

Vol 24 No. 9 — September 8, 1979 — Rs. 2-50

# TRIBUNE



**25TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION**



## 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

NOT SO VERY LONG AGO one of the more alert Ministers of the Sri Lanka government went on record that Indices (cost of living etc.) should not be the criteria to fix prices or salaries and especially evaluate the quality of life. What was important was what a consumer was able to buy. He no doubt, said this to impress on his listeners that the government was embarking on the New Food Stamps for good reasons and that it would be wrong to cite indices to show how the withdrawal of subsidies on commodities would affect the cost of living of the people. Don't worry about the Index he stressed. In this connection, an analytical comment published in some Indian papers in April this year on the question "How Truthful Are Price Indices" has relevance to the point made by the Sri Lanka Minister on the validity of the local price index: "Mr. Charan Singh, Deputy Prime Minister (Finance) has admitted that the price index went up by 3.2 per cent to 189.4 during the four weeks following the presentation of the Central Budget for 1979-80. The All-India Wholesale Price Index, which Mr. Charan Singh was referring to, had actually gone up still higher to 190.5 for the week ending March 31, according to official figures on the same evening (on April 17), when he made his Lok Sabha statement. There are two indices keeping a watch on price movements — the All-India Wholesale Price Index and the All-India Consumers Price Index for industrial workers. The first, compiled by the Industry Minister, has as its base year 1970-71, while the second compiled by the Labour Ministry is based on the 1960 prices. The second is more relevant to the wage earner and the general public as it determines dearness allowance payments by the Government on the basis of the Third Pay Commission's formula and by industrial employers. Trade Unions too depend upon it for articulating demands for wage increases. According to the latest figures, this index stood at 330.50 (1960-100) for February 1979. How truthfully do these two indices reflect price movements? Doubts about the accuracy of the indices have been raised from time to time. The Wholesale Price Index is compiled faster because it is easier to collect data from the better organised official and non-official agencies, the latter including chambers of commerce, trade associations, leading manufacturers and business houses. The Labour Bureau in Simla which compiles the Consumer Price Index has to collect from many far-flung areas and the task of giving weightage to the different items is more complex, as allowance has to be made for the regional differences in consumption patterns. Nevertheless, the movements in the Wholesale Price Index should be reflected after a time lag in the Consumer Price Index. This did not always happen. The Nilakantha Rath Committee explained this by saying that the two indices were not comparable because the items and the weightage going into the first were different from those influencing the second.....". The simple fact is in India discerning members of the public have assailed these indices for their lack of credibility and its imperfections. It is the same in Sri Lanka. It is time that the indices are either brought up to date or are scrapped completely. In the politico-economic complex that is part of the fabric of our society, statistics and price indices cannot be completely discarded.

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## Land For The Tiller

On July 22, 1979, the Second anniversary of the coming to power of the UNP, there were screaming headlines in our papers and euphoric talks over the SLBC that 3,000 landless persons would be given plots of land. Nostalgically romanticised effusions filled the feature pages of our papers. Said one writer in the *Ceylon Observer* on 18/7. "Through the centuries land has exerted a fatal fascination over man, who has loved, fought and killed in the hope of securing a patch of earth to call his own. In Sri Lanka's mainly agricultural society, the ownership of land has a dual advantage. Three thousand Sri Lankans, from 107 electorates will be allotted free quarter-acre to one-acre plots of land to enable them to build a productive home-stead, as part of the present Government's policy of land alienation."

Paens of praise were sung by journalists for Ministers who had devised this gimmick of fragmenting Sri Lankan land even more than it is. How were the quarter-acre to one-acre plots distributed? "How have the allottees been selected? The minimum qualifications to apply for a freehold are; being a citizen of the country, over 18 years of age, married, seven years resident in the area, totally landless and earning an income below Rs. 650 per month. Only one member of a family was considered. An agricultural background was another requirement for the allottee who must have the capability to develop his land."

The same writer in the *Observer* raised several important questions without answering them: "Another consequence of this popular move to give land to the landless that Sri Lanka's limited land mass will not be able to cater to the inevitable rise in demand. The present allocation of land was made according to the rate of one recipient out of every twelve applicants. Of Sri Lanka's total land mass of 16,304 million acres, 5 million acres are still to be developed. A total of 191,000 acres of land formerly vested in the LRC has been earmarked for alienation since it consists of units between 250 and 50 acres in area. 300 of these acres will be given as free-holds to the people on the 22nd and

25th of July for housing and cultivation as individual family units. But is this a better means of land development than consolidation, particularly with tea and rubber and coconut land?"

**Is this minute fragmentation of land the best way of satisfying the yearnings of the poor and the landless for a better life! Will the legally vested ownership of a quarter acre of land (or even an acre?) help the poor to attain higher standards of living?**

This article, typical of so many written to boost the Ministers who launched these luckless (as they will soon discover) land fragmentation schemes, concluded with a Leninist-slogan and a touch of creeping scepticism: "Land to the tiller," 'land to the landless' are sound political measures. But given the island topography and economy the longterm benefits of giving land to the landless, remain to be seen for the first time is, of necessity an experiment."

Will this kind of land distribution—not to actual tillers but to polical allottees though capable of utilising the land—help to alleviate poverty.

The best way we can think of enlightening our readers who may not have the answer about the dangers that stem from such fragmentation, is to cite in *extenso* from a *Depthnews, Asia* feature entitled THE PRESSURE FOR LAND by Alan Chalkley. This article was published in the *Daily News* but, in the euphoria about the UNP slogan "land for landless, many seem to have missed the point urged Chalkey "People live on land. All over Asia, there are landless people and in some countries they are growing in numbers faster than the total population. The quality of land is declining, too, alas. In the face of this trend, there is the comforting theory that if only land could be broken up into small plots, some peasant utopia could be regained with happy freehold farmers working "two acres and a cow." The people who propose this (and there are still some people like that) seem to be remembering scenes from 18th century Europe, with folk in leather stockings and beer mugs round the tavern in the soft evening light. The facts are against any thoughts of a return of this rural idyll, and especially in Asia. Population pressure on land is intense

"Here, for instance, are the figures for arable land per head of population in some countries in recent years. Acres per person in Bangladesh 0.34, India 0.70; Indonesia 0.50; Malaysia 1.20; Pakistan 0.84; Philippines 0.46; Sri Lanka 0.41; Thailand 1.00 and Taiwan 0.001. 'World population is rising at about 2 per cent a year. Even if this rate is applied to all these countries (and some are still rising at higher rates, then in one generation, you have to halve all these figures. Because there is no mileage to be got out of opening up new arable land—there just isn't any!

"The cutting down of more forest land will disturb the rain patterns, erode the soil and ruin the long-term forest industries, which at the margin are just as valuable as the field-crop incomes. Look at the figures again. Malaysia has large tracts of plantation land, growing rubber and oil-palm on an extensive basis, giving employment and incomes to people all round the world, so that figure of 1.2 acres a person is misleading; taking away the plantations leaves a bare half an acre for arable food-growing or other activity. In Bangladesh each person basically lives on a third of an acre—especially if he lives in a town and expects his lunch every day. Even in Thailand, which looks like a fat green chequer-board of infinite richness in its central river plain, each person has only one acre of basic, life-supporting soil. By the year 2010 or thereabouts, there will be a sixth of an acre per person in Bangladesh, half an acre in Thailand. It doesn't matter how you slice the figures, that's it.

"So we have only one way out—to try to raise the quality of the existing land, so that it will support more people. Greater "inputs of capital" are required—everything from new seeds, new crops, fertilizer and regular water supplies to machinery and marketing facilities.

"But there is a point at which the problem of getting this new capital out to the smaller farmers becomes extremely expensive unless they are gathered into organised receiving units. Alas, for the happy peasant freeholder—he has to go. In his place, communes or co-operatives or good, old fashioned capitalistic corporate farming. In theory, they all work the same way, but there are quarrels over the sharing of expenses and of the surplus value, and who is the "boss"—civil servant or co-operative chairman or corporate executive

each with his little differences in style. But it is more a matter of style than content; the commune and the co-operative and the corporation all have the same aim, a more productive use of the acre.

"The biggest problem is not, in fact, the distribution of new seeds and new methods of culture. It is the introduction of new infrastructure communications and services, which require even greater amounts of funds and organisation. There is also the social revolution which inevitably accompanies any serious attempt to develop whole rural areas to a high productivity—the creation of a much larger wage-earning and salariat class in the countryside and these must be fashioned out of a host of skilled technicians of the "landless", ideally. In fact the immediate supply of this new salariat can only come from the towns and town people are reluctant to leave the bright lights of town, even from a shanty-hovel next to the railway yards or the local garbage-dump.

"So, it is a pretty complex process, this re-development of the tiny half-acres on which

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

Ref. No. 3/64/360

J. 72 L 941 (VE)

It is intended to acquire the Land/  
Lands described in the Schedule below.  
For further particulars please see the Gazette  
No. 49 (Part III) of the Democratic Socialist  
Republic of Sri Lanka of 10.08.1979.

**Schedule**

*Name of village etc.:*—

Ward No. 10, Polattapitiya of Kurunegala Municipal Limits and Bamunagedara village in Kudugalboda Korale, Kurunegala D.R.O.'s Division, Kurunegala District, North-Western Province.

*Name of Land:*— Lakeside Watta

*Plan and Lot No.:*—

Lot No. 1, 2 & 3 in P.P. Ku 755

**T. P. Jayaratne**  
District Land Officer,  
Kurunegala District.

The Kachcheri,  
Kurunegala. 19.07.1979

so many millions of Asians really live. It was a 17th century English poet, describing a deserted village in his own country, who wrote:

*Ill fares the land to  
hastening ills a prey,  
Where wealth accumulates,  
and men decay.*

The men are decaying on Asia's lands while a false wealth piles up in the towns and cities. Unless a serious attempt at rural development is made this generation those egg-crates full of people are going to be emptied."

**Should the government not try to understand what Chalkley has so clearly stated?**

On the cover this week we have a picture of a paddy field being transplanted by a bevy of photogenic young girls brought together for the purpose of a happy picture for our tourist literature. It is no doubt true that traditionally in our villages mutual self-help to assist one another has been used to great advantage. This tradition persists

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

Reference No:— 11/7/79

The Government intends to acquire the land described in the Schedule below, for a public purpose; for particulars, please see part III of the Gazette of the Republic of Sri Lanka No. 53 of 07-09-1979.

**Schedule**

District : Anuradhapura  
D.R.O.'s Division : Talawa  
G.S.'s Division : Tulane 7  
Name of land : Puranawela  
Plan No. : F.V.P. 360  
(Supplement No. 1)  
Lot No. : From No. 5 to 16  
Name of the village: Radagama

**W. M. Jayatilake**  
Acquiring Officer and  
Anuradhapura District Land Officer.

The Kachcheri,  
Anuradhapura,  
13/08/1979.

to this day and the concept of shramadana grew from this.

The photograph is symbolic of this tradition of mutual self-help. How much more will the country benefit if this co-operative mutual self-help is used to form large economically profitable and agriculturally viable units?

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BELIEVE IT OR NOT

• Milk Packing Plant • Batticaloa • Tax Department

\*MILK POWDER PLANT. Believe it or not, strange things take place in the world of Tenders in Sri Lanka today. Tender circular Opportunity No. 496 dated July 20, 1979 called for tenders for a design and construction of a milk powder packing factory complex: "1. The Co-operative Wholesale Establishment of Sri Lanka proposes to set up a Milk Powder Packing Factory Complex to pack full cream milk powder (26% butter fat) and infant milk powder (18-24% butter fat), having an ultimate throughput of 4 million kilos per month to be packed in 1 kilo sachets, working on normal working days in two shifts; 2. Consultants are required to provide the following services; (a) to recommend detailed specifications for sachets; (b) to design factory with throughout as above; (c) prepare specifications, plans, bills of quantities and tender documents and to call for tenders; (i) for the general layout, civil engineering, construction work and water supply; (ii) for plant and machinery; (iii) for electrical installation; (iv) for air conditioning; (v) for housing scheme for 10 executives; (vi) for fire protection equipment; (d) to evaluate tenders; (e) to supervise entire civil engineering construction work, installation and commissioning of all plant and machinery. Recommend payments to the contractors. Further terms of reference are given by the client. 3. Firms should have good qualifications in dairy technology and packaging of milk powder and experience in setting up milk powder packing factories; 4. Further details on submission of bids are available on requests. Proposals must be submitted to the client by 9 August 1979; 5. While recently in Singapore

the Regional Manager of the New Zealand Dairy Board informed me that the Dairy Board is willing to assist ENEX with this project. They supply 50% of the powder to this firm. **Registrations of Interest**—Interested firms should submit brief details of their experience in the above field and CVs of principal consultants to the ENEX office by *Wednesday 1 August*. It would be helpful if the dairy processing firm you propose to associate with could be named or state if you have previously worked with the New Zealand Dairy Board technical officers. **We acknowledge the short time available to prepare a proposal.**"

*Believe it or Not.* International firms of repute were taken aback by the short time given for submitting the tender offers. The circularis dated July 20 (it was a Friday) and the earliest time local agents and firms could have got this notice was on (Monday July 22) and interested firms were called on to furnish the equivalent of a *curriculum vitae* of its prowess by August 1, 1979. Were all the local agents given enough time to contact their principals and obtain the required information? Or is it *de facto* only open to firms which had known such a plant was in the offing even before the Welisara fire or had started the preparations immediately after the fire (having got the tip-off as to what information they should have ready and available).

*Believe it or Not,* the tender Notice very off-handedly mentions, "we acknowledge the short time to prepare the proposal". This acknowledgement is of very little help. The fire at Welisara took place at least six to seven weeks before the Tenders were called. If the CWE could wait all that time to draw up the notice, could it not, in all fairness, have given reputed firms, not in the charmed circle, sufficient time to make proposals? As it is, this Tender has left a bad taste in everybody's mouth; that it was being managed and manipulated for one or two in the inner circle. No wonder Migara was constrained to write in the Weekend of August 12, "Gazettes still come a little late giving hardly any time for the public to be aware of tenders. Tender specifications are altered accordingly. There are yet some other aspects which lead to suspicion in the minds of the people. The government ought to step in before a Lockheed style scandal breaks out to open their eyes."

