

25TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION

TRIBUNE



Vol. 24 No. 6 — August 18, 1979 — Rs. 2-50



Role Of The Press

Our society needs an accurate, truthful account of the day's events. We need to know what goes on in our own locality, region, and nation. We need reliable information about all other countries. We need to supply other countries with such information about ourselves. We need a market place for the exchange of comment and criticism regarding public affairs. We need to reproduce on a gigantic scale the open argument which characterised the village gathering two centuries ago. We need to project across all groups, regions, and nations a picture of the constituent elements of the modern world. We need to clarify the aims and ideals of our community and every other.

These needs are not being met. The news is twisted by the emphasis on firstness, on the novel and sensational; by the personal interests of owners; and by pressure groups. Too much of the regular output of the press consists of a miscellaneous succession of stories and images which have no relation to the typical lives of real people anywhere. Too often the result is meaninglessness, flatness, distortion, and the perpetuation of misunderstanding among widely scattered groups whose only contact is through these media.

—*The Commission on Freedom of the Press (U. S. A), University of Chicago Press, 1947.*

**READ THE *TRIBUNE*
FOR NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS
EVERY WEEK**

From Our Desk

IN AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW with *Tribune*, published elsewhere in this issue, President Jayewardene among other matters has mentioned that he has created nearly a hundred ministerial posts. He said our people (MPs in this instance) loved to be in the Cabinet. Very correctly, he pointed out that this proliferation of Ministerial posts—Cabinet Ministers, Subject Ministers, Deputy Ministers, District Ministers and so on etc., etc.—would not matter if they did a job of work. But if they did not, it would be unfortunate. President Jayewardene has made a heroic effort to forge and mould a new administrative machine from the elected representatives of the people to replace the civil service system the British had devised to serve the needs and purposes of colonial administration. Whether the Jayewardene experiment will succeed is yet to be seen but it is a framework—with the new Development Councils—on which a new vitally dynamic governmental administrative machinery can be built, an administration with people's participation as far as that can be ensured. Many people grumble that such Ministerial rank legislators-cum-administrators cost a great deal of money. But, the fact is that our parliamentarians are not so well paid as their counterparts are in other countries. Sri Lanka is no doubt a poor (developing) country and the emoluments paid to MPs and Ministers are comparatively meagre. Comparisons are odious but a few may be useful. West German parliamentarians are the best paid in Europe and yet a further increase is under consideration. A "hitherto unpublished" survey by the Bundestag Research Service, according to Bonn Press reports, draws attention to the vast differences in the salaries of parliamentarians among member-nations of the Council of Europe. Portuguese MPs draw a basic 21,900 escudos (DM 1,061/66—Sri Lanka Rupees 9,133/20) compared to Bonn's basic salary and flat-rate expenses of DM 12,000 (SLR-103,200). No doubt account should be taken of a country's economic potential, but compared to Portugal a seat in the West German Bundestag is a veritable money-spinner. An Austrian MP earns barely half the amount his West German opposite member—his earnings being well below DM 6000 (SLR Rs. 51,600). Members of the Swedish Parliament draw a basic of only 7,863 Swedish Kronor (DM 3,539/92—SLR 30,444/-). Their flat-rate expense allowance of DM 3,800 (SLR Rs. 32,680) a year is hardly worth mentioning, the Bundestag paying DM 4,500 (SLR Rs. 38,700) a month. The Swiss are even worse off. They get a flat-rate annual fee of DM 11,700, (SLR 100,620) 65% of which is tax free. They also get a daily allowance of DM 117.50—SLR 1,010.50 for attendance at plenary sessions, committee meetings and so on, but this allowance is taxed. The salaries, allowances and the like paid to our Ministerial rank bigwigs and the ordinary MPs are small compared to earnings of West German MPs. No information is available about what Ministers are paid in West Germany, Sweden and other affluent countries. The cost of living and other expenses are no doubt much higher in West Germany than in Sri Lanka, but the simple fact is that Germany can afford to pay more to its parliamentarians than Sri Lanka. We can pay more when our economy lifts itself off the ground into greater production, productivity and affluence.

TRIBUNE

Ceylon News Review

Founded In 1954

A Journal of Ceylon and

World Affairs

Editor, S. P. Amarasingam

Every Saturday

August 18, 1979

Vol. 24 No. 6

TRIBUNE

43, DAWSON STREET
COLOMBO — 2.

Tel: 33172.

CONTENTS

COVER STORY

—JR & National Unity p. 2

PRESIDENT

JAYEWARDENE

—Exclusive Interview p. 4

SHORT STORY

—The Second Wife p. 13

COMMUNITY CENTRES

—Some Suggestion p. 16

ROMANIA

—And Developing
Countries p. 19

INDIAN OCEAN

—View From
New Delhi p. 21

SRI LANKA CHRONICLE

—August 2—6 p. 25

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

—Sri Lanka Damsels p. 28

ASTROLOGY

—Fr. Daly Writes p. 30

CONFIDENTIALLY

—Railway Catering—I p. 32

President Jayewardene

With this issue, *Tribune* breaks new ground. *Tribune* has for some years now only used pictures of scenic beauty or of different aspects of Sri Lankan life on the cover. In fact, at no time, has *Tribune* featured important personalities to make a cover story. This week we have President J. R. Jayewardene and Mrs. Jayewardene on the cover. In this issue too we have published an exclusive interview he granted the Editor of the *Tribune*.

THE REASON why we decided to feature the President on the cover is not because of the interview but primarily because of the contribution he has made to promote national unity and communal harmony in this island. Some of the questions he has dealt with in the interview relate to national unity, but there is no doubt that since he came to power in 1977 he has done more for national unity in the complex raciolinguistic-cum-religious conglomeration of peoples in the island than any other leader in the contemporary era. He has already inscribed in the Constitution of 1978 constitutional guarantees to safeguard the fundamental rights of the minorities. He has also given a constitutional status for the Tamil language and laid the foundations for real national unity in a unitary state.

Owing to many acts of commission and omission by politicians of all communities and parties over the years, es-

pecially in the years after self-rule and adult franchise from 1931, Sinhala-Tamil relations had deteriorated to the point that a demand for a separate state of Eelam for the Tamils in the North and the East had arisen with ultra-loud noises (in Tamil expatriate circles abroad) and a covert militancy (with a touch of ill-advised terrorism in the Northern areas). Apart from a readiness to resolve problems that stemmed from language, education, employment and even the vexed question of colonisation on a just and equitable basis, President Jayewardene has been willing to find solutions for what has been described as the national aspirations of the Tamil minorities (and which have been reflected in the demands first for Federalism and later for Eelam) through decentralisation and local government devolution of power.

THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION he has appointed will make its recommendations on how this can be achieved in concrete constitutionally viable terms. The President and the UNP at the moment enjoy enough prestige among the Sinhalese, Muslims and a sizeable section of the Tamils to implement any fair and democratic scheme the Commission might recommend. The President, moreover, has more than a two-thirds legislative majority to place the new scheme on the Statute Book. One auspicious arguery is that the TULF has shown greater realistic flexibility (with understandable willingness) to co-operate or collaborate

with the Presidential Commission to find a workable solution for some of the problems bedevilling the Tamil question without being distracted by emotionalised rhetoric (which has not taken the Tamils anywhere in the last five decades) or the aimless Eelam slogan-shouting (which has led to potentially dangerous Eelam-baiting). Whether the TULF leadership will be able to sustain this new positivism in its strategies is yet to be seen, but there are hopeful signs that the unfortunate Jaffna Tamil logic of boycott politics and the negativism that stems from infantile confrontationism may slowly disappear. The decision for TULF MPs and leaders not to indulge in extravagant statements and speeches is a happy development and we can only hope that this decision will not be forgotten. Elections can be won nowadays without chauvinistic jingoism and TULF will do well to pay attention to development and economic transformation in all the areas where they will head the Development Councils.

THE SLFP, unfortunately, has kept out of the Presidential Commission, no doubt for sectarian party interests. Some SLFP leaders seem to think that they can still use the Tamil question to win elections. It is well to remember that in the years the SLFP was in power, the Tamil minority question had deteriorated year by year until the Tamils were driven to desperation in 1972/73 to want Eelam. The UNP, until J. R. Jayewardene became

its leader, had thought along similar lines. UNP and SLFP Sinhala ultras had made S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike tear up the Bandaranaike-Chelvanayakam Pact in 1957. The same UNP and SLFP Sinhala ultras had intimidated Dudley Senanayake into withdrawing the District Councils Bill in 1968.

J. R. Jayewardene, however, has stood up to all the ultras among the Sinhalese and the Tamils in his attempt to forge national unity. He brushed aside the objections to the inclusion of fundamental rights and the Tamil language provisions in the 1978 Constitution. He has dealt with the wayward Eelam slogans and rhetoric of the TULF with patience and understanding and has handled the murderous terrorists among the Tamils and the blood-thirsty chauvinists among the Sinhalese with a stern hand. The SLFP would have done better to have participated in the Presidential Commission, but inter-party jockeying for positions of vantage seems to have led to the incorrect decision to keep out.

The political logic behind the SLFP's refusal is seen in the letter Mrs. Bandaranaike sent to the President on August 5, 1979 setting out the reasons for "rejecting the offer to nominate a member of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party to serve on the Commission." Mrs. Bandaranaike was emphatic: "... We feel that your government is attempting to involve the SLFP to be a participant towards the implementation of a unilateral decision taken without the con-

sensus of public opinion. This appears to be an exercise towards the implementation of an administrative scheme whereas in truth and in fact we are convinced that this is only a ruse to translate into action by means of a Commission the very Regional Councils System which was rejected twice by the people in 1957 and 1968. It is also obvious that this is a measure designed to strengthen the dictatorial powers of the Government and not for the development of the country as made out by the propaganda machinery of the government. Accordingly, the Sri Lanka Freedom Party lodges its strong protest to the proposed scheme. In view of the fact that considerable publicity has been given to this matter in the press, I am releasing all correspondence for publication in the papers."

If Mrs. Bandaranaike's and the SLFP's attitude to the Bandaranaike-Chelvanayakam Pact of 1957 and the District Council Bill of 1968 are what the letter indicates, it is clear that the SLFP wants to keep the Tamil problem alive for sectarian party election purposes.

THE ULF seems to think that the communal question is only a platform for confrontational ideological and agitational election tub-thumping. An All-Party Round Table Conference can mean nothing more than a tabletop rhetoric expounding ideological formulations on minority problems. The parties of the ULF have made various and varying formula-

tions on the minority problem in appropriate Marxist jargon from the mid-thirties but nothing had ever come of them. In fact, in the era of tailism behind the SLFP through no-contest pacts and united front coalitions, all the ULF parties' earlier formulations on minority problems were discarded or put into cold storage. Some ageing ULF leaders now seem to think that an All-Party Round Table Conference will provide them with an opportunity and a forum to parade their old formulations on the communal questions, refurbished for the occasion.

It is too late in the day for the ULF to hope that it can win the confidence of the minorities through speech-making at an All-Party Round Table Conference. The ULF has to think things anew. It must analyse anew—things have changed since the forties and fifties when the Left had done a little thinking. In the coalitionist pro-SLFP era of the sixties and seventies, the Left had ceased to think independently and analyse objectively. It had only indulged in oversimplifications and glamorous populist slogans. The Left now has to learn to unite and think anew and formulate new policies and strategies. The ULF could have gained much needed experience about current developments and contributed its share towards marching forward to national unity in the realistic context of the Sri Lanka of today.

The Presidential Commission will now function without the SLFP and ULF. A formal invitation was

extended to the SLFP because a section of the leadership had indicated a desire to participate in the Commission. The ULF leadership had, however, brushed aside unofficial feelers and the question of invitation did not therefore arise. The SLFP and ULF, no doubt, think that they will score politically by refusing to pull UNP chestnuts out of the fire—but they forget that these chestnuts were thrown into the fire not only by the ULP but also by the SLFP and UNF. All parties have an obligation to pull the chestnuts out of the fire of communal conflict! If the UNP (with TULF participation) is able to do this on its own and lay the foundation for real national unity—the chances seem bright for such an outcome—the credit must go to President Jayewardene for accomplishing what others have failed to do. Even if there are temporary setbacks, what the President has set in motion will ultimately, we are certain bring about real national unity in this heterogenous multi-racial, multi-religious, multi-linguistic and multi-caste country.

It is for these reasons that we decided to feature President Jayewardene on our cover. We do not propose to have A MAN OF THE YEAR cover every January. But, on appropriate occasions we propose to turn the spot-light on local personalities whom we think have served the country well. National unity is the crying need of the hour and all men and women of goodwill who have the interests of this country at heart must support Presi-

dent Jayewardene in his efforts to establish national unity in Sri Lanka on a democratic, just and equitable basis.

+ + +

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

PRESIDENT JAYEWARDENE

Answers Tribune Editor's Questions In A Free-Ranging Discussion

A number of questions on matters of current interest were submitted to His Excellency Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, by the Editor of *Tribune*. The President answered these questions in a free-ranging discussion at an exclusive interview on August 3, 1979.

QUESTION ONE

(a) *Whilst conceding that there is widespread consensus that your Government has successfully, in the last two years, generated economic activity marking the beginning of the end of the stagnation that has inhibited the island's economy for a long time, will it be correct to say, as some foreign commentators have stressed, that your government has abandoned democratic socialism in favour of free enterprise and capitalism? Can you clarify?*

(b) *Is not the open door economic policy which your government is pursuing and which is said to be an appendage of capitalism not in conflict with the concept of a socialist so-*

ciety which you seek to establish in Sri Lanka?

