a jacket (Cinnamon Gardens matrons do), the saree and

the sarong, are plentifully supplied with a fascinating range of colours and prints.

The prices of all commodities are high—especially foodstuffs. But the wonder is how people continue to buy. It is only after purchasing basic food items that people will buy clothes. And they do. Where does the money come from? The inflow of remittances from abroad can account only for a part. There has been more employment not only in the FTZ but in many undertakings in the private sector. More have also been employed in government undertakings, but some of this is political and not economic and the backlash may come later. One sector where employment has increased considerably is in building construction not only in Colombo but in all parts of the island (in different electorates). There has also been a fractional spillover of increased employment in the Mahaveli area, but this has not yet become a major factor. Plantation labour earns comparatively a very high wage and the remuneration of salaried employees in the state and private sectors has also been pushed up. Labour in the agricultural sector earn more but not enough—because rural agriculture is in the doldrums.

The amount of money pumped into the economy in this way has naturally set in motion an inflationary spiral and in the absence of proportionately increased domestic production for local consumption, the inflation would have de-

stabilised the economy but for the large influx of imported goods—goods officially imported and also illegally smuggled in.

This state of affairs depending on imports to contain inflation—and keep consumer prices down cannot go on for long. Local production must catch up, otherwise, danger lies ahead. This is the real challenge before government. Domestic production in all sectors, especially in rural agriculture, must increase significantly if the monetary, economic, fiscal and the trade policies of the government are to yield dividends. And if production stagnates or deteriorates, even the gods cannot help Sri Lanka—and the IMF will foreclose.

But in the meantime, on the occasion of the Second Anniversary of the Jayewardene Government men, women and children in Sir Lanka today wear better and brighter clothes. Whether they can really afford them is another question. Whether they can buy a replenishment next year is a yet more difficult question. The so far limitless import (legal and illegal) of textiles has also given rise to corruption in high places as well as low. These imports have also dealt a serious blow to the local textile industry. How the Government will disentangle some of these difficult problems is worth watching.

* * *

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Desai Goes

Colombo, July 17,

Prime Minister Morarji Desai has been compelled to resign by defections in his own party and the rising tide of public opinion against him. On a political level, planned and deliberate programs against Muslim minority groups by Hindu extremists (of the Jan Sangh and the RSS) and the murderous assaults on Harijans by Hindu reactionary diehards had brought all secular-minded members of the Janata Coalition into a sharp confrontation with Desai who had relied on the Jan Sangh—RSS component in the Janata to maintain his hold on the Party. Desai's position had been shaken by the scandals in which his son Kanti Desai was involved. One of the objections against Desai for many years and even when he was chosen as the leader of the Janata, was the unsavoury reputation of his son Kanthi from the time Morarji was Chief Minister of Bombay and later as Finance Minister at the Centre. The fatal blunder made by Morarji was to appoint this son as his Private Secretary, who not satisfied with the crores he had made in the past, started his high jinks to make more billions whilst his father was Prime Minister. This naturally led to a demand that a Commission

should be appointed to inquire into the affairs of Kanti Desai and a substantial part of the two years he has been Prime Minister was devoted on how an investigation could be evaded postponed, nullified and avoided.

In this situation, a fresh scandal broke out in the first week of June—a few days before Desai had left on the grand European tour on June 7. We reproduce below an article from the New Delhi weekly *New Age*, 15/7/79, on the BALA-KANTI-MORARJI SCANDAL. "After fleeing the country the former chairman and managing director of the Barium Chemicals Ltd., since sold to the Sahu-Jains, and also a 'close friend' of Kanti Desai, P. N. Balasubramaniam, wrote a letter to the Prime Minister's son from Nepal to inform him that he had 'escaped the clutches of Charan Singh'. 'Had I not succeeded', said Balasubramaniam, nicknamed Bala, 'they would have forced me to sign a statement incriminating everybody, and would have political crisis to his (Charan Singh—Ed) political advantage.' Bala went on: 'I hope Bapuji instead of behaving like a Saint realises that a defeated enemy can never become a friend.' These are the words from a fugitive from the law, whom the Solicitor General appearing for the government before the Delhi High Court, would like to be declared 'an absconder' and whose property the government would like to 'attach'. Bala seems to

think that he has 'escaped' from Deputy Prime Minister-cum-Finance Minister Charan Singh's 'clutches'; Prime Minister Morarji Desai appears to be no worry for him. Evidently, this run-away businessman, who proudly claims his high political connections and his two-decade-old friendship with Kanti, reckoned that his little message from Nepal would not only please Kanti but also relieve the latter of his anxieties and apprehensions.

"After all, there was the danger of Bala's signing a statement 'incriminating everybody' and to Charan Singh's 'advantage'. So we seem to be at yet another scene of the Morarji-Charan drama, Kanti being the focal figure! Much of the story, however, remains still untold but this may not be so for long.

"There are clear pointers to a great scandal which might find some heads in high places rolling and, in the process, further expose the rank hypocrisy and the summit-level corruption that the Janata government headed by Morarji Desai symbolises. So, the developments centering round the Bala affairs will be watched and are, in fact, being already keenly watched in the capital's political circles. There is curiosity among some and panic among others. Bala made his first escape bid on the morrow of searches of his 186, Golf Links (New Delhi) premises conducted jointly by the directorate of enforcement and the income tax officials on

June 4, when certain 'highly incriminating documents' were seized and taken away by the search parties. Bala's Pan Asian Technical Services office is in the same premises. These documents are now in the hands of the Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Charan Singh who is reported to have sent a note with the relevant files to the Prime Minister. Charan Singh's ministry had initiated these Golf Links operations.

"Incidentally, on the same day searches were carried out in another place—the premises of Sanjay Gandhi's mother-in-law, Amteshwar Anand, at 154 Jorbagh where the office of the well known West German company Festo Maschinenfabrik specialising in automation technique and bugging devices has been shifted from Bala's Golf Links premises. Along with the lady's residential quarters this office, too, came under the operations and in the Festo office some revealing documents were found. Bala has told the high court that he would have objected to these Jorbagh searches also had he known about it before. He maintains that 'it is not open to' the finance ministry officials 'to rely on documents seized' in Jorbagh to try to 'prejudice the hon'ble court.' It seems there are some close links between Golf Links and Jorbagh! Interestingly, Sanjay's mother-in-law has written to the Prime Minister after the searches and demanded an inquiry against Kanti Desai.

However, Bala's first escape attempt from Palam on June 5 was foiled by the finance ministry officials. Bala then rushed to the South Block and met the Prime Minister on June 6 for 40 minutes.—Kanti had promptly arranged this meeting. What passed between the two is not fully known but what has come to light is quite intriguing. In addition to talking to the prime minister, Bala also handed over a note to him wherein it is said that 'the officers of the ministry of Finance at all levels are moving vigorously to involve the prime minister's son and me as his agent for amassing foreign exchange in foreign banks through foreign companies, also prove huge wealth was collected in India as well.'

"A few days later after the prime minister had left the country on June 7, Bala managed to get away to Nepal from where he flew to Bangkok and thence to Frankfurt. There was no official to intervene this time and the bid succeeded. What was the Home Ministry doing even after the aborted earlier attempt to escape and in view of Bala's impending prosecution? It is whispered in the Parliament lobbies that the Home Ministry being under H. M. Patel is within the reach of Kanti's wire-pulling which is why Bala could give the slip. It is also reported that after the searches Sanjay Gandhi and Menaka were seen coming out of Bala's house on the night of June 4. The former prime minister's son is reported to have ad-

vised Bala to get out of the country. Sanjay's mother-in-law is also Bala's intimate friend for quite some time now and here influence, affection and possibly certain mutual interests, too, came in. This may all sound bizarre, but is true! It is now revealed in the Delhi High Court itself on behalf of Bala that he had met on June 21 Prime Minister Morarji Desai's principal private secretary Tonpe, son Kantilal Desai and other officials in Schols Konigstein in Frankfurt. And after this significant meeting Bala and Kanti are reported to have travelled to Switzerland—the seat of the numbered bank accounts.....".

This is only part of the story. Tribune will publish in the coming weeks more inside stories about the fall of Morarji Desai. These stories have great relevance to Sri Lanka at this juncture. Sons, daughters, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, nephews, nieces, catchers and comen are making hay in Sri Lanka from positions of vantage in the power structure now prevailing in the Government. There are many lessons to be learnt. President Jayawardene has not made the mistakes Morarji Desai is guilty of, but a number of others in his Team and an even larger number of functionaries in his Administration have not shown the wisdom, discretion and rectitude the President has insisted on. They must purge themselves of these sad defaults before it is too late.

This And That

***SALU SALA.** A Printer's Devil had crept into the piece in this column about the Salu Sala in the issue of July 7. It was reported that Salu Sala had bought 100 million yards of textiles in excess. It should have read 100 million rupees worth of textiles in excess. This does not make the mystery any less stunning.

***THE NATIONAL TEXTILE CORPORATION (NTC)** is going out of business soon. At least its old management. A private managing agency is taking over. In spite of this, is it true that one or more of the top brass of the soon-to-be-defunct management have taken a trip to Pakistan (or Timbuctoo?) allegedly for a training course in textile technology. Should old age derelicts from the NTC be allowed to make the trip when there are younger persons, technically qualified, who can benefit from such a course? Should not the new regime at the NTC have chosen the persons to make use of this opportunity to obtain some training and experience? Furthermore, there is speculation as to who in the NTC had approved the Lonestar raw cotton sample.

***EXPORT OF LABOUR.** There are wild accusations flying around Colombo that the official recruiting agency of the Labour Department has quietly channelled a sizable percentage of those

who had applied for jobs in the Mid-east through a private firm with a prestigious address not far from environs of the President's private residence. There are whispers that the go-getting boss of this private firm is intimately connected with the powers-that-be in the Labour set up in Sri Lanka. Will this not be a matter for a future Presidential Commission—already those interested and concerned have a growing dossier about this scandal?

***NO LICENCE?** Whispers are also circulating that a prestigious firm of accountants and auditors had recently called for applications (in large newspaper advertisements) for jobs in a well-known frontline country in Africa. The whispers insist that this Colombo firm had no licence to recruit manpower or brain power for export. Are these whispers based on fact? If so, what do the authorities propose to do about it? Can the government afford to overlook a flagrant case of violating the laws of the land?

***SELECT COMMITTEE.** Stories are in circulation that the names of two top tycoons of Sri Lanka submitted to the Parliamentary Select Committee for approval have not been either okayed or rejected. This stalemate, it is reported, has gone on for a very long time? Why? Or is it that a decision has been made but not made public? An official news release would be welcome.

***LOCOMOTIVES.** The first lot of the 32 new locomotives ordered by the CGR is expected to arrive in Colombo on or around August 15. Will they suffer the same fate as the earlier engines by insufficient (and often improper) maintenance and repair? Sixteen of these locomotives will come from West Germany on a long-term line of credit at low interest. Sixteen others are from Japan. Were they not bought for cash? If so, was it cheaper to buy for cash than the West German ones for credit? How much cheaper? Or were they more expensive? Could not a credit line have been negotiated for these 16 locomotives as well? What is the magic in buying locomotives for cash? Are there kickbacks in cash which do not arise in credit line purchases—and if they arise are only nominally? Some day somebody is going to probe these questions. Remember Lockheed!

***COST PLUS.** The city is chock-a-block with rumors that in future international tenders will not be called for the construction of giant Housing Schemes and also the large tall-rise government buildings: that the work will be done on a cost plus basis by foreign and local firms. In many leading countries cost plus has led to some of the biggest scandals and limitless corruption? Must Sri Lanka open the floodgates to this kind of unsavoury happenings?