**\*BATTICALOA CYCLONE STINK.** *Believe it or Not,* a great stink has arisen in Batticaloa not only over the distribution of cyclone relief goods but about corruption in high places. What has happened to several crates of relief Rotarians had sent to the Eastern Province? How much does one have to pay Mrs. X to persuade her to move the lords of Valhalla to fix a job? *Tribune* office has been flooded with complaints, allegations, accusations and what not. The Editor has passed whole bundles to Sherlock Holmes to do a little sleuthing and probing. This will take a little time but at least a few interesting tidbits may emerge. But the volume of allegations and counter allegations is so much that even Sherlock Holmes, operating privately with non-official facilities cannot do much. *Believe it or Not,* the Cyclone seems to have done more damage to the moral fabric of man in high places than to trees, buildings or cattle.

**\*BRAIN DRAIN IN TAX DEPT.** *Believe it or Not,* a reader has provided interesting information about the likely development in the Inland Revenue Department in the near future. Fifteen Staff Officers (Five Deputy Commissioners and Ten Assessors) have been recruited by the Government of Kenya. Some of them have been on scholarship to Harvard Law

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

Ref. No. 94/1/252

It is intended to acquire the land described in the Schedule below. For further particulars see the Gazette No. 49 (Part III) dated 10-08-1979 of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

**Schedule**

**Situation:**

Watareka East village, D.R.O.'s Division of Bope-Poddala in the District of Galle.

**Name of land:** Singholagewatta  
**Plan and Lot No.**

Lot I in P. Plan No. Gaa 1439

**S. J. Pathirana**  
Acquiring Officer,  
Galle District.

The Kachcheri,  
Galle. 20 July 1979.

School and some others have followed the Tax Program at California. Others have decided to resign the post of Assessors in Charge of Regional Offices and proceed to Kenya. At last year's dinner of the Inland Revenue Staff Officers' Union (this year's took place on August 17), the Finance Minister spoke about having recruited First Class Graduates to the Tax department. Do you think it fair to treat them in such a way as to compel the fifteen highly trained officers to leave? Are they not satisfied with the prevailing conditions in the department? Are promotions on merit and seniority? Are those promoted competent? Are transfers done by the "gun" and not by the transfer scheme? Like the doctors and the engineers are the tax men Technical officers? How does the tax man compare with a Chartered Accountant or an Attorney-at-Law whom he meets at the same level across the table? Compare them SOCIALLY and SALARY-WISE. Yes the answer is obvious, but they like the doctors cannot work to rule, to strike although they were officers of the highest revenue earning department costing only one per centum of the total collections, to main-

tain them. Yes, substantial relief has been granted to the Public Service. They have a tax exemption with enhanced rates for travelling and subsistence. BUT, the tax man does not have a monthly quota of travelling and subsistence like the officers of the Administrative Service and the tax exemption ranges from nil to about Rs. 200/- per mensem—a month prior to retirement. Why does the Finance Minister not OK private practice for the tax men or a specialists allowance or an allowance in lieu of private practice. Believe it or Not, taxmen have much to grouse about.

Sherlock Holmes

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## 25 Years Ago

TRIBUNE, August 21, 1954

### High Official Upset

August 21, 1954,

The Rubber Commissioner, Mr. H. Jinadasa held a conference of registered Ceylonese coconut oil shippers last Tuesday for the purpose of reviewing oil shipments to China. The immediate provocation for this conference seems to have been a small note in the "Just Briefly" column in our issue of August 7th. In the course of the conference, Mr. Jinadasa in indignant tones read this extract from the *Tribune* and declared that he was at all times willing to give all information and was perturbed that shippers should rush to papers like *Tribune* to ventilate their grievances. Mr. Jinadasa's other comments about the *Tribune* only betrayed the customary tantrums of a bureaucrat who resents attention being drawn to matters of public interest. This was the first time, however, the Rubber Commissioner had called a Conference of this kind ever since the coconut oil shipments to China had begun. If the *Tribune* paragraph has not achieved anything else, it has at least impressed upon the Commissioner the need for discussion with all parties concerned with export of oil to China.

The Conference was fruitful in many ways. Among other things, it was pointed out that in spite of a circular dated 6th May 1954 wherein the Commissioner stipulated that he would

#### 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. ATH 17/165

It is intended to acquire the land described in the schedule below. For further particulars please see the Gazette No. 49 (Part III) of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka of 10.08.1979.

D.R.O.'s Division : Nugegoda  
 Situation : Ward No. 1 Rajagiriya West within Kotte U.C. limits.  
 Village : Moragasmulla  
 Name of Land : Pelangahawatta  
 Lot No. : 1, 3, 4 & 5  
 Plan No. P. P. Co. : 3791

**H. C. Gunawardane**  
 Assistant Government Agent,  
 District Land Officer of  
 Colombo District.

The Kachcheri,  
 Colombo.

Date:— 04th July, 1979.



accept offers only in a particular kind of drum, he had accepted offers from certain shippers in packing of a different kind. The Commissioner undertook to see that such discrimination did not take place in the future.

Discussion took place about a number of other matters including the method of purchasing. Shippers impressed upon the Commissioner that all in the trade should have information about his intention to purchase at the same time.

In the course of the discussion on this point, Mr. Jinadasa revealed that he had often obtained offers from local shippers without any intention of remitting them to China. He stated that he did this in the national interest with a view to strengthening the local market. To Mr. Jinadasa, with his experience in the CWE, and particularly of the large scale purchases he made during the Korean threat, this may have seemed good business. But shippers did not mince words in telling him that such artificial inflation of the market did more harm than good. Mr. Jinadasa, thereupon, undertook that in future he would not call for offers unless there were firm inquiries from China, for he also stated that whenever he sent offers to that country on his own initiative, China was inclined (naturally?) to pay lower prices.

Finally, he undertook to keep all shippers informed by cyclostyled circulars as to the names of the shippers from whom he made purchases and the prices he had paid. One copy of this circular, he stated would be pasted at his office notice board. He also declared that he would give all information about the trade to China without reservation. *Tribune* to begin with, would like the Commissioner to publish the names of the shippers from whom his Department bought coconut oil in the first instance for the first purchase in March 1953. This information will set at rest a certain complaint (baseless, no doubt) that one of those from whom his officers bought on the first occasion (allegedly the major quantity) had not exported even one ounce of coconut oil before. On the answer to this question will depend other questions *Tribune* will ask the Rubber Commissioner in respect of oil shipments to China.

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## PROSPECT OF AN ACCELERATED

MAHAWELI —2

### Still In The Studies And Drawing Boards Stage

by R. Kahawita

Even in 1969 when the studies and recommendations for the Diversion scheme was taken up for implementation before the 1970 elections, the details were not complete. They were completed as the work progressed and finalized towards 1975/76. During the period 1970-77 there was a lull in the studies because everyone had settled down to a 30 year target. So, today if the powers-that-be, after the Helicopter ride say "that a lot of work is being done on the Boards", it is not surprising.

*These studies on the Boards and in the field must go on, may be for another twenty years. But who is going to do it? Not the foreigners; it is not their duty nor their responsibility. It is we who must do it. Have we got an organization today to do it both in the office and in the field? There are 49 structure sites to be investigated, data collected and then put on the Boards before moving into construction.*

WHATEVER DATA WE HAVE, whatever reports there are, and the data available to push ahead with future studies, investigations and designs are the concentrated work of a team. Their work cannot be considered final. While we are striving to push through the several projects in the Master plan in five or six years, the studies must be continued to keep within the concept of Mahaweli Development and the resulting reporting by the UNDP.

Their report stopped far short of the requirements. It was intended to continue with the studies, but as usual with us, we changed horses mid-stream with the idea of getting aid. However the aspect of continuing with the studies should not be neglected due to other demands on our Engineers or due to a lack of comprehension of the enormity of the Scheme, we have embarked on to get through; may be six years, may be thirty years yet the plans, designs and programmes must be there. Not only the technical studies, which is the main concern today, there are

other aspects such as Land Utilization, Agricultural Development and Settlement, Conservation so on and so forth and there is a need for a rethinking on these aspects.

Due to our own ill-conceived plans in the past, we read in the press about the tree planting campaign, prohibition of tree cutting, the doldrums the tea and rubber industry have reached due to lack of wood fuel to replace liquid fuel, reafforestation in the developed areas like Kurunegala District and elsewhere to provide handles etc. to village level agricultural implements, brooms and even match sticks. These are the results of not planning ahead to cover the full picture of our economic needs. In spite of the daily preaching to conserve our resources, we see various Developmental Organisations devastating those resources. Firewood for tea factories—Why not extract the firewood from the 900,000 Acs. of jungle, we hope to develop in six years. This is only one instance, There are many more avenues where preaching can be practised.

AS MENTIONED EARLIER Implementation of stage I project was started in a hurry. A Board called Mahaweli Board was set up for this. Thereafter the Services of the RVDB Heavy Construction and Equipment Dept., a new Organisation called the Engineering Consultancy Services, and finally "An Authority" in overall charge of all organisation were drafted and created. All these Institutions are expected to assist in the accelerated programme.

The above are the official organisations. There may be many more which may have escaped our notice. They grow up over night and one finds it difficult to keep track of them.

On the aid giving side there are their own consultants, study groups, and observers. In turn they have their own experts, specialists, investigation teams etc., each working in the area they are committed to give aid. They have their construction groups or contractors as well for the execution of the work they have undertaken to do.

In addition there are several local consultants one time members of the Irrigation Department, who are assigned certain areas. But none of them know what their functions or duties are. They seemed to be a very loosely knit group without any cohesive relationship with the above Institutions. Whereas,

they could be entrusted to continue with the studies and be principals to the Overseas study groups and help to keep within the concept of Mahaweli Development. They know more about the resources development aspects than any outsider, who has to learn, before he can contribute his mite to the concept.

Without continuity of studies and detailed planning, step by step, the accelerated programme may lead us into another technical wilderness. It has happened to us in our eagerness to take Mahaweli water to NCP by a particular D. date. We lost sight of the important and urgent technical priorities recommended in the original recommendations for full use of diversion. As a result there was a stoppage in the Studies and also a break up of the study group. We see it in the several proposals now hawked for Victoria Falls dam. These are several reasons why the Accelerated Programme is still on the Drawing Boards and the targets are yet not in sight.

(To Be Continued)

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

Ref. No. 34/1/255

It is intended to acquire the land described in the Schedule below. For further particulars see the Gazette No. 53 (Part III) dated 07-09-1979 of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

**Schedule**

**Situation:**

Koskanda Palatha Village, D.R.O.'s Division of Four Gravets (Akmeemana) in the District of Galle.

**Name of land:** Iddamaldeniyaawatta

**Plan and Lot No.:**

Lot No. 1 in P. Plan No. Gaa 1482.

**S. J. Pathirana**  
Acquiring Officer,  
Galle District.

The Kachceri,  
Galle. 15th August 1979.

## International Foundation For Development Alternatives

### (III) A NEW PUBLIC INFORMATION GEARED TO CULTURAL CO-OPERATION

12. A new world order implies far more than economic measures and governmental action, as necessary as they are. A global effort should be made to give international relations their human dimensions. An urgent priority is to improve the information of the citizen of the industrialised countries. It should be noted, in this connexion, that the Dag Hammarskjöld Third World journalists seminar which met in New York during the 7th special session of the UN General Assembly, specifically asked IFDA, in its Declaration, to "contribute in creating the conditions for the understanding of interdependence."

13. The following activities would constitute a first step in this direction: (1) improvement of the understanding of the reactions of the public opinion of the industrialised societies to the Third World development problematique and the co-operation challenge; studies such as those carried out in Sweden should be identified and, if necessary, undertaken in other industrial countries; their findings could contribute to design effective public information programmes; (2) investigation of themes and promotion of the implementation—possible through co-production—of public information programmes aiming at presenting the full problematique of development and international co-operation, including the basic facts of unequal exchange, the difficulties of readjustment and the concrete possibilities for change. Many of the materials assembled by international agencies as well as studies to be undertaken or supported in the framework of IFDA activities would constitute inputs for such a task. It would be directed first to specific groups as well as to those media which, while not hostile to change, usually fail to communicate its necessity and feasibility to their audiences; (3) examination of the content and feasibility of programmes of authentic cultural co-operation rejecting ethnocentric

biases and reflecting fully the rich diversity of human societies.

Such programmes may involve primarily organisations like political parties, trade unions, youth movements, consumer co-operatives, tourism or leisure organisations as well as professionals such as teachers, social workers or members of the clergy.

### (iv) IFDA CURRENT ACTIVITIES

14. The tasks outlined in section (i) to (iii) above, whilst politically necessary and technically feasible, were presented primarily with a view to mapping out the field of IFDA action. A new organisation, however, will obviously not be able to tackle all of these at once. It will need some time to get firmly established to mobilise resources (intellectual and financial) and to elaborate further a number of projects. This is not to say that it could not start operating. On the contrary, as part of the very process of IFDA's creation, a few projects have been or are being launched. They are the following:

(1) *basic documentation and mutual information*: this involves the identification of activities by others relevant to IFDA sphere of action, the collection of essential documents and, subsequently, the preparation of the information letter whose first issue is scheduled for circulation during the summer of 1977;

(2) *development alternatives in the Third World*: a joint workshop is being organised with the Marga Institute of Sri Lanka to discuss, *Sri Lanka an experience in a need-oriented development—achievements, conditions limits alternatives* (Colombo September);

(3) *development alternatives in the industrialised countries*: a seminar on Sweden in the World Society took place in December, with the Swedish Secretariat for Future Studies and the University of Lund. Preparatory work is underway for a project on alternative patterns of consumption in industrialised countries. The working assumption is that change and adjustments are needed both because of internal social aspirations and the establishment of the NIO, which is no zero-sum game but, on the contrary, could be beneficial to peoples in all countries;

(4) *development alternatives at the global level*: an analysis of the declarations, plans of

action and resolutions adopted by 13 major UN system conference since 1972 is under way. Its major objective is to identify the areas where consensus on both another development and the NIO has already been achieved. This provides the basis for further conceptual contribution to the elaboration of the international development strategy for the 80's and beyond. Work is also underway in connexion with two forthcoming UN conferences, *Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries* (1978) and *Science and Technology for Development* (1979);

(5) *Information alternatives for cultural co-operation*: as a first step in this direction, it is envisaged to promote a co-operative survey of how the image of the Third World and the development problematique reaches the public (or specific sectors of it) in selected industrialised countries.

