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# TRIBUNE



**25TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION**





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## From Our Desk

OUR COVER this week is intended to remind our readers and ourselves that it is the International Year of the Child (IYC). There have been many meetings, seminars and tamashas about the IYC. Many favoured bureaucrats and also lucky persons on the fringe of the Establishment have travelled the world on prepaid tickets to commemorate the IYC. Yet what has it brought children in this country? Enthusiastic reports have no doubt been written about the great things in store for our children as a result of the IYC. Articles and even full supplements have appeared in our newspapers about the meaning and significance of the IYC. But there is one growing menace to which adequate or no attention has been paid, viz., the growing use of narcotics by teenagers in our schools. Government high-ups pretend that the use of narcotics is confined to hippie visitors and the underworld in Sri Lanka. But many school principals increasingly whisper that they are aware that many students in the higher classes now find a thrill in the occasional use of narcotics. How occasional they do not know, but they are aware that unless it is checked we will soon have a generation of young people addicted to drugs. The Narcotics Bureau has much more information and occasionally releases tidbits to the press. Navaratne Senerath, of the Customs, who recently attended a Seminar abroad, has been more forthright about this danger, but he quite correctly has been more concerned with restructuring the Customs Department than with preventing the spread of the narcotics habit among children. Reports received by *Tribune* show that the menace of narcotics has penetrated some of the leading schools in Colombo and the principal towns of the island. Parents refuse to believe what we tell them, but the generation gap between the parent and child in the upper income bracket elites and groups in Sri Lanka has become so great that parents will be last to discover what is really going on. And when they do discover the truth, it is always too late. We are aware of many instances when parents were distraught when they learnt that their children were no strangers to narcotics. We are not taking up this matter in a spirit of alarmism or sensationalism, but because we feel it is necessary to sound a note of warning. Many people may not be aware that narcotics are freely available in the island. The Narcotics Bureau have from time to time warned the government and the public that Sri Lanka has become a clearing house for narcotics not only in the Indian Ocean region but on an Afro-Asian-European scale. The liberalisation of imports and the total absence of any customs preventive checks on those who claim to be tourists has enabled the international underworld to make this island a centre of the drug trade. Our indigenous ganja constitutes only a miserably small portion of this drug trade. Narcotics is one of the most profitable of all commodities and the fact that it is illegal makes the profits higher. Is there no way to stop the liberalisation of the import and exports of narcotics? Should Government not pay some attention to this matter—at least in the International Year of the Child?

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## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

### On Economic Policies And Strategies

With the Budget only a month away, it has become necessary for all people who have a little time for thinking on matters of serious import to the country to pay more attention to the economic policies and strategies now being followed by this Government. Are the policies now being pursued the best under the circumstances? Are the strategies the most conducive to produce really fruitful results?

The present government of Sri Lanka has chosen the path of capitalism, whilst freezing the state and public sector undertakings (wrongly called the socialist sector by many) and also by putting increasing chunks of it (the public sector) under private management. How much more efficient, honest, expeditious and corruption-free such UNP-dominated private management will be compared to the public sector management is yet to be seen?

In the meantime, Sri Lanka seems to be committed more and more to the World Bank (IBRD)-IMF basic needs strategy coupled with its newest sophistication called Export-Oriented Agricultural and Industrial Promotion. By 1979, Sri Lanka was already firmly in the IBRD-IMF complex. By 1980, there is not the slightest doubt that Sri Lanka will be well and truly in the grip of the octopus-like tentacles of the latest IBRD-IMF panacea that has proved a failure in many Third World countries. Over a 100 such countries are clients of the IBRD-IMF set up, but no one of them has solved the basic problems of poverty, unemployment or inflation.

The first two Development Decades, master-minded by the World Bank, are nearly over and preparations are under way for the Third Development Decade. In this case a speech made by Robert S. McNamara, President of the World Bank, an October 2 at Belgrade, at the Annual General Meeting of the IBRD and IMF makes interesting reading: "Proposing a strategy for the Third Development Decade, Mr. Robert S. McNamara,

President of the World Bank said that the North-South dialogue had become 'so bogged down in arguments over means that it has tended to lose sight of the ends.....the formulation of a development strategy for the Eighties offers the international community a valuable opportunity to reconsider the fundamental objectives of development itself', said Mr. McNamara. Structural changes of 'immense magnitude' were needed if there were to be progress in tackling the major issues of population growth, food production, employment creation, urbanisation, alleviation of absolute poverty and expansion of international trade and development investment. Mr. McNamara said the World Bank planned to assist the international community in coping with the problems of the Eighties by expanding its program in real terms over the next several years. The Bank's working plan for the fiscal years 79-83 showed new loan commitments by the Bank and its affiliates (the International Development Association and the International Finance Corporation) totaling \$64 billion (in current dollars) during the period. Mr. McNamara referred to the disappointments of the Second Development Decade, during which the average rate of economic growth (calculated as gross domestic product, which measures the total final output of goods and services produced by the country's economy) in the developing countries would, at best, not exceed 5.2 per cent a year—compared with the 6 per cent goal of the decade. There would be serious shortfalls in the subsidiary targets, particularly for agricultural production and for the level of Official Development Assistance from the OECD nations. And the averages concealed the real plight of the low-income countries. 'Income grew the least where it was needed the most: in the poorest countries, containing half the population of the world' Mr. McNamara said. 'The economies of most of these nations, with hundreds of millions of their people already trapped in absolute poverty, scarcely advanced at all.'