***COMMISSIONS.** It is accepted that in private

trade, commissions and rebates are paid to buying agents. Such commissions vary from 1% to 20% depending on the nature and the magnitude of the order. Now that the largest volume of imports is done by Government institutions, viz. CWE, STC, BMC, CGR etc., etc., should government not lay down directives and guidelines to ensure that the "normal commissions" paid to the private purchaser is credited to government. By this the government can save a few billion rupees in a six year term in its import bill and also have fewer allegations for a Presidential Commission to investigate.

Sherlock Holmes

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THE PRESS

by Printers Devil

o ULF Journals

THE SOCIALIST NATION, the English journal of the LSSP after it ceased to be a weekly several months ago, announced that it would appear fortnightly. But it has made its appearance even more irregularly than a fortnight. The latest issue to hand is Vol. 4 Nos. 9 and 10. It was said to be the End May—Early June 1979 issue, but it reached us only in the third week of June. This issue has 12 pages, quarto size. It had four articles on foreign affairs: *Non-alignment and Pol Pot*,

Zone of Peace, Totemic Sanctimony (India—Desai and the Law), and the *Non-Aligned on the way to Havana*. The local articles: *Illusions of Proportional Representation, UNP's Broken Promises to Tamils, Colombo's Many Grave Problems, Urban Policies and Priorities*.

On the question of *Proportional Representation*, the article concluded: "Now the system of Proprtional Representation has created the illusion of giving a reasonable opportunity to small parties to have some members elected by adding up the votes collected from a large area. Even though theoretically Proportional Representation should provide this opportunity, the system as it operates in Sri Lanka effectively reduces this to a mere illusion. The small parties can only have a nuisance value. They cannot secure any representation. Ten votes in each one of the 185 Polling Booths in Colombo gave the MEP 1913 votes. This was clearly a vote wasted. That was also the intention of their slate, not to win but to reduce the Left Vote and thereby do the maximum damage to the ULF. The experience the Voter has now to go through is to draw the correct conclusions from this situation. With 50 years of experience in Sri Lanka our Voters will adjust to this situation sooner than expected."

The only other significant comment on the local political scene was in a box entitled *Defeat and Criticism*: "The rejection of the Left

at the Municipal and Urban Council elections of 19th May has once again generated talk of the necessity of a further round of 'self-criticism'. It is apparently forgotten that self-criticism is not a ritual designed to provide function for the soul but an analysis of experience for the realisation and correction of actual mistakes. At its conference in April last year, the Lanka Sama Samaja Party made a detailed re-appraisal of its policies and actions during the period of the United Front with the SLFP and Communist Party. This was embodied in the Political Resolution passed at that conference and subsequently published as a pamphlet. There is no need to submit ourselves to the denunciatory criticism of our enemies in the name of further self-criticism. Nor can we accept the self-doubt of other people as a guide to the writing of history."

On *Non-alignment and Pol Pot*, the *Socialist Nation*, concluded: "What then prevents the Non-Aligned Nations from recognising a fact? Just that Pol Pot's Government, even when it was a fact in Kampuchea, was a mere instrument of Super-power China. Not only is the myth of a Pol Pot Government today being maintained by Beijing for its own purposes, but the armies of Beijing staged a mammoth armed invasion to perpetuate that myth. What makes it more serious is that Super-power China has joined hands with Super-power USA to use

this myth to roll back the revolutionary tide that was released by the humiliating defeat inflicted on the armed forces of US Imperialism by the Vietnamese Revolution. This combination of China and the forces of imperialism is what distorts the reality of Pol Pot."

The FORWARD, the fortnightly English journal of the CP, has appeared fairly regularly since it made its re-appearance three or four months ago. Though it may be regularly printed on the first and fifteenth of every month, the distribution of *Forward* has been most erratic. We have often failed to get our copies by post. Nor are they found at the regular newstands. We have had to send special envoys to trace the copie's we have missed. The last two numbers with us are dated June 1 (No. 9) and June 15 (No. 10). We have still to get the issues of July 1 and July 15—if these were published.

The *Forward* is the most readably written English periodical published by any political party. It has also the most amount of political meat. Its comments are based on the political line the CP had developed during the years of coalition with the SLFP and LSSP—with the ingrained dislike for anything and everything UNP. This is perhaps the function of an Opposition paper, and for this reason it is mainly read by party activists and sympathisers.

The *Forward* combines

political gossip, with political comment. It also pays more attention than other papers to foreign affairs.

The issue of June 1 had the following about the local matters: i.e., an editorial note—*After the Polls, Myth of the High Growth Rate Evaporates, ULF exposes Job Banks, Local Polls in the North, Proportional Representation, in Practice, Faults of New Polls Law.* The two gossip columns *So They Say* by Gadfly and *The Last Page* by Gamini—both in easy and fluent journalese—as usual had interesting tidbits. The *Last Page*, in this issue referred to the local elections and paid attention to the recent postures of the SLFP and the in-fighting in that Party. But the Political thesis adumbrated in it was: "The recent local polls may not have been the 'mini general elections' that the mass media said they were. Only about 15 per cent of all voters in the country were involved. But nevertheless these polls do indicate the state of urban opinion in the bigger towns to which the elections were confined. Most independent commentators have concluded that the results of these elections show that there has not been any significant shift in the patterns of voting since the general election of 1977. The only new feature is the performance of the JVP, who concentrated all their efforts on Colombo and were also able to attract a 'protest vote' from certain social groups who had supported the UNP in

1977 but are now disillusioned. One had only to expect that the UNP would use to the full the advantages it enjoyed with both as the party in power (with four more years to go during which it controls both state patronage and revenge) and as the party on whose behalf the capitalist class has always used the many forms of economic and other pressures it exercises on the voters. Its monopoly control of the state-owned mass media was also used without scruple or restraint, with the so-called 'national' newspapers transforming themselves into open UNP journals. In addition to giving maximum publicity to the UNP and using the JVP and MEP to 'attack the Left from the Left', they imposed a virtual blackout on any reports of ULF electoral meetings or activities, other than canards like the so-called TULF-CP 'deal'. These newspapers also were used as the vehicle through which the UNP government attempted general bribery of the voters.

"But there is little point, as Mrs. Bandaranaike has done, in shouting 'Foul' at what the UNP did. In such matters, the UNP was only running true to form—and even imitating some practices of the SLFP when it was in power. There is also little point in trying to explain away the UNP's victory by its built-in advantages under the new sytem of voting. The SLFP, which is now trying to do so, cannot dodge the

fact that it bears equal responsibility with the UNP for this system, including its defects and injustices. If the SLFP has now recognized its mistake and that what it hoped would eliminate the Left has boomeranged on itself as well, this is certainly an advance in their thinking. But it should not try to confuse issues and conceal mistakes by pretending that the new voting system is solely to blame.

“What is necessary for the Left and democratic forces to note, find reasons for, and draw lessons from, is that, even after two years in office, the UNP is still able basically to retain its hold on those whom it demagogically won to its side in 1977. The claim of the Prime Minister and other UNP Ministers that the results of the local polls constitute a big ‘endorsement’ of the government’s record in the past two years is obviously exaggerated boasting. The facts that 30 per cent of the voters did not vote at all and that about 47 per cent of those who did voted against the UNP indicate that this is so. The high rate of absentions is a sign of initial disenchantment with the UNP among some who voted for it in 1977. But it also indicates that disenchantment has not, for a variety of reasons, yet led them to active opposition to the UNP.

“The reasons for this are numerous. Some who hope for favours, or fear penalisation if they declare

themselves in the next 4 years, may prefer to bide their time. But their numbers are relatively small. The politicalised anti-UNP forces were also discouraged by the fact that no clear alternative to the UNP could be seen and that the Left, which should provide the leadership of such an alternative formation, was itself disunited. As far as the mass of urban voters are concerned, however, the fact has to be faced that, in the past two years, the UNP has been able skilfully to use to its advantage many windfall economic factors that operated in its favour. First, there is the record prices for our traditional exports. Together with increased bilateral loans from certain new sources (Scandinavian and Arab) with a big grace period before repayment commences and the cancellation of certain former foreign debts, this enabled the UNP to import a wide range of consumer goods and create, especially in the towns, a spurious atmosphere of general prosperity. Secondly, two record harvests kept the price of off-ration rice relatively low and stable and offset the explosiveness of the withdrawal of the rice subsidy. In addition, the government took care to see that other basic items in the diet of the city poor, such as dhal, onions and dried fish, were readily available, even at increased prices. This contrasted sharply with the difficulties the masses suffered in the not-so-long

ago mid 70s when food was scarce and the distribution system ineffective and corrupt. Thirdly, new avenues of employment in the Middle East, in infrastructural services such as parking attendants, street sweepers etc; and in self-employment (pavement hawking) and reduced the sharpness of joblessness in many urban areas. As one Left leader put it, ‘Many jobless now look to getting a passport rather than changing the government or the social system as the solution to their immediate problem.’ Of course, these phenomena are temporary and will disappear as the impact of the world crisis of capitalism on Sri Lanka deepens. But they help to explain how the UNP’s capacity for demagoguery has not been exhausted. The outcome of the polls also show that the vast mass of uncommitted voters still feel that both the SLFP and ULF, although to various extents, are responsible for their past difficulties. Although the responsibility of the Left is less, there is a general feeling that ‘they should have known better.’ Voters are also not yet convinced that these parties have taken sufficiently credible steps to correct their earlier mistakes. This is one of the reasons why ‘protest’ voters have tended to go to maverick organisations....”

(To Be Continued)

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INTERNATIONAL

AT THE U.N.

Indian Ocean

Peace Zone

by B. J. Fernando

Opening Statement of the President of the U.N. Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean—Ambassador B. J. Fernando of Sri Lanka—at UN on 2nd July 1979.

DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES, permit me first of all to express to all of you my deep gratitude and appreciation for the great honour you have done to my country and myself personally by electing me President of the very important Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean. In particular, I wish to thank Ambassador Naik, the Permanent Representative of Pakistan, for nominating me to this post and for the very kind and generous references he made to what he described as my contribution to the work of the United Nations. On behalf of the Meeting, I wish to also extend heartfelt thanks to Dr. Kurt Waldheim, Secretary-General of the United Nations, for his greetings and message to this Meeting and to the representative of the Secretary-General, Dr. Bjornestdt, for his words of congratulations addressed to me. With this great honour

and privilege that you have bestowed upon me comes an even greater responsibility on me to ensure that this meeting takes concerted action towards the realization of the final objective of a demilitarized and peaceful Indian Ocean region, a development which would represent a major and far-reaching contribution to the wider cause of international peace and security.

As envisaged in resolution 33/68 by which the General Assembly decided to convene the Meeting, this occasion marks a major step towards convening a conference that would have as its ultimate objective, the implementation of the General Assembly's 1971 Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace. That objective, with its wider implications and ramifications, has since been reiterated successfully in relevant resolutions of the General Assembly. The importance of the Indian Ocean derives from its strategic location, its great searoutes which are vital for international trade and communication and the dynamics flowing from a variety of regional and international political factors. In addition, it is a depository of vast amounts of natural resources of various kinds and, most important of all, perhaps, is that it is the home for a large number of sovereign States, namely, the littoral and hinterland States of that Ocean, many of them newly emergent, developing and non-aligned. This human aspect adds a

special and urgent dimension to our efforts and determination to establish an effective zone of peace in the Indian Ocean so that hundreds of millions of people of the area might have the opportunity to harness and channel their resources and energies towards peaceful developments.