### C. IFDA METHOD OF WORK

15. The method of work of IFDA is essentially flexible and pragmatic. The part of its work devoted to producing material on a regular basis will be kept to a minimum, and most of its activities will be undertaken, on a project basis, by institutional or individual members of the network. When no existing institution could undertake a project, an *ad hoc* team of individuals and/or co-operating institutions would be created specifically to implement the programme and would be disbanded upon its completion. Each team would have a fulltime project director who would report to the Executive Committee. It is the policy of IFDA to assure full participation by Third World institutions and individuals in each project. The amount of work carried out in the centre itself will be strictly limited and indeed projects will be headquartered in one of the co-operating institutions.

16. In each case, the precise project description and the selection of institutions and individuals to carry it out would result from preliminary documentary work and discussions with potential participants to ascertain their interests and capacity and to establish jointly a time-table and a budget. As is obvious from the composition of its Executive Committee and Council, IFDA has close links with the Third World Forum, the Dag Hammarskjold Foundation and the Institute Latin

Americano de Estudios Transnacionales (Mexico) which have therefore a special role in the co-operating network. This implies that both IFDA's programme of work and the allocation of tasks will be discussed with these sister organisations in light of their own progress and of rational division of labour, bearing in mind the global character of IFDA.

17. In carrying out projects, a great deal of attention will be paid to the process itself to ensure that the issues dealt with and proposals examined are subjected to the highest possible degree of intellectual rigour and exposure to the kind of technical and political tests designed to give them the maximum degree of relevance and usefulness. Typically, this might involve exposing the issues and proposals at various stages in the process to a number of consultants or advisers representing the best possible expertise and range of views in the field concerned. This would be accomplished both by a process of consultation with the people concerned and through the medium of small seminars, working groups or task forces.

### D. LEGAL STATUS

18. The International Foundation for Development Alternatives was established on 13 August 1976 as a Swiss non-profit Foundation according to articles 80 & sqq. of the Swiss Civil Code, with, as initial capital, Swiss Francs 50,000. The Swiss Federal Government has therefore the responsibility to see to it that the resources of the Foundation are used in accordance with the purposes described in its Statute. The Foundation has been registered with the "Registre du Commerce" of Rolle, Switzerland, on 21 February 1977. IFDA maintains close links with several UN and other international organisations such as UNCTAD, UNDP, UNU and the Group of non-aligned countries. Steps are being taken to obtain NGO consultative status with various United Nations bodies, including UNCTAD and UNEP.

### E. ORGANISATION

19. **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:** Responsibility for the policies, direction and administration of the Foundation are vested in an Executive Committee. It includes a few persons in a position to hold meetings at regular intervals to take the formal decisions

required as well as to maintain a close association between themselves and with the work of IFDA.

20. The Executive Committee is currently composed of: Ismail-Sabri Abdalla (Egypt), Ahmed Ben Salah (Tunisia), Gamani Corea (Sri Lanka), Mahbub ul Haq (Pakistan), Enrique Iglesias (Uruguay), Jan Meijer (The Netherlands), Marc Nerfin (Switzerland), Justinian F. Rweyemamu (Tanzania), Ignacy Sachs (France), Juan Somavia (Chile), Maurice F. Strong, (Canada), and Inga Thorsson (Sweden). The Executive Committee has elected for 1977-78 Mahbub ul Haq and Maurice F. Strong as co-chairman and Marc Nerfin as (executive) President. Brief background notes on the members of the Committee are attached.

21. **COUNCIL:** A Council has been established for the purpose of advising the Executive Committee on matters related to the policies and programmes of IFDA. It also assists in identifying the persons and institutions required to undertake particular projects. As will be seen from the attached provisional list of its members, the Council consists of persons in a position to contribute significantly to the objectives and the work of IFDA. Its composition is widely representative both of the global constituency of IFDA and of the range of intellectual and policy interests with which it is concerned.

22. The Council, as a whole, will meet only occasionally as required, but its members will be consulted frequently by correspondence and through *ad hoc* meetings in respect of particular projects or activities with which they are directly concerned. Members of the Council are designated by the Executive Committee for a two-year renewable period.

23. **MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION:** The regular staff of IFDA is to remain very small, consisting of a maximum of 4 or 5 professionals and the same number of supporting staff. After the initial period, it may be envisaged to establish senior management on a collegial basis, as distinct from a hierarchical one. For example, there could perhaps be three executive directors who would share overall management responsibility. Each would have responsibility for a defined area of activity, including related projects. Major management decisions would require the approval of all executive directors

and any divergences amongst them would have to be referred to the Executive Committee.

#### F. LOCATION

24. IFDA is located at Nyon, 20 km from Geneva. This enables it to benefit from the proximity of many international organisations and the consequent availability of the vast number of delegates, experts and consultants residing in or visiting the area. It further benefits from the documentation accumulated by those international organisations. The location also provides good access to most Third World countries with which the work of IFDA is closely associated.

25. The Swiss authorities have shown their understanding and support for IFDA. This implies their readiness to provide facilities with regard to residence and working permits for expatriate staff and consultants.

#### G. BUDGET REQUIREMENTS

26. The basic core budget, covering the cost of regular staff, rental of premises and other basic operating and administrative expenses is estimated at about US \$ 270,000 a year, comprising the following indicative amounts:

staff (salaries, taxes, benefits)	US\$ 176,000
office (rent and operating expenses)	50,000
travel and communication	32,000
publications (inc. translation)	12,000

27. This is the basic minimum required to assure the effective operation of IFDA and, in particular, to launch and monitor projects as well as to provide certain services, including the information letter, to the network of co-operating institutions and individuals.

28. As indicated above (paras 15-17) the principal method by which the activities of the Foundation will be carried out will be through agreements with co-operating institutions and through *ad hoc* project teams. Thus, projects will normally require funding considerably in excess of the cost covered by the core budget.

29. To meet these costs, a *programme budget* will be established in addition to the core budget. It is estimated that three or four projects could be started in the initial period for which the total programme budget required would be some US\$ 500,000; subsequently, the number of major projects under

way at any one time would increase to some six to eight and the total number of projects over the first year period would be about twenty. Overall budget requirements would grow to an annual average of some US\$ one million i.e. US\$ five million for the first five years. The financing plan is based on this figure.

#### H. FINANCING

30. The basic principle underlying the financing of IFDA's activities is that the Foundation should not be dependent upon any source for a substantial portion of its total resources and that funds should be derived from a number of sources so as to assure its integrity, independence and international character. Accordingly, the financing plan is based on the need to assure that the resources required to finance both core and programme budgets will be available from a number of governments, development agencies, inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations, as well as from individuals from Third World and industrialised countries. Hopefully, these funds would come from approximately twenty separate sources providing an average of US\$ 50,000 each per year, i.e. US\$ 250,000 each on the average over the first five-year period. Most of these funds should be committed to support the programme as a whole, but provision could be made, when required, for funds to be earmarked for a particular project or purposes of special interest to the organisation providing them although clearly the amount of such earmarked funds would have to be limited in relation to the total budget.

31. **Initial period:** For the first year of operations a limited budget based on available resources (US\$ 250,000) has been established for both core secretariat and projects. A further amount of US\$ 400,000 has been pledged for the next four years. It is expected that activities carried out during the first two years will facilitate additional fund raising.

32. **Sponsors:** The capital of the Foundation has been provided by Maurice F. Strong who put at its disposal a substantial share of the first International Pahlavi Environmental prize awarded to him on 5 June 1976. The first sponsors of IFDA are the following:

- \*Algeria, Secretariat of State of Planning
- \*Canada, Canadian International Development Co-operation

\*Netherlands, Ministry for Development Cooperation

\*Sweden, Swedish International Development Authority.

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#### BOOKS

● **Tissa Balasuriya, o.m.l.** ● **Third World Cheated** ● **Libya**

**THE KINGDOM OF TRUTH, PEACE, JUSTICE, FREEDOM AND LOVE**  
*Reflections by Tissa Balasuriya OMI.*

(Asian Social Institute Communication Centre Manila).

I was glad when I was given a copy of this little booklet to be reviewed. Rev. Father Balasuriya is too well known in this country to need any introduction. In point of fact his views on life have been so markedly at variance with the general run of the mill view, so much so that this reverend father attracted the distinction of an editorial attack (in my view uncalled for) in one of the local newspapers. Quite obviously Father Balasuriya's views are unpalatable to some and anathema to others. But should we not in our blessed land welcome a thousand views to bloom? It would be a disaster otherwise. Fr. Balasuriya literally kicks us out of our somnolence.

This booklet contains the Reflections of Fr. Balasuriya and published by the Asian Social Institute Communication Centre, Manila. There are 69 of them and each has a message for those who seek—and they shall find it. Let us for instance take the title Jesus and the Woman. Only few have the courage to stretch out his/her hand to the fallen or the social outcast. I was happy therefore to read what the reverend has to say here. This woman from Samaria by the well from whom our Lord and Saviour asked for water “was not one whose moral life was above reproach”. In speaking to her, Jesus Christ “broke the conventions of social propriety” and showed the way to “real human communication and communion. He reveals to her the deepest meaning of life and with her helps to transform many others in the city”. As Fr. Balasuriya

writes "we have to liberate ourselves from many prejudices, inhibitions, fallacies and superstitions in our thoughts and relationships if we wish to be Christ-like". It is the sick who have need of a physician. Christ did not shrink from the anointing hands that had caressed the bodies of men in the passion of a thousand nights (Morris West). Let us remember that.

In Light of the World reference is made to an interview of some theologians with Vinoba Bhave. When asked for a message for a Conference Vinoba Bhave is stated to have said "Follow Christ, practice what you preach. That is enough". Rev. Balasuriya asks pointedly "How few among Christians know what Christ demands of them and still fewer respond to it generally". Speaking for myself I have found much comfort in the line from Samuel. II Chapter 22 verse 29 "For thou art my lamp O Lord and the Lord will lighten my darkness". If we seek we shall find. There is no question. We do not find the Christ in an exalted sphere but only by facing the sadness and anguish one finds in human life.

Under the title Our Pristine Communism the reverend father questions whether "we interpret Christianity so softly that we do not lay down even our property or excess of property for others.....Have we forgotten how to reconcile common ownership with free generous sacrifices: hence are we not sharing in the responsibility for socialism being totalitarian and violent". The Bhoodan Movement launched by Acharya Vinoba Bhave is a classic example of "free generous sacrifices". The picture facing page 16 showing a beggar with outstretched hands carries the legend "Society calls me a beggar, a parasite and an eyesore. But what do you call a Society which has reduced me to this?" Do we have an answer? I am reminded of Dr. Karl Menningen's words "Not all the crimes committed by all the criminals behind bars will exceed in totality the social crimes committed against them by Society."

The reflection on the Generation Gap is of topical interest. The complexities of this problem continue to defy. Thus, this is a piece that should be read by all involved in the task of handing over the torch to succeeding generations. Rev. Balasuriya writes "A good number of the younger generation today feel attracted by the liberative mission of the

Christians. They want to transform society. But in the process they have to suffer much; this is due to a variety of factors such as unemployment, the examination system, conflicts of values."

Fearlessness "means to be dedicated to truth, freedom, justice, peace and above all love" says Fr. Balasuriya. This is the title of the booklet. These are the absolutes which no human being can possibly achieve. Yet these precisely are the values Christ himself espoused: how many of those of us who presume to follow the teaching imparted by the shores of the Sea of Galilee can lay claim to have come anywhere near even a fraction of these eternal verities?

Power is Trust. The writer's reflections on this theme will be of much interest to those who wield power. Power is found at various levels—state power, ecclesiastical power and even power exercised by one individual over another. "The temptation for the powerful is to forget the rights of others and look after only their interest" writes Rev. Balasuriya and asks the next question. "Is also the institutional church prepared to put all its power at the real service of the people?" This would naturally entail much sacrifice, both personal and institutional. The picture facing page 57 carries a meaningful legend "with us, without us, or perhaps despite us the masses are going to wake up" and reminds me of what the Russian Philosopher Nikolai Berdyaev wrote. According to him it was "the extravagant acts of human love which constitutes the credible currency of Christianity". This is the option before all those in whose hands power is for the moment vested. It is in the web of human anguish and suffering that God is found, just as the epileptic on the streets of Oxford saw the face of Christ in Sister Marion, from a nearby Convent caring for the sick and unloved.

Finally I would like to make reference to the title Death and Old Age. I have heard it said that it is difficult to come to terms with the inevitability of old age and the certainty of the final gasp. This position has intrigued me considerably. As Fr. Balasuriya says "the aging have to learn the virtue of trusting God and others and of giving way to younger persons....." This is the essential ingredient in the art of growing old. "Graciousness in old age is a beautiful quality. Grumpiness on the contrary is painful for

all. Let us learn to grow old gracefully" writes the reverend. Death will then come most naturally and can be accepted with complete equanimity. Fr. Balasuriya writes "Death is also a sort of liberation. We are not condemned to live for ever in this vale of tears. Man will not be perpetually subject to the miseries of our present form of existence.... . . . . To live for others is death to self. It is also the guarantee of eternal life for ourselves."

This brief review does not permit me to refer to many of the other titles in this booklet. But they do provide most rewarding reading. The Centre for Society and Religion, 281 Deans Road, Maradana, believes that "at a time when the relationship of religion to politics has become the subject of much comment these reflections should help to evoke further interest on this subject." Those interested will possibly be able to obtain copies of this booklet from this Centre.