ANSWER :

I will answer the first question in this way. We, as a government, inherited a large measure of socialist economy. Some even go to the extent of saying 60% socialism, that is with the nationalisation of tea, rubber and coconut lands, of insurance, of the utilities, harbour, airports, transport, then banks. Well we are preserving that. We are not doing away with that. So socialism is there as far as we inherited it.

The rest we leave to the private sector. Firstly, until we put that socialism in order—socialism that is corrupt, that is mismanaged, that is ineffective—it is not socialism. We may have on paper nationalisation of land but that land is not properly managed. If it is looked after by MPs for their benefit, if the lands are not cultivated or not manured, we have socialism on paper but not socialism for the people. So we have to put that into order first before we think of any further socialism.

The 40% we have left to the private sector. Within the Free Trade Economic Commission—there are zones in the Economic Commission areas—we have given unlimited free enterprise to raise our exports and a certain proportion of foreign capital. Because, it is necessary to have it like that to earn foreign exchange, create employment and the other reason we gave for creating an Export Promotion area.

In the rest of the island, we are trying our best to confine it to smaller industrial establishments, not big combines, not big cartels, except the big establishments, that exist. If I may give examples, of Gnanam's or Dasas, or the biscuit factories. New ones we generally try to confine to individuals or small enterprises. At one time we restricted the import of machineries up to eight lakhs, I think. We have now increased that because people said that they can't buy sufficient machinery. But we are keeping a control over it. If necessary we might bring a Monopolies Law.

We have always stressed, not only I but even our party, that we are for democratic socialism, not a socialist democracy. And to have democratic socialism you must have a measure of private enterprise, at least for a long time. Where a man owns his own land, it may be limited, he runs an enterprise, he is free of state control. He need not go to the state for his permit, to buy his spare parts, buy his cement. He must be free to the extent of the State allowing him to be free, owning the fifty acres we now think sufficient, owning a small enterprise, a small plot of land, a small house. We do not want him to be a lackey of the State. In our manifesto we mentioned it earlier and now. So I can't consider democratic socialism without private enterprise itself.

That is my answer to the first. The second part of the question is tied up with the first and I have answered it,

QUESTION TWO:

Even well-wishers of your Government are not sure that the Accelerated Mahaweli Project could be completed within the targeted six years? What are the possible constraints in this regard and how do you propose to overcome them?

ANSWER:

Now, I visited the Mahaweli organisation where the Ministry of Lands functions and where the Mahaweli Authority functions, just two days ago. People haven't quite understood what the Accelerated Programme is. When we first discussed this, I had been studying the Mahaweli project for a long time. I got first interested in this by reading Brohier's books which are very fascinating books. Even before I took to politics I read them, studied them and visited those places and I know, as well as anybody else, the irrigation system of the Sinhalese and what they have been doing.

The first big dam ever constructed in Ceylon after the Sinhalese was Galoya. D. S. Senanayake's work was all reconstruction of these ancient systems, ancient reservoirs, ancient channels and waterways and anicuts but the first one was Galoya. Then when the Mahaweli Ganga, our scheme, was inaugurated, I understand the first person to suggest it was Mr. D. S. Senanayake. He had been in Anuradhapura one day, you find in the *Silumina* paper of the 1930s and he had said that the Mahaweli Ganga is flowing full of waters. But this whole area is dry

and parched. Some day we must use this water. But he never sat down to it because he had to complete those schemes first otherwise the Mahaweli water would have run dry before it entered the existing system. This idea was taken up by C. P. de Silva who put it into concrete shape with the World Bank loan and so on. And Dudley Senanayake opened the first scheme at Polgolla.

When I started to study this, people of Mahiyangana said what is the meaning of this—you are not doing our scheme. You are going north. Why don't you finish our dams, our channels. So I thought why can't we do all. An idea came to me why can't we do all. What is this Mahaweli Scheme—one project, two projects, three projects, for thirty years? What is impossible in doing all together? Or as much as we can? So Gamini took it up and we had a meeting at the Mahaweli Board at Jawatta and I asked them, first project is Kotmale, second project is Victoria, third project is Randenigala, fourth project Maduruoya, fifth project is Madurawela. These are all dam reservoirs. That is the first thing to be done. Without the water, you can't have the irrigation system, you can't have power. I said why can't we do all this together? Why wait till we finish Kotmale to start Victoria? To finish Victoria to start Randenigala which is close to Victoria? As years go on expense is much more. They said we can do it. I met all the officials and they told us Sir we are really wasting

our time in this office. No work being done. Hundreds of surveyors, hundreds of engineers all trying to finish Polgolla, then they go on to the next one.

I said alright give me a plan, in one month. What do you need to finish four or five of the reservoirs together? And while doing the reservoirs finish the downstream work. For instance if you are doing Maduruoya—Maduruoya is going to feed 100,000 acres—why need you wait till Maduruoya is finished to start clearing the channels. Start construction of the waterworks, start clearing the jungles, then to find settlers, to do it. They said we can do it simultaneously. So in six months they gave us a plan. Then, in the meantime we tried to find the money. Fortunately, I must say that all these countries helped.

Now the present position is that the Dam in Kotmale is the first in the whole scheme. That is the pure power reservoir to store water in the dry seasons when Mahaweli will have water. Sweden has promised to do it, contracts have been signed and the work has started. Now when a country like that takes it over they finish it. The target is 1983. So when I met them a few days ago I said 1983, you must keep it. They said yes, of course, if not for any unforeseen circumstances, cyclone or something, they will keep it. Otherwise there is a penalty. So in 1983 Kotmale will be finished. Of course we might have done it earlier but we had to get the money. Ceylon cannot afford that mo-

ney. Ceylon doesn't have the people to give that money. The contract has now been signed.

Next one you come down after Polgolla to Teldeniya, Victoria. That was a little delayed because of the elections in the UK but that Gamini says is finalised. The British are down here and that should finish in 1984. It is in my six-year period, may be the General election is over in 1984. Finish means not only the dam, but the water will be there—filling up the water and impounding the water. Now that will mean downstream development. We are doing that. Channels are being cut and so on. Third we are coming to Maduruoya. Maduruoya also was delayed owing to the elections but I think that is practically finished, that will finish in 1983. Downstream work will have all been started and done.

If I finish these three, it's sufficient for me. The money has been found, that has been the biggest difficulty. And the men are there, money is there, the contractors will bring the machinery, and the rest of the work we can do. Now the thing is they must go into the field. I told them like Galoya people, Americans came 12,000 miles, they lived here, they must have their comforts. They built buildings they are still in use as hotels. You can't live in Jungles. Prepare the homes for their engineers and their children, provide the schools everything. Now that's being done. So when Kotmale, Victoria, Maduruoya are finished it should be according to the inter-

national agreements. Then the downstream work will also be done, simultaneously and about 100,000 we will be able to settle.

The other reservoir is Randenigala. That the Germans have promised, that might be a little delayed. We might start it next year. We hope to finish it in 1984. But that doesn't matter. I don't think we can do all this. I don't think we are capable of doing all this. The other one is Madurugoda which the Japanese might agree when I go there. So those two will be started. But not finished in six years. For they are two or three small ones. Uluhitiya and Rankinda, those can be finished easily. In the meantime, Kalawewa, that is an area started by them. It will be finished possibly within a year. And we have doubled the pace of settlement. Then the next is taking the water north, that is also under investigation. So I don't think we will fail if this, as we had planned, is done.

Editor: If the three can be finished, it will be good.

President: The three and the downstream work for the three.

Editor: Are there any other constraints like access roads, bridges etc?

President: They are all being attended to. Constraints are like cement. But these contractors will bring their cement. They will bring their machinery.

Editor: May be, more bridges are needed to take the machinery?

President: I don't think there will be problems about that. Our main problems were the big reservoir dams. These contractors will take charge of that. They have already brought things to Kotmale, 300 feet high.

Editor: Taking them to Kotmale will be a difficulty.

President: They had to widen the roads and all sorts of things are happening.

Editor: What about Kadugannawa Rock?

President: They are going to take it round now. Gamini wanted to dynamite that. I told him don't do that because.....

Editor: May be they can take it through Galagedara?

President: Exactly, through Galagedara.

Editor: Galagedara itself is a difficult road in some places?

President: Or go through Polonnaruwa and come down, or something like that. He's trying to plan out something.

QUESTION THREE:

The Opposition Parties still contend that the unemployment problems and the soaring cost of living, which brought about the downfall of the last Government, still stalk the land and that your Government has not taken any meaningful steps to tackle them. How will you meet these allegations?

ANSWER :

Now, unemployment, if these three or four schemes get going, settlement of 100,000, then the GCEC which will, I think according to the way it is going, give 100,000 people employment by 1983. That is 200,000.

100,000 in settlements means 400,000 people—with four or five people to a family. I think we have broken the back of it. Those two alone and then private sector. Now the employment is 200% more than before. And people going to Arabia, we are not stopping them.

Cost of living is the biggest problem we now face. And, as I said yesterday, some blame the government, some blame the Opposition, some blame the Arabs, it is a world phenomena. Today Sri Lanka is the lowest, the World Bank has said we are the lowest in the cost of living. That may be owing to our rice being produced here, which is very cheap compared to the world price of rice.

And our subsidies. We don't intend to take away our subsidies. The new budget for subsidies is 3 billion rupees. We are now having a new system. The Finance Minister says, he can give 3 billion rupees subsidies in the budget. We won't increase them. Now what to do with the 3 billion is for the government to decide. We won't have increased subsidies because the price of flour goes up. Or the prices of imported things go up. Three billion is fixed. He says, I must have the money for development. Now with petrol going up the subsidies went up. That won't happen. That has to be passed on to the consumer. But we are trying to protect the smallest man—the small man who wants kerosene, the small man who wants rice, he will be given food coupons. It will really be a money coupon.

Between 50 and 100 rupees for a family. He can buy anything he wants. Or he can put it in the Investment Bank. It is not attached to any particular item of sale, like, flour, rice or kerosene or clothes. All items will be at world prices. Flour might go up. If it goes down, prices will go down.

We are not going to make a profit. With your money coupon you can buy the flour at the world price. That is with a coupon given by the government, you can buy cloth at world prices, so that the 3 billion rupees in the budget is not affected by it. So we are subsidising the individual and not the commodity, because if it is a commodity means the rich man also gets it. You and I also get subsidised flour, subsidised kerosene, which we are going to give each householder below three hundred rupees kerosene at a subsidised price, with a coupon a person can buy kerosene at a subsidised price, the other man will have to pay the world price. The only point is some say 300 rupees is not enough. Make it 400 rupees or 450 rupees. We are going to have a census in 1979 and after that we may increase it. And without the census we have to go on the census taken earlier with the food ration, otherwise we can't delay it.

Free rice will continue. What is withdrawn is the subsidy on commodities. Free rice is for people who get coupons. That is only for people below 300, they will get that. That is going to meet the increase of the price of flour, increase the price

of kerosene, which the richer man has to bear.

We can of course have subsidies, but then we can't have money for development. The cost of Kotmale is about 2 billion rupees. Foreign exchange component say 60% to 70%. The rest of the money we have to find. When you say the foreigner is financing he does not finance the whole thing. We have to try and find part of the money in this country. The counterpart will be generally about a third. The downstream work, buildings, and repairs to roads have to be from our funds, we have to find money for this. We cannot—if we continue subsidies as before.

QUESTION FOUR :

How in your opinion, has the Proportional Representation system worked in the recent local body elections? Has it not shown that the cut-off point of 12½% is too high for the smaller parties, especially the Left ones, to gain representation? Does not the situation portend the danger of Left and other smaller parties taking to ultra-constitutional measures for the realisation of their political ideas?

ANSWER :

It has worked, I thought, very well. The cut-off point, I also think, is too high. We will be considering how we are going to reduce it. We had originally some eight per cent. It is I think, the TULF that wanted this, and the Opposition during the debate, so I said alright. They wanted to keep off the other small parties, I think.

Editor: Do you agree that there should be a change in

the cut-off point percentage?

President: I think so.

Editor: Somewhere between five and eight percent?

President: Yes, somewhere in that region. That is the answer. We will be considering how this is to be changed.

And also we want to consider there should be voting by individuals also. Party and individual. That means in the ballot paper you can say, will contain the names of the candidates also. So while voting for the party you vote for the candidate also. There are complaints by some of the candidates. They say, we are tenth on the list. We have no chance. First four or five will get in. It may be that the tenth on the list get more votes than the first on the list. We have not decided on this but we are wondering the only thing is that the ballot paper is so big. It creates problems for us. Those at the bottom of the list don't even work for the elections. This gives a chance for a popularity vote. There are different systems where Germany also has, by voting individually and the party.

QUESTION FIVE :

Has not the new Constitution imposed certain amount of rigidity in view of the fact that no political party can hope to secure a two-third majority in the foreseeable future which is required for constitutional amendments?

ANSWER :

Well if you say that no political party can easily get a two-third majority, if that is rigidity, I accept that. That

is the whole purpose of it. Not that they can't get two-thirds. If they get two thirds of the votes they get two thirds of the seats. If you get 51% of the votes you get 51% of the seats.

You can't go on the Municipal election results alone because we gave two seats to the party with a majority. If you hadn't got that, that discrepancy would not be there. That is why Mrs. Bandaranaike is stressing Gampaha and one or two areas where we did not get votes according to the seats we won. That is owing to these two. That may not be there in the general elections. For local elections, we want the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor to be elected by the people. Otherwise there is so much of bargaining, horse-deal after the elections. It is the people's choice. The Mayor can do a job of work for three years or four years. That is why we did that.