HENCE, FROM THE BEGINNING, when the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace was first enunciated, we were aware that this issue was of crucial concern, not only for the regional countries involved, but for the international community as a whole. Furthermore, the general concept of zones of peace has, over the years, acquired increasing viability as a useful avenue towards the attainment of the goal of disarmament. In the Indian Ocean region, in particular, this concept has come to crystallize the hopes and aspirations of the countries and peoples of the area for peace, security and tranquility which are much needed to rapidly engage in the productive task of economic and social reconstruction. As the politico-strategic significance of the Indian Ocean has steadily gained prominence in recent years, so has the determination of the international community as a whole, and of the littoral and hinterland States in particular, to strive for the implementation of the aims set forth in the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of

Peace. In a world plagued by conflict and confrontation, a demilitarized and peaceful Indian Ocean would constitute an innovative approach in the field of disarmament. It could generate a highly welcome momentum towards regional peaceful co-existence, security and confidence, which could stimulate beneficial effects ranging far beyond the Indian Ocean region itself.

Despite the emergence, after World War II, of an international political system characterized by rivalry and competition between opposing politico-military blocs as well as the massive development of strategic weapons which could be deployed in the oceans of the world, the Indian Ocean was, until recently, largely spared the stresses exerted by great Power military rivalry that has long taken place in some other oceans of the world. However, this situation has steadily and progressively worsened, resulting in a growing intensification of great Power military presence and rivalry in the Indian Ocean area. This ominous new development has been detrimental not only to the over-all arms limitation and disarmament objective, but also, in particular, to the cause of peaceful co-existence and security in the Indian Ocean region. An intensified great Power military rivalry in that area tends to heighten the sense of insecurity among the countries of the area and, in the case of strategic arms rivalry, could

stimulate or encourage countries in the region to try to acquire certain capabilities for their defence, which would frustrate the international community's efforts to prevent further proliferation of very dangerous weapons.

STARTING FROM THE PREMISE that the world seeks peace and disarmament, it can be stated quite frankly that the establishment of a widely accepted and effective Indian Ocean peace zone is both feasible and desirable. I say it is feasible because if the requisite political will would be mobilized, all countries concerned, including the great Powers and major maritime users of the Indian Ocean, should be capable of subjugating their urge to acquire politico-military advantages in the area, in the greater interest of the over-riding desire for peace in that part of the world. Simply stated, if the world really wants peace, as it says it does, then we must be prepared and willing, individually and collectively, to sacrifice some of our national interests in order to achieve it. A central requirement for genuine peace in the Indian Ocean is demilitarization. There can be neither genuine nor permanent peace in the area so long as the arms race there continues to escalate and so long as the Indian Ocean continues to harbour foreign military installations and other manifestations of great Power military presence conceived in the context of great Power

rivalry. Nor again, can military alliances, entailing obligations which divert resources from socio-economic objectives to military purposes, and involving the regional countries in great Power rivalries, be conducive to a peaceful and harmonious existence for the States of the region. Peace in the Indian Ocean area has to be maintained by means other than military alliances.

The proposal for an Indian Ocean peace zone is not a self-serving exercise by the countries of the area. It is, furthermore, neither aimed at embarrassing one bloc or another, nor placing one bloc at an advantage over another. It is, rather, aimed at relaxing tensions and strengthening regional as well as international peace and security. Only under conditions of peace and stability, free of ominous military competition and rivalry, can the States of the Indian Ocean region expect to concentrate fully and effectively on the compelling tasks of constructive development. Such conditions of peace would also benefit extra-regional powers, especially the major maritime users of the Indian Ocean which depend so much on the vital commercial sea-lanes of that Ocean. I know of no country in our region which would oppose or interfere with the peaceful naval activities of external Powers in the Indian Ocean. On the other hand, it would be incompatible with the concept of a peace zone, were warships and mili-

tary aircraft to be free to use the Indian Ocean for the purpose of using or threatening to use force against the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of any littoral or hinterland States of the Indian Ocean, in contravention of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. With the right to free and unimpeded use of the zone by the vessels of all countries unaffected, subject to the realistic limitation imposed on the presence of warships and military aircraft, it would be difficult to use legal arguments pertaining to the doctrine of freedom of the high seas as a pretext for withholding support for the Indian Ocean peace zone effort.

THE PROPOSAL, for a zone of peace, even when it was initially introduced, was not an entirely new one. The concept of a zone of peace is inherent in the concept of non-alignment which requires that the land territories, air space and territorial waters of non-aligned States must be closed to great-Power conflicts and rivalries. All areas under the jurisdiction of non-aligned States should, therefore, by definition be zones of peace. The peace zone concept as applied to ocean areas, however, goes back to the Cairo meeting of non-aligned States in 1964. We were concerned then with one aspect of the question: the establishment of atom-free zones in various parts of the world, including

Asia. In September 1970, at the Lusaka Conference of Non-Aligned States, we went a stage further and called for a peace zone in the Indian Ocean, which would be not only free of nuclear weapons but also one from which great Power rivalries and competition would be excluded. It was the intrusion of those power rivalries into the Indian Ocean that resulted in the loss of political freedom in Asia as well as Africa during the last few centuries. We certainly do not wish to see a recurrence of that situation. Our object is to contain the activities of foreign Powers and ensure that they do not make our part of the world a battleground for their rivalries. If we have the necessary political will it is not beyond us to ensure conditions which makes rivalries in the Indian Ocean a matter of the past.

The global implications of the proposal require that it should receive universal acceptance and be fitted into the larger design of world peace and security and of general and complete disarmament. These were among the considerations that led my country to present the proposal to the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth session in 1971. Since then, my country, Sri Lanka, has made a firm commitment towards the achievement of the objective of the proposal. Particularly during the last year Sri Lanka has done everything within its reach by way of

preparations for this Meeting. The proposal for an Indian Ocean zone of Peace should not be regarded merely as part of a scheme of collective security confined to the Indian Ocean. As I stated earlier, it is our conviction that the establishment of a zone of peace in an extensive geographical area in one region could have a beneficial influence in other regions and promote the establishment of permanent universal peace based on equal rights and justice for all in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

(To Be Concluded)

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ISRAELI VIEW

EGYPT: Opposition

At Home And Abroad

EGYPT'S ISOLATION in the Arab world, following the signature of the peace treaty with Israel, seems to have been more comprehensive and more painful than President Sadat had bargained for when he set off to make peace with Israel. Not only are the resolutions of the Baghdad Summit and ministerial conference being fully implemented, but the anti-Egyptian campaign is even going further afield. Thus, when the Islamic Foreign Ministers Conference convened in Fez, Morocco, Egypt was suspended from participation

as the first order of business. Plans are also being prepared by some of the Arab states to take action against Egypt at the forthcoming session of the UN General Assembly.

On May 3, Djibouti severed diplomatic relations with Egypt, leaving only three Arab League members—Sudan, Oman and Somalia which still retain relations with Egypt. Of all the measures recently taken against them, the severance of diplomatic relations has been the most irksome to the Egyptians, and has also provoked the most scathing attacks by Sadat.

Thus, after asserting that he would "not allow the destiny of Egypt to be determined by dwarf's and madmen", Sadat followed up, in two important speeches on May 1 and 10, by bitterly attacking Syria, Iraq, Jordan and the PLO, and, for the first time, the Saudis as well. Sadat accused the Saudis of seeking to obtain Arab leadership by bribing and pressuring the Arab states to isolate Egypt. There was a certain inconsistency here: on the one hand, the Egyptians gave the impression that they were convinced that the Saudis played an active role in mounting the avalanche of rejection now facing Egypt. But Sadat has also accused the Saudis of submitting to Iraqi threats and other inducements to take a hostile stand against Sadat.

Sadat's attack on the Saudis was most probably designed to warn them of

the possibly dangerous consequences their siding with the ultra-rejectionists would have on the Saudi regime itself. Attacking Egypt, their potential ally, he was saying, would not serve Saudi interests in the long run. For the moment, however, the Saudis have only been pushed further away. Their anger at Sadat's remarks was clearly reflected in the Kingdom's semi-official press, which had previously refrained from personal attacks on Sadat. Thus, *al-Jazira* said that "Sadat is dreaming if he thinks for a moment that by starting to insult and abuse the Arab nation he can make his people forget his crime against Arab rights." This went on for two days and was then stopped—no doubt from instructions from the government. But Sadat's comments may very well have dashed any last hopes that the Saudis would maintain some kind of unofficial support for Egypt.

APART FROM THEIR DIPLOMATIC ISOLATION, the Egyptians are going to have to put up with the suspension of economic aid from the oil-producing Arab states. Sadat, and US officials, have also expressed doubts whether the F-5 aircraft deal with the US will actually be financed by the Saudis as previously agreed upon. The suspension of economic aid is going to mean the loss of approximately 500 million dollars annually, and there is unlikely to be much compensation from Western sources. The Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) has suspended Cairo's membership and

imposed an embargo on oil shipments to Egypt. The suspension also relates to Egypt's participation in three multi-million dollars oil-related companies established by OAPEC. The embargo means that Egypt will have to seek oil outside the Arab world, previously its main supplier. Though a net exporter of oil, Egypt still has to import about 159 million dollars worth of specially refined products annually to mix with its own oil for consumption. The growing list of inter-Arab concerns which have expelled Egypt includes the Arab Investment Company, the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, and the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa.

The Arab states have also decided to transfer Arab League headquarters from Cairo to Tunis. They have not yet managed to do this, however, since Egypt refuses to recognize the legality of their decision or to comply with it. The League headquarters therefore remain inactive in Cairo. The Egyptian Secretary General, Mahmud Riyad, has resigned without the League having appointed a replacement, and Egypt has threatened the Egyptian staff of the League offices that if they move to Tunis they would not be allowed to return.

Although institutions affiliated to the League now hold their sessions without Egypt, for the most part these inter-Arab organisations have been paralyzed due to the absence of the Egyptians, who had here-to-fore played a prominent role in their func-

tioning. This, however, is little consolation for Sadat. His ever increasing isolation in the Arab and Muslim world is a source of deep concern, particularly due to its ultimate possible effect on the strengthening of internal opposition to the regime (see below). But Sadat, who has staked his political future on his peace policy, has no intention of bowing to external pressures. Outwardly he is displaying a great deal of self-confidence and is even escalating his confrontation with the rest of the Arab world by stressing his desire to step up normalisation with Israel, regardless of the Arab reaction. He still apparently believes, as he recently assured a delegation of US businessmen, that the Arab boycott against Egypt will collapse within a year.

In the meantime, he is trying to keep the few friends he still has in the Arab world, Sudan, Oman and Somalia, from joining the rejectionists. Vice-President Husni Mubarak's visits to Oman and Sudan were intended to reassure Sultan Quabus and President Numayri that they could count on Egyptian military assistance if the necessity arose. But despite these efforts, even Sudan has begun to take a more reserved view of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty.

GENERALLY SPEAKING, it appears that Sadat was surprised by the ferocity of Arab reaction to the peace treaty, and particularly by what he regards as Saudi "treachery" Since the signing of the Camp

David accords in September 1978, Sadat's calculations had been based on the assumption that no common denominator would be found to facilitate anti-Egyptian co-operation between Saudi Arabia, the Gulf states, Morocco and Tunisia, on the one hand and the "rejection front" on the other, and that the Saudis would even be prepared to lend Egypt unofficial support. This was also the impression gathered by Zbigniew Brzezinski and others during their visits to Riyadh. Realities, however, have proved different. At the moment, the Egyptians appear to be bent on making impressive achievements in negotiations on autonomy for the West Bank and Gaza as a means of breaking out of their isolation. Yet seeking to satisfy—not Egyptian demands, but rather those of the rejection front—will make agreement with Israel all the more difficult. The present positions put forward by Egypt and Israel on the autonomy question are poles apart, and a breakthrough on this score does not appear imminent.

In addition to the problem of his isolation in the Arab world, Sadat is also currently facing increased pressure on the domestic front. The seriousness with which the regime regards this pressure is reflected in the intensification of security measures throughout the country and by Sadat's numerous public speeches and tours—intended evidently to explain his policies and mobilize support.