Those who would like to know more about the Centre for Society and Religion would find it in the article about this Centre in the *Tribune* of 28.07.79. Its objective is "defined as an endeavour to help in the integral human liberation and fulfilment of the people of our country by their realization of human values in economic development with social justice and the deepening of our cultural and spiritual values." **D.D.**

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**INSULT OR INJURY: AN ENQUIRY INTO THE MARKETING AND ADVERTISING OF BRITISH FOOD AND DRUG PRODUCTS IN THE THIRD WORLD**  
**BY CHARLES MEDAWAR**, *Social Audit Ltd.*, 9 Poland St., London W IV 3 DG, UK, 1979, Price £. 1.50, 146

British companies are blamed for causing serious damage to consumers in Africa and Asia in this report just published in London. The firms are accused of dangerous and misleading promotion campaigns to push their products, of "blatant overselling of nutrition and health" and "misinformation about the true effects of tonics, vitamins and drugs." Overall, the report concludes: "Standard of advertising and promotion by British companies in developing countries are typically far lower than those observed by the same companies in the

UK. British companies are pledged in Britain to produce advertising which is at least arguably 'honest and truthful'.....'prepared with a due sense of social responsibility'... and 'so framed as not to abuse the trust of the consumer or exploit his lack of experience or knowledge.' It seems unconscionable that lower standards than these should be observed by companies operating in the poorest countries of the world. This is nevertheless typically so."

Social Audit has reached two further general conclusions, relating not only to standards of advertising, but to the fact that some kinds of products are promoted at all:

"There is intensive promotion of British food and drug products to consumers in the Third World who do not need them: can barely afford them; and/or who are in no position to benefit from them." And further: "The effect of a good deal of this marketing activity in developing countries is not to improve the quality of everyday life. It is to widen the gap between rich and poor within developing countries, and between them and the industrialized nations; and to extend the dependence of Third World countries on the richer nations of the West."

Courtesy: Development Forum

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**FACTS AND FIGURES OF THE SOCIALIST POPULAR LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA.**

*PUBLISHED BY THE DEPT. OF INFORMATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS.*

Those who love the sea would envy those who have the good fortune to live their lives along the Mediterranean coastline. This country with an excellent geographic position along the Mediterranean coast has 1900 kilometres of this. When the moon is full and high one can close one's eyes and contemplate on the dramatic and magnificent sight and pray that God will, in his goodness, send more of it. Some exquisite pictures of this can be seen in this book. It is not given to everyone to be part of such excellence.

On the other hand this robust land has experienced the invader's yoke. Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans and Vandals had invaded it. At one time it was part of the Ottoman Em-



pire. More recently, in October 1911, Italian forces invaded most of the towns along the Mediterranean coast. The proud people of Libya refused to accept this dominion and continued to fight. In 1931 Omar El-Mokhtar was arrested by the invaders who executed him on 16.09.31. Nations, like human beings, are full of tears and anxieties. They too suffer physically and emotionally. They are ravaged by resentments. But they climb the dark mountains and come down into the sunlight.

Tobruk, Benghazi, Tripoli were familiar names to the world at large during World War II. This was a critical theatre of war where Rommel's Panzer divisions and the British Eighth Army battled. Now this country is very much more familiar, due to a great extent to the personality of its Head of State, Colonel Mu'ammār Al Qadhafi. I have often wondered if it is fair to endow one individual with so much charisma. There is an excellent picture of the teacher-leader of Libya.

Libya is 1,760,000 sq. kilometers in extent. It is nearly seven times the size of Britain and about the same size as France and Germany. The population in mid 1975 was only 2,683,000. If one goes by the population densities in some other countries, it would seem that Libya has room for a much larger population. A country's supreme wealth is its people.

On 1.09.69, the Great First of September Revolution "triggered by the revolutionary-thinker and the teacher-leader Colonel Mu'ammār Al Qadhafi, head of the Unitary Forces Movement" set up the present government. It is recorded in this publication that from then on "the Libyan people started building a new life on the sound basis of democracy and social justice so that they may catch up with the progressive and advanced countries under the slogan of freedom, socialism and unity".

This publication has 15 sections covering a broad spectrum of the nation's activities to achieve the declared objective. Illustrated with some fine coloured plates, this book provides interesting reading. In the Declaration of the Establishment of the Authority of the People it is repeatedly emphasised that "the authority is for the people who alone should have the authority." Indisputably this is a lofty ideal.

It is seen as the fundamental principles of state policy.

Nothing could be more satisfying to governments of countries that are basically agricultural in their economic picture than to note that Libya's agricultural policy lays down that "the agricultural sector is the corner stone of economic and social development." The extent of this commitment will be obvious from the fact that in 1967 the allocations for agriculture was LD 16,920 as compared with LD 231,146 in 1975. With a view to ensure optimum exploitation of the resources offered by the vast shoreline the government of the country has encouraged "the exploitation of aquatic wealth by extending subsidies and loans for fishermen and by forming fishing companies." The targeted objective is to increase fishing potential from 4700 tons in 1975 to 11,000 tons in 1980. A truly praiseworthy intention, which is expected to increase per capita consumption.

There is a section on Oil. "Oil and natural gas are the backbone of the national economy. It is the main source of financing development investment and current expenditure" states the publication. It is pointed out that this source provides 57.8% of the G.D.P. This section should be read by all interested in the problem of the world energy crisis. Sri Lanka has not remained unaffected by the oil crunch.

The provision of shelter has received the serious attention of the government of Libya. The country's Five Year Plan (1976/80) "aims at providing for each family a proper house, taking into consideration the economic and social changes." A sum of LD 794,236 millions has been allocated for the year 1976 for the construction of 150,000 units that year. The picture of a beautifully laid out housing complex is found at page 73 with additional colour plates in the few succeeding pages. The report adds "in order to overcome shortages of houses and to do away with shacks and huts, factories for prefabricated units have been established and integrated settlements are being constructed." In our country the Maligawatte re-development Scheme launched in 1968 by the Minister of Local Government (at that time the Hon. R. Premadasa) is I believe also a self-contained and integrated housing scheme.

The tremendous 'leap forward' in respect of health services is an achievement of which any country can be proud. Provision of hospital beds has shown a phenomenal increase—38.6%. In 1972 there were 8830 beds while in 1975 this had risen to 12,241 beds. Priority has been given to remote areas. Health Centres and Central Dispensaries rose from 65 in 1972 to 116 in 1975. The doctor/patient ratio was one for 1125 citizens in 1975. The target for 1980 is one for 1000 citizens.

Development of tourism is almost an obsession. It certainly is a money spinner. It is becoming a major industry in our country as well. "The ancient Greeks and Romans left behind vast areas of antiquities" states the book. With the unrivalled climate along the Mediterranean the Socialist Popular Libyan Arab Jamahiriya will not find it difficult to attract an increasing number of tourists in the years to come.

D.D.

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SRI LANKA CHRONICLE

Aug. 23 — Aug. 29

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—Dinamina; LD—Lankadipa; VK—Virakesari; ATH—Aththa; SM—Silumina; SLD—Sri Lanka-dipa; JD—Janadina; SU—Sun; DV—Davasas; DP—Dinapathi; CM—Chinthamani; WK—Weekend; RR—Riviresa; DK—Dinakara; EN—Eeelanadu; IDPR—Information Dept. Press Release.

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 23:** A calm has settled over the Jaffna Peninsula which a few weeks earlier terrorists had plunged in blood and chaos with the killings of policemen, bank robberies, and assaults on innocent people. The Government yesterday decided to introduce draft legislation in Parliament to provide for the declaration of services provided by certain Government Departments, public corporations, Local Authorities and Co-operative

Societies as Essential Public Services. The railway has made arrangements for a new train service to Batticaloa and Trincomalee from Friday (August 24). Government yesterday decided to abolish the Compulsory Savings Scheme and drop Clause 6 of the Bill, introduced by the then Minister of Finance in Parliament in 1976. Government yesterday decided to give effect to the US 886,500 dollars agreement between Sri Lanka and UNESCO and NORAD for carrying out the pilot project of teaching English as a second language at primary level in Sri Lanka schools—CDN. Private Nursing Homes are to be probed; the Minister of Health Mr. Gamini Jayasuriya has appointed a committee chaired by Dr. S. D. Malinga Fernando, Deputy Director (Medical Services) for that purpose. The President Mr. J. R. Jayewardene who will play a leading role at the Non-aligned Summit in Havana which begins on September 3, will have three days of intensive talks with non-aligned leaders before the conference opens: Mr. Jayewardene will be in Havana on the 31st of this month allowing himself time to consult world leaders on problems facing the Non-aligned group of nations—CDM. Security forces in the north were, yesterday alerted to look out for five armed men who illegally entered Sri Lanka in the early hours of Monday; these men had allegedly hijacked an Indian trawler at the South Indian port of Rameshwaram on Sunday night, sailed to Sri Lanka and landed at Talaimannar around 4 a.m. on Monday. President J. R. Jayewardene has directed that a foolproof regional security system be set up in the country to minimise the chances of organised holdups or other big time crimes being committed—SU. The Deputy Minister of Public Administration and Home Affairs said that steps have been taken for the establishment of a vegetable cultivation and distribution Authority to break the present monopoly to protect farmers and to supply vegetables at a reasonable price to the consumer. The Government has decided to set up security services at all public establishments as a new step to curb thefts etc., in Government establishments. Police investigations have revealed that millions of rupees worth of smuggling by top local smugglers and captains of foreign vessels are increasing daily; these smugglers make contacts with ships before they enter the harbour—LD.

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 24:** Seven private sector firms have applied to the Department of Civil Aviation to operate domestic air services, official sources said yesterday. Since July 23 over 50 percent of off-grade teas offered at the Colombo Auctions have remained unsold according to a trade source; of an approximate total of 4.2 million kgs. offered for sale, 2.2 million kgs. had to be withdrawn; the spokesman said the high government floor price of Rs. 8 per kg. to qualify for an export permit was the reason why off-grades were fetching poor buyer response at the auctions. India and Sri Lanka signed an agreement in New Delhi on the 22nd under which India would extend credit of Rs. 10 crores to Sri Lanka to finance export of capital and intermediate goods from this country. A 58-member delegation of Japan's leading business entrepreneurs, led by Mr. Ryuzo Sejima, will participate in the first joint meeting of the Sri Lanka-Japan Business Co-operation committee at the BMICH this morning. Despite criticism levelled against it, the CWE had fared well during the past five years chalking up a trade turnover of a billion rupees during the last 12 months, Chairman Razik Zarook said yesterday—CDN. The government has taken the first step towards implementing the language policy enshrined in the Constitution of the country; it is reliably understood that the government has decided to appoint public officers conversant in the Tamil language to all kachcheries in the island. Colombo Fort and Galle Face will be declared anti-litter zones by the Colombo Municipal Council from September 1—CDM. Parliament will sit in special sessions next week to enable the Government to place on the Statute Book the new Essential Public Services Act immediately. Mrs. Jehar Sadat, wife of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat has called off her visit to Sri Lanka to attend an international population conference. Sri Lankan passports are in great demand and are fetching high prices in the Indian and Afghan underworlds according to an Interpol report reaching Police Headquarters—SU. Under a new scheme to be launched by the Minister of Agricultural Research and Development, Mr. E.L. Senanayake families living in upcountry areas will be given lands and houses; 2,250 acres of land and 1000 houses will be distributed—DP. All publicity work for the People's Bank has been handed

over to a private advertising agency even though the People's Bank has its own publicity division—ATH. Trade Union leaders have expressed the opposition to the Essential Service Act saying that it would mean that emergency laws have been turned into normal laws—DK. Pressure used by a certain foreign embassy on the government to stop the government fully investigating allegations made against Mrs. Bandaranaike by Ministers from time to time has got successful results; a person holding a responsible government post and who has close relations with both sides has recently conveyed this message to Mrs. Bandaranaike according reports—JD. The Education Ministry is to train 40,000 teachers for primary education—LD. The Central Bank has predicted that Sri Lanka will receive over Rs. 600 million from those who are employed abroad; the CWE has done Rs. 1000 million worth of sales last year—DM.

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 25:** The first joint meeting of the parallel Sri Lanka-Japan Business Co-operation Committee got under way yesterday with four Ministers outlining the opportunities for Japanese investment in Sri Lanka and the possibilities for expansion of trade and economic co-operation between the two countries in various fields; the three-day meeting is being attended by a 60-member delegation of leading Japanese entrepreneurs and by a team of local businessmen. President J. R. Jayewardene has given a three-member committee two months to review the salary and administrative structure of the armed services and report to him. The government of the Federal Republic of Germany has provided Sri Lanka with a grant of Rs. 33 million for the project studies of the proposed Randenigala Reservoir—CDN. The government has decided to amend the system of proportional representation in a manner to give an opportunity to the voters to indicate their choice by name in order of preference, when voting for district lists at a general election; this necessitates amendment of the Constitution; this was revealed by Mr. Gamini Dissanayake, Minister of Lands, Land Development and Mahaveli Development. Over 600 cases of co-operative frauds amounting to over Rs. 10 million mostly among multi-purpose co-operative societies have been detected—CDM. Detectives investigating the increasing use of forged passports have identified a

Colombo resident as the probable mastermind behind this racket. Japan yesterday granted Sri Lanka a soft loan of Rs. 230 million to finance the import of a range of commodities required for development. A massive combined security operation went into action yesterday as former Japanese Premier Nobusuke Kishi arrived in Sri Lanka—SU. Amendments to the Municipal Council Ordinance are to be brought before Parliament so that the authorities will be able to enforce strict hygienic conditions in eating houses and hotels throughout the country—CO. Funds will be recovered from government employees with a view to building up local money resources for development projects; Government employees will be requested to pay to a fund to be known as "Workers Trust Fund" a small amount every month by way of subscription—DP. The President has ordered the Chairman and the Secretary of the UNP to sweep away the PM Premadasa's Purarsi Peramuna which is getting stronger every day the Chairman and Secretary of the UNP will go all over the country to hold investigations and will take steps for complete reorganisation of the party according to Siri Kotha sources—DK. The Minister of Trade and Shipping is to implement a new scheme by which good health facilities will be provided under an insurance scheme; the proposed new Insurance Corporation will set up hospitals in all major towns. Production has gone down by 22% in the first three months of this year in 3 main corporations; production in the Salt, National Paper and Ceramic Corporations have gone down by 40%, 21% and 15% respectively; production in textiles, chemicals, flour milling, milk board and steel corporations have increased considerably in this period. The government has decided to train persons as typists, book keepers and large number of such jobs as there is an acute shortage of such people in public establishments—DV.