That won't be there for the general elections, but we are trying to iron out some of these difficulties. But proportionate representation is fair. And just. It will create multiplicity of parties, party having two thirds, but the purposes of it is combined with the Executive President. He ensures the stability. Now see what has happened in India. There are other countries having a lot of democracy.

What has happened in Sri Lanka? Every Prime Minister had defections. D. S. Senanayake, Dudley Senanayake, Sir John Kotelawala, Bandaranaike, Mrs. Bandaranaike except J. R. Jayeward-

dene. Not that it is personal but for my period I can do a job of work. People are not interested in these defec-tions, they are not even in-terested in ideologies, a vast number of people, that is what I find. Some are com-mitted to Marxism, some are committed to capitalism, but 99% want to live reasonable, safe lives.

In Jaffna I understand now people are happier, much happier. I am sorry about those murders. They say the Police did it. I do not know. The Police are also under great strain. You know what the police are even here. In my area, in a tenement, if police goes to investi-gate and if he is ill-treated, the whole police force comes down on those chaps. How many times have I gone to the tenement here, in The-nuwara Gardens? Police have gone and hammered every-body and gone away. They have been bottling this, bot-tling this up and bottling this up. They have been shot and killed. When I declared emergency they thought it was effective. It wasn't effective. Even before our friend Weeratinga went it happened. That's why I withdrew that clause about a coroner's report. I don't want anything wrong to hap-pen.

But terrorists have to be treated like terrorists. They say so in Europe and there are special teams who are sent to capture them but they are told don't try to capture them and bring them to jail. You will be dead before that. You will have to shoot them. Now that

Murunkan murder, our po-lice went like tourists. And they were just spotted off. So now what the people in Jaffna say is we can walk in our streets. Because there may be a few political terro-rists, others are these gangs-ters molesting women, steal-ing their Thali. It'll happen here, too.

QUESTION SIX :

With the terms of the Pre-sidency and the Parliament not running concurrently in the new Constitution, do you visualise a conflict between the two at any foreseeable point of time? What are the possible solutions in the event of such a conflict?

ANSWER :

There might be, if the party in power is different from the President. That is exactly the idea of it, the new Constitution and the proportional representation. You'll want the President, if we have not got a complete major-ity in one party, to have a consensus, and create a national government, getting all points of view.

In a developing country what is most important is development not any strange theories that I may have or somebody else may have. So if the people elect a party in such a way the President if he finds that there are minority parties that can make some use, take them into the government. He chooses the government. There can't be a deadlock as in America because you choose from the Parliament.

So as you know our people like to be in the Cabinet. Individuals like to be in the Cabinet. Now I've created

about 100 posts in the Cabinet, Cabinet Ministers, Deputy Mi-nisters, District Ministers. They want to be somewhere. But if the work is done, it does not matter. But of course if there is obstruction as happened in Australia, the Governor can dissolve parliament, the President also can dissolve pa-riament. Once he can do it or he can change the govern-ment. It is only if both sides are obstinate from the dead-lock one side has to give in.

QUESTION SEVEN :

(a) You have repeatedly stressed that your Government is following a truly non-aligned foreign policy. Is it your con-tention that the previous Gov-ernment was pursuing a fore-ign policy tilted to one or the other of the power blocs? If so, how have you remedied the situation?

(b) What are the major tasks facing the next non-aligned Sum-mit at Havana?

(c) Have Big Power pressures on the Non-aligned Movement been eroding its strength and vitality to be an independent third force in the world forum?

(d) Internal disputes are also sapping the energies of the Non-aligned Movement. What are the steps you pro-pose to take to over-come this malady?

ANSWER :

(a) I wouldn't say that the other government was not truly non-aligned as far as the non-aligned movement was concerned. But there was a time when Mrs. Bandara-naike's government was openly critical of the West. She called it the rapacious West and so on. The Non-

Aligned Movement confined itself to the two super powers, USSR and USA. As far as those two are concerned, I think the previous government was non-aligned. But as far as the West is concerned, they always talk of imperialism, neo-colonialism and so on. We have got over all that. I don't think any country is trying to interfere with our Government. So in that sense we are as non-aligned as any country can be.

We have no phobia against the Western powers nor any phobia against the Communist countries. We have not now. There was a time when we had. That was not due to our fault. The Soviet Union blocked us from joining the UNO from 1948 to 1954. Not allowed to join? And, how could we exchange diplomats? How could we allow them to send teams here? We recognized China, sent our ambassadors there but the Soviet Union never let us join the UNO. I took this up at Kremlin when I was there and a lady who was President of the Senate, was very angry because in the final speech I made as the leader of the Opposition, I replied to a statement she had made. In her speech she had praised the Bandaranaike government for exchanging diplomats. I said I must put the record straight. It was your fault, Madam, I said. We became free in 1948, for six years the Soviet Union blocked us. They said we were not free. They said we had given bases to the British. How then in 1954 when the bases were still given to the British did you allow us to

get into the UNO in a horse-deal, when the British got some of their nations in and you got some of your nations in?

(b) The major task facing the Non-aligned Movement at Havana would be what they faced here. The question of Egypt and of Cambodia. The New National Economic Order was not a major issue here. I hope they will be able to resolve them.

(c) I don't think there has been, as far as I know, big power pressures not on us. May be in other countries. We have not had any big power pressures.

(d) It is correct. When you say internal disputes you mean like Kampuchea, Vietnam, Sahara. What steps? We can't even think of anything. We as Chairman, have been completely neutral. About Foreign Minister's Border Disputes Commission, I am frank to say I don't know. People feel so strongly on these issues. It is difficult for us from a distant area to feel as strongly as they do. Some delegates even threaten to shoot others. Feelings are very strong. We can't enter into their way of thinking. And words of wisdom and conciliation fall on deaf ears. We will have to wait and see what happens.

QUESTION EIGHT :

Will the unresolved Tamil question have any adverse effect on the quantum of international aid to the Mahaweli and other Development Projects in Sri Lanka?

ANSWER :

I do not think there will be any effect on the quantum

of International aid on any of our Development projects, because we have explained to them.

There are these minority questions in every country. We are no worse than America, or Britain, with the IRA, Australia, India (they are much worse than us), Iran with the Kurds, Spain with the Basques. And outsiders see all our people working together. Who is the Attorney General? He is a Tamil. Who is the leader of the Opposition? He is a Tamil. Who is my Foreign Consultant? He is also a Tamil. Who are three of my Ministers, they are Tamils, and there are Muslims. So when I point this out, they say what are they talking about? They have certain problems about employment and colonisation. Language has now been settled. Education, we are trying to solve it but they themselves have made it worse by some of their speeches and statements. So now I think they are in a better frame of mind. I can't see any problems to be solved at all.

The Tamil question has so far not had any adverse effect on the quantum of international aid.

QUESTION NINE :

In your view will the proposed scheme of decentralising and devolving subordinate legislative powers to Development Councils create the necessary groundwork for promoting grassroots participation in economic development and securing the much-needed communal harmony necessary for progress?

ANSWER :

I think that that is the whole purpose of the Presidential Commission that has just been appointed. We have visualised that in our Manifesto also, in the last Election Manifesto. We said we will have Urban Council, Municipal Council and Rural Council elections. Then decentralize the administration, create District Ministers. They are now working with MPs how to associate delegates from the other elected bodies with the MPs. That is now the purpose of the Commission. And how they can develop their districts as quickly as possible, with the elected representatives of the people participating in the process. Yes, I think it will mean grassroots participation and lead to communal harmony. We want to give development into their hands.

Take a concrete case, Trincomalee district for instance. Trincomalee district has three electorates, three MPs and they will be under the Development Council. Then the Municipal Council, the Urban Councils and the Rural Councils will have to appoint delegates. That is what this Commission will have to work on. How many delegates? We do not want the Councils to be too large. There may have to be some form of delegated authority and they will meet and then decide what do with the money that the government gives them. We give now 2 million to each electorate. We give from the state budget money for education, health, co-operatives and so on. Major irrigation schemes the gov-

ernment does. Then the council will decide how the money should be spent and who should spend it and how the work should be done.

One problem might be settlement. There, I think what some of the Tamil people want is you should not change the demographic pattern of any district. I am prepared to accept that. Except say some of the big Mahaweli ganga schemes where development is totally in an uninhabited area, like Madura Oya. It would not be fair because Batticaloa was 50 miles away has 89%-90% Tamils that only Tamil people should be settled—there is 90% Tamil people, 8% Muslim people and 2% Sinhalese. The money is spent from foreign sources, money is spent from the whole island's economy. And the Sinhalese in some areas are living without any land at all. Should they not have share in this, at least fifty fifty. There are very few areas like that. But other districts we can go on.

In regard to Vavuniya, I have said, we will try and make it two, Vavuniya North and Vavuniya South. They have agreed to that. I said we will wait till this Commission starts sitting. Vavuniya North being Tamil and Vavuniya South being Sinhalese. If there is a will there is a way for anything. Main thing is for them to trust me, the Tamil leaders, and for me to trust them. The fear the Sinhalese have is that give them (Tamils) something they will use it to get Eelam. They have to give up that cry. Work with us. And some Sinhalese say they are living

in Colombo, fifty percent non Sinhalese. We have lived well. And the Sinhalese say why can't we live there?

QUESTION TEN :

Could not these Development Councils have been established during the 1965-70 UNP administration?

ANSWER :

Yes. It could easily have been established. We had brought the District Councils Bill. I was responsible for that. I was one of those who drafted the Bill. I was strongly against their withdrawing the Bill. Dudley Senanayake was persuaded to withdraw it. He should not have done that. I won't do things like that. It was because of opposition by the SLFP and the Buddhist Sinhalese. I would have said go to hell and passed it. If you think it's necessary, it must be done. Surely governments must govern. Dudley was made to feel that he would lose the elections if he passed it. He sent on a pan-Sinhalese cry. He tried and failed.

I don't think our people work like that. Now you notice we are explaining everything, we are not hiding. Even the food coupon we are going to explain. This thing, Development Councils, we are going to explain. If you don't want us, throw us out in 1983 and 1984. Not before that. Don't raise your hand, talk as much as you like. Oppose us as much as you like and let the development go on. We have been entrusted with a task and we are going to do it.

QUESTION ELEVEN :

How do you propose to control or end corruption at the decentralised level, leave alone at the level of the central government?

ANSWER :

I am thinking of a Presidential Commission, like the one that is sitting. Very early. To sit in camera. Because I do not want people to come and say things that aren't true, may be against people who are in office today, not what happened in the past, and to report to me privately. Now I get various complaints. Now your paper writes. Whatever I can, I investigate. But the method is very meagre. I do not want to ask the police. I can't put the police on a Minister or a MP. I have not done that. I would ask that person himself.

Tenders I get inquired into by my Secretary to the Cabinet. Anybody sends a petition about a tender, I inquire into it. If it is something that should be revised I get the whole tender revised. If it is not, well I go ahead with it. I can find no authentic way of investigating it. So I thought that this Presidential Commission up to the day it is appointed anybody can make a complaint, prove it. In camera. So that the witness is safe, and the suspect is also safe. No innuendo. No character assassination. And we have now decided that in all tenders over a million, the Tender Board will be appointed by me, and they have to get Cabinet approval. We have the best men we can find. If everybody is corrupt what can anybody do? There

are so many tenders now, so much development, so much money floating, more than ever before there is room for corruption but what people seem to think is because the man gets a commission he is corrupt. He is not corrupt. Every big tenderer has a Commission Agent. They may see people, may come to see me, they can, provided he does not try to bribe me. As far as I know, nobody has made a charge against a single Tender Board. If they do, it is investigated at once. This commission will also investigate at the local level too, not only elected members, chairmen, anybody against whom complaints have been made. But I am wondering whom am I to appoint? Can you think of anybody? Because everybody has a friend or a relation. Now the three in the present Presidential Commission are judges. I can't put judges all the time.

Now it is said corruption is part of politics, that it has become a way of life. I have never seen allegations of corruption like this in the whole history of our customs, the air, the harbour. By 3 o'clock offices are closed. I like to know what to do?

QUESTION TWELVE :

(a) How soon do you propose to implement the recommendations of the Presidential Commission on Tamil affairs?

(b) How would you deal with a Development Council that has a majority hostile to the government? Alternately, in order to avoid such a possibility will elections to these bodies be held at the same time as elections to Parliament?

(c) The Idea of Development Councils is essentially meant to satisfy the local aspirations of most parts of the Island. How does your Government propose to deal with the more urgent aspects of the Tamil question such as the implementation of the Tamil language in the spheres prescribed by the Constitution and employment?

ANSWER :

(a) The recommendation will be considered by the Cabinet. Two to three months at the most, perhaps. Not three weeks as we had hoped, we have changed that because I am going away, and I do not want to hurry them. When I come back they will sit again. Professor Wilson is also going to America in ten days' time. Then come back. Once the recommendation is received by the Parliamentary group, we put it to the Parliament. Once it is passed, we will implement it.

(b) The relations between the Development Councils and the Centre have to be worked out by the Commission. Of course approved by the Cabinet and there will be power from the President to take them over. There is no harm in being anti-government. An Opposition Council, we don't mind that, but if they are obstructing, then they have to be taken over like we take over a Municipal Council. It will have to be direct President's government. Or we may vest the power in the District Minister. We can't let the administration break down.

There are four matters language, education, employment, decentralisation. Now

language by and large I can say has been settled. It is only the question of implementation. I have appointed Mr. Rajadurai in charge and it will take some time but we will be able to implement it. We are looking into the public servants who do not know Sinhalese. A special committee is functioning.