In the course of one such public appearance, before the faculty and students of Cairo University at the end of April, Sadat read a detailed report by one of his security organisations describing the subversive activities of various religious opposition groups. It transpired from this report that in the last three months there have been a number of cases of demonstrations against the government's peace policy, for example in the town of Minya. These cases were not reported at the time by the press, and the fact that Sadat chose to reveal them at this moment can presumably be explained by his need to prepare the ground for further tightening of security measures and political control.

The Islamic opposition gives much ground for concern. Their press organs, *al-Da'wa* and *al-I'tisan* have stepped up their attacks on both the peace treaty and the government's pro-Western orientation. The condemnation of Egypt by the Islamic Conference has evidently strengthened these opposition trends. Moreover the peace policy has openly been denounced in Muslim Brotherhood rallies by such persons as Shaykh Sayyid Sabeq and in religious sermons such as those of Shaykh Qishq in the Malek mosque. The government, which until recently maintained an ambivalent attitude toward these phenomena, recognizing their value in checking the influence of the leftist opposition, has lately begun to take direct action against them, including the suppres-

sion of *al-Da'wa*. A demonstration by students from Islamic schools in Asyut a few weeks ago was firmly dealt with by the police.

No ambivalence exists in the government's attitude toward the leftists. Members of this side of the opposition are occasionally harassed or even arrested by the police; and the duplicating and printing machines for their various publications are often confiscated. Pro-Sadat leftists are encouraged to criticize the leftist opposition; such is the case with 'Abd al-Sattar Tawila, who writes for the newly founded *al-Siyasa*.

Some of the left's anti-Sadat views are shared by a number of Egyptian intellectuals in general. The intellectuals, perhaps more than other sectors of Egyptian society, are disturbed by the prospects of complete isolation from the Arab world. The Arab countries constitute a substantial part of the market for their literary and scholarly products and they clearly do not wish to forego the option of lucrative appointment to Arab institutions of learning and research. Many of them still adhere to some tenets of Nasserism and regard Sadat's policies, and particularly the normalisation of relations with Israel prior to the solution of the Palestinian problem, as a betrayal of the Arab cause.

Faced with this challenge, the regime has been paying particular attention to the situation in the universities. Sadat has met with a number of faculty groups to gain

their support and to warn them against demonstrations on the campuses. The much-hated "University Guard" removed from the campuses as part of Sadat's liberalization policies, has now been re-deployed there. Opposition placards, such as those of *al-Shu'la* (the torch) are still seen on the walls of the Cairo campus buildings, but the summer vacation which is about to begin soon will postpone any confrontation at least until the beginning of the next academic year.

Meanwhile, preparations for the coming elections are gradually occupying the central place in Public life and they give the authorities ample opportunity to campaign for Sadat's policies. However, it remains an open question whether, following these elections, the regime will succeed in constructing a new political edifice which will enable it to emerge unharmed from the present crisis.

—Middle East Intelligence Survey, Tel Aviv, Vol. 7 No. 3

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INDIA

No Laurels On Vajpayee

New Delhi, June 16,

Any assessment of the meeting of the Co-ordinating Bureau of the Non-aligned Foreign Ministers at Colombo will be a futile exercise since the major political issues baffled any consensus and the

Foreign Ministers discreetly held them over for the Summit scheduled to be held at Havana in September. Perhaps they had the wishful thinking that international developments in the intervening period might help to sort out the disputed items.

The Foreign Ministers by themselves can hardly be blamed for their poor achievements at Colombo. The disputed issues which came up cannot be papered over by some formula—nor could they be ignored. Apart from the subjects of economic import, and such items as the Indian Ocean or the African people's struggle on which there was general consensus among the non-aligned powers at least on the formal plane, the two crucial issues on which the greater part of the conference was spent were Egypt and Kampuchea.

It would be useful to review India's stand on both the issues as they in a sense provide some sort of touchstone of our present-day foreign policy approach. Regarding Egypt, the Prime Minister in an interview on the eve of the Colombo meeting had pointed out that there could be no suspension of Egypt because of its recently-concluded treaty with Israel. So far so good; for one thing, there is no provision in the charter of the non-aligned to suspend any member-state. Secondly, however obnoxious the Egypt-Israeli Treaty might be, it cannot be considered as forming a military bloc even if it brings

Egypt very much within the US orbit.

The point on which Morarji Desai's statement was unfortunate and could lead to a lot of misunderstanding was his threat that he personally would not go to the Havana Summit if the Colombo meeting recommended suspension of Egypt. In fact, the correct posture would certainly not be to boycott Havana but to go and clearly state India's position on every issue before the Summit—which of course would include an assessment of Egypt's present stand. Nobody would deny the conspicuous failure of Sadat to rally any section of Arab opinion in support of his treaty with Israel. And it is important to take note of Arab feelings on the subject.

In this context, the External Affairs Minister's visit to a number of Arab countries on the eve of the Colombo Conference was a correct move. Where he went wrong was that he made different types of statements at different places during the same tour; at some capitals, he tried to speak with circumspection and at other places, he went whole hog with the host country. This tendency to blow hot and cold at the same time brings no credit to any political leader, least of all to a Foreign Minister dealing with a highly explosive subject. In the bargain, India played a very minor role on the West Asian issue at Colombo.

On the other disputed subject of Kampuchea, India's position has emerged far worse at Colombo. Whatever shifts and contortions had taken place in India's stand with regard to the recognition of the new regime at Phnom Penh, the point that was emphasised over and over again was that India wanted proof that the Heng Samrin Government was in full control of the country. But strangely enough, when former Foreign Minister Dinesh Singh visited South-east Asia as the Prime Minister's Special Envoy, the Foreign Office was actively interested in cancelling Phnom Penh from his itinerary.

Another argument against recognition of the new Kampuchean regime was the presence of the Vietnamese troops on its soil. By the same yardstick, the present Ugandan Government should not have been recognized until the Tanzanian forces had withdrawn.

In Colombo, however, Foreign Minister Vajpayee went one step further. He was, according to press reports, active in lobbying for the seating of the delegate from the overthrown Pol Pot regime though without any voice. One could have understood Vajpayee's position if he had asked for the seating of both the former Pol Pot Regime and the present Heng Samrin Government without any voice at the meeting, until the issue had been finally decided at Havana. Alternatively,

he could have asked that neither side should be permitted to have a seat at Colombo. Even if Vajpayee did not care to note the genocide record of the Pol Pot regime—a record confirmed by the US media—it was absurd that he should show preference for Pol Pot's outfit which has no address in Kampuchea—not even an openly declared guerilla headquarters—while Heng Samrin's Government is, to say the least, in control of Phnom Penh itself. This specimen of "genuine" non-alignment would soon make Vajpayee a laughing stock and lower the credibility of the Government of India.

Vajpayee's Colombo performance has been unworthy of India. Over and over again, he declared that India would "go along" with the consensus. What he did not seem to have realised is that India as a great country is expected to give the lead in evolving the consensus and not just go along with it.

A cascade of catchy shibboleths do not make a foreign policy, particularly in this complex world of today. Vajpayee has certainly brought back no laurels from Colombo.

—Mainstream



25 Years Ago

July 10, 1954

FROM JUST BRIEFLY COLUMN

It is known that a very large number of persons now being brought up under the Bribery Act have been caught through the use of decoys and marked notes. Peons have been tempted with Re. 1 (marked), doctors with Rs. 10 (also marked) and so on. This is all very good and clever on the part of the Bribery Squad.

But the question people are asking everywhere is whether the Bribery Squad has made any attempt to trap persons in high places with decoys and marked currency notes. Since no one in high places has been, so far, caught by this technique, people believe that the decoy-marked note technique is reserved for the lower orders.

This is another reason why the Government is losing so much in the way of popular support and enthusiasm.

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The Lake House Press has started to whine. They complain that it has become a national pastime to gossip, and that such "gossipers" take the sting out of "slander" by using the phrases "it appears...it seems" etc. The Political Correspondent of the *Daily News* spent a goodly por-

tion of last Saturday's column to lecture to his readers that they should not gossip. This was followed up this week by similar sermons in editorials in the *Daily News* and the *Observer*.

The latter distinguished itself by making innuendos against a whole host of persons it doesn't seem to like. But what the *Observer* and the Lake House papers fail to remember is that for a long long time they were the sole purveyors of such gossip, and that the great founder of the technique of gossiping with the prefix "it appears..it seems, it comes over the grapevine.." etc., was no less a person than the great political Correspondent of the *Daily News*.

Lake House had no complaints as long as its own publications did the gossiping about persons it did not approve of. But as soon as a few other papers, following in its footsteps use the same technique to gossip about persons Lake House is fond of, it begins to whine piteously. Gossiping is bad for the nation, it complains. Even responsible persons, who should know better are gossiping, it bemoans.

The biter has been bit, but he is unable to hold his head high, stick his chin out and bear it with a grin.



○ Decentralisation ○ Anti-Terrorism

THE CABINET decided to request the President to take suitable steps to centralise the administration of government by devolving governmental authority at district and electoral levels for the purpose of co-ordinating and directing development programmes. The District Ministers are now functioning and it is hoped to be able to enable them to work with the elected Members of Parliament and representatives of the elected local authorities. They will include Rural Councils Members to be elected in course of time.

The President will now seek the co-operation of opposition political parties in Parliament to draft the necessary legislation. To obtain consensus of opinion the President will write first to the Leaders of political parties in Parliament and request them for their views with regard to how the existing structure of local government could be amended to enable local activities to be co-ordinated and planned at the level of the districts. In effect the district council should be in a position to direct and supervise the activities of local bodies in a variety of areas such as sanitation, health, education, road construction, lighting with a view to ensuring uniformity of services, co-operatives, village

tanks and settlement in major irrigation schemes should also come within their purview.

The principle to be followed would be that power should come from the grass-roots and not imposed from above but under the chairmanship of the District Minister.

The views of the Opposition parties could be expressed to the President or they may prefer to meet him and discuss the principles of devolution with him or they may wish that a Select Committee of Parliament or a Presidential Commission would perform the task of recommending to Parliament the steps that need be taken.

—Information Dept.
Release No. 301

12.7.1979

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THE CABINET decided to introduce legislation in Parliament as urgent legislation in the national interest when Parliament sits on Thursday 19th July dealing with the prevention of terrorism in Sri Lanka. The draft bill affirms that men and institutions remain free only when freedom is founded upon respect for the rule of law and that grievances should be redressed by constitutional methods.

And that whereas the public order in Sri Lanka continues to be endangered by elements of groups of persons or associations who advocate the use of force of the commission of crime

as a means of or as an aid in accomplishing governmental change within Sri Lanka, and who have resorted to acts of murder and threat of murder, of police officers, politicians and witnesses to such acts, and other law abiding and innocent citizens, as well as the commission of acts of armed robbery, damage to state property and other acts involving actual or threatened coercion, intimidation and violence.

The legislation creates certain new offences. It also empowers the police to investigate certain offences and remand suspects. It creates new penalties such as the forfeiture of property as well and empowers the detention of persons. Power is given to commit offenders to trial, before the High Court without a jury; certain statements made to police officers such as confessions are also made admissible.

The legislation follows the pattern of legislation introduced in Canada, Australia, United Kingdom, India and certain European countries faced with similar problems of terrorism.

In addition to this step the Public Security Act has been brought into operation in the Revenue District of Jaffna with effect from midnight 11/12 July 1979 to enable the law enforcing Agencies of the Government most effectively to deal with terrorism and protect peace loving people.

—Information Dept.
Release No. 302

12.07.79

AGROFORESTRY IN

SRI LANKA—2

Potential Utilisation

by V. N. D. Gunewardene

Mounting worldwide concern regarding the supply of energy from finite sources is prompting serious consideration of the further development of renewable energy sources. Among the latter, wood and its derivatives are at present the most important, on a global basis; in 1970 they supplied more than 3 times the energy generated by hydro-electric power and contributed about 7% of the world's total energy consumption. **Wood** is the major renewable form in which the sun's energy is "packaged" so that it can be stored.