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 26:** The high-powered Japanese business delegation which concludes its 3-day Sri Lanka visit today, will seek three immediate objectives towards furthering what they consider to be "very promising" business possibilities between the two countries; these are (1) for Japan Air Lines (JAL) and Air Lanka to fly to each other's capitals; (2) To base a Japanese correspondent here and (3) to persuade some Japanese banks to set up shop in

this country. The World Conference of Parliamentarians on the theme "Population and Development" will be inaugurated at the BMICH on Tuesday by President J. R. Jayewardene. The Cabinet has accepted a proposal made by President Jayewardene to start a training program for Job Bank registrants—SO. The government has decided to keep a close watch on persons travelling abroad on pre-

### PORTABLE LANGUAGE LABORATORY

Many people learn foreign languages in a language laboratory—a classroom fitted with tape recorders, microphones, headsets and so on. But up till now this has meant setting aside a special room and installing expensive equipment. The result is that the room is then useful for nothing except language teaching—not a wise use of valuable teaching space in schools with limited facilities. BBC World Service reported on a language laboratory that does not waste any space.

It is a completely portable language laboratory. Built to high specifications, using modern electronics it is robust enough to withstand the rigours of heavy-handed teachers and pupils. The master control unit allows the teacher to control fast forward wind; rewind of the instructional tape; playback of the tape, without the students being able to interfere. Without 'clearance' from the teacher's console, no student can operate any of the recorder functions.

A single master console can accommodate up to 36 students and they can be working on any four programmes simultaneously, so slow learners can spend more time on the first lesson while the average learner plods on, and bright pupils race ahead.

The entire 36-student laboratory can be set up or dismantled in minutes. All connections are by plugs and sockets, and all you need to move the complete assembly of 36 student units are two small trolleys. For longer distances the whole assembly can be packed in lightweight cartons, ideal for road or air transport, and the makers claim that the whole laboratory can be operated after only half an hour of study of a comprehensive instruction book.

paid tickets; this is a sequel to a report submitted to the Government by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs—ST. Sri Lanka's drive to attract foreign investment will extend to wider horizons soon with plans for a public cum private sector investment promotion mission to the United States in the near future, and later missions to Canada and the Scandinavian countries; this announcement by Trade and Shipping Minister, Lalith Athulathmudali comes during a visit by a large Japanese private sector team which is in the island now to explore investment possibilities; the visit is the outcome of the Trade Minister's investment promotion mission to Tokyo in May this year. Government has decided to withdraw the monthly dole granted to a large percentage of those presently enjoying this benefit—WK. 10% of all newly married couples do not have children according to a survey done by the Family Planning Association, Rural Development Committee representatives and volunteers of the family health—RR.

**MONDAY, AUGUST 27:** Sri Lanka is seeking assistance from the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) for the settlement of colonists in the Mahaweli river basin project, official sources said yesterday. Rafael M. Salas, Executive Director, United Nations Fund for Population Activities, has arrived in Colombo to attend the International Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development which begins here tomorrow. Prime Minister R. Premadasa who returned home last night after a six week tour abroad in a brief statement at the Katunayake Airport said the purpose of his visit abroad has been achieved—CDN. Employees' Councils will be set up before the end of the year in Corporations, Statutory Boards, Government Business Undertakings, the Bank of Ceylon and People's Bank with a workforce of over 500. The Customs Preventive Office last week uncovered a gigantic textile smuggling racket where certain manufacturers of readymade garments for export are alleged to have been involved in importing double or treble the actual quantity of textiles for which import licences had been issued to them—CDM. H. W. Jayewardene was yesterday elected President of Law Asia, at the first council meeting held in Colombo; he succeeds Joon Mo Yang of Korea. Sri Lanka is to tie up with Singapore in a full scale containerised

service venture. A declaration by the President under the new Essential Public Services Act will have to be reported to Parliament within a specific period; this is one of the highlights of the new act which is to come up for debate in Parliament shortly—SU. A new proposal will be introduced shortly to provide for students to perform whatever work they can do to earn money during their holidays to cover their educational expenses; the Ministry of Education is considering whether this new proposal could be implemented from next year—DP. Two Trade Unions, the Sri Lanka Independent Public Services Trade Union Federation and the Sri Lanka Services Trade Union Federation have decided to launch a Satyagraha against the Essential Services Act which withdraws basic civil rights and Bank strikes—DK.

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 28:** President J. R. Jayewardene told a conference of law men of Asia and the Western Pacific region here yesterday that his government was seeking to create a society which would utilise the democratic process to achieve economic growth. President J. R. Jayewardene will leave for Cuba shortly after midnight today to attend the Non-aligned Summit Conference; he will be accompanied by Mrs. Jayewardene and a team of officials. The Colombo Municipal Council has introduced a new scheme of rebates for prompt payment of rates and taxes on premises and properties on the instructions of Prime Minister, R. Premadasa. Health Minister Gamani Jayasuriya told a public meeting at Anuradhapura on Saturday that already ninety per cent of the demands made by the GMOA had been granted—CDN. Concentration of power tends to dictatorship, corruption and inefficiency; the sharing of power is a characteristic of our Constitution and replaces the concentration of power in a single person or body, the President Mr. J. R. Jayewardene said at the sixth Lawasia Conference which he inaugurated at the BMICH yesterday—CDM. The Government has decided to suspend punitive action against public officers for non-proficiency in the official language, Sinhala; this decision will be with retrospective effect from June 20, 1979; any action taken after this date will be deemed to be of no effect—SU. Interpol will be brought in to thoroughly probe yesterday's huge hashish haul at the Katunayake International Airport which was

described by narcotic officials as "by far the biggest haul ever"—CO. If any person gives protection to any suspect being looked out for by the Police, such person will be arrested by the police; if the suspects' movements, place of residence etc., are known such information should be given to the police immediately, said the Deputy IGP—EN. The government is considering abolishing the Presidential Commission appointed to investigate malpractices and corruption done by the previous government; this is to be done to counter a possible threat to pro-right political programmes in the future—ATH. Investigations have revealed that when giving free lands papers have been written wrongly and even those who have land have got land—DV. Employee's Boards are to be set up in all government institutions under the new Employees Board Act—LD.

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29:** President J. R. Jayewardene told legislators from 65 countries here yesterday that population growth in developing countries sapped national resources and led to the maintenance of poverty and the persistence of illiteracy; however, population growth should not be considered as an obstacle to development but as an integral part of national planning, he said. The Tamil United Liberation Front yesterday evening decided to end its eight-week old boycott of Parliament; President J. R. Jayewardene had satisfactorily solved the vexed Vavuniya issue, A. Amirthalingam, Leader of the Opposition and Secretary-General of the TULF said, yesterday—CDN. Prime Minister of Britain Mrs. Margaret Thatcher today pledged a total war against terrorism following the assassination of Lord Mountbatten and the killing of eighteen British soldiers by the provisional IRA guerrillas—SU. The San Francisco based Asia Foundation which had rendered a great deal of assistance to Sri Lanka for nearly 16 years before 1970 will resume operations here shortly, authoritative official sources said today—CO. The government has rejected the decision to amalgamate the three AGA's divisions at Medawachchiya with Vavuniya; government has taken this decision after the discussion between President J.R. Jayewardene and the TULF MPs yesterday morning—VK. CID investigations have revealed that over Rs. 1 million has been illegally pocketed by certain people from the profits of the Apollo circus—ATH.

The Boeing 707 Air Lanka Aircraft is not in proper condition to be flown on September 1st; Air Lanka has not been able to carry out the necessary repairs on schedule and a new Aircraft is being overhauled in Singapore for the use of Air Lanka in her inaugural flight—DK. The Minister of trade has decided to construct a modern milk factory capable of manufacturing 4 to 5 million pounds of powdered milk per month. The Minister of Land and Land Development and Mahaweli Development is taking steps to launch a massive scheme to buy all the products from the farmers on the spot, distribute and sell all those products—LD.

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## MAGIC AND MYSTICISM

### Of Gods Men And Godmen

by G. N. Acharya

LOKASATTA, the Bombay Marathi daily, belonging to the Goenka chain, published in its issue of February 3, 1979, a despatch from its Poona correspondent, containing the gist of a press interview with a reputed magician, P. C. Sorcar. Sorcar repeated a statement which he said he had published in a Calcutta weekly a few days earlier. In that article he had called Sathya Sai Baba a hypocrite. This, according to the Lokasatta report, was the subject of questioning of him by Poona reporters. Sorcar, it appears, was one of the members of the Committee appointed by Dr. H. Narasimhaiah in 1976, to investigate Sathya Sai Baba's claims of performing miracles. The opportunity, as is well known was denied. On the other hand, Narasimhaiah became the victim of a ferocious press campaign followed by more vicious underhand obstacles in the discharge of his duties. This led to his resignation as Vice-Chancellor of the Bangalore University. Sorcar said that after his interview was published, Sathya Sai Baba had sent for him. Magic is a family tradition with the Sorcars, and probably the Baba intended either to appease him or to learn some tricks from him. Here is my rough translation of a part of the Marathi report:

SLEIGHT - OF - HAND: "Sorcar had carried with him in a secret receptacle Rosgolla, flowers and ashes. On meeting him Sathya

Sai Baba produced a Sandesh by a sleight of hand and placed it in Sorcar's hands. Sorcar produced Rosgolla and placed in Baba's hands. Thereafter Baba himself admitted to Sorcar that he had done a sleight of hand trick. After all this, Sorcar asked Baba why he indulged in such tricks to which Baba replied that he was doing all this in order that people will have faith in religion. Sorcar came to the conclusion that Baba used such methods to induce blind faith.....'

Though he declined to accept the challenge of the late Dr. Kovoor the rationalist from Sri Lanka and a lesser known and more boastful claimant to miracle-working fame Lakshmanandra Sirinivasa Rao (Yogi L.S. Rao) who thundered on in a Bangalore weekly, the encounter with Sorcar was not the Baba's first with a magician. The *Indian Express* (Bombay edition June 22, 1978) published from its Ahmedabad office an account of an interview with magician K. Lal, who claimed that he had been offered "big money" to teach "the holy man some of his tricks." He claimed that the negotiations were being handled by a Minister in the Andhra Government, who failed to turn up at the appointed time to take the magician to his assignment.

**CONFUSION AMONG THE CREDULOUS.** This confusion between magic, mysticism, and spirituality, runs through the minds of most credulous people, and of the writers who write for this market. Thus, a book by Maya Balse in its very introduction keeps telling of "magicians and mystics" together. This book is pure salesmanship because Maya admits right away that she would have accepted with equal alacrity, "an assignment to write about sheep rearing in Australia." The publishers try their own little bit of mystery by stating that she is "married to an Air Force Officer" hoping perhaps to inspire visions of an intrepid pilot. Mr. Balse, who may be very competent in his trade, I learn, is in the Accounts Branch.

Apart from such books which honestly announce their object, there are a host of others singing paeans of praise about this man who claims simultaneously to be God and a reincarnation of Sai Baba of Sirdi. His given name is Satyanarayan Raju. Three is one book, "Sai Baba, Man of Miracles" by Howard Muphet, which is written in the most plausible style, obviously because it is meant for the

consumption of sceptical western readers. Any man of ordinary common sense will have to draw heavily on his patience to read such books and a man who has some rudimentary knowledge of Hinduism in its classic, philosophical and religious aspects, is bound to turn away with sorrow if not total disgust.

**WHAT IS A MIRACLE?** Let us try and understand what is a miracle in terms of divinity. It is in and around us. Any sensitive human being, contemplating the mind within or the universe outside, is bound to feel its profound impact. I look out of my window. In front of me is a small tree with green leaves. Nobody tends it, nobody waters it. Often in the last 40 years that I have been seeing it, the landlords or their representatives have chopped off parts of it, which they thought was not needed by them. Yet it is there. Day after day, year after year, it bears hundreds of flowers and immediately after the monsoon thousands of small white flowers, all alike in shape, size and hue, and dozens of people pick them and take them away. The growth of that tree and its flowering is a miracle. I look again at that tiny gnat flying in from my window. On my table is a confusing pile of books and papers. It takes me a lot of time and effort to pick out any particular paper I want. Yet this gnat, so tiny that I cannot see it except when with spread wings using its frail legs as extended landing gear, it gets in to flight, and manages to find a particular fold in a particular piece of paper. Into that same space it makes hundreds of trips with unerring instinct building a nest out of tiny specks of clay it carries from somewhere. Then it lays its eggs and hatches them. As long as I have the paper undisturbed, the gnat knows its way into that one fold, without any trial or error. That is a miracle.

**AT ODDS WITH DIVINE WILL.** The star-spangled Heavens; the diurnal coming of the sun and the moon, as the earth with all its burden of mountains, oceans, rivers, forests and all living creatures revolves around its axis; the eternal and unchanging pattern of the tides; and the annual seasons of cold, heat and rain perpetually the same changing pattern; birth and death; the growth from a seed to a gigantic tree; from the crying shapeless bundle of pain into a man or a woman with a will and mind of its own—these and a thousand other miracles are occurring around us. There

is a beauty in them, there is art, there is economy, there is perfection.

According to the religious-minded, the believer, this is all as God made it. Anything contrary to it, therefore, must be deemed a contravention of the divine will. All that science, philosophy or logic has ever done, or claimed to do, is to seek to discover the laws of the universe, not to change them. It is a part of the universe of miracles that man is endowed with the faculties of thought and imagination to explore nature's laws and apply them to his purpose—a little speck or delegated divinity as it were, a power which man often misuses to harm himself. If this is bad enough, any attempt to tamper with Nature's laws be deemed an act of gross impiety, a flouting of the Will of Gd.