Then education. We have given up the standardisation according to media and race. It's now standardisation according to districts, developed and underdeveloped. That also these people say is unfair. But it is not fair not only to the Tamils but to the Sinhalese also. Lots of Sinhalese in Colombo, say my daughter has passed, my son has passed, she got 60% and from Moneragala a 50% man has got in. So what can one do? If you go only by pure marks, Colombo, Jaffna and Kandy will get all the places. So I am wondering whether we can't go on a racial basis. We have firstly the whole island, 15% or 20%, then districts 45% the balance for underprivileged and purely on marks. Of course TULF objects to it because they got less than previously. They can't show us a method also.

Then employment. I want to go on a racial basis. So many, 60% Sinhalese, 30% Tamils, 10% Muslims. Then decentralisation is coming. Colonisation I mentioned again on district racial proportions, without changing the demographic pattern. There may be one or two areas that we will have to consider differently. But the rule will apply to most of the areas,

Mannar, Mullaitivu, Trinco. Really it is only in the Batticaloa area we work out special solutions.

There won't be elections to the Development Councils except delegated elections by the members of the local body. In a district we have, Municipal Councils, Urban Councils and Rural Councils. We have to say all of you get together and send 10 of your members. The details will have to be worked out by the Commission. The composition of the Commission has been finalised—sitting on Monday, the SLFP is coming. Some were saying why not have an all-party conference. All party conference achieves nothing. Round table conference the English summoned never came to anything. Really the work could be finished in two or three months.
August 3, 1979.



SHORT STORY FROM NIGERIA

The Second Wife

by Sita Selvadurai

Aina sat dejectedly at the head of the table, and ran a glum eye over the five places she had just set for lunch. She resented that fifth place on the table. For it was since she had started setting it six months ago, that life had turned out so miserable for her. Instead of her usual confident and enthusiastic self, she now felt forlorn and despondent, like a broken reed.

Aina had married Babatunde eight years ago, and

borne him two children—a boy and a girl, no doubt a relatively modest number. Aina herself, was the second in a family of fifteen children, her father having had three wives in accordance with the indigenous marriage customs which permitted polygamy. He had embraced Islam two years after he had married her mother who was his first wife. He had chosen Islam in preference to Christianity, as it was more tolerant of the indigenous social structure, and did not require him, hitherto a pagan, to abandon the traditional polygamy. Aina's mother had borne seven of his children, and his second and third wife four each. Only eleven of them had lived to see adulthood. Though they had all grown up as one extended family, and helped in the tilling of the fields and herding of the cattle, yet Aina felt a greater attachment towards her own brothers and sisters, than she did towards her half brethren.

As was the custom among the Yurubas, Aina was marked out from childhood, as intended for Baba, without her consent. She was however, informed of the fact when she came of age, and allowed to make her acquaintance with him. Having had her general education in a Girl's Secondary School, and thereby having had no opportunity to meet many boys of her age Aina realised only too soon, that she had set her heart on the gentle and genial Baba. She soon gave her formal consent or 'Isihun' to marry him, which she found no reason to withhold. Be-

sides, it was not the done thing in her day for a girl to refuse the choice of her parents. The family oracles were invariably consulted, and the ceremony of betrothal, where Baba presented Aina's parents with choice kolanuts, alligator pepper, and money as bride price, took place, with the attendant rejoicing, feasting and offering of sacrifices. After this event until her marriage, Aina was not to meet Baba without veiling or hiding her face. "You are so beautiful, I can't wait to marry you, Aina dear," Baba had said to her on that memorable betrothal day.

Baba was then a final year student doing a degree in Business Management at the University. He had refuted his father's wishes as eldest male member, to carry on the family business of looking after lands and farm. "In today's society, ambition is revered above antecedents, and making something of oneself is more productive of status than lineage," he had said, and set his heart on getting himself educated. From then on there was no turning back for Baba, until he had secured a first class at his Bsc. degree. He got himself a job with a manufacturing firm, and within a year their marriage was solemnised with much funfare and feasting, in the month of June, after the season of harvest, following the Egugun festival.

As was the custom, Aina brought with her all the paraphenalia necessary for setting up house, from furniture to cooking utensils, and the two of them settled down to a happy married life in town,

away from family and relatives. Being an enterprising lad, Baba soon started a transport service in addition to his regular job. First it was only two taxis, but within five years the number had increased to five taxis and four minibuses. Baba then gave up his job at the manufacturing firm, and invested the money he had saved up, to start a contracting firm of his own. There was plenty of development work, with the money from the new found oil. He recruited expatriate engineers from abroad, brought equipment and set the ball rolling. Baba had to work very hard and painstakingly, but his assiduousness was soon rewarded as the profits accrued and more work came in. Aina, in addition to looking after the children and the home, had helped him to run the transport service to the best of her ability. When her relatives from the village saw her living in clover they could not but help cast a jaundiced eye at her. "Her good fortune won't last long," they whispered nastily among themselves. But Aina was undeterred. "You will always have luck, because you were born with a cord round your neck" her mother used to say, and Aina resorted to those comforting words to reassure her during moments of doubt.

Then Baba had taken in Ngozi to help him. She was a Chartered Secretary and an Ebo from East Nigeria. Being a highly individualistic people, the Ebos were less respectful of formal organisation and static class barriers

than the other ethnic groups. The tremendous Ebo determination to get ahead, to be more modern than their counterparts, to favour technical advance, and their desire to succeed in every field, have all been largely attributed to their inherent achievement motive. Ngozi's father, had been a pioneer among the Ebos to cut across tribal lines, get himself educated in spite of many odds, and find himself a job in the government as a clerk. He had spared no pains to see that his children got the best possible education he could afford to give them. Ngozi's father had been one of the first qualified Nigerian surgeons. Undoubtedly, Ngozi belonged to that group termed the new elite — the exclusive few who demonstrated a capacity to meet on western terms the challenge of adaptation to the modern world.

Baba was soon full of praise for Ngozi. "She has already re-organised the whole filing system," he had remarked one day. "My letters are being replied promptly now," he had said yet another day. Aina, who had struck up a mental image of Ngozi as an efficient computer type female, was taken aback when she first met her. For Ngozi was small, dark, lithe and tempting. She had stood up when she saw Aina enter her room, stretched out her slender hand, clasped Aina's warmly, with a "Pleased to meet you Aina", in a poised and confident manner. Then she had chatted gaily and easily to Aina, over a cup of tea, about family, home and

life in general. Aina had enjoyed her first meeting with Ngozi. Everything about Ngozi seemed to indicate her calm and efficient nature.

But when a few months later, Baba had announced his intention to take Ngozi as his second wife, it came as a sudden surprise to Aina. Being a muslim, Baba was allowed more than one wife, but somehow Aina had not imagined herself in that situation. As Baba had made up his mind, and since his love for her was the outcome of admiration and pride, there was nothing Aina could do but accept it.

The wedding was a big social event of the year. Her children were page boy and bridesmaid, and she herself was the chief hostess. But from that day the wheel of fortune began to turn in a different direction for Aina. It had all begun when she had discovered on the night of the wedding, as she put away her trappings and finery, that she had lost her pearl necklace. It was heirloom, and though they searched high and low, advertised and offered rewards, it had never been found. "It is not a good omen." "It is a sign that the clouds are gathering for you." Her supposed friends had said and it made Aina all the more worse for her loss. Everything centred round Ngozi now. The flat upstairs was re-decorated and re-furnished according to Ngozi's wishes, before she moved in, and everyone admired her exquisite tastes. Even to Aina's flat downstairs, Ngozi had added her touch to give it that extra finesse that only some few are able to

give. For Ngozi seemed to have in her a natural instinct for all that was elegant. She dressed smart and went to work daily with Baba, dropping the children at school on her way, while Aina stayed home, cooked, cleaned and washed. Her household chores which hitherto Aina had carried out with a lightheartedness and buoyancy, she now did with unenthusiastic inefficiency. Even routine things seemed to slip her mind. She felt drained of energy, as if life was a drudgery, and a drag on her. The profits from the transport service dwindled. For Aina had recently left it in the hands of the clerks, as she felt nothing was worth doing, that action was futile.

Ngozi seemed to have noticed the change in her. "You are not your former self, Aina". Ngozi had said one day, sitting on the edge of the bed, where Aina lay with a splitting headache, which seemed to obsess her frequently. "Why you don't even dress well now? What's become of your confidence and spiritedness? Perhaps, you should get out daily and come to work with me. You could attend to the business of the transport service and in addition lend me a hand." Ngozi had suggested kindly, and there was no mistaking the sincerity in Ngozi's large, expressive eyes. "But who will attend to the housework?" Aina had protested weakly. "We could get hired help for that. When we come home in the evenings we could attend to whatever chores that remained, together," Ngozi had insisted. Even though it was a faintly feasible idea, Aina

had not given it serious thought. Instead she had taken refuge in, "Anyway it is too late now." and withdrawn further into her shell of passivity.

Aina glanced up, as the clock on the wall chimed twelve noon. It was no more a noon tide of fulfilment, instead it all seemed an endless midnight of despair. The Mercedes Benz drew up at their front door, and the children ran in with their merry chatter. They threw down their satchels and sat down to lunch. The meal was as usual filled with their small talk of school and office, and Ngozi's jovial cracks which elicited laughter from Baba and the children. The children then retired for their afternoon siesta, Baba and Ngozi went back to work and Aina was left to clear and wash up. The family spent the evening in Ngozi's flat, where Ngozi helped the children with their homework, and entertained any visitors who happened to drop in. But Aina never went. The excuse she gave was that she had to prepare the night meal.

The next morning as Aina busied herself making the family breakfast, there was a knock on the door. "Who could it be, so early"? Aina wondered as she opened the door, and there was Ngozi wrapped in a dressing gown with a parcel. "Happy birthday, Aina dear. I got this for you. I hope it will compensate for what you lost on my wedding day." She said as she kissed Aina on both cheeks, and was gone.

With trembling hands, Aina undid the wrapping on

the parcel, and there nestled in its velvet lined box was the daintiest of pearl necklaces she had ever seen. She felt her heart thump against her chest. It was the first birthday present she had ever received. Aina and Baba had never adapted the western custom of celebrating their birthdays.

Tears welled up in Aina's eyes as she sat before the mirror and admired her new necklace. It looked so well round her neck. She took out her best white frock from the closet and put it on. She did her hair anew, and put on some make up. She could not remember the last time she had used make up. It seemed so long ago. She did not look bad at all, she thought—and she felt her heart sing out again like a lark's. Perhaps, she should give herself another chance. A chance she owed not only to herself, but to her husband and her children and to the world at large—a chance to live a fuller life, in a 'Universe open to the efficacy of one's efforts.'

Minutes later, Aina knocked at Ngozi's door and told her that she would come to work with her—and Ngozi beamed.

o o o

THE LONGEST KISS

The longest kiss in the world has just been exchanged in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. It lasted four hours 32 minutes. The couple Vincent Torro, 34, and Louise Health 26, won a voyage to Canada which was the prize for the competition organized by a local radio station. Forty couples took part.

COMMUNITY CENTRES

Some Suggestions For A Dynamic Change

by Devaratnam Danforth

Tribune is happy to publish in this issue a paper containing some suggestions for a dynamic approach towards Community Development. This Paper had been prepared by Devaratnam Danforth who was until recently Assistant Commissioner of Local Government in charge of the Local Government Training and Research Institute. Government has invited the total participation of all our people in all its programmes and Community Centres can play a vital role in securing such participation. Community Centres function under the Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Construction. An exhibition held on 23.6.79 in Anuradhapura had on display a variety of articles turned out by these Centres revealing a hitherto unsuspected ability and talent among our youth. What is needed is a purposeful drive to encourage and help them along and this Ministry is quite capable of giving it. The concluding part of this paper will appear next week.

This paper had been also sent out by the National Council of Y.M.C.As in Sri Lanka to its professional Secretaries and Project Officers.

—Ed.

INTRODUCTION: Most of us feel that we know what

Community Centres are. Invariably they are associated with recreation and centres of social contact. But it is much more than this. The American Council of Voluntary Agencies for Foreign Services defines community development as "a process of change resulting in the development of leaders and institutions that will have the capacity for continued growth and change." The most widely accepted definition of Community Development, which is precisely the task of a Community Centre, is provided by the UN which reads: "the process by which the efforts of the people themselves and united with those of governmental authorities to improve the economic, social and cultural conditions of communities to integrate these communities into the life of the nation and to enable them to contribute to the national progress."

When some part of a community's life is not working the way it should, people get together and try to do something about it. Friends talk among themselves, hold meetings and discuss methods of approach to tackle the problem and try to arouse public interest. There is never any lack of problems demanding attention and of course there is no lack of advice or proposals either. But the difficulty is that the group is unable to decide on the course to adopt. They hesitate to start on a journey which they fear would be a rough and rocky course. A Community Centre can then be born.

In order to get started however, it is of the utmost importance that the people in the community is influenced, their attitude changed and their interest in their fellow human being is awakened. The darkness at the heart of mankind can only be removed by a disciplined and organised society. The Community Centre should set the example of being disciplined and organised and it is here that the responsibility of the Community Centre Officer is paramount.

Community Centres are voluntary organisations providing a forum for the people to discuss and evolve strategies as to how to improve their quality of life. Members are all volunteers. There is no element of compulsion. Thus the question that must first be answered is "How can volunteers serve?" The answer is simply this. Motivate them.