Most developing countries have requirements of less than 100,000 tonnes of **paper** per year. A promising approach to solve this problem is to manufacture thermal-mechanical pump from long fibred, plantation grown trees and import whatever chemical pump is required. By using the maximum of mechanical pulp and the minimum of chemical pump in the mix, all the newsprint, writing and printing paper requirements can be manufactured at a foreign currency savings of 75% or more. There are some instances when agricultural by-products such as bagasse (refuse stalks of the sugar cane, after crushing) straw or rice husks may be converted

by forest industry technology into pulp and other products normally derived from wood. This should be carefully considered when planning optimum resources utilization.

Chemicals, Sugars and Proteins. Wood is an abundant, environmentally acceptable, renewable raw material from which it is technically possible to produce most of our synthetic plastics, fibres, and rubbers. With refinements in technology, a large integrated plant utilising all components of the wood for producing ETHANOL, PHENOLS and FURFURAL would be approaching economic feasibility as well, at current petrochemical prices. During the two world wars, large industrial plants converted wood by hydrolysis into edible sugars and grow yeast on such sugars to produce protein rich food and feed. These processes are not quite competitive with present costs of cane sugar and soya bean meal, but slight improvements in the manufacturing process or a sudden rise in the price of agricultural produce would justify the use of wood for human and animal consumption.

Among the main tropical forest-tree products in this category are: Arboreal exudes such as gums and latex; drugs; dyes; edible & oil-bearing nuts; edible fruit: local drinks such as palm-wine and coconut milk; essential oils; tannins; medicines; bark products and forage from trees such as Accacias. Among the deve-

loping countries there is no consistent pattern as to the responsibility of forestry of agricultural authorities for dealing with most of the other-non fibre products mentioned. Forestry and agricultural research institutions should co-operate to ensure that opportunities are not overlooked because a plant falls into a no-man's land between narrowly defined disciplines although its potential for increased contributions to the well being of the developing countries is substantial.

Other Forest Flora and Fauna. Many products of the miner flora and fauna of the tropical forests are not being used to a degree in keeping with the potential of a forest. Among the flora are edible fruits, roots and other parts of plants; mushrooms; feed and forage for animals; pastures; dyes; and other extractions, such as Citronella oil, lemon grass oil, etc., from grasses in forest clearings. Most dwellers on the fringe of a forest rely heavily on the larger fauna both land and aquatic, for protein rich food and for hides. Insect products include lac resin from trees suitable for lac culture. Lac is the main ingredient of shellac; and honey, produced from the abundant flowers in the forest, which with beeswax is probably the most important non-fibre crop in the forests of Sri Lanka. There is no question but that the usefulness of many products in this category could be greatly enhanced by re-

search, and new products discovered. Collectively, the highly diverse minor products of plants and animals often comprise the staple cash crop of forest dwellers. They thus tend to retard population shift into urban areas, which in itself is a good reason for fostering them.

Agroforestry Research. The possibility of improving total production by combining trees with agricultural crops and livestock has been widely demonstrated in many parts of the tropics, and there is little doubt that agroforestry could also be introduced to vast stretches of unproductive land where agriculture alone cannot be practiced at present. Systematic research is needed to find appropriate combinations of vegetation for different climatic zones and soil conditions and to devise practices that are acceptable to the local population.

A limited list of MISCELLANEOUS ECONOMIC PRODUCTS that could be grown under Agroforestry practices in Sri Lanka can be obtained from the author at 124 Saman Mora-Mawatha, Sirimal Uyana, Ratmalana

Street Cries—3

by **K. Kanapathi Pillai**

PROVISION OF LEISURE time activities for the citizens is another amenity that has been sadly neglected. Common amenities that promote the happiness of a people such as necessities of life at a reasonable price, educational facilities for all, entertainments for all like classical music, dramatic entertainments, vaudeville, children's games, story hour for children, educational talks, thinker's forum dialogues, debating and literary societies, library extension activities etc. have to be supplied. The citizen cannot regain normalcy unless and until these basic needs are provided.

It is hoped that it won't be out of place at this crucial juncture to lay stress on this vital aspect of human conduct, namely, that every person in this region, be he leader or be he follower, shall make it a point to apply his intellect to every human emotion and passion, every human feeling and sentiment, and not suffer himself to be swayed by them thereby marring the peaceful and harmonious ethos that shall necessarily prevail in the midst of the people in these difficult times. All social problems can be circumscribed and resolved, provided those involved take their ego out of them. Let not hydra-headed controversial political issues and party-strife and nar-

row sectarian and communal interests raise their heads and disturb the people's peace and retard their progress; and let not 'time' that trails along at difference velocities for different persons be suffered to confound the vital issues of genuine need and adequate supply. What perplexes one in this, shall we say, enlightened age, is that the leaders of men today continue to have busts of ivory and feet of clay.

What of the parching and grilling heat of a blazing sun what of the repeated threat of an impending cyclone that scored a near-hit on seventh May, what of the terrible scare that it wrought on a people who have already undergone and experienced the worst of horrors hardly six months ago, what of the absence of suitable dwellings for the poor who are literally languishing in the scorching heat, what of the rapid escalation of the prices of commodities and their scarcity, what of the envy and jealousy and greed that have taken possession of the majority of the distributors and sellers of the essential supplies, what of the discomforting delay in the supply of building materials at reasonable prices to those who need them urgently, what of the lethargy and ennui that appear to govern those in charge of the re-building programme, what of the frigid pessimism that has been imperceptibly and insensibly creeping into the mind of a cyclone buffeted people, what of the ela-

borate town-planning programme for the restructuring of the town of Batticaloa that appears to have been consigned to the cold storage, what of the gloaming and the dusk and the fog that appears to gather over the view that the welfare state has already taken of the entire rehabilitation programme, what of the perils arising from social injustices; the time is ripe for a comprehensive review of the progress of every one of the above mentioned aspects of man's endeavours and aspirations, and to evaluate results and achievements, and give publicity to them with all the relevant facts and figures, and to rethink the entire matter, and, form a new resolve reinforced with fresh energy and renewed vigour to handle the situation effectively and efficiently guided by a proper forward planning.

In a free land denominational institutions that are narrowly and exclusively sectarian shall be disestablished; organizations that accentuate communal and language differences shall be dissolved; caste and class, creed and racial orthodoxies shall either discover new dimensions, new integrated wholes or suffer themselves to be utterly annihilated. All creeds, all denominations, all language and cultural groups, all free thinkers shall find asylum in this awakened land where the only social concern shall be the promotion of peace and prosperity, goodwill and amity; and the

only bond worthwhile preserving and reinforcing and aspiring after shall be humanism.

It won't be too much to urge at this juncture that just as much as the benign state has thought it fit to restructure such areas as Galle, Kurunegala, etc. economically, socially, culturally and educationally it shall be its bounden duty to give priority to the restructuring and re-building of the cyclone buffeted Batticaloa District which has suffered the most having received the worst shock, and is today in a state of convalescence.

x x x

EDUCATION—2

Without A Purpose

by R. Kahawita

THERE IS NO DENYING that education is priority number one in any country. But it behoves a Government too to create an environment by her policies objectives, development programmes, development programmes, and other national-requirements, that job opportunities are available to match the aspirations of the school leavers. It is here where successive Governments have failed to fulfil her obligations. The people still have the democratic right to change a Government if she fails to "live up to the promises made to the people. We have experienced this several times since Independence.

In accepting responsibility for Education the Government has committed herself to a "litany of objectives". They are:—(i) To promote in all children of school going age, physical, moral, cultural and social growth by the provision of educational facilities. (ii) To promote the acquisition of technical knowledge, social and vocational skills through programmes provided in technical, vocational Institutions. (iii) To promote the development of high level of learning and professional skills in fields such as science, medicine, engineering and humanities etc. (iv) To promote life long education through programmes of adult education and to assist in the provision of education facilities to physically handicapped children and to those children in estate schools, pirivenas and other schools." (v) To promote moral and spiritual development of all youth and to inculcate in them a sense of good citizenship and a commitment for working towards national development. THE ABOVE FIVE OBJECTIVES thrusts the entire responsibility on the Government to create the moral, social, and spiritual man. In pursuance of these objectives in education and in other fields, the Government of Sri Lanka has appropriated for herself around 80% of the national resources and wealth of the country, thereby taking on the major responsibility of providing employment to the products of the five objectives.

Having appropriated the wealth of the country, so far no Government has addressed herself seriously to stem the flow of unemployables to the labour market. The only manner successive Governments have tackled the problem of unemployment and unemployables is to plug the existing service establishments with large numbers of men and women thus rendering these establishments over crowded, indisciplined, disorderly, inefficient and a virtual breakdown of administration. Only the Public who have business to transact at these establishments can understand the problem. Those who are responsible for directing the claimants for employment do not understand how grave the problem is. Service establishments are the only points of employment available to us because we are slow at generating productive employment. There is a shortage of trained technical men at all levels from a man who can handle a hammer intelligently to the top men who can keep the productive lines moving efficiently. For example for every engineer employed at the top level can keep ten mid-grades employed. So far every engineer we train there must be ten trainees in the mid-grades. This fact has not been grasped by our Policy makers so we keep on increasing Universities, where as, if they understood the National Problems, we should be setting up more and more Technical Education training establishments.

In the above objectives this priority two.

The 235,000 students who may face a blank wall next year have travelled a long way from 5 or 6 plus to 16 plus years. Through this journey of seeking knowledge and employment what are the training facilities they had or what job orientated training facilities can they expect?

IN THIS FIELD there are 14 State Technical Education Institution with varying levels of training facilities. These Institutions it is said have the capacity to maintain about 10,100 pupils for training up to two years. This number does not represent the national requirement of educated and trained manpower no such data are available. In reality there is an acute shortage of trades or crafts-men and mid-level groups of man-power. This is why we end up in every year a back-log of development activities, a short fall in production targets, rising cost of living and galloping inflation.

If we take a closer look at these figures. "The educated unemployables" — The present fourteen technical educational Institutions can absorb annually about 5300 students. So if the Government's programme were to train at least one third of end-of-the-road students annually, the requirements of additional technical education Institutions are around 193. May it be so, but the accepted pro-

gramme of the Government is to multiply the "Universities" to teach "the concept and not the skills" as expressed by one of the Deans of a campus. The country needs the skill and not the concept for years to come. This is where a change in the concept of our education and training is called for.

We mentioned Private Sector training facilities. Everybody knows that there are several such Institutions but not the Education Department. The Department and its officers are not interested in maintaining a record of such places to keep track of what happens to the drop-outs. They are not interested in such things; collection of such data may not be in their book of words. Yet they talk of "Distance Education" may be to befuddle the Policy makers. It is time the Hon. Minister for Education send out a letter to the Department to carry out a survey of Private teaching Institutions in the country and then take steps to grade and classify, take a census of the student population, courses and quality of teachings, facilities available for teaching such subjects. This suggestion is not made with the idea of nationalising these Institutions, which is our forte. God forbid—but to assist, upgrade, and recognize them as training centres for jobs, so that a part of the burden can be passed over to the Private Sector Training Institutions.

THE AVERAGE EXPENDITURE annually on Technical/vocational education is in the region of 30 millions to take in about 5300 new trainees a year. The problem is to increase the number of Trainees to about 80,000 a year. At least this is the problem now facing us due to educational policies, commission and omissions. This is why we tilted this article—"Education without a purpose."

The gross education expenditure per annum is around 975,000,000 plus

Notice Under Section 7 Of The Land Acquisition Act (Cap. 460) As Amended By The Land Acquisition (Amendment) Act No. 28 Of 1964.