A similar point of view has been enunciated by Subhaya Dasgupta, in his book, *Hindu Ethics and the Challenge of Change*. "It is strange that after two centuries' leaven of science and rationalism, it is overlooked that exceptions to the law of gravitation, such as implied by levitation, will make the laws fortuitous and therefore no longer integral to cosmic dynamics. More so would be the arrival of an apple in an empty bowl. Sudden development of an apple out of the air will compromise so many laws of physics and botany that if this were a reality, it would make a travesty of all science.

"Except for the mass involved there is no difference between a Yogi's breaking away from the forces of gravitation (through levitation) and the moon's doing the same. If the former can happen there is no longer any certainty of the moon's remaining in its orbit, and in fact there is no reason why it should as it has done continuously and consistently ever since there was an earth and a moon. If the latter is a must, not only for the earth and the moon, but for all planets having satellites, the Yogi's claim to levitation and rising from the ground must be rejected as a spurious trick, one excludes and cancels the other." (page 20).

**THE HINDU TRADITION:** That is a long, but necessary quotation. Other similar authors can also be cited. In a different context Dr. S. Radhakrishnan has written: "God does not bestow his favour capriciously. The law of morality is fundamental to the whole cosmic drama. Salvation is not a gift of capricious

gods, but it is to be won by earnest seeking and self-discipline!" He quotes the authority of the *Garuda Pura* as saying: "No one gives joy or sorrow. That others give us these is an erroneous conception. Our own deeds bring us these fruits. Body of mine, repay by suffering." (From the essay on Hinduism in *A Cultural History of India*; edited by A. L. Basham, Page 76). According to this teaching, even wish for relief of suffering from an outside agency does not qualify as an act of piety or devotion.

The entire trend of India's religious history is against miracles of an individual type. The divine is universal in its impact, and not merely of application to some select individual. If the tide that engulfed the Andhra coast, left no heaps of dead as it did, that would be a miracle. If a drowning man was pulled out and rescued, that is a human act of kindness, and possibly of courage. That is why none of our great religious teachers is ever claimed to have possessed miraculous powers. That would detract from their human dignity and greatness. The Buddha worked no miracles, nor did Mahavira. The great expounders of religion, like Sankara, Ramanuja, Madhav, Nanak or Chaitanya would regard it as blasphemy to claim miraculous powers.

**HIGHER PURPOSES:** There is a fable about Sankara. It appears that once when he was sitting in meditation on the banks of a river, one of his foolish devotees asked him if with his Yogic powers he could walk across the river. Sankara waved at a boatman in a little boat, bobbing up and down a little further away and told his questioner in effect: "If I give one copper coin to that poor fellow, he will row me across. Yoga has better purposes."

I was forcefully reminded of this story when reading the dozens of so-called miracles recorded in Howard Murphets book. I have selected just one for a little scrutiny. This one relates to a brace of stories concerning B. Ramakrishna Rao, who was for some time Governor of Kerala and also Uttar Pradesh. It seems in 1961, when he was Governor of Uttar Pradesh, he was travelling somewhere through the night in a train when the fan in his compartment began to give trouble. There were sparks, and a fear of fire. Suddenly, there was a knock at the train door, and when



it was opened a man in khaki walked in, fiddled with the fan and set it right. Then, in the same manner, he walked off the speeding train. This whole action is claimed to have been the handiwork of Sathya Sai Baba, according to his own claim.

**ABSURDITY UNLIMITED:** How absurd can the miracle mongers get? How could a Governor be in a train where there was no other aide? Why didn't not occur to him to pull the alarm chain and ask for help? If a man could come in from the air and get out into the air, why did he have to knock to be admitted? Apart from the ultimate grotesquerie of getting God to perform a "miracle" which a semi-skilled mechanic could have pulled off without anyone noticing it, every part of the episode offends ordinary common sense.

In another incident which is clubbed with it, and is claimed by the Baba himself as the second time that he had saved Ramakrishna Rao's life, the landing gear of a plane in which he was travelling went out of control. The pilot, with the permission of the Governor, was about to make a forced landing when Rao's ADC a Sai Baba devotee, with the permission of the pilot, pressed the controls and the plane righted itself. There was apparently no one to prosecute the pilot for the offence of handing over his duties to an unskilled outsider. Dozens of such stories are reeled off in this and other similar books. Impatiently glancing at some of them, I have a feeling that they are written by imbeciles and mental derelicts, to mislead myriads of mindless morons. But I cannot ignore one miracle.

Satyanarayan Raju, it appears was born on November 23, 1926. He declared himself as the reincarnation of Sai Baba and a miracle man on May 23, 1940, when he was 14. For the last 39 years, all efforts to call his bluff have failed. That, surely can be put down as the most fraudulent miracle ever.

—Secular Democracy



## ORIGINS OF A PRESENT — DAY CONFLICT

### The Second War Of The Pacific And British And US Interests

by Francisco Pividal Padron

RELATIONS BETWEEN Chile and Peru were quite cordial up to 1864. The two countries had established close economic ties in a common front against the Spanish Pacific Fleet which had set up a blockade of the entire coast and bombarded Valparaiso on March 31, 1864. This had led to the First War of the Pacific. The Spanish Fleet was soon forced to withdraw from the Pacific and return to Europe, having suffered major losses. Between 1860 and 1870, Britain, which had loaned Chile a total of one thousand million pounds sterling, and was unhappy with the fact that it was taking longer than expected to re-coup capital and interest, began to pressure Chile's governments and persuade the Chilean oligarchy with promises of a golden future into marching north to boot Bolivia out of its nitrate-rich terrain.

Something similar happened with Peru. Nitrate was easier and more comfortable to handle and was considered a much better fertilizer than guano (a bird excrement). Moreover, guano was being used up faster than supplies could be built up again. By 1872, loans from abroad, which by then had passed 38 million pounds sterling, had Peru in a strangle-hold. The main creditor was the United States, and as nitrate had by then proved itself to be guano's strongest competitor, US business, anxious to secure its investments, convinced Peru's ruling economic class to march south to the nitrate regions that belonged to Bolivia, the same region Britain had been pushing Chile to seize. Thus two major powers were pushing their clients to conquer a desert, a desert which from one day to the next was turned into the center of a violent dispute: the Second War of the Pacific.

The desert that separated the two countries and had acted as a kind of buffer zone now became a "critical border". Only in this case, the strip of territory in dispute belonged to a third party, Bolivia. In these circumstances, Chile and Bolivia reached an agreement: the border would be established at 24 degrees latitude south. They also agreed

to share the tax revenues from nitrate shipments originating in the stretch between the 23rd and 25th parallels, the approximate limits of the Antofagasta nitrate zone—then in Bolivian hands. Bolivia expected to channel a good part of these shipments through its Mejilones Bay and so had not claimed a direct tax on nitrate production. Thus power of taxation was left exclusively in the hands of Chile. Through the 1872 protocol and 1874 treaty, Bolivia was legally forced to give up its rights of sovereignty. This led to open conflict with Chile in 1878 when Bolivia tried to impose a tax of ten cents a hundredweight on nitrate. MEANWHILE the conflict between the Governments of Peru and Chile, defenders of their respective oligarchies, came to a head in 1877. That year the Peruvian Government had 650,000 tons of guano ready for shipment, and no buyers. The conflict between Peru and Chile was not just over claims to one nitrate-rich province or another; it was also about supremacy in the southern Pacific. Peru saw Chile's rising exports as a threat to its income from the sale of guano. Thus it has drawn up a secret treaty with Bolivia in 1875 in an attempt to reduce the danger it saw to its declining economic power. Chile refused to accept the evasive replies it received to requests for information on the contents of this treaty. On April 5, 1879, (that is, just a century ago), Chile declared war on Peru. Forty-nine days earlier it had occupied the Bolivian port of Antofagasta.

Britain and the United States offered to mediate in the dispute. The allies (Peru and Bolivia), rejected the British offer but accepted the mediation of the United States. They were of course completely unaware of the report that Christiancy, US envoy in Lima had sent back to Washington. In paraphrase, this report said, "My conclusion is that the only efficient way for the United States to control trade in Peru is to actively intervene, forcing the belligerents to come to peace on reasonable terms, or to govern Peru as a protectorate or through annexation. The Peruvian people are generally favourable to the United States." Christiancy was obviously confused between "the people" and the Peruvian class that exploited the people. He went on, "Being taken on as a protectorate or being annexed by the United States would be welcomed. Fifty thousand enterprising US citi-

zens could take over the entire population and make Peru 100 percent American. With Peru under our country's rule, we would soon dominate all the other republics of South America, and the Monroe Doctrine would become a reality. There would be major new markets for our products and manufactures and new fields of enterprise for our people." A good example of what the Monroe Doctrine was really all about!

The Treaty of Ancon, signed on October 20, 1885, apparently put an end to the Second War of the Pacific. Article 3 of the treaty stipulated that the territory of the Peruvian provinces of Tacna and Arica would remain under Chilean occupation and subject to Chilean laws and authority for a period of ten years from the date of the treaty's ratification. After the ten years, a plebiscite would decide whether the territory in question was to remain under Chilean sovereignty or be returned to Peru. If Chile kept the two provinces it was to pay Peru ten million Chilean pesos or ten million Peruvian soles.

And while these negotiations between Peru and Chile were going on, what was being done about the territory taken from Bolivia? Absolutely nothing. The Second War of the Pacific cost Bolivia 60,000 square kilometres of territory and its access to the sea. It thus became a mediterranean country whose inhabitants are deprived of the sight of the ocean. One hundred years have gone by and the border conflict between Peru and Chile is still going on. And Bolivia has never stopped claiming her right to have an outlet to the sea. We will now recap what has happened between then and now.

IN VIEW OF THE FACT that the Treaty of Ancon was ratified by the Peruvian National Assembly on March 8, 1884, the plebiscite should have been held in 1894. However, in 1894 neither Peru, which was being shaken by internal upheaval, nor Chile, which considered itself the legitimate owner of the territory in question, showed any interest in the plebiscite. Furthermore, the demographic composition of the population that should have voted had meanwhile undergone basic changes. The two provinces remained under Chile's jurisdiction.

In May 1895, Chile preferred to come to an agreement with Bolivia in a secret treaty by virtue of which and "by common agreement

they would move toward the acquisition of Tacna and Arica." In 1896, Chile proposed sharing the disputed territory: Tacna for Peru and Arica for Chile, and no plebiscite. Peru responded by demanding the elimination of the plebiscite and the payment of compensation. In 1900, Peru turned down a "plan for the conquest of Bolivia." In 1901, Peru withdrew its diplomatic representation from Santiago, distributed among foreign government a circular explaining its action and proposed that the conflict be settled by arbitration. In 1904, Chile and Bolivia signed a peace treaty. According to an additional, secret protocol Bolivia committed itself to make every effort to support the incorporation of Tacna and Arica by Chile, while Chile in turn, was committed to collaborating diplomatically with Bolivia in the defense of Bolivia's diminished territory.

Chile had rejected in no uncertain terms every attempt on the part of the United States to act as arbitrator in the conflict. However, in 1921, Chile took the initiative in a series of steps that led, after all direct negotiations had failed, to an agreement to let the President of the United States arbitrate. The "arbitrator" was to decide whether or not it was in order to hold the plebiscite. Peru argued that the ten-year period had expired and therefore demanded the return of the two provinces, while Chile insisted on the plebiscite. The verdict was in favor of Chile and Peru complained that the award "had undeservedly improved Chile's moral position." Chile had accepted the arbitrage because it had been sure that it would be in its favour. At that time US investments in Chile were much greater than those in Peru.

Many historians wonder why the United States turned its back on Peru when, at the beginning of the conflict, it was on Peru's side. You do not have to look too far for the answer: when the guano and nitrate changed owners, US policy changed course. US intervention sacrificed Peru. On June 3, 1929, the so-called Final Treaty was signed in Lima. The province of Tacna (8768 square kilometers) was given back to Peru, while Chile held on to Africa (15,575 square kilometers). Peru lost a total of 59,000 square kilometers. Needless to say, the peoples of Chile, Peru and Bolivia had no part in the

manoeuvres and disputes between the oligarchic governments and the British and US interests.

—PL



## BIG OIL

### What Does It Mean?

*THE POWERFUL OIL LOBBY IN USA, WHICH besides others includes 26 "Big Oil" companies topped by EXXON, actually steers a deliberate course of energy crisis in USA by all sorts of manoeuvres. This also has its impact on the world energy situation because of their transnational character.*

American monopolists serve their own interests at the expense of the rest of the world. By buying up huge quantities of oil, they push up the price for everybody else. Oil magnates among others are behind President Carter who perforce listens to them. According to an estimate by economist Victor Perlo, the energy measures announced recently by President Carter "provide a bonanza to the oil companies of 17 billion dollars per year, minimum by 1982." It will result "in showing, not stopping the increase in oil imports in quantity with a faster increase in cost." President Carter himself confessed in a television interview on June 2 that "the oil lobby is extremely powerful in Washington."

The "Big Oil" has enormous amount of capital resources generated and added to it every year by huge profits. During 1978, according to "Washington Post" the total net income of 26 large companies was 13,597 million dollars. Exxon tops the list with 2,763 million dollars followed by Mobil with 1126 million dollars. The table given by the "Washington Post" partly reproduced below shows that 6 out of 26 companies have major shares in the aggregate income.

Recently some oil companies released their latest data showing their performance during the first quarter of 1979. Texaco, the third largest oil company, said that it earned 307 million dollars of profit after taxes during the first quarter of 1979, compared with 169.7 million dollars in the first quarter of 1978—an increase of 81 percent.

Gulf Oil said its profits after taxes rose 61 per cent to 41 million dollars in the first three months of this year, compared with the same period last year. Shell Oil reported a 16 per cent increase to 224 million dollars for the quarter. Phillips Petroleum, which has limited foreign operations, reported a four per cent increase in profits, Ohio-based Marathon Oil reported after-tax profits of 104.4 million dollars, an increase of 107 per cent from last year.