MOTIVATION. I agree that it is very easy to say 'motivate' the volunteers. But in practice this is not that easy. These volunteers have come together to participate in the full knowledge that the projects are for the public welfare and not merely for their personal benefit and that in their efforts they are bound to meet difficulties but also confident that they can overcome, or by-pass these problems. Motivation in these circumstances, must therefore be regarded as a basic—perhaps the most important of all the other factors in attracting effective popular participation.

Under the implementation plan approved for the regions, Community Centres

are going to work very closely with government departments and other agencies. They cannot be effective without such co-operation. There is not much point in blaming someone else for what we have not been able to achieve. Perhaps the fault may be entirely ours. Just as much as Community Centres consist of volunteers dedicated to the social upliftment of a group of persons, there are dedicated, hard-working public servants with the noblest of social aims. What the Community Centres, with the assistance of the Community Centre Officers who will be chief liaison officer with other departments and agencies, should in my view endeavour to do is to ignore any frustration or disappointment they may come across and harness the assistance of the many who will be happy to help to promote this movement.

H. Harry Giles in his 'Motivation of Volunteers' has identified some basic factors influencing motivation. I shall give them below: (a) *Participation*—Participation with others in making concrete plans. Such approach will engage the serious interest and abilities of people who have come together. In order to go more deeply into it, we need to survey some of the basic facts about human behaviour, so far as it is known to students of the subject; (b) *Faith*—First of all the volunteer has to have faith that human effort does count and can make a difference in the course of speed of events. A first small success can work wonders with people's attitudes; (c) *Be-*

lief in the Plan of Action—The volunteer has to share in a guiding pattern of belief and action. The motive may be related to religious conviction, to humanistic belief, or to a lifelong desire for simple justice; (d) *Recognition of the Problem*—The volunteer needs to recognise the problem—know that the values and goals in which he believes are being blocked or defeated, whether by wrong action or inaction; (e) *Being critical of life*—In order to recognise problems and possible courses of action, the volunteer has to be willing and able to be critical of life. Some are timid and reluctant, at first. They accept that things can be made better. They need encouragement; (f) *Attacking the root problem*—The volunteer needs to learn the difference between attacking problems and attacking persons. "How much do you care?" Is a basic question; (g) *To identify personally*—The volunteer has to identify in some personal way with the goals of the group; (h) *To be wanted*—The volunteer wants to be wanted. All of us respond to a personal appeal for help. It gratifies a deep desire in a human being to belong; (i) *Seeing a range of possibilities*—The volunteer may be aware of the range of possible action. He may be stimulated to take part when he sees examples... which capture his imagination and appeal to his deep desires; (j) *Rewards and recognition*—All of us need rewards and recognition. The prospects of winning these by taking responsibility in a community effort may appeal very greatly

to some; (k) *Trust and responsibility*—The surest way to establish it is to offer it. Once a favourable beginning has been made it is essential to encourage free questioning. It is only through encouragement of free questioning and discussion that a newcomer can 'find' himself and be convinced of the welcome; (l) *To have power*—Some volunteers seek power, and may become involved if offered positions of decision and control. Some may be in search of the prestige which accompanies association with persons of high status; (m) *To associate with positive action*—In this connection, the label or public picture of the voluntary organisation is highly important. It should be meaningful and should appeal to positive emotions and denote positive action; (n) *To enhance self-respect*—Studies of motivation have shown that self-respect and self-image are more deeply rooted to individual self satisfaction than money rewards, even to paid workers—in one reported study a manual worker who succeeded in cutting down waste felt belittled when money was given; (o) *To grow and to belong*—There is no doubt that the recognition of two fundamental desires is required, if volunteer effort is to be won and channelled. The first of these is the desire to use ability. The second, the desire to belong, to be recognised and wanted.

THE COMMUNITY CENTRE OFFICER. The identified factors are given above in the expectation that these will help the Community Centre Officer to develop his particular style of motivating

the Community Centres in his care. Let me take just one of the factors—'To grow and to belong.' A Community Centre will consist of at least 25 persons and we can be certain that not one of them will be like the other in all respects. They will be from different income and social levels. Some may not be sufficiently educated and thus lack confidence to be able to talk discuss matters with other members who may be more educated on level terms. The important thing to do then is to make every effort to remove all barriers and make each member of the Centre wanted and that in the Community Centre all members are equal. Confidence must be instilled. The mind of man is capable of anything—because everything is in it and has only to be activated. These centres are all democratic institutions and the essence of democracy is the dignity of men. The Community Centres and the volunteers associated with them are expressions of, and the need for, free association for the general good. Above all else there should be no friction due to jealousy and personal ambition.

The Community Centre Officer is a key official in the free forward progress of every Community Centre. In other words he is a key factor in Community development programmes. The following attitudes and traits are attributes that people look for in such an official. I have taken this from 'Voluntary Agencies and Community Development' published by the American Council of Voluntary Agencies for For-

oreign Services: (a) interest in and respect for other people, (b) objectivity toward himself and others; (c) sensitivity to local cultural values without becoming over-identified with the community; (d) respect for existing power structure with the understanding that he is committed to progress and change; (e) willingness to participate and to become involved without trying to impose his ideas—while working to stimulate others to help themselves and to build self-confidence.

Ours is a highly literate society and no one will be prepared to accept at face value anything that is suggested. It will be entirely in the interests of the Community Centre Officer if he/she pays attention to the attributes which have been identified by the people who know what they are talking about. Carlyle once wittily remarked, "I am their leader therefore I must follow them". The Community Centre Officer will be well advised to particularly avoid giving the Community Centre any impression that they are attempting to impose their will upon the Centre. According to John Gabriel in "Children Growing Up" a human being most desires (1) to esteem himself to feel confident; (2) to be held in esteem by others and (3) to feel that his work is useful, valuable and necessary. These factors should be kept uppermost in our working in the Community Programmes.

(To be Concluded)

x x x x

Collaboration With Developing Countries

by Marcel Dinu

ROMANIA'S ECONOMIC COLLABORATION with the other developing countries proceeds on the strength of more than 65 trade accords, of 50 technical and economic collaboration agreements and several other accords, that were concluded with African, Asian and Latin American states. From the very beginning, three basic elements of political economics can be spotlighted insofar that the tendencies and prospects of Romania's economic relations with the developing countries are concerned.

First, the fast growth-rate of this collaboration is extremely telling. In 1970 the developing countries' weight in Romania's foreign economic exchanges was 7 to 8 p.c. while in 1974 it was 13 p.c. and about 20 p.c. in 1977, being expected to go up to 25 to 30 p.c. by the end of the present five-year-plan period. It is noteworthy that the first 12 economic partners of Romania—which are, traditionally, European states—are now including for the first time two developing countries: Iran and Syria; the weight of the developing countries in the economic relations with Romania is bigger than the one they cover in world trade. Obviously, the expansion of our country's economic relations with the developing countries is a political option which implicitly stands

proof of Socialist Romania's consistent action to translate into life the demands for a stepped-up collaboration among developing countries, which is a very important element in the complex process of setting up a new economic world order.

Secondly, Romania's policy promotes ample collaboration with each and every developing country, being free from any reticence or preference for one or another of these countries. In this connection, President Nicolae Ceausescu said in his August 3 exposition, "Our unswerving stand is further action for strengthening collaboration with all developing countries, for expanding our work-together." Thirdly, we start from a realistic evaluation of what results co-operation with the developing countries has yielded, of what difficulties were encountered and what mistakes made. Nevertheless, the programmatic orientation of President Nicolae Ceausescu recommends that the already acquired experience, be it good or bad, should not be claimed for restricting the co-operation activities involving the developing countries; on the contrary, it should be used for better organizing the economic activities and generally, our relations with these countries. Romania will take no steps to limit co-operation with the developing countries, but to intensify and diversify our work-together.

TRADE plays an important part in the economic relations with the developing countries. Our country is intent on

diversifying these relations, as well as on augmenting both the import and export list of products given the complementary nature of national economies. Above all, we are exporting to the developing countries, machine-building industry products (industrial outfit and equipment, drilling plants, all sorts of transport means, agricultural machines etc.) as well as metal working products, oil and chemical products, (oil products, fertilizers chemicals, drugs etc) light industry products (ready makes, fabrics, footwear), timber and building materials (furniture, cement, glasses), food stuffs, consumer co-operatives products and so forth. Actually, the entire range of Romanian exports, is of interest to the developing countries.

A basic feature of Romania's imports from these countries is that the traditional raw-materials list (crude oil, iron ore, copper, nickel, other metals, phosphates, natural rubber, hides, cotton etc. which are very important for our economy) has been added new products of the young industries of these countries which may fully compete with the similar ones imported from the capitalist states buses, machine tools, parts and sub-assemblies, textiles, foodstuffs etc.). On the one hand, this amounts to a direct aid rendered to the respective countries which find in Romania an outlet for their industrial commodities, while on the other, it offers new financial possibilities to promote our exports to these states. Naturally, the possibilities

of promoting commercial exchanges with most of the developing countries are objectively limited by their rather small markets and finance as well. That is why, Romania has laid heaviest stress on the modern reciprocally advantageous patterns of economic collaboration with those countries, which represents the surest way for diversifying and intensifying bilateral rapports which will earn in this way stability, durability and perspective.

THE MAIN FORM OF AID Romania can promote with the developing countries, since it itself is a developing country, having therefore limited resources is co-operation in production, in industry, agriculture, transports and other domains, on mutually advantageous bases. To this end, Romania attaches special heed to entering into joint ventures with the developing countries as well as to building in those countries production units, the Romanian investments being repaid through the output of those units. The Romanian units which enter into such ventures of economic co-operation are intent that the activities in case develop on profitable bases for both parties and help development of the productive forces in those countries, their rapid industrialisation, efficient capitalisation of their natural and human resources, increase of the national and human resources increased of the national income as well as satisfaction of certain needs of our fast-growing national economy.

There are quite a lot of examples of economic objectives either already built or under way to by Romanian specialists, in co-operation with specialists of the developing countries. Among the most representative we could mention oil distilleries (Karachi-Pakistan, Bania-Syria, Zaroa-Jordan), cement mills (Iraq, Syria, Pakistan) tractor assembly lines (Ghana, Egypt, Iran) phosphate processing units (Syria, Egypt), ports (Morocco and Libya) exploitation of oilfields and mineral deposits (Kenya, Zambia, Zaire, Morocco, Iraq, Brundi, Guinea, Peru also), wood working units (Congo, Nigeria, Sri Lanka), irrigations and other agricultural activities (Syria, Iran, Lybia, Zaire), textile mills, (Congo, Sudan, Tanzania and Bangladesh) and the list is still open. Romania's share in these co-operation ventures consists in deliveries of complex installations, machines and equipment as well as of studies and projects, in technical assistance throughout the erection and commissioning of the respective objectives, and even after they start operation it moreover, sees to local staff training at all echelons.

Moreover, although this demands some effort, this country will keep offering technical assistance to the developing countries and training the personnel needed by those countries. The Romanian technical aid we are referring to, regardless of the building of the respective economic units, is ensured by Romanian medical and teaching staff, engineers and technicians who are

working in countries like Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Guinea, Ghana, Zaire, Madagascar, Burundi, Congo, Iran and others over periods running from a couple of months to several years.

Now, about 15,000 foreign youngsters are learning in Romania, most of them coming from developing countries; more than half of them are stipend-holders of the Romanian state. There are over half a dozen Sri Lankan students in Romania studying Medicine and Engineering. Although it has to cope with certain problems related to schooling and accommodation, our country will keep giving more aid for schooling the young ones of those countries in our learning establishments. Stress should be laid on the fact that besides the regular network of academic education which enrolls the largest part of these young students, special forms for training the staff of the developing countries have been created at the Stefan Gheorghiu Academy (the International Centre for Personnel Training—CEPECA, the joint UNIDO—Romania Centre a.o.

Further promotion of economic co-operation, of technical assistance and staff training is a direct and important contribution of Romania to aiding the developing countries. It is a moral and political duty for us, as communists, as a socialist state to make such a contribution, recently said the Party General Secretary Nicolae Ceausescu.

—LUMEA

X X X

The Indian Ocean

August 8.

Each time there is some major change in the Indian government at the Centre or in the States, the charge is made that the CIA has been active. It is now not always alleged that the CIA was responsible for the changes, but it is at least said that it was "very active". A New Delhi weekly this week stated: "CIA's present station chief here, who serves as a senior officer of the US embassy in India, was found to be unusually active during the so-called crisis week when Morarji Desai government steadily headed towards its demise. He was seen several times visiting the residences of Janata Party President Chandra Shekhar, former union labour minister Ravindra Varma, and RSS leader Nanaji Deshmukh. He also called on the ailing former External Affairs Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee, more than once at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. This officer is known to be a close acquaintance of Morarji Desai. During his earlier 'diplomatic' tenure in this country in the sixties, he was in close touch with Desai, who then was holding the finance portfolio. There are reports that during the crisis week, along with some Indian big business houses, US high finance was also actively trying to enlist support among the MPs in desperate bid to prop up Morarji Desai's government. According to one knowledgeable

source, at the height of the horsetrading the value of vote shot up to Rs. 7 lakh each".