Ref. No. 94/1/309

It is intended to acquire the land described in the Schedule below. For further particulars see the Gazette No. 46 (Part III) dated 20-07-1979 of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

Schedule

Situation:

Situated at Fort, Ward No. 1 of Municipal Limits of Galle in D.R.O.'s Division of Four Gravets (Galle) in the District of Galle.

Name of land:

Gymkana Sports Club, Assessment No. 1, Church Street.

Plan and Lot No.:

Lot No. 1 in P. Plan No. Gaa/1468.

W. Somadasa
Acquiring Officer,
Galle District.

The Kachcheri,
Galle. 25.06.1979

another 65,000,000 rupees to supply 250,000 including the University educated to the National man-power reservoir of unemployables and unemployed. If we recognize the fact that the country needs more and more trained middle-grades to handle our development projects, then there must be a radical change in our educational Policies and education expenditure. It is possible to do this without making the education bill more than what it is now—Reduce expenditure on Secondary Education by sorting out and channelling students to Trades schools, technical training Institutions, Poly technicals etc. Increase the number of these training establishments to divert the not-so-bright students to learn useful trades. This will arrest the flow into Higher Educational Institutions. It will enable the numbers at these places within reasonable limits.

When one looks at these figures—the numbers that enter our schools and the numbers that reach the GCE (O) Level, the GCE (A) Level and the intake to our Technical or job-orientated educational Institutions, Universities and the gross national Education bill, it is quite obvious that the present educational structure is defective at several of its links. To make our educational system more objective and purposeful a change to create a more useful and better equipped citizen is urgent.

To Be Concluded

BOOK REVIEW

World Government

WORLD GOVERNMENT PUBLICATION SERIES. WORLD GOVERNMENT JOURNAL VOL. I NO. 3
Edited by Bandula Sri Gunawardhana

I believe it was the great American Wendell Wilkie who first, meaningfully articulated, with a political dimension, the concept of One World over 25 years ago. He died early in life leaving America and the World poorer by his loss. Whether the ideal of One World would ever have been realised is not the point. That such a concept was in fact espoused shows how hungry the world is for something close to an ideal. Unfortunately the ideal has remained an ideal and perhaps will remain so for a long time to come. The World Constituent Assembly is pursuing this ideal. The Journal issued to mark the 3rd session of the Assembly which was held in Colombo from 29th December, 1978 to 6th January, 1979, is replete with this hope.

At the end of the first World War, the leaders of nations came together in search of an instrument through which peace on earth could be ensured. They set up the League of Nations, but the Treaty of Versailles effectively ensured also that peace shall not prevail for long. It did not. Within 25 years the League and Wilson's 14 points were pushed aside

and the World was embroiled in another cataclysmic conflagration—all because nations would not subordinate national interests and pride to supra national compulsions of the World.

The second World War ended with some nations biting the dust while others seemed to have just enough life left to lick their wounds. The Marshall Plan, also conceived by another great American soldier turned statesman, rescued Europe from the morass in which it found itself. The Allied Powers which claimed to have won this second holocaust, in search of light, set up the UN Organisation. Adlai Stevenson referred to this institution as the Family of Nations or Dwelling House of Nations. While Dag Hammarskjold declared on one occasion that "as long as there are men they will quarrel; as long as there are nations there will be conflicts....I think there is plenty to do for an organisation like the UN".

It is clear from what the contributors to the Journal have written that they entertain grave misgivings about the ability of the UNO to prevent another world war. Cornelis B Los considers "World Government as the only solution for shaping for the solution for shaping the safety which any citizen state wants against the possibility of an armed attack by another state" Bandula Sri Gunawardhana says "We have only two alternatives today to choose from; and that is Co-

operation or Confrontation or else a World Government or a Third World War." One shudders at this gloomy and dismal project.

Reading through the Journal it is distressing and disturbing to note the general lack of confidence in the UN organisation any more. The harshest comments are in the contribution of Dr. T. P. Amerasingha. On the other hand, however ineffective this institution may be considered to be, can we contemplate without fear the world situation if this organisation did not exist? Bandula Sri Gunawardhana hopes that within the next few years it would be possible to establish the Democratic World Government.

The UN organisation is the closest we have come so far to a world organisation, possibly not the world government contemplated by the World Constituent Assembly. The creation of regional organisations such as the OAS, OAU, COMECON, EEC and the European Parliament, ASEAN and the Non Aligned Movement lends support to the general disappointment in the UN which is expressed in several contributions in the Journal. In this context and in the light of the manifestation of the desire for regional groupings, the expectation of a World Government seems to the writer somewhat of an illusion, however desirable this objective may be.

The Aims and Objectives of the World Constituent

Assembly are given at page 88. These are highly commendable. If even one objective can be achieved, it will be a promising start and the world will be a much better place to live in. For instance, the creation of the World Monetary System. Are we so naive as to imagine that this would be possible? One has only to consider the travails of the European Monetary System. It was only quite recently that some hope has been generated that after all the EMS may work. But when?

It is possibly in realisation of these frustrations that Bandula Sri Gunawardhana asks the question "Can we convert the UNO to World Government?" I would answer "Why not." But let us see what Bandula has to say "May this comprehensive proposition receive due, immediate attention and serious consideration of all National Governments, all members of the UNO and all others concerned and may the UNO be soon converted into a Non-military, Socio-Democratic World Federal Government for the greater good and glory of all mankind."

Despite the frustration, disappointments and super-power rivalry that have surfaced very often during the UN debates, the obvious thing to do is to bend all energies to convert the UNO to an effective institution that could "tame the savageness of man and make life gentle" for those of us left "in this Spaceship Earth"—as Gunawardhana would say. Any-

way some contributors are prepared to give some marks to this organisation. Dr. Lucille Green in her article says "The accomplishments of the UN in the thirty two years of its existence have been many. The UN is truly a milestone in 'deliberation' evolution toward a civilised world." There can be no doubt about this, despite all else that can be said against this Organisation.

The Organisers of the Conference will undoubtedly be encouraged by the messages that had been received and included in the Journal. There is much goodwill towards the World Constituent Assembly and therefore much can be expected, provided it itself does not become a 'talking shop'. We can derive much comfort from what Bandula Sri Gunawardhana says. "Though few, we must not get disheartened or discouraged, because when we study the history of Great Movements that changed the course of human history and influenced mankind, we see that they just began with a few individuals.... This shows and proves what just one single individual can do to change and alter the world if he or she changes or transforms himself or herself." He could not have written a greater truth.

It is not possible to comment on all the articles. Those who are inspired by the ideal of a World Government should read this Journal. The Editor's address is No. 270 Park Road, Colombo 5.

D.D.

July 4 — July 10

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

CDN—Ceylon Daily News;
CDM—Ceylon Daily Mirror;
CO—Ceylon Observer; ST—
Sunday Times; SO—Sunday
Observer; DM—Dinamina;
LD—Lankadipa; VK—Virake-
sari; ATH—Aththa; SM—
Silumina; SLD—Sri Lankadipa
JD—Janadina; SU—Sun; DV—
Dzvasa; DP—Dinapathi; CM
—Chintgamani; WK—Week-
end; RR—Riviresa; DK—
Dinakara; EN—Eelanadu;
IDPR—Information Dept.
Press Release.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 4:

President J. R. Jayewardene yesterday briefed the Government Parliamentary Group on the action the government had taken, was taking and intends to take with regard to the movement for the division of the country and the terrorist activities directed towards the achievement of the same objective viz., Eelam and announced that it had decided to introduce legislation to combat terrorism and wipe it out for the betterment of the majority of the people whatever race they may belong to. The development of 18 resthouses and the five hotels run by the Ceylon Hotels Corporation will get high priority in the program of work mapped out by the Corporation,

its new head, Nimalasiri de Silva said yesterday. The demand for the creation of a separate state has not the support of the majority of the Tamil-speaking people both Tamils and Muslims, the President said. The TULF Parliamentary Group yesterday decided to boycott meetings of Parliament until the council of the Front—the policy-making body of the TULF—had made a final decision on the matter. Crime statistics for the first six months this year reveal a drop of over 25 per cent on the average figures recorded for the past five years, DIG S. Sunderalingam said yesterday—CDN. The members of the TULF led by their leader walked out of Parliament yesterday in protest against a resolution which sought to create a new administrative District under the Administrative District Act; the resolution was passed in the House yesterday, 98 members voting for and 7 against. A telex message from the Young Tigers of London has been received by Mr. Cyril Mathew, Minister of Industries and Scientific Affairs threatening not to touch Vavuniya. The Rev. Mathew Peiris was produced before the Chief Magistrate of Colombo yesterday and remanded until the conclusion of the trial on an application made by Detective ASP Gamini Weerasinghe—CDM. President J. R. Jayewardene yesterday accused Opposition Leader A. Amirthalingam of using his position to criticise the Government and the Sinhala

people and preaching the division of the country though he had taken an oath accepting the unitary constitution; he also charged that Mr. Amirthalingam had attempted by himself and by his colleagues when abroad to poison the minds of foreign governments and people against the people of this country in order to prevent foreign aid and thus sabotage our development programmes. The Dalai Lama, one of the most revered of Buddhist leaders, may visit Sri Lanka. A "Sri Lanka Inventors' Incentive" Bill is to be introduced in Parliament by the Minister of Trade and Shipping, Lalith Athulathmudali to provide for the promotion and encouragement of inventions by Sri Lankans and to support the manufacture of such inventions—SU. At least five taxi drivers switch daily to the scooter taxi service now operating in Colombo; they say that since the price hike on petrol their business has dwindled so badly that the majority of them have been virtually thrown out of employment—CO. The government is to introduce a ration system for kerosene oil and a gallon of kerosene oil outside the ration will be sold at Rs. 6/2—ATH. An anti-Keuneman voice is growing inside the Communist Party—DK. The IGP has decided to give cash awards to those who provide correct information regarding the killing of police officers and suspects in the North and East—DV.

THURSDAY, JULY 5:

The Government has decided to give high priority to the signing of investment guarantee agreements for the promotion and protection of Investment with other countries, Greater Colombo Economic Commission sources said yesterday. The government yesterday decided to keep private cars off the road on Sundays between 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mr. Cyril Mathew Minister of Industries and Scientific Affairs said yesterday; this would come into effect from August 5. The Government yesterday decided to abolish with immediate effect the Customs duty on the import of cycles, motor cycles and scooters. The recent OPEC oil price hike has inflated the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation's oil bill for the next six months period by Rs. 465 million and pushed up its projected internal marketing expenses for the same period by Rs. 150 million, a CPC official said. Six hundred students from the Kegalle District will leave for Jaffna in August to participate in a program organised to bring about national harmony among all students. Dr. Ranjith Atapattu, Minister for the Colombo Group of Hospitals and Family Health, said yesterday that Government was considering relaxing the abortion laws. Mr. Zhang Shuyuan, the Charge d'Affairs of the People's Republic of China in Sri Lanka died in Colombo yesterday morning.—CDM. Mr. Ronnie de Mel, Minister of Finance and

Planning speaking yesterday in Parliament apprised the members of the outcome of the Sri Lanka Aid Group meeting which he described as a complete success; he said that the sum total of the Aid pledged for the normal development programme and the Mahaveli programme amounted to approximately Rs. 11.33 billions. The Government will shortly introduce severe punitive measures against owners of motor vehicles who violate the ban on converting petrol operated motor vehicles into kerosene operated vehicles. The Prime Minister, Mr. R. Premadasa secured the approval of Parliament yesterday for the construction of a new Parliament complex at Kotte.—CDM. Detectives investigating the murders of Inspector Gurusamy and an elderly couple in Velvetturai have now established that .380 revolvers had been used in both killings. The Cabinet yesterday gave the greenlight for the anti-terrorist law to be presented in Parliament by Prime Minister R. Premadasa this month. A Sri Lankan move to resolve problems between China and Vietnam is in the offing; this emerged yesterday as Foreign Minister Shaul Hameed currently on an official visit to Peiking was planning an unscheduled mission to Hanoi.—SU. The government yesterday allocated Rs. 6 million to import enough buses to alleviate the transport problems faced by the people.—DP. The President has decided to solve all the prob-

lems faced by the Tamil speaking people within a month and to establish national harmony in a firm manner, sources close to him revealed.—VK. The National Apprentice ship Board is to set up a driving school with all facilities which could accommodate 1000 a year.—DM. Families of the murdered Police Officials in the North have sent petitions to the Leader of the Opposition demanding why he did not condemn

Notice Under Section 7 Of The Land Acquisition Act (Cap. 460) As Amended By The Land Acquisition (Amendment) Act No. 28 Of 1964.