According to a report by William Allan in the *Daily World* an American weekly, in the fourth quarter of 1978 "all US petroleum companies reported profit increase of 32.3 per cent, well above the national average monopoly profits in all industries"

**PERMANENT STRATEGY.** The quantum of their profit as given by themselves is lower than the actual. Their method of accounting is hardly to be trusted. Experts say that "oil companies have some special opportunities to make their balance sheets look better or worse in the short run."

According to "Compustat" data, in 1977 the after tax rate of return for US companies engaged in oil and gas extraction was slightly less than 14.7 per cent. According *Washington Post* the average rate of return for 26 big oil in 1978 was 12.9 per cent.

What do the giant oil companies do with their enormous profits? It is used in all forms to maintain their permanent strategy of creating artificial energy crisis as well as to capture other sectors of economic activity in USA and abroad so that no alternate solution could be had to energy crunch against their will. Reports and statements from oil companies themselves showed that during 1972-73 it was they who were responsible for the shortage of oil. From 1967 to 1973, the annual expenditure of oil companies in plants and equipment declined by 23 per cent in real terms, says a study report by the National Petroleum Council (an industry group). The result of the study released recently says that the rate of discovery of petroleum per exploration effort had remained the same over the past 20 years.

According to William Allan, quoted earlier "Domestic oil production is declining: since the 'energy crisis' of 1973 US oil companies have cut down their daily production from about 12 million to 10 million barrels. They would

rather spend their capital in non-oil operations and drag their feet in search for new domestic oil. Shell, for example, between 1978 and 1977 allowed domestic production of oil to shrink from 547,000 to 419,000 barrels per day a drop of 23 per cent."

	Total Revenue (in million dollars)	Net income (in million dollars)
Exxon	64886	2763
Mobil	37331	1126
Texaco	29124	852
Standard Oil (California)	23232	1106
Gulf	20097	791
Standard Oil (Indiana)	16349	1076

Some oil companies have reduced maintenance expenditures resulting in unemployment and more danger to remaining employees. Shell oil boasts that it has reduced refinery employment by 63 per cent since 1959 saving 37 million dollars a year. "Big oil" in one of its latest strategy wants to completely capture solar energy industry because it thinks that development of this industry outside of its domain will minimise its influence over the energy field. Three of the four biggest independent solar firms were purchased recently by Atlantic Richfield, Mobil oil, and shell oil. And the largest remaining independent company, "Solarex" is being approached by several major oil companies.

Oil magnates also do not want efficient development of nuclear power industry and increase in its share to world energy production. They are behind the anti-nuclear movement in America and the other countries that has recently been intensified on the plea of safety and pollution after the Three Mile Island incident. In fact, even before this incident there was a slow-down in nuclear installation. According to Daniel Yergin, co-author of a forthcoming book: "Energy Future: Report of the energy project at the Harvard Business School", whereas 34 reactors were ordered in 1973, less than half a dozen were ordered between 1974 and 1979."

Nuclear leaders of France, a NATO partner of USA, according to a report most loudly 'spoke against what they regard as unfair publicity given to nuclear incidents as com-

pared with much higher death record of the coal and oil industries—not to mention road and air travel.” Also according to an estimate 99 per cent of the existing nuclear waste and more than 90 per cent of newly generated nuclear waste in the USA is from military installations. So the problem can be more substantially solved by putting an end to military-related production than by slowing down the nuclear industry.

Bank of America is under the influence of Exxon. In last March, the bank decided not to give any new loans for the construction of a nuclear power station for the time being. The total amount granted by this bank as direct loans for construction of nuclear plants all over the world including USA is only 0.44 per cent of its loan portfolio.

On the other hand oil magnates are investing heavily in other sectors and in other countries. William Allan writes in the *Daily World*: Arco has already invested heavily in non-oil or foreign concerns, including an Australian coal company (S & M Fox) a Jamaican bauxite producer, a valve manufacturer (Serck), a maker of military airplanes (Northrap), a chemical plant (Texas Anaconda) and a photovoltaic cell manufacturer (Solar Technology International).

What about Mobil Oil, whose full page ads equate big business with God and motherland? *Mobil Oil is pumping capital out of the US faster than it is pumping oil out of new domestic* now active investments in five foreign nations. Through Pastocol and Aral Italians it helps finance and runs four Italian companies.

**INVESTMENTS IN OTHER SECTORS.** Mobil's current subsidiary operations include insurance, paints, coal, shipbuilding, printing, real estate and chainstore merchandising. Mobil gobbled up Montgomery Ward, one of the biggest department stores in the US. Exxon bought a Chilean copper company, Sunoco has a retail grocery chain and Gulf is considering buying Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus. Exxon goes further: new investments in French rubber, Canadian lead, American real estate, telecopying and cryogenics.

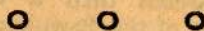
Gulf has new investments in Taiwanese polymers; European and Latin American cosmetics, crystals, electronics, printing inks and household chemicals, Korean ethylene, Canadian uranium, Dutch and Welsh petroche-

micals and American explosives. Standard Oil? New investments in Indonesian nickel, Papua-New Guinean copper, Zairean copper and cobalt, Canadian sulphur and gold and US coal, insurance and carpetbacking.

Shell Oil? New investments in Brazilian and Surinam bauxite; Canadian, South American Botswana and Swaziland coal; Thailand, Indonesian, and Malaysian tin; Arctic lead; Bolivian zinc; Canadian molybdenum and tungsten Peruvian copper; and US coal, uranium, and polymers.

That is how "Big Oil" operates.

—New Age



## GHANA

### **Ideological Affinities Of New Govt.**

by Douglas Degroot

LAST MONTH'S COUP in the West African country of Ghana has stepped up the pace at which highest level policy-makers in Britain and the United States are preparing to write off the African continent—starting with the murder of its elites. The group of young officers and soldiers who carried out the coup, led by Flight Lt. Jerry Rawlings, represents a new capability for dismantling the early industrialisation efforts of Ghana's first President—and nemesis of Britain—Kwame Nkrumah, and for guaranteeing that no rival faction contests the "appropriate technologies" program slated for Africa.

The first task of the new junta is to weed out the military preparatory to overseeing the transfer of power to civilian rule sometime next fall. Eight high-level military officers, three of them former heads of state, have already been executed by the Rawlings group. One of those executed, General A. A. Afrifa, had risen to power following the coup that overthrew Nkrumah. Although loyal to the interests of Ghana's former colonial master, Great Britain, Africa had, potentially, a private power base in the military.

The anti-leadership character of the executions is symptomatic of the ideological background of the Rawlings junta. The new Ghanaian leaders are ardent admirers of Frantz

Fanon, author of the "Wretched of the Earth" and creator of the London-based Tavistock Institute. Fanon was the mouthpiece through whom Tavistock elaborated the ideology that glorifies the bestiality of economic, social, and cultural life in the Third World, and that lays the blame for the downtrodden condition of those countries at the door of the "West". A special target of Fanon and his followers has been the scientific and educated elite of Third World countries who have attempted to free their populations from backwardness through industrialisation. Nkrumah's early efforts in Ghana were the subject for much of Fanon's vile outpourings.

**Turning Africa into a Ghetto.** The coming to power of the Rawlings junta at this time is not an arbitrary event, however. It coincides precisely with the policy perspective adopted for Africa by Britain's top policy makers and their American cohorts at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York. In January 1979, Sir George Bolton, KCMG, and a member of the board of governors of the Bank of England, told a bankers' convention that there is "little hope for Africa south of the Sahara but to return to tribal anarchy."

The plan for Africa has been outlined more fully in the CFR's volume in its global planning series, 1980s Project. The global perspective outlined by the 1890s Project is for economic disintegration and a return to a Dark Age over the next decade. The outlook for Africa calls for "quarrelling breaks out everywhere, economies stagnate, and authoritarian regimes multiply.....putting the lid on internal demand, and maintaining a constant state of military readiness..... As the 1980s draw to an end, the external world decides that Africa is not worth the conquest and a tacit hands-off agreement is reached, leaving the continent a ghetto to fight its own battles."

Denying Africa access to the most advanced technologies is key to the CFR scenario. A recent UN Economic Commission for Africa seminar, entitled "Alternative Patterns of Development and Lifestyles," fully endorsed the International Monetary Fund's "appropriate technologies" line for the Third World. The seminar labelled plans to transfer advanced technologies to Africa as "alien development strategies," urging instead development "along

appropriate rather than European lines." reports the weekly West Africa. West Africa observed that alternative development is going to be a bitter pill for some of the new African elites to swallow." "The best interests of the majority of their peoples", editorializes West Africa, would be better served by giving up on development. Rawlings' job is to make sure that the new civilian government in Ghana will have no choice.

**Ghana's Potential.** In 1957 Ghana was the first colony of a European country to gain its independence from Great Britain. The timetable for attaining statehood had been significantly accelerated by President Eisenhower's crushing of the British during the Suez crisis. At the time, Ghana had the highest literacy rate of any sub-Saharan country, and President Nkrumah set about to construct an electricity grid with joint US and Soviet assistance to facilitate the country's industrialisation.. Nkrumah also took steps to unify what was then a disparate collection of tiny, powerless countries in Africa.

The advanced Western countries responded by turning down requests for develop-

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

Ref. No. 34/1/321

It is intended to acquire the land described in the Schedule below. For further particulars see the Gazette No. 53 (Part III) dated 07/09/1979 of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

**Schedule**

**Situation:**

Godakanda Village, D.R.O.'s Division of Bope—Poddala in the District of Galle.

**Name of land:**

Digganegoda Badda alias Kirimatigoda Mulle Badda.

**Plan and Lot No.:**

I in P. Plan No. Gaa 1481.

**S. J. Pathirana**  
Acquiring Officer,  
Galle District.

The Kachcheri,  
Galle. 15 August 1979.

ment credits, or by delaying such credits so as to pressure Nkrumah into abandoning his political, economic goals. This economic warfare, combined with the collapse in the price of cocoa, the country's main export item, contributed to the deteriorating economic situation which led to the 1966 coup against Nkrumah by pro-British elements. Nearly completed Soviet-sponsored development projects were abandoned, and the economic situation continues to deteriorate. Ghana has been put through the International Monetary Fund's austerity wringer several times contributing to rates of inflation of 146 percent in 1978, and rising 50 per cent per month for the first five months of 1979. The population's rage and disillusionment in these circumstances has been directed against military leaders, who were only mediocre at best and all too frequently corrupt. Rawling's appeal has been his boast of cleaning up this corruption.

**Will the Wretched Rule?** Jerry Rawlings has given Nkrumah's writings only a cursory reading, devoting himself instead to Frantz Fanon's policies of the oppressed. Fanon's "Wretched of the Earth" is "what we are all about." Rawlings insists. "It's not a black-white thing here but the rich suppressing the poor, exploiting us, oppressing us. Since independence, the Ghanians have been oppressed by both the civilian and military governments. A man has a right to be angry and why can't you burst out against the system that is torturing you?"

Rawlings described his qualifications to lead Ghana in a June 20 interview on the British Broadcasting Company's Domestic Television Service. When asked if he was surprised by his sudden change of status from facing a court martial to heading the military government Rawlings replied: "Not really but I don't expect to be here—I mean as the Chairman of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council or as the head of state. I mean I don't consider myself qualified enough to be here. I mean. I just set out fighting injustice."

The just completed runoff election for President, a procedure that precedes a transfer to civilian rule, was won by Hilla Limann of the People's National Party, a populist grouping that comes out of the original Nkrumah machine. Limann made repeated references to Nkrumah during the campaign. With factories

working at 20 percent of capacity, and with cocoa exports continuing to fall, Limann faces "a troubled future of food shortages and a tottering economy," according to the *Washington Post*. The *Post* cites sources who say that Ghana must undergo five or more years of severe austerity. As long as Rawlings' military machine is watching Limann's every move, there is little room for her to steer Ghana towards a competent development program.

—NSIPS

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## AMERICAN VIEW

### Mideast: The Aim Is Still Peace

by William Wade  
*VOA News Analyst*

AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS have carried long columns about US Middle Eastern policy over the last week or so—with great detail on what officials in Washington consider tangential issues. There has been heavy emphasis on the resignation of Ambassador Andrew Young and the rebuffs Ambassador Robert Strauss received in Egypt and Israel regarding an American proposal for a new UN Resolution on the Palestinians. Tens of thousands of journalistic words have been spent on speculation about who in the Carter administration favored one course of action or another and about who said what to whom, how and when.

Peacemaking in the Middle East has never been easy—but in this vacation month in Washington it has seemed singularly chaotic if not impossible. On August 21, the formulators of US policy met at the White House to consider next steps and to dispel some of the public confusion. With Vice President Mondale as Chairman, that meeting brought together Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, who interrupted his vacation, National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski and Ambassador Strauss, just back from his latest mission. Afterwards, Vance told reporters the group reached unanimous recommendations which were telephoned to President Carter, now vacationing on the Mississippi River.

Mr. Vance also defined the division of labour—he, as Secretary of State, is in charge of Middle East policy; Ambassador Strauss represents the United States in peace negotiations with Israel and Egypt. And Mr. Strauss expects to make still another trip to the area next month.

Almost simultaneously, State Department spokesman Tom Reston tried to dampen the newsmen's lively, sometimes obsessive, interest in the Ambassador Young affair. Mr. Reston urged them to follow Ambassador Young's own advice and concentrate on the main issue—how to move forward toward a just and lasting peace for the Middle East, how to compose the interests of the various peoples in that troubled region.

It is useful to note that negotiations about the rights of the Palestinians are in fact going on—the result of last year's Camp David accords and the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty of last March. Those agreements call for establishment of a self-governing authority in the West Bank and Gaza to provide full autonomy to the inhabitants. And the documents include a timetable—so that May 1980 becomes the Egyptian-Israeli goal for reaching agreement on such arrangements. Not surprisingly, the Egyptian-Israeli working group considering the issue is currently split over widely-differing views—that is the nature of negotiations. The Arab-Israeli confrontation, at the United Nations and elsewhere, has long had the appearance of an irresistible force meeting an immovable object. Diplomacy is the art of getting behind such appearances and finding acceptable compromises.