There is in the Indian capital today a lively discussion whether the CIA is indeed active again. Mrs. Indira Gandhi, from time to time, persists in referring to the operations of the CIA in the affairs of India. Commentators however refer to the fact that articles in the American press have emphasised that CIA and the other US Intelligence Services had suffered greatly because of leaks, adverse publicity and unnecessary Congressional investigations. Reference is made to articles in the *Washington Post* by Evans and Novak, (20/2/79), and in the *Newsweek*, by D. Olpern, (5/3/79). In the issue of the *Time* magazine of February 6, 1979, Turner, the head of US Intelligence, had complained of too strict a control of CIA activity on the part of the US Congress. Nevertheless, Turner in this interview had stated that American intelligence will continue its clandestine operations right up to assassinations. Turner's interview runs contrary to the image the media had been trying to create about the US Intelligence Services. Some feel that this press campaign was only to facilitate the adoption of new US laws to streamline the Intelligence Services. The *New York Times* of April 30, 1979, published a report about this draft bill which was intended to give the CIA a little "teeth" to do its job. In addition, the US Congress will soon be called upon to consider a draft of a law on

prosecuting and punishing persons guilty of divulging information concerning CIA and their agents (informers). The UPI reported on May 10 that Turner had sent the US Congress a letter reminding them that it was necessary to adopt the law punishing those who leaked has divulged information about US Intelligence officers. What political circles in India stress is that the CIA or not disappeared or suspended its activities because of adverse criticisms in the US press and Congress, but that it is being transformed into a new outfit more appropriate for the present times.

THIS SUDDEN INTEREST in American activities in India and in the region has also arisen because of the American insistence on extending the facilities in Diego Garcia. It is also felt that Washington was dragging its feet about picking up the threads of its negotiation with the USSR to reduce their naval deployment in the Indian Ocean and thereafter withdraw completely from the area.

An AFP, AP despatch from Washington on July 2, read: "The US President, Mr. Jimmy Carter, is shortly to consider a plan to boost American military presence in the Indian Ocean and the Gulf, according to a government source. The measures, drawn up 10 days ago by a Cabinet committee, are more modest than the broader proposals made at the outbreak of the Iranian crisis and other troubles in the Arab oil producing nation. The source said the principal recommendations of the high-level committee

were: (1) Increase the number of 'show the flag' cruises by major US naval task forces, usually led by an aircraft carrier, in the Indian Ocean from three to four or more a year and one or two more destroyers to the small, three-ship permanent US force stationed in the Persian Gulf for the past 30 years; (2) undertake occasional flights by US warplanes to friendly countries, such as Saudi Arabia if these countries agree. The United States sent 12 unarmed F-15 jet fighters to Saudi Arabia during the Iranian crisis and later flew a sophisticated airborne warning plane there as a gesture of support. Some administration officials had pushed the idea of establishing a permanent fleet in the Indian Ocean. This was resisted by senior Admirals. They contended that such a step would require reducing the strength of the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean and the Seventh Fleet in the Pacific because the navy's resources are currently at their smallest. The US Defence Secretary, Mr. Harold Brown, also was described as skeptical about the idea of creating a fulltime major fleet in the Indian Ocean. Long-range planning for a multi-division army and marine force of well over 100,000 men which could be flown to the Persian Gulf area during an emergency and sustained there for about 60 days reported earlier, apparently does not figure in the administration's current thinking about strengthening the US military presence there."

A PTI, AP report from the UN headquarters in New

York dated July 3 had stated: "The United States has rejected the demand of littoral States of the Indian Ocean that there should be no great power military presence in the Ocean. Speaking at a meeting of the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean which began here yesterday at the Ambassadors level, the US representative Mr. Theodore Wilkinson said: 'such an interpretation would be completely unacceptable to the United States, and in our view, would be inconsistent with the (UN declaration itself'. He said the declaration adopted by the General Assembly in 1971 recognised that the 'vessels' of nations had the 'right' to free and unimpeded use of the Indian Ocean. The meeting, expected to last two weeks, began with the unanimous election of Mr. B. J. Fernando, Ambassador of Sri Lanka, as president. It established without discussion a working group consisting of officials to prepare a final document on the implementation of the UN declaration for adoption. Nearly 60 countries, including those on or near the ocean and others that use it for shipping, are participating in the meeting arranged by the UN Special Committee on the Indian Ocean. It is intended to lead to a conference on implementation of the General Assembly's declaration of the Ocean as a zone of peace. The declaration called on the major powers to hold talks on eliminating from the ocean 'all bases, military installations, logistical supply facilities', and 'the dispo-

sition of nuclear weapons.'

"The American delegate told the meeting, 'The US cannot support a prohibition on nuclear weapons aboard naval vessels.' It reserved its right to keep its bases and in nuclear warships. 'Until we reach our common goal of eliminating all nuclear weapons from the face of the earth nuclear deterrence will remain essential to the national security of the United States', he said, 'that difference will also remain an important element of global stability. As part of our defence posture, the US neither confirms nor denies the presence of nuclear weapons aboard our naval vessels or aircraft.' Mr. Wilkinson also told the meeting that while 'we...favour preventing the proliferation of bases and logistical support facilities in the region... we do not support the complete elimination of all logistical support facilities'. Referring to the UN declaration of 1971, Mr. Wilkinson said the US believed that such zones of peace could only come into effect through an agreement of all States concerned, wherever situated. The US could not accept the proposition that a regional group of States could declare a legal regime for the seas to which others were expected to adhere or which could be binding on other States without their consent. He also questioned the competence of the UN General Assembly to establish such a regime without universal consent. On the Carter-Brezhnev talks in Vienna, he said the talks were held at the US initiative in 1977. He alleged

that when these talks were proceeding, the Soviet side significantly increased the size of its naval forces in the Indian Ocean in connection with its military involvement in the Horn of Africa. It was this, he asserted, which led to the suspension of the negotiations."

AT THE SAME UN MEETING, Pakistan blamed the nations in the Region for the present situation. "The Pakistani Ambassador Mr. Niaz A. Naik told the meeting on the Indian Ocean issue yesterday that the presence of foreign warships and military planes in the Ocean was put of line with the idea of a zone of peace. But he argued that big power rivalries there stemmed in part from differences between the countries in the region. Mr. Naik proposed that the meeting work towards two objectives—elimination of great power presence and rivalry from the region, and adoption by the countries in the region of a code of conduct amounting to a viable security system. He said the code of conduct should include a commitment to the principles of the UN Charter, settlement of disputes on the basis of UN principles and resolutions, maintenance of a reasonable ratio in the naval and military forces of the States around the ocean and renunciation of nuclear weapons.

"The Indian representative, Mr. Prajesh Mishra said ironically, despite the expressed wishes of the littoral and hinterland States, great power military presence, instead of decreasing, had actually increased over the years. 'Force or the threat of the

use of force, against the littoral and hinterland States, reminiscent of the days of gunboat diplomacy, have been employed. In total disregard of the principles of peaceful co-existence, and of the inalienable right of every nation to decide its own political and social systems, interference in the internal affairs of the States has increased. An anachronistic tendency has also been displayed by some great powers to seek the denial of the inalienable right of the peoples of the littoral and hinterland states to freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources. Mr. Mishra said the majority of littoral States rejected the right of the great powers to act as 'policemen' of the world. They also rejected the pretext of alleged deterioration of peace and stability advanced by certain big powers for their military presence in the Indian Ocean. 'We note that there are areas of instability in other regions of the world. We wonder whether this would justify the military presence of the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean in the North Sea, Atlantic or the Baltic regions.'" Mr. Mishra said the 1971 declaration visualised the maintenance of the zone of peace by means other than military alliances. 'This is a clear enough recommendation that this zone of peace should also be a zone of non-alignment. There is, therefore, no place in this scheme for the military presence of States whose national territories are thousands of miles away from the ocean or for the existence of foreign military bases."

IT IS NOT THE AMERICAN presence alone in the Indian Ocean that worries India. The French naval presence, though unobtrusive, is probably even greater than those of the US and USSR. The Delhi weekly *Link* spelt out the *French Connection* in an article some time ago: "France has quietly over the years increased its military presence and its sphere of influence in the Indian Ocean region in general and the Indian sub-continent in particular. Its recent exploits in the continent of Africa are a pointer to the kind of role it has assumed for itself in world affairs. Increasingly, it is taking over the gendarme's mantle from the Americans in this part of the world and while the Western global strategy is one in which the US plays the key role, powers like France may get a larger piece of the action. In the Indian Ocean the presence of the French Fleet has increased dramatically and the number of ships based almost permanently here has increased several fold since the beginning of the decade. The figure now stands close to 25 ships, including destroyers frigates and nuclear-powered submarines and it has naval bases in its former colony in Djibouti and the Comoros.

"More of concern to India however, is the increasing role of France as a supplier of lethal weaponry to countries in the sub-continent. Since the US embargo on direct arms sales to Pakistan and India, France has emerged as the main supplier of weapons to Pakistan and it has also made a bid to sell aircraft to India. Their high-power

arms salesmanship has earned for the French the description of 'banias of the West', an image enhanced tremendously by the fact that as long as there is money in it the French don't have much scruples about whom they sell what. But for American pressure for global strategy considerations, the French would have gone ahead with the sale of a nuclear reprocessing plant to Pakistan which would have enabled the latter to acquire the weapons grade plutonium from wastes from its nuclear power plant.

"Since 1971, the French have been mainly instrumental in adding to the already formidable Pakistan armed force capabilities. After the loss of Bangladesh the Pakistan armed forces have a much reduced responsibility by way of defence of territory and its strength both on the ground and in the air is considered by some military experts to be overwhelmingly improved since 1971 by the fact that it has a lesser area to defend with the same number of forces. In fact, Pakistan has added considerably to the strength of its armed forces. The 'Military Balance' puts the Pakistan armed forces strength at 428,000 last year as compared to 324,500 in 1971. Defence expenditure has risen from three billion rupees to 8.1 billion in 1970-71, the strength of the Pakistan Air Force was 15,000 men. Its fleet consisted of one squadron of 11-28 light bombers, two squadrons with B-57B Canberra bombers, MiG-19 fighter bombers supplied by China, the F-80 Sabre jets, Mirage

III fighter-interceptors and F-104 interceptors. Last year, PAF personnel rose to 17,000 members. The number of Mirage squadrons has risen to four and Pakistan is in the process of inducting the Mirage V into its fleet. It has eight fighter squadrons of F-86 and MiG-19s and a squadron of Atlantic maritime reconnaissance aircraft. It has raised its squadron strength from 17 to 20. The Pakistan Navy has three Daphne class submarines, five midget submarines, one light cruiser, four destroyers, one frigate, 14 petrol boats, seven coastal minesweepers, and it has sought to acquire two Whitby class frigates from the UK.

"In all this, the French connection has been dominant. The Mirages are French as are the maritime reconnaissance and anti-submarine warfare aircraft. By supplying Pakistan the incredibly effective Crotale surface-to-air missile system, the French have provided an air defence system that will allow the PAF a free hand to make sorties outside their territory, instead of having to stay close to home to protect its airspace. The Crotale system is completely automatic. Its short-range missile is fitted with an infra-red proximity fuse. It accelerates to twice the speed of sound in two seconds and its reaction time from detection of intruding aircraft to launch is only six seconds. Apart the Crotale system which is largely used to provide protection to airfields and other static installations, Pakistan has doubled the number of air-defence regiments

since the last war. These are to provide battlefield cover against strike aircraft, making close air support that much more difficult. The French have also supplied the PAF with the deadly close-combat air to air "Matra Magic" missile and a large number of low-looking radar sets to detect low-flying aircraft. A new type of retro-rocket bomb has been supplied which can penetrate a runway even if it is launched from a fast-moving low-flying aircraft. A parachute retards the forward motion and dips the nose of the bomb towards the ground. The retro-rocket rams the bomb into the runway. The delay does set the bomb off after it is buried into the concrete, creating a large crater.

"With the reported cancellation of the French deal for the nuclear reprocessing plant, the Americans feel that the way is open for them to resume supplies of aircraft to Pakistan. The US Ambassador in India, Robert Goheen recently told newsmen in New Delhi that his country now feels free to accede to any Pakistan request for aircraft for the PAF. Pakistan had sought to acquire from the US 110 deep penetration high-performance A-7 Corsair aircraft. The Americans had refused to give them the aircraft unless the French nuclear deal was cancelled. Instead, the US has indicated that it will supply Northrop F-5E Tiger II aircraft which has a range of 400 nautical kilometers by a lesser bomb-load than the Corsairs."

American activity in the Indian Ocean has been ac-

centuated by the recent developments in Iran and in West Asia. Though Iran has stopped arms purchases, more sophisticated armaments are flowing into several other countries in the region. This should be a matter of deep concern to all hinterland nations of the Indian Ocean.