Ref. No. 34/1/265

J.76 L 20 (VE)

It is intended to acquire the land described in the Schedule below. For further particulars see the Gazette No. 46 (Part III) dated 20-07-1979 of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

Schedule

Situation:

In the village of Ettiligoda North, in the D.R.O.'s Division of Four Gravets (Akmeemana) in Galle District.

Name of land:

Elhenawatta alias
Kajjugahawatta

Plan and Lot No.:

Lot 1 in P. Plan No. GAA
1438

S. J. Pathirana
Acquiring Officer,
Galle District.

The Kachcheri,
Galle. 27th June 1979.

the killing of Police officials robbing public money and other terrorist activities—LD. The Minister of Agricultural Research and Development has decided to hand over the distribution of fertilizer throughout the country to the Ceylon Fertilizer Corporation. The CISIR has found out that top quality animal food can be produced from waste paper. The Central Bank announced that the USA has increased the loan given to Sri Lanka to purchase fertiliser by Rs. 218 million; the original loan was Rs. 187 million. Eye surgery is not done in most parts of the island because of the shortage of eye surgeons—DV.

FRIDAY, JULY 6: The tea trade yesterday applauded the government on the measures it announced on Wednesday to help the ailing industry and predicted that the reduction of the export duty and the revision of the ad valorem tax would lead to a strong and healthy market. Trade and Shipping Minister, Lalith Athulathmudali returned home yesterday with a brief-case bulging with attractive offers by West Germany and Romania to invest in Sri Lanka's Free Trade Zone. Dr. N. M. Perera, Leader of the LSSP, returned home yesterday morning from London after medical treatment. The Government has no intention of increasing the guaranteed price for paddy Mr. Chandra Bandara, the Acting Minister of Agricultural Development and Research said yesterday—CDN.

Sri Lanka's birth rate has declined because of unemployment and other economic reasons and not because of family planning; this analysis was made by Dr. Wickrema Weerasooriya, Secretary, Ministry of Plan Implementation when he addressed members of Parliament at the National Seminar on population and development yesterday. With a view to stopping the brain drain of university personnel, the Minister of Education and Higher Education, Dr. Nissanka Wijeyeratne has decided to offer pensions to university staff. Construction work on the Island's new Parliamentary Complex in Sri Jayawardenapura at Kotte will begin in September 1979—CDM. The Cabinet on Wednesday decided to examine the introduction of staggered working hours in a bid to ease the congestion in transport services. A top emissary of the Vietnamese leader, Pham Van Dong is now expected to arrive here later next week for talks with Foreign Minister, Shaul Hameed. The Transport Ministry is to immediately import 50,000 bicycles; the move which comes on the initiative of Minister, M. H. Mohamed is intended to ease transport problems caused by the latest oil price rise. The Government Analyst has discovered traces of "parathyon", a pesticide containing a carbonic phosphorous compound which is harmful to the human body in the samples produced by the Police in connection with last week's food poisoning

incident in the Dodangaslande electorate. Sri Lanka is to receive assistance for the development of her bus and rail transport and will co-operate with Romania in the field of shipping as a result of Trade Minister Lalith Athulathmudali's successful mission to that country—SU. The General Secretary of C.P. Mr. Pieter Keuneman has sent an appeal to the President to summon an all party conference without delay to discuss the problems of the Tamils—DP. Committees to grant loans to low wage earners in the private and corporation sections are soon to be established under the Lady Lochore Loan Fund—EN. A large number of government MPs have expressed their protest against abortion. The government has agreed to provide Rs. 250 million to strengthen police work and to provide police officers with boarding facilities and houses. Rs. 27 million worth of oil was used per month to generate electricity from the Kelanitissa and Pettah Electricity plants in the drought periods—DV. The President has ordered the Minister of Agricultural Research and Development, Mr. E. L. Senanayake to submit a full report on the handing back of land taken over by the government—DK. The government has given permission to Government Corporations and other statutory boards to raise the price of their products and services in accordance with the oil price increase—ATH. Romania has expres-

sed its wish to open up a massive Tractor plant in Sri Lanka and to open an ultra-modern factory in the F.T.Z.—LD.

SATURDAY, JULY 7:

No trader or co-operative store selling food and consumer items will be allowed to sell fertilizers, chemicals, insecticides, weedicides or any petroleum by-product under a decision taken by the government; this decision was taken following the report of Government Analyst, Mr. E. B. Dissanayake on the three deaths which occurred in the Kurunegala district last week. The Transport Ministry will run additional buses and trains on Sundays to cater to the public when the Government's decision to lay off private cars on Sunday becomes operative from August 5. A number of politicians in Jaffna will put into operation the third stage of their protest campaign against the caste system in the North—CDN. All persons claiming the monthly dole of Rs. 50/ will be required to swear an affidavit regarding their eligibility; unless such an affidavit is sworn no payment will be made from August this year; this safeguard has been introduced following the discovery of large-scale fraud in obtaining the dole, Dr. Wickrema Weerasooriya, Secretary of Plan Implementation said yesterday. The Government has appointed a high-powered committee to examine the energy requirements of Sri Lanka within the next decade—CDM. The

government is to amend the Constitution to enshrine provisions to deal with Members of Parliament who raise separatist issues in or outside the House; in terms of the proposed amendments, any MP who violates the provisions of the proposed anti-terrorist law (to be introduced in the form of a bill shortly) by advocating separatism either on his own or behalf of the party to which he belongs will be sent before a Parliamentary Select Committee. Government is to obtain foreign consultants and assistance to study the country's hydro-power potential in hydro schemes and also in rivers. Government has decided on a series of sweeping changes in the Forest Ordinance in a bid to ensure the protection of the environment—SU. The Minister of Trade & Shipping Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali said in Parliament that a Port Authoritative Board will be established to improve all the ports in the country—VK. 38 Development Schemes including the laying of a foundation for a new market will be started in Batticaloa today; this will be done at a cost of Rs. 10 lakhs. Arrangements are under way to establish a Technical College in the Puttalam district—DP. 6,716 Private vehicles were registered in 1978, this is an increase of 385% compared to 1977, 4,876 new lorries and vans were registered in 1978 which is an increase of 107% compared to 1977. The gov-

ernment has decided to limit political national TV programmes to 5 minutes a day—DV. The amnesty given to Mr. R. G. Samaranyake 2nd MP for Beruwela by the UNP heads on the import of swimming trunks etc., from Singapore may have to be withdrawn as the members of the Executive Committee of UNP strongly condemned Mr. Samaranyake and demanded that he be expelled from the party; the President has ordered the Finance Minister to submit a full report on this matter as soon as possible—DK. The Dharmista government has taken a firm decision to stop the Rs. 50/- special allowance to unemployed persons—JD.

SUNDAY, JULY 8: The Health Ministry is in consultation with the Attorney-General regarding prosecution that will be launched against doctors who have wretched on their period of six years compulsory service with the Department of Health; authoritative Government sources said yesterday that the Ministers had been told at their weekly meeting last Wednesday that several doctors have left the service without completing their obligatory period. A Plan Implementation Ministry survey of the flight of technical talent to the oil-rich Middle East has sounded a note of warning that in the near future the migration of talent from some fields might have to be restricted or the pace of technical education accele

rated to compensate for the drain of skilled manpower—SO. Foreign donor countries are prepared to support Sri Lanka to the hilt in her plans for economic development, but they want concrete plans to finance them; the Minister of Finance and Planning, Mr. Ronnie de Mel said that foreign donors want specific and firm plans, particularly in the development sphere. Over 150,000 persons have applied for various categories of jobs in the Middle East. The University Grants Commission has laid down new conditions for university academics going on sabbatical leave, scholarships or on seminars; these rules will be effective from October 1—ST. Nearly 15 years after the government of the day decided on the future of almost a million plantation workers of Indian origin, thousands of these estate families are yet to end their way to their motherland; due to vested interests intervening there are no immediate signs of this arduous process ending in the near future; with the original Sirima-Shastri Pact on repatriation due to terminate this year, only one-third of the estimated number of repatriates has crossed the Palk Straits back to India—WK. President J. R. Jayewardene has appointed a high-powered committee to properly formulate the Tamil language which has been approved as a national language by the Constitution, without affecting the Tamil government workers—CM.

MONDAY, JULY 9: The Tea Board is unable to effectively check malpractices resorted to by certain shippers because of loopholes in the law; insufficient Board supervision is another contributory factor towards the occurrence of malpractices. The Prime Minister, Mr. R. Premadasa said that Sri Lanka and India were two of the few countries which continued to entrust their political futures to leaders elected by the people, while in many other countries political assassinations and violent upheavals preceded political changes. The Government has approved in toto a memorandum on development constraints submitted by President J. R. Jayewardene in his capacity as Minister of Plan Implementation. Ministry sources said yesterday; the memorandum identified the numerous constraints and embodied recommendations which were also approved—CDN. President N. Sanjiva Reddy of India said yesterday the US space craft Skylab was a demon from which only God could save the people. An anti-poverty programme for the city has been launched by the Mayor of Colombo Mr. Sirisena Cooray; according to this programme the Mayor will provide the basic needs to over 1/4 million persons now living in slums and shanties in the city of Colombo. The Government has decided to instal a combination of three gas turbines with a total capacity of 75 megawatts to meet the anticipated

shortage of power in 1980 on a recommendation by Mr. D. B. Wijetunge, Minister of Power and Highways. Stringent laws to curb brutal killings of innocent people and to clamp down on terrorist activities would be introduced shortly, Mr. R. Premadasa, Prime Minister and Minister of Local Government, Housing and Construction said that when he declared open the 26th model village—Ranjanagama

Notice Under Section 7 Of The Land Acquisition Act (Cap. 460) As Amended By The Land Acquisition (Amendment) Act No. 28 Of 1964.

Ref. No. 94/1/277
176 L 126 (VE)

It is intended to acquire the lands described in the Schedule below. For further particulars see the Gazette No. 46 (Part III) dated 20-07-1979 of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

Schedule

Situation:

In the village of Yata-gama in D.R.O.'s Division of Four Gravets (Akmeemana) in Galle District.

Name of land:

Lindagahawatta Lihini-mullawatta alias Palaketiye-gederawatta

Plan and Lot No.:

Lots 1 & 2 of P. Plan No. 1463

S. J. Pathirana
Acquiring Officer,
Galle District.

The Kachcheri,
Galle, 27th June 1979.