—USICA

FROM JAFFNA'S ARCHIVES

## Kudi-Makkal

—Domestic Servants—  
by K. Arumainayagam

The Kudi-makkal played an important role in the social structure of Jaffna Tamils. In fact they were the life-wire of the high castes. Their presence is necessary for the successful performance of ceremonies connected from birth to death and in between for their physical existence. However this system has now become obsolete with the march of civilization. Still you find the semblance of the system prevailing in some nook and corner of the interior but it has lost all its force and "sanctity" with which it was held some years back.

The Dutch documents and works of scholars like Philip de Melho, Simon Casie Chetty, gives us a fair glimpse of their life and functions. The report given below, prepared by a Kachcheri Mudaliyar on the instructions of a Government Agent will be of interest to students of Social History. The Mudaliyar was K. T. Kanagaratna Mudaliyar, and the reports came in the Ceylon Administration Reports—1883. pp. 144 A—147 A.

Sir,

In obedience to the order of the Government Agent, I beg to submit the following account of the System of Kudimakkal in Jaffna. The System has existed among the Hindu population of the Jaffna Peninsula ever since it was populated. Kudimakkal—this word means a number of classes of people who are known in its extensive signification as domestic servants or servile classes of people, in relation to the nobility of the land.

The Jaffna Peninsula, according to the traditions of the natives, fell into the hands of *Vira Raghava*, of Coromandal Coast, who was a "Yalpadi" or lyricist; *Vira Raghava* subsequently colonized it by the Tamils of the Southern Provinces of India. The Tamils brought down to Jaffna with them certain customs or institutions of their mother country (India). The Tamils are, according to the ancient institutions of the country, divided into four principal "Varunas" viz:—

### 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. 1560.00	Rs. 1563.00
Sterling Pound	Rs. 3515.00	Rs. 3521.00
Deutsche Mark	Rs. 855.40	Rs. 857.00
French Franc	Rs. 365.55	Rs. 367.25
Japanese Yen	Rs. 7.0575	Rs. 7.0725
Indian Rupees	Rs. 193.15	Rs. 193.55



**I. Piramana**—This is the class of people who form the priesthood. They are prohibited by their vedas or laws from attending to secular employments. It is not considered derogatory to them to apply themselves to the peaceable arts of agriculture or Commerce, if their special duties prove insufficient for their maintenance. At the present day, however all Government Offices are held in India by the people who call themselves Brahmins. In Jaffna the only instances among the so-called class were of one M. Arumukam Aiyar, of Tellipalai, who was appointed so late as 1850 by the late G. A. Mr. Dyke, as Salt writer of the Jaffna Kachcheri. Again, his nephew, C. Saparatna Aiyar, has got the appointment of Tamil Reader at the Jaffna Kachcheri in 1868 under the auspices of the late G. A. Mr. H. S. C. Russell. A few have also become Notaries under the Ordinance No. 16

**II. Chattiriyas**—The royal tribe. There are no remains of this tribe now in Jaffna.

**III. Vaisyas**—The nobility of the land. These are sub-divided into three distinct tribes—viz.,

(1) Thanavaisyas, merchants;

(2) Pu-Vaisyal husbandmen, commonly called Velalar from the word Velanmai or cultivation; in which they are occupied;

(3) Ko' Vaizyas, herdsmen or Idaiyar.

**IV. The Sutrās** are those who are required to do all the lower offices of life, and to serve the above three classes during their public ceremonies, both of a joyful and mournful nature, and are incapable of raising themselves to any superior rank. The Sutrās are of two separate branches or orders—viz.,

(1) Kudimakkal, or domestic servants, who are the subjects of this paper;

(2) Town Servants.

The Kudimakkal, or domestic servants, are eighteen in number, as given in *Sudamani Nigandu* by the most ancient Tamil Lexicographer, Vira Mandalavan—see Chapter xii; verse 189:—

நாவிதனேச்சன் யாரு நயக்குங் கம்மாளரைவர்  
மாவியல் வலையன் பாணன்வாணிகர்மூவர்பள்ளி  
மேவு பூமலைக்காரன் வெட்டியான்

சூயவன் மற்றும்

கோவிரக் குடியான் வண்ணன்

குடிமையோர் பதினெட்டாமே

The services of the full number of Kudimakkal were dispensed with in Jaffna. So long ago as to make it impossible to know with certainty what particular classes of people formed the eighteen referred to by Vira Mandalavan in the above verse.

This uncertainty exists only as to a few classes of them, whose use has been thrown into oblivion in Jaffna. Two other authors I came across have enumerated the eighteen Kudimakkal and I find that they disagree in regard to some of them. For instance, Mr. Winslow in his Tamil and English Dictionary gives the name of the eighteen Kudimakkal under the word "Kudimakkal" and states, உப்பு வாணிகள் (salt dealer) as one of them. Mr. Simon Casie Chetty, in his publication, the Ceylon Gazetteer, puts in "lime burner" in lieu of "salt dealer". Mr. Winslow says, "Pujari" at a temple of Pedaree is one of the Kudimakkal; Mr. Casie Chetty puts in a class of people employed to announce weddings and deaths in its place. Mr. Winslow says "fisher" is one; Mr. Casie Chetty puts in "Game Keeper" in its place & c.

Mr. Winslow could not have known much of the Tamils and their customs himself, and he may have depended to a great extent on his native helpers of limited knowledge. Mr. Casie Chetty was not, I think, a native of the Jaffna Peninsula. The eighteen Kudimakkal appear to be the following:—

1. Betel Vendor—இலை வாணிகள், 2. Watchman—காவற்பள்ளி, 3. Tailor—பாணன், 4. Game - Keeper — வலையன், 5. Informer of Weddings and deaths — ஒச்சன், 6. Garland Maker—பூ மலைக்காரன், 7. Musician—வீரக் குடியான், 8. Lime burner—சண்ணும்பு வாணிகள், 9. Oil Monger — செக்கு வாணிகள், 10. Potter — சூயவன், 11. Mason — கற்சிற்பன், 12. Brass founder—கண்ணன், 13. Gold Smith — தட்டான், 14. Pariah (Grave-digger)—வெட்டியான், 15. Carpenter — தச்சன், 16. Black Smith — கொல்லன், 17. Barber — நாவிதன், 18. Washerman—வண்ணன்

Of the eighteen Kudimakkal, only the last five are now considered in Jaffna as Kudimakkal proper; of the remaining, some have entirely disappeared, such as Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

(To Be Continued)

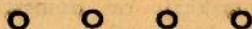
# Confidentially

## Devarajah Of The Times

IS IT NOT TRUE that though Lloyd S. Devarajah of the *Times* group had scooped some of the top smuggling stories and often provided more investigative details than anyone else, the piece he wrote for the *Sunday Times* of August 5 entitled **LARGE SCALE SMUGGLING RACKET BARED** contained references to suggestions by the Customs Staff Officers' Union to the Principal Collector of Customs on how the present avalanche in smuggling could be contained? That for the record, excerpts from Devarajah's report deserve reproduction particularly because he underscores the *modus operandi* of this big time smuggling? "Despite the liberalisation of imports by the Government, there has been a spate of detections by the Customs Preventive Office especially in recent months of an organised attempt at large-scale smuggling of luxury goods which find a ready market, both locally as well as in India. According to informed Customs sources, there have been numerous attempts by certain unscrupulous businessmen to illegally import contraband as ordinary cargo on misdescribed documents or wrongly addressed to diplomatic and other privileged institutions, or to non-existing firms, which are then cleared on forged or bogus documents. Last week, the Customs Preventive Office seized 17 crates containing over Rs. 2.3 million worth of contraband consigned to a non-existing firm in Pettah. The goods found included about 1,000 Sanyo cassette radios, 5,000 Sanyo pocket radios, 1,500 Casio electronic calculators, 150 rolls of PVC cables and six big Telefunken television sets. These sources said that the importer who is said to be a big-time smuggler of Sri Lanka gems, had got down the goods after misdescribing them as television sets for which the Customs import duty is only 12½ per cent. The crates all serially numbered also bore the marks "ERL Colombo, Sri Lanka." According to the manifest, the goods were shipped by Electrades (Singapore) Pte. Ltd., of Singapore to Orient Enterprises Ltd. 77/2, Fourth Cross Street, Pettah. Customs

investigations revealed that there was only a chummary at that address and according to the Registrar of Companies there was no firm bearing that name. Three crates including crate Number 1, each contained two big telefunken TV sets, whilst the balance 14 crates contained the contraband for which higher rates of duty were payable."

That after this detailed elaboration of one big smuggling attempt, Devarajah went to raise some important problems that have a vital bearing on the whole problem: "Preventive office sources said that the haphazard manner in which examination if any, of cargo consigned to the trade was done was the main contributing factor for this wide-scale attempt at defrauding the State of its legitimate revenue, and nullifying the Government's fiscal policy. To combat and prevent this insidious mode of smuggling, the Customs Staff Officers Union has asked the Principal Collector of Customs, that "more regular and random examinations of both sea and air freight cargo under the direct supervision of senior staff officers" should be carried out. During the past ten weeks, the Customs Preventive Office thwarted no less than nine big attempts at large-scale smuggling, some with the aid of veteran Customs House Agents. The value of this haul mostly in textiles, which is prohibited import is estimated at over Rs. 22.5 million. According to the union, statistically what is detected by Customs administration anywhere is perhaps only 10 percent or less of the actual smuggling that takes place in any country". That what Devarajah has revealed from the Customs Staff Officers Union memorandum shows that this document deserves fullest publicity? That it should be released to the public?



### BREATH - TAKING CONTEST

John Grim recently became champion of Virginia (U.S.A.) by chomping his way through 65 ramps, a mountain vegetable said to taste stronger than onion and garlic combined. There are apparently many ramp lovers, for more than 2,000 took part in the contest. For his feat, Grim won \$30, two tickets to a fast-food restaurant and a bottle of mouthwash.

# 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.

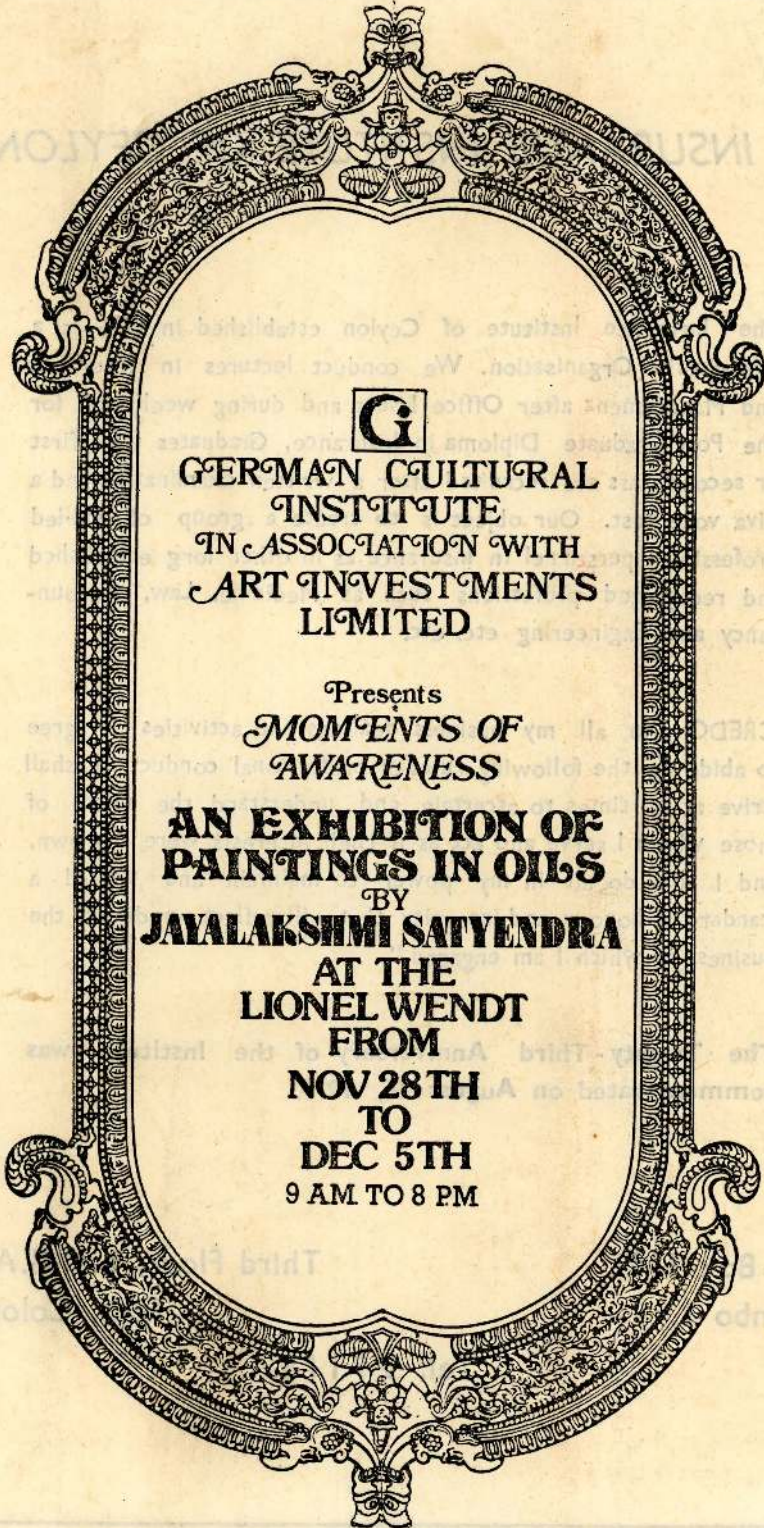
**OUR CREDO** "In all my business dealings and activities I agree to abide by the following rules of professional conduct. I shall strive at all times to ascertain and understand the needs of those whom I serve and act as if their interests were my own, and I shall do all in my power to maintain and 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.**

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