T.K.P.

x x x

SRI LANKA CHRONICLE

Aug. 2 — Aug. 6

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

CDN—Ceylon Daily News;
CDM—Ceylon Daily Mirror;
CO—Ceylon Observer; ST—
Sunday Times; SO—Sunday
Observer; DM—Dinamaina;
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.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 2:

The Government Medical Officers Association (GMOA) yesterday paralysed the General Hospital Colombo with a strike causing serious inconvenience to patients, jeopardising their lives and earning the wrath of the public; the strike involving 125 doctors was over the interdiction of a medical officer who had been interdicted for dereliction of duty after

an inquiry held by the Superintendent, General Hospital, Dr. Joe Fernando. The government has decided that with effect from August 13, 1979, the working hours in the public and private sectors should be staggered in order to reduce congestion in public transport systems. The Government yesterday appointed two Ministers to head Select Committees to probe allegations of Police complicity in incidents in Jaffna and allegations made against Mr. R. G. Samaranyake, 2nd UNP MP for Beruwela regarding the import of certain items. The sixth Law Asia Conference which will be inaugurated by President J. R. Jayewardene at the BMCH on August 27, will see the biggest gathering of international lawyers ever to meet in Sri Lanka; at least 500 lawyers—judges, jurists and professors of law will be present in addition to lawyers in the island—CDN. The readjustment of the boundaries of the Vavuniya District has been "provisionally stayed" according to highly authoritative sources due to certain administrative problems; re-demarcation of this district by the addition of three AGA divisions from the electorate of Medawachchiya was due to take place next Monday—the day after the TULF General Council meeting in Vavuniya—CDM. The proposed Presidential Commission headed by former Chief Justice, Victor Tennekoon to "define and implement a scheme of development and decentralized administration" will be called upon by President J. R. Jayewardene to examine nine specific areas and submit its re-

port within three weeks; the politbureau of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party after a stormy three hour session last night decided not to participate in the Commission. The six hour Sunday driving ban on private vehicles will come into effect from August 12—SU. Members will be nominated to the Presidential Commission due to be appointed to represent the public in the Eastern Province, the hill country and the Southern Province—DP. The government yesterday amended the office hours of the Mercantile and Public sector officers; under this amendment Public offices will be open from 8.45 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Mercantile offices from 8 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.; these office hours will come into force from the 13th. Over Rs. 10 million worth of food stuffs are rotting in the CWE warehouse and over Rs. 100 million worth of goods are stuck at the CWE warehouse as they are unable to sell these items—ATH.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 3:

President J. R. Jayewardene has indicated a wish that the Esala Perahera in Kandy should be conducted in conformity with the time honoured traditional practices and procedures that have been the special characteristic of the Perahera ever since its inception centuries ago. Sri Lanka's Christian leaders in an appeal yesterday to national leaders to seek together a solution that will bring lasting peace among the communities, thereby countering the forces, of evil, said they completely rejected separation of the country as a solution to the national problem and reaffirmed their faith

"In one united nation", they also deplored and totally rejected violence and terrorism as a means of settling political differences. President J. R. Jayewardene has instructed that work on the Accelerated Mahaweli Scheme should proceed round the clock to meet the targets set for completion—CDN. There is now a greater degree of confidence and stability among the people of the Jaffna peninsula; this conclusion follows reports reaching the government after the appointment of Brigadier Tissa Weeratunga as Co-Ordinating Officer, Jaffna and the declaration of the State of Emergency in the Jaffna District. CDM. The 60-member Japanese investment delegation due in the island later this month, is to be briefed on the country's investment facilities and incentives at a special conference at the BMICH. Despite the Sri Lanka Freedom Party's refusal, the Government will go ahead with the appointment of the Presidential Commission to "define and implement a scheme of development and decentralised administration"—SU. Regional Development Minister C. Rajadurai submitted a memorandum regarding District development proposals to the President Mr. J. R. Jayewardene yesterday; he has also requested in this memorandum that the banks which were closed consequent on the violence be reopened—YK. President J. R. Jayewardene has ordered the immediate provision of Microwave telephone service in Jaffna; he has also ordered the construction of a modern telephone ex-

change there; this was stated by the Secretary to the District Minister of Jaffna, Mr. Y. Duraisamy—DP. 25 Japanese firms have expressed their willingness to invest in and outside the FTZ—DV. The Politbureau of the SLFP headed by Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike yesterday decided to postpone the party convention for six months. Bus and railway time tables are to be re-arranged to suit the new working hours which will come into effect from the 13th—DM. The Politbureau of the SLFP yesterday decided to postpone the party convention once again in the face of increasing criticism of the party leadership—ATH.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 4: The Cabinet has approved the terms of reference for the proposed Commission to recommend proposals for the creation of Development Councils; "this is an implementation of what was stated on the UNP manifesto to ensure people's participation in the Government," official sources said; the President will

choose members from different parts of the island—North, South, East West and Central regions; the SLFP too had this idea but they planned to have it with officials; present proposals are with participation of the people, they said. Mr. G. C. Sena Dayananda of "Visaka" Halloluwa, Kandy has claimed that Mrs. Bandaranaike and Mr. Wickremanyake were holding the office of President and General Secretary of the SLFP unlawfully and has sought a declaration from Court to declare the new Constitution of the SLFP null and void—CDN. With the appointment of seven new Deputy Inspectors General of Police, the Government yesterday finalised plans for a complete re-organisation of the service. Private sector concerns engaged in government development programmes classified as "national projects" are likely to be given tax concessions; the Cabinet has asked Lands and Mahaweli Development Minister Gami ni Dissanayake and

OFFICIAL EXCHANGE RATES

Official Exchange Rates of Commercial Banks to their customers for Telegraphic Transfers fixed on Tuesday this week were as follows:—

CURRENCY	PER 100 UNITS	
	Buying Rate	Selling Rate
U.S. DOLLAR	Rs. 1560.50	Rs. 1564.50
STERLING POUND	Rs. 3477.00	Rs. 3483.00
DEUTSCHE MARK	Rs. 853.65	Rs. 855.25
FRENCH FRANC	Rs. 366.35	Rs. 367.05
JAPANESE YEN	Rs. 7.1985	Rs. 7.2135
INDIAN RUPEES	Rs. 197.05	Rs. 197.45

Finance Minister, Ronnie de Mel to examine this matter in detail. Government will issue food stamps to all ration book holders under Stage I of the food stamp scheme. Former Prime Minister Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike as President of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party has informed President J. R. Jayewardene that her party feels that the government is attempting to involve the SLFP to be a participant towards the implementation of a unilateral decision taken without the consensus of public opinion; the SLFP politbureau which met early this week 'unanimously' decided not to participate in this Presidential Commission—SU. The government has decided to place a special fleet of vehicles under G.As. for the continuous distribution of food items, vegetable and rice and also for the implementation of government development projects in time. The President has ordered the Minister of Education to change the present scheme of transferring teachers under the new scheme; transfers will be done only within education districts—DV. The Fort Railway Station is to be modernised at a cost of Rs. 2.5 million—LD. The Bureau of Standards have found out that the quality of a number of locally produced goods such as food drinks, electrical gadgets etc., are below the required standard; one of these goods was produced by a government corporation; a report will be handed over to the Commissioner of Trade to take appropriate action against the manufacturers of goods below the required

standards. The police have questioned over 250 persons and arrested 150 in Jaffna so far—DM.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 5: The government will annually make available Rs. 2000 million worth of food stamps to more than half the population when the scheme goes into operation from September 1 this year. Senior Ministers addressing a crowded Executive Committee meeting of the UNP yesterday castigated the SLFP for trying to whiy up communal feelings in the country to disrupt the government's development program and urged party men to be vigilant and consolidate themselves to support the government's forward march—SO. In the whole of Asia Sri Lanka was the only country that enjoyed democracy except for Japan; earlier it was India, Sri Lanka and Japan that enjoyed democracy in the whole of South East Asia but recently there had been a slight change in India, stated the President Mr. J. R. Jayewardene when he addressed a mammoth rally at the Piliyandala Stadium yesterday. From September 1, seven and half million people earning less than Rs. 300 a month will receive from the State a bonus of Rs. 139.50 to purchase a basket of essential food items; the bonus will cost the state Rs. 2 billion a year; Mr. Anandatissa de Alwis, Minister of State described the Food Stamp Scheme which will replace the existing ration scheme; he said half the population of this country or more would benefit from the new scheme. The Minister of Finance, Mr. Ronnie de Mel, yesterday as-

sured the middle class both in the public and private sectors who were receiving salaries under Rs. 1,500 that they would be given substantial salary increases to tide over the economic difficulties that they might encounter; the Minister said the increase would be announced in the next budget—ST. A Presidential Commission will be appointed soon to report proposals on the Proposed Development Council; to be set up to get people's participation in development work—SM. The government is

Notice Under Section 7 of the Land Acquisition Act (Cap 460) as amended by the Land Acquisition (Amendment) Act No. 28 of 1964

Reference No. 9/2/2/(4)8

It is intended to acquire the land described in the schedule below. For further particulars, please see the Gazette No. 50 (part III) of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka af 17.08.1979.

Schedule

Name of Village; Maussagolla
 Name of Land; Kotannatu-
 mandiya
 Lot and Plan No. Lot No 280
 in Extract 4 to Village Plan
 No. 556
 In Mausagolla Grama Sevaka
 Division, in the Divisional Re-
 venue Officer's Division of
 Badulla, Badulla District, Uva
 Province.

S. K. Chandrasoma
 Acquiring Officer
 Badulla District

The Kachcheri,
 Badulla.
 26. 07. 1979.

considering increasing Rs. 300 monthly income limit to Rs. 450 by which 1 million more people will benefit—RR.

MONDAY, AUGUST 6: President J. R. Jayewardene said at a public meeting at the Ajmeer Maha Vidyalaya in Ukuwela that he was happy to announce that the government would be able to achieve its target of completing the Mahaweli project in six years; the President said he had a moment's misgiving some time back about it, because two of the governments which had undertaken to help certain aspects of the project had gone out of office—Canada and the UK; the new governments there however, had expressed their willingness to meet the commitments of their predecessors in office. The 120 strong General Council of the Tamil United Liberation Front authorised the Parliamentary Group to take a decision about ending the month old boycott of Parliament, a TULF spokesman said yesterday—CDN. The government is expected to give tax relief to small traders within the next few months, informed sources said; the ceiling on the Business Turnover Tax (BTT) for individual businessmen is to be increased from the present Rs. 100,000 to Rs. 200,000 the sources said. Nearly 400 eminent economists and financiers are due here from today for two international conferences to be held from August 9 to 11 and from 13 to 15 at the BMICH. The Minister of Rural Industrial Development, Mr. S. Thondaman yesterday told dairy owners to organise themselves into Co-operative So-

cieties which would help them to reduce the cost of transport charges on milk produced—CDM. Government has finalised the appointment of 10 members to the Presidential Commission to define and implement a scheme of development and decentralised administration. Government will not raise the price of petrol and diesel immediately to fall in line with last June's price increase by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)—SU. Even after the recommendations of the Presidential Commission become law and they begin operating, all the present 24 District Ministers will continue to be in office said the President. All branches of the Bank of Ceylon in the Northern Province which were closed down for security reasons will be opened next January said the head of Bank of Ceylon. The Minister of Justice, Mr. K. W. Devanayagam said that while they were in the government they would not permit Sinhalese to be settled in Tamil areas—DP. The Minister of Youth Affairs and unemployment is to start a scheme to give presidential awards to youths who show unusual skill, ability or bravery—DV. The

Window On India—12

This SLBC talk (on 11/8/79) by R. Varadachari should have appeared in this issue of *Tribune*, but it was held over. It will appear in our next issue on August 25. *Window on India*-No. 13 will appear in the *Tribune* of September 1, 1979.

State Plywood Corporation is to produce a number of by-products such as coal as substitute to be used by industries presently using fuel—DM. The price of a lb. of bread will cost Rs. 1/50 a lb. of flour 1/65 and a gallon of kerosene Rs. 10/50 from September 1 when the stamp system comes into effect.

○ ○ ○

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

● Sri Lankan Damsels

● Loans

***TWEETY BIRDS.** Believe it or Not several readers from Peradeniya have spoken about ruffled feathers in doctorland—not of the Hippocratic Oath but among those having restless wing animal instincts. Two such noble doctors are said to have combined to send a sales girl on a production scholarship to Japan. Did she bear a surname similar to one of the "Docs"? Was she the most suitable? A storm has broken out in the cloistered ivory towers of the hill capital. The authorities promised an inquiry. Were the authorities misguided or given wrong information about the applicant? Something must be done if this kind of thing is not to happen again.

Everything in these rarefied regions seem to work on the old techniques of scratching—you scratch my feathers and I will scratch yours. This is the theme song in Peradeniya at the moment. More Anon.

***LOAN RECOVERY.** *Believe it or Not*, the authorities which had handed over paddy, agricultural and other loans to all and sundry in the first flush of the 1977 victory have begun to take action to recover the loans. In the years past, from 1947 to 1977 most "farmers" had defaulted on their loans. The recovery rate had been high when the Ministry and Department of Agriculture had functioned well. In the 1970-1977 period, when loans were mostly given to favourites under the guise of "farmers" on MP's chits, the recovery rate was miserably low. Undaunted, the new dharmista government had handed out millions to all who claimed to be "farmers" without proper investigation. The recipients had hoped that the loans would be forgotten and ultimately written off. But President Jayewardene would have none of it. From the early part of 1978 he has been doing his best to make the Ministers and the administration recover the loans. But, *Believe it or Not*, it was only after his last circular letter of May 31, 1979 ("Drive On Loan Recovery") that serious and concrete action seems to have been taken by the ministries and departments concerned. The letter was addressed to (a) Minister of Agricultural Development and Research (b) Minister of Planning and Finance (c) District Ministers and Members of Parliament. The letter read: "The principal objective in giving agricultural loans is to provide financial relief so that farmers would not fall into the clutches of those operating non-institutional sources of credit. Unfortu-

nately, from the very inception of agricultural credit schemes, Governments have found it extremely difficult to recover a considerable portion of the loans granted, quite apart from the heavy incidence of mis-utilisation of loans and other malpractices. As you may be aware this government has taken a number of firm measures to counter this situation, but according to reports received from the Secretary, Ministry of Plan Implementation who is monitoring recovery rates of the Bank of Ceylon and People's Bank monthly, there does not seem to be any significant improvement. I think an organised and sustained campaign at grass root level to instil greater credit consciousness among our farmers is called for. As there is no doubt that this would be best achieved if the drive is given political leadership, it becomes our duty to bring the decisions of Government as a message to all farmers as effective a way as possible. You may of course evolve your own techniques, and use every public platform to tell the farmers that they must in the best tradition of our country, repay to the State what they have borrowed."

Information is to hand that legal proceedings have been taken to recover such loans. Defaulters face the prospect of a term in prison.