—in the Polgahawela electorate under the Village Re-awakening Movement launched by him—CDM. Government is to introduce legislation to make it possible for the State or any citizen to use institutions of foreign governments other than diplomatic missions operating in Sri Lanka. The penalty for the employment of children as domestic servants or in other fields will soon be enhanced; this comes on a recommendation made by the Law Commission in its report on the Children's Charter prepared by the Department of Probation and Child Care Services. An anti-litter law to keep the city clean will come into operation shortly—SU. The General Secretary of the Sinhala Mahajana Peramuna, Ven. Alle Gunawansa speaking at an anti Eelam meeting at the Wat-tala Town Hall stated that those who demand Tamil Eelam will even open the Port of Trincomalee to a foreign power to achieve their aims; the Tamils have chosen Trincomalee as their capital and in their election manifesto have said that their state will extend from Chilaw to Kunukawa, he further stated—DP. The President has decided to establish a multi-purpose administrative committee with a view to solving national problems; the proposal to set up this committee which will comprise representatives of all parties will be put before the next Cabinet meeting by the President—VK. The Plywood Corporation has recorded a loss of Rs. 40 million

last year. The police have found a large number of foreign and locally made fire arms in Thondaimanaru area in the North—DV. The Committee for Education reorganisation has recommended to the government that the education system should be reorganised to set up a separate school for Buddhist students; these schools must be built in a religious atmosphere and in line with Buddhist culture; schools of other religions should also be reorganised on the same lines—DM. Although the Cement Corporation is saying that the reason for the shortage of cement is because the consumption has increased, the main reason for the shortage is the cement production has reduced because of bad management. The government has decided to abolish customs duties on sewing machines—ATH. The Bill to prosecute the Tamil Eelam tigers and similar organisations to be gazetted this week will include some clauses similar to the abolished CJC Act; the Government has decided to use this bill only for five years according to reliable sources—DK.

TUESDAY, JULY 10: Women soldiers would be assigned only nursing, communications and clerical duties; Army Commander Major General Denis Perera said yesterday. The Government has appointed a three-member committee headed by Mr. B. S. Wijeweera, Controller of Imports and Exports to review the duty structure and marketing policy with

regard to the Coconut Industry. Aggona Chandare described by Police as one of the most dangerous criminals in Sri Lanka escaped from the maximum security sections of Welikade jail in the early hours of yesterday morning. The Trade Ministry will launch a mass campaign to educate subsidiary food growers and also consumers on trade practices which the Ministry feels will keep down prices and eliminate middle men who fleece

Notice Under Section 7 Of The Land Acquisition Act (Cap. 460) As Amended By The Land Acquisition (Amendment) Act No. 28 Of 1964.

Ref. No. 94/1/303

It is intended to acquire the land described in the Schedule below. For further particulars see the Gazette No. 46 (Part III) dated 20-07-1979 of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

Schedule

Situation:

Bope village in Grama Sevaka Division of Bope in the D.R.O.'s Division of Four Gravets (Galle) in Galle District (Ward No. 13—Kumbalwella South, Municipal Limits of Galle).

Name of land:

Symon Kanda—
Assessment No. 40/10
Wekunagoda Road.

Plan and Lot No.:

Lot No. 1 of P. Plan No. 93/1473

W. Somadasa
Acquiring Officer,
Galle District.

The Kachcheri,
Galle. 25 June 1979.

both producer and consumer—CDN. The Insurance Corporation alone has paid nearly Rs. 9,000,000 in connection with the August 1977 disturbances; most of this amount has been paid to those who claimed on insurance against fire; it amounts to Rs. 7.5 million; Rs. 1.75 million has been paid on motor insurance. Twenty four thousand persons will be given housing loans by the government within the next six months: these loans will be given to new house builders and for renovation and repairs. The Marketing Department is making an all-out effort to provide cheap vegetables: Marketing department vans are now selling vegetables at important junctions in the city and the suburbs at prices far below the current prices at private traders. The government has authorised the Minister of Industries and Scientific Affairs, Mr. C. Cyril Mathew to grant a subsidy of Rs. 79,600,000 to the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation to meet the losses incurred in 1976 by the refinery and its sales operation sections—CDM. Cuban Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez will arrive in Sri Lanka tomorrow. A high-powered ministerial team led by President J. R. Jayewardene will tomorrow discuss solutions to two thorny issues of the Tamil speaking people—colonisation and employment to the state sector; the solutions are a procedure for the settlement of people in colonisation schemes and to the guaranteeing of a

minimum percentage of jobs in the State sector for the minority communities; this is likely to be worked out according to the prevailing communal ratio—SU. The 1979 budget presented by Finance Minister Ronnie de Mel last November has taken a bad beating from the play of international economic forces on the national economy; authoritative governmental sources confirmed today that the latest revised estimates on the 1979 budget shows an unfinanced gap of Rs. 567 millions; the original budget, presented by Mr. de Mel, was fully financed—CO. According to high government sources the Northern Province will soon be manned by 80% of Sinhala Policemen as a result of the tension and incidents against the police taking place there—EN. The Postal Department has reported the loss of Rs. 50,000 worth of telephone wire every month throughout the island. Following the increase of smuggling operations the government has decided to establish a special intelligence unit in the customs. Speaking at a Public Meeting in Jaffna the leader of the opposition Mr. A. Amirthalingam said that Mr. J. R. Jayewardene when he was the leader of the opposition opposed the then government, therefore what is wrong in their opposing the present government to obtain their rights—DP. A large number of Buddhist monks and other religious dignitaries and peo-

ple have expressed their strong protest against liberalising abortion laws. The SLBC has decided to charge Rs. 1000 per minute for commercial advertisements on TV—DV. There is a possibility that MPs of the TULF will boycott parliament for three months and withdraw from the seats and appoint a group of youths and women; this proposal submitted by a group of youths and women has been considered by the TULF leadership and this proposal will be put forward at the executive committee meeting of the TULF in Vavunia on the 21st; the wife of a TULF leader is leading this group according to reliable sources and if the proposal is accepted this lady is likely to lead the TULF Parliamentary group. The Minister of Public Administration etc., Major Montague Jayawickrema has been chosen as the Acting PM in the absence of the PM who will go abroad shortly according to reliable sources—DK. A Benz costing Rs. 3 lakhs has been ordered by the Government Supplies Department for the speaker—JD. The open University will commence in October; a limited number of students will be enrolled immediately till permanent buildings are set up in Kotte; Any person over the age of 18 will be entitled to enter this University and 13 provincial universities will be set up throughout the country under the open university. Over 2,500 Sri Lankans women are now employed in the middle East—DM.

Letter

Minister Of Labour And Wages To Lankans Employed in the Middle East.

Sir,

We read of the Labour Minister's efforts to get better wages for Lankans employed in ME countries. There is applause all round. But, should not charity begin at home?

Let us look at the mushroom-like emergence of Garment Industries which enjoy a five-year tax holiday and other concessions. These industries flourish because and merely because Sri Lanka's wages are the lowest in the world—lower than Singapore and Hongkong—that is why these latter countries are trying to utilize our labour for their orders. I myself worked for one of these garment manufacturing-cum-exporting companies—so I know the conditions prevailing in these "sweatshops" where workers are cheated of their basic dues and privileges. Of course, on these matters the Labour Department is either discreetly silent or is turning a blind eye, because the "new rich" Directors know how to "get things done."

In one such company situated in Colombo the following irregularities take place: (1) Over 200 persons are employed but only 40 get EPF benefits and Wages Board rate of pay; (2) Over 150 employees are classified as "apprentices" and are paid

less than Rs. 7/- per day. The prescribed wages for this category being Rs. 8/85 per day; (3) Workers are forced to work on Sundays and Public Holidays without any lieu leave being granted; (4) No letters of appointment are given in the majority of cases; (5) Where appointment letters were given in September '78 fixing a monthly rate of pay, salaries were converted to daily pay from October 1978; (6) In the case of Supervisors (Rs. 500/- p.m. in September 1978) their salaries were converted to Rs. 19/25 per day from October 1978—making it impossible for them to earn the Rs. 500/- p.m. promised them in their original letters of appointment as there are only 25 working days per month.

In a sister Company situated in the same premises workers have been deprived of their statutory allowances for over 8 years. The total amount underpaid each month ranged between Rs. 1,250 and Rs. 2000. Further, these two companies share a common telephone number which is still listed as a private number, thereby depriving the government of revenue. The Electricity supply is also on a domestic tariff—although 3 phase current and heavy machinery and electric sewing machines are used. These "new rich" gem merchants have also erected a three-storied building on the premises without any plans utilizing domestic water supply—thereby depriving the CMC of revenue. How?

An examination of the Company's ledgers for "Santhosams" paid will be a revelation to the Bribery Department.

No wonder, Sri Lankan labour is cheapest!

But to repeat Mr. Minister, "Charity begins at home". First pull out the beam in thine own eye and then thou shalt see clearly to pull out the mote that is in thy brother's eye.

G. H. Dhanapala

Colombo 6.
7th July 1979

Notice Under Section 7 Of The Land Acquisition Act (Cap. 460) As Amended By The Land Acquisition (Amendment) Act No. 28 Of 1964.

Ref. No. 98/1/285
J76L 128 (VE)

It is intended to acquire the land described in the Schedule below. For further particulars see the Gazette No. 46 (Part III) dated 20-07-1979 of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

Schedule

Situation:

In the village of Welahanduwa in D.R.O.'s Division of Four Gravets, Akmeemana in Galle District.

Name of land:

Indigadeniyawatta

Plan and Lot No.:

Lot 1 of P. Plan No. GAA 1415.

S. J. Pathirana

Acquiring Officer,
Galle District.

The Kachcheri,
Galle. 27th June 1979.

Confidentially

President And The Bureaucracy—2

THAT READERS WILL RECALL that last week this column referred to a letter the President had reportedly sent to all Secretaries of Ministries? That para one which contained "advice" to the Secretaries was examined last week? That in para two, the President is reported to have adverted to the fact that "many complaints were being received, both from Members of Parliament and the public that public officers are not punctual in their attendance, are absent from their places of work without proper authority and leave office before closing time?" That the President in his letter called upon "Secretaries to see that all public officers observe punctuality in attendance, do not leave their places of work without proper authority and remain on duty till closing time and thereby ensure that the public are not inconvenienced and output of work is not reduced; staff officers should set the example for this purpose of compliance with these requirements by the subordinate staff is to be insisted on"? That there is no doubt that the President has drawn attention to a serious malady which afflicts our bureaucracy? That to place this matter of

punctuality and full working time in the correct of perspective, it is necessary to refer to para three also in which it was pointed out that "discipline is at a low ebb in the public service"? That the Presidential letter asserts that "the main cause for this is the failure on the part of the superior officers to supervise the work of their subordinates and take disciplinary action when instances of indifference and callousness of officers towards their duties, lethargy, slackness, corruption, late attendance and consumption of liquor are brought or come to their notice?" That the President dutifully called upon Secretaries to "see that errant officers are suitably dealt with under the rules governing misconduct, neglect of duty and inefficiency"?

That in our view, though Secretaries, staff and supervisory officers are to blame—mainly because many of them do not set the example to ensure discipline—nevertheless they cannot be held responsible for the sad state of discipline in the public service today? That this is a matter that the President must examine anew in the light of what we say now—and what has been said in *Tribune* and elsewhere in the recent past? That the real malady can be discovered only by seeking an answer to the question why Secretaries, why Staff and Supervisory officers are unable to maintain discipline, ensure regular work

schedules and a modicum of decorum in government offices? That only a few officers—be they of top secretarial rank or otherwise—are able to pull up subordinate officers and not be hurt in the process? That the overwhelming majority of Secretaries and Supervisory officers are unable to get subordinate officers to discharge their duties and functions because in every office today there are "special" subordinates who wield more pull and power than the supervisory officers? That these "special" persons are a law unto themselves? That they come to office when they want and leave when they like? That they do no work because they know no work? That if any supervisory officer attempts to discipline them, the "special" persons rush to a Minister or a VIP who whereupon get the supervisory officer concerned chastised and punished—demoted or transferred? That all that the "special" person who is pulled up does is to raise the usual witch-hunt cry that the supervisory officer is an SLFPite or LSSPite or merely an anti-UNPite? That so many supervisory officers who had made an honest attempt to make our public service function have been penalised and victimised—that nobody is today willing to take the risk of trying to enforce discipline?



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