***GUEDA THAI.** *Believe it or Not*, there were twitters in the new Colombo elite of contractors, smugglers and slick operators that a Gueda Thai, with a Simon in his name, had to pay Rs. 20,000 cash down to free himself

from the clutches of a sweet young thing (age 15 to 17) who threatened to put the cops on the Thai (or Lai) for procuring her services under false pretences. She had been engaged as a "housemaid", but everybody knows that it is not in the Arab States alone that a "housemaid" is expected to perform other duties besides submit to the whims and fancies of the lord and master. *Believe it or Not*, even our village damsels have now learnt to put the screw on expatriate playboys who want to buy Sri Lankan flesh cheap. This Thai had Rs. 20,000 in

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 7 OF THE LAND ACQUISITION ACT (CAP. 460) AMENDED BY THE LAND ACQUISITION (AMENDMENT) ACT. NO 28 OF 1964.

Reference No. ATH 18/632

It is intended to acquire the land described in the schedule below. For further particulars please see the Gazette No. 50 (Part iii) of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka of 17. 8. 1979.

D.R.O.'s Division; Moratuwa Situation; Ward No. 9, Moratuwella, within U.C. Moratuwa Village: Moratuwella

Name of Land: Madangahawatta Assmt. No. 151, Galle Road.

Lot; 1.

Plan No. P. P.C.; 1492

H. C. Gunawardane
District Land Officer of
Colombo District.

The Kachcheri,
Colombo.
27.7.1979.

crisp notes handy in the early hours of the morning—not so very long ago—when the great drama was enacted in the Havelock Road area. Was it a real cop who had helped the young lady or was he an accomplice (who had temporarily donned a cop's uniform)?

All expatriate Gueda Thais and Singaporeans who have now rented Rs. 500 a month houses at Rs. 5000 a month and who have employed housemaids, temporarily and otherwise are now suffering from acute bouts of jitters. The next victim may have to pocket out more than Rs. 20,000. Not a mere bagatelle of US \$ 1,300 or so! \$ 5000 may be the next haul. And there are several such Gueda expatriates to pick on.

Sherlock Holmes



CONTROVERSY ON ASTROLOGY

Astrological Twins—3

Sir,

TRIBUNE for July 28 has published two letters of Dr. H. D. Wallbeoff Jansz, both dated July 10, 1979. But the Doctor has still not answered my question. The question, to refresh your memory, was: Why are parallel careers so rare?

Dr. Wallbeoff Jansz has explained that I was exaggerating when I wrote that "Every child born in Sri Lanka should have a dozen 'astrological twins', born within the same hour." I accept the correction.

However, the first example of "astrological twins" mentioned by Dr. Jansz in his article in *Tribune* for April 21 concerns two women who were born in the same nursing home within five minutes of each other. So perhaps in other cases an interval of five minutes between their births would not prelude two persons from being classified as "astrological twins." The learned doctor has found out that in Colombo in 1975 the average interval between births was 17 minutes. Now for a year-round average of 27 minutes an interval of 5 minutes would not be extreme.

Further, as Dr. Jansz remarks, time is measured according to longitude. So in looking for, or estimating the likelihood of, persons being born "at the same time", one should measure north and south, along the meridian, and not east and west, as Dr. Jansz did in his example. In the hypothesis that two children born at the same time, one in Batticaloa and one in Kattankudi, or one in Colombo and one in Dehiwela, the difference in the local sidereal times would be, on most occasions, negligible. So there is still reason to believe that with a thousand children being born in Sri Lanka every day, at least once in a while two would be born near enough in time and space to be classified as "astrological twins". Has it never happened in Colombo? or in Sri Lanka? Then why are there no instances of "parallel careers" reported from Sri Lanka?

Dr. Wallbeoff Jansz is more strict in his letter published on July 28 than he

The Land Acquisition Act Order Under Section 39 A (1)

By virtue of the powers vested in me by sub-section (1) of section 39 A (inserted by Act No. 8 of 1979) of the Land Acquisition Act (Chapter 460) I, Lionel Gamini Dissanayake, Minister of Lands and Land Development, do by this Order divest with effect from 03rd August 1979, the land specified in the schedule hereto, which has vested absolutely in the State by order made under section 38 of the aforesaid Act and published in Gazette No. 49 of 1973, March 02, the possession of which has been taken for or on behalf of the State under paragraph (a) section 40 of that Act.

Gamini Dissanayake
Minister of Lands and
Land Development.

My No. 03.J.63/64E.1192,
G.A's No. E/R/7746.

Schedule

An allotment of land called "Arekoratuwa" containing an extent of 0 Acres, 1 rood, 09.7 perches, shown in F.V.P. 262, situated in the village of Ihala-beligalle, in Gramaseva Niladari's division of Ihala-beligalle in the D.R.O' division of South Giruwa Pattu in the District of Hambantota.

Boundaries:

North: Ihala-beligalle school ground and Sinnakkarakoratuwa.

East & South: Lands claimed by Sineris Silva Muthukumarana and others—

(Arekoratuwa, F.V.P. 262, part of Lot No. 1.

West: Ihala-beligalle school ground and parts of Lot Nos. 143, 127 in F.V.P. 262.

was in the letter published April 21. Hence I am prompted to examine again the examples cited in April as "astrological twins."

(2) "Two unrelated women.... had been born on the same day." Time and place are not specified. As Dr Jansz has explained, two persons could be born at the same minute and still not be astrological twins if they were born in different places. So in this example, where all that is said is that they were born "on the same day," with no mention of the hour or minute or the place, the data do not suffice to classify

A I D ?

According to the UNCTAD Secretariat, the developing countries lose more than \$ 30,000 million annually from onerous terms of trade with the industrialized West alone. On the other hand Western Big Business nets from \$ 50,000 to \$ 100,000 million a year by exploiting Afro-Asian and Latin American resources of raw material and manpower. Which shows how the Third World has come to owe the West \$ 300,000 million. In the past Western "benefactors" contended that the difference was compensated by "aid" However, since the mid-1970s this aid has been drastically dwindling. The ladder of "aid" is too short for those whom the West itself causes to flounder in the rough seas of the economic crisis.

New Times.

these two women as "astrological twins". This case must be set aside as not proved.

Now will someone please explain to Dr. H. D. Wallbeoff Jansz that I am not denying that these persons are astrological twins. What I say is that the evidence produced—"they were born on the same day"—does not prove that they are astrological twins. If anyone has evidence, let him produce it.

(3) "Negrelli had been born in Italy on Richardson's birthday." The place of Richardson's birth is not indicated, but the two men met in New York and from the context it seems that Richardson was born in the USA. New York City is situated some 73 degrees west of Greenwich. Italy extends from 8 degrees to 18 degrees east of Greenwich. Thus the longitude of New York City is different from that of Italy by at least 80 degrees. The difference in standard time is six hours.

"The same day" is not "the same time", and "the same place" does not mean a whole country. But Richardson and Negrelli were born in different countries some 4000 miles apart. Can the Doctor explain how these two men come to be classified as "astrological twins?"

The second letter dated July 10^o can be answered briefly.

Dr. Jansz mentions St. Thomas Aquinas, who died in 1274, and St. Albert the Great, who died in 1280. Pope Julius II died in 1513 and Pope Leo X died in 1521. For comparison, Copernicus' book on the revolution of the planets

about the sun was published in 1543. How serious is Dr. Jansz when he suggests that we should follow these pre-Copernican guides and accept astrology as a science?

The extracts from the Jesuit astrologer in New Jersey are not pertinent to astrological twins.

I admit I do not know much about astrology. That is why I am asking questions. Dr. H. D. Wallbeoff Jansz would do me—and perhaps others—a favour if he would answer my questions instead of scolding me for asking them.

Claude R. Daly S.J.

31, Clifford Place,
Colombo 4.
1 August 1979



HOT PANTS

Customs officers at the Austrian border near Lindau had a genuine case of hotpants on their hands recently when they frisked a Turkish woman and found six pistols in her panties. Another two were found under the car battery and one in the driver's belt. The woman admitted to having repeatedly smuggled arms from Austria and Liechtenstein, saying they were destined for Turkish workers in Germany. A search of her apartment turned up various carbines and ammunition, including dum-dum bullets.

—dpa

Confidentially

Railway Catering—1

IS IT ANYTHING SURPRISING that the usual eulogistic speeches were made at the opening of the hot and cold milk booth at the Fort Railway Station on Wednesday, August 8? That everybody deservedly praised Mr. Thondaman for increasing the production of cow's milk? That the rest of speech-making at the tamasha was blah, blah, blah? That the Minister of Transport said that there were many shortcomings in the running of the CGR and train travel had major discomforts? That he promised a better deal for the commuter no sooner the new locos and the coaches were received? That what the travelling public fear is that the service might brighten up for a short while but that everything would slip back to the same old state because the new carriages will not be cleaned, washed, greased or oiled as they should be and the new locos will neither be serviced nor maintained? That these fears and apprehensions arise because during the last twenty four months, the management of the CGR has not been able to improve either the quantity or the quality of work at the workshops, repair yard and running sheds? That one example of the gross inefficiency that characterised the present CGR management is the manner in which the railway catering has been run after July 1977? That it had slipped badly after

1970, but after 1975 Minister K. B. Ratnayake had made feeble attempts to provide a better service? That under the new regime the catering has gone from bad to worse until the CGR threw in the gauntlet and passed the buck to the Hotels Corporation? That it is not clear why the Hotels Corporation, which in a mess itself undertook the job? That for several months after the CGR suspended its catering services, the Hotels Corporation did not do anything?

That *Tribune* has a great deal of confidence in the new Hotels Corporation chief, but how much can he do? That he has more than he can humanly handle to clean up the Augean stables in the Corporation itself? That in his enthusiasm, Chairman Nimalasiri has, according to the *Sun* of August 1, pledged to improve the railway canteens "within the next three months?" That he had given this assurance to the Transport Minister M. H. Mohamed. That the *Sun* report said: "It was pointed out that there was no improvement in the Corporation's catering services since it took over from the Railway. Several complaints had been made by commuters on the poor and unsatisfactory service provided by the Corporation. Mr. Mohamed told Mr. de Silva that improvement to the service would have to be made during the next three months?" That it is interesting to find Minister Mohamed sermonising the Hotels Corporation chief to effect improvements within three months? That when the catering services were under the

CGR, (and therefore of the Ministry) it was certainly much worse than it is now? That slight improvements have been effected but it is the same old story of the arrogant discourteous take it or leave it attitude to customers? That in the Restaurant Rooms in big stations the staff are today only interested in selling liquor which is not allowed in the Buffet cars? That filth, dirt, flies, smells and garbage are ever-present in the canteens, restaurant rooms and buffet cars?

o o o

Stop Press

HOT MILK

A 'phone call took a *Tribune* reporter to the Fort Railway Station on Thursday, August 9, at about 9.30 a.m. This was the day after the ballyhoo opening of the much-publicised hot and cold milk bar. There was no milk. There were a couple of delicious young females—but no milk. Some milk came in around 12 noon, but only a little. The milk, no doubt, came because one of the three Ministers who had done a song and dance the previous day had come in about 10 am to see the great achievement—no milk. He hit the ceiling. Unfortunately the *Tribune* man didn't have a camera.

THE INSURANCE INSTITUTE OF CEYLON

The Insurance Institute of Ceylon established in 1956 is a Non-Profit Organisation. We conduct lectures in Insurance and Management after Office hours and during week ends for the Post-Graduate Diploma in Insurance, Graduates with first or second class are recruited after a written examination and a viva voce test. Our object is to create a group of skilled professional personnel in Insurance as in other long established and recognized professions such as Medicine, Law, Accountancy and Engineering etc. etc.

OUR CREDO "In all my business dealings and activities I agree to abide by the following rules of professional conduct. I shall strive at all times to ascertain and understand the needs of those whom I serve and act as if their interests were my own, and I shall do all in my power to maintain and uphold a standard of honour and integrity that will reflect credit on the business in which I am engaged."

The Twenty-Third Anniversary of the Institute was commemorated on August 16, 1979.

**P. O. Box 1342,
Colombo 1.**

**Third Floor, Y.M.B.A. Bldg.
Fort, Colombo 1.**

Tel; 29118.



Shaping the future for our children

**ICSW Asia & Western Pacific Regional
Conference**

**26 August - 1 September 1979
Melbourne, Australia.**

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WELFARE: ASIA & WESTERN PACIFIC REGION will for the first time be holding its regional conference in Australia in 1979. The conference will be a major contribution to International Year of the Child. The conference will be in Melbourne: 26 August - 1 September 1979 and will be attended by representatives of welfare bodies from some 20 nations in the Asia/Pacific region.

'Shaping the Future for our Children' will be about ACTION. It will help enhance the capacity of participants to take action as forceful advocates for children.

'Shaping the Future for our Children' will be a working conference. Participants will focus through working groups on: **The Current Situation** of children in the region; **Preferred Futures** we wish to see for our children; and **Strategies For Action** that will bring those futures to reality. The groups will work in a framework of 8 human service goals:

- * Basic Material Needs
- * Income Security & Economic Opportunity
- * Optimal Health (Physical & Mental)
- * Knowledge & Skills (Education)
- * Optimal Environmental Quality
- * Adequate Justice, Protection & Safety
- * Optimal Personal & Social Development
- * Adequately Organised Social Means

For further information about the Conference, and for Advance Registration Forms, contact the Conference Secretariat:

**Australian Council of
Social Service Box E158,
St. James, Sydney, N.S.W.
Phone: (02) 2358188
Contact: Ngaire Chant**