"The World Bank President said that the Third Development decade should give greater attention to the diversity of conditions in the developing world. Both developing and developed countries must consider in detail the hard policy choices that they will confront in



the Eighties and beyond if fundamental objectives were to succeed. There should be more specific actions to help the 600 million people who are projected to remain in absolute poverty at the end of the century. And rather than an overemphasis on the elusive goal of the Seventies of narrowing the relative income gap between the industrial and developing nations, the gap should be closed between rich and poor countries in terms of the quality of life; in nutrition, literacy, life expectancy and the physical and social environment.

"The World Bank President said that the 'most critical problem of all' was population growth. Its urgency had been underestimated because crude birth rates in the developing world—outside sub-Saharan Africa—were declining. But if the current trends continued—as encouraging as they might appear—the world would not reach replacement-level fertility (in effect, an average of two children per family) until about the year 2020, while the world's population would stabilize some 70 years late at about 10 billion people compared to today's 4.3 billion. Yet the global population could stabilize at two billion less if the date at which replacement-level fertility were reached could be advanced by 20 years.

"Discussing the role of the World Bank in the Eighties in the spheres of population, food production, urbanisation and employment creation, Mr. McNamara said. 'Increasingly, the developing countries are looking to the World Bank as their main source of external assistance. I believe, therefore, that over the next two years we ought thoroughly to re-examine our role in the development process to ensure that the Bank is meeting the evolving needs of our members, and to see if we can better provide the full range of services implicit in our mandate.'

"Referring to the World Bank's energy program, Mr. McNamara said that the oil import bill of developing countries rose from \$ 4 billion in 1972 to \$ 26 billion in 1978, and was estimated to be about \$ 42 billion in 1980. This had dramatically affected the economics of energy supply, increasing the incentives for exploiting known resources in developing countries. The Bank had tentative plans to expand its petroleum lending to \$ 1.2 billion per year by FY 1983—financing, annually, oil

and gas exploration and production projects with a total cost of over £ 4 billion, and representing roughly a third of the total investment requirements of its developing member countries in this sector. Some 60 per cent of this lending program for oil and gas would be in the poorer countries. Summing up, Mr. McNamara said: *'The Bank, together with all of the international development community, should look to the new interdependent world order that will inevitably evolve in the Eighties and beyond with the vision and courage and boldness that history is clearly asking of us all. Procastination and delay and inadequate effort in the face of these momentous issues can only bring the most severe penalties to those in the next century who will have to live with the consequences of the decisions we must take—and take soon.....'*

Whilst McNamara strikes a hopeful note about the activities of the Bank, N. Ravi, the Washington correspondent of the conservative Indian paper *Hindu* in a despatch on August 31 under the heading **WORLD BANK REMEDIES SUIT FEW NATIONS** stated: "The policy prescriptions made by the World Bank in its second world development report are too simplistic and apply only to a handful of developing countries—this is the reaction of some of the Third World representatives at the Bank. The report in large part appears to hold out the island and city economies of Hong Kong, Singapore and Taiwan as models of industrial development. But such a free-wheeling, export-oriented development pattern would not suit the larger, continental economies such as India, Brazil or Mexico which have a larger internal market and abundant natural resources, as LDC representative stressed.

"At the meeting of the Bank's Board of Directors held last month to consider the second world development report, there was a broad appreciation of its general thrust and its emphasis on tackling the problem of poverty, increasing aid flows and creating a favourable world trade environment free of protectionism. One developing country director, however, expressed strong reservations on some of the policy prescriptions contained in the report and his remarks were endorsed by some of the other LDC representatives as well. These



relate to the pattern of industrial development advocated, the export-oriented trade strategy and the broader question of the role of the State in regulating and planning economic activity and the functioning of public sector enterprises.

"It was argued at the board meeting that the report while emphasising the importance of agriculture and of labour-intensive small industries, to which one could not take exception, ignored the fact that large LDCs endowed with resources and having a big internal market needed a strong base in heavy industry, steel and engineering as well to sustain their development. The bank report argues for an 'outward-looking' foreign trade strategy that would emphasise export promotion rather than import substitution. Some of the LDC representatives felt that export promotion and import substitution strategies were not mutually exclusive or contradictory and that a developing country could pursue both avenues. While no one would argue for import substitution at all cost, a measure of import substitution would become inescapable if an LDC were to build a strong base in heavy industry or engineering, for instance. Also, it was pointed out, industries such as machine tools and engineering which started out with import substitution as the goal tended to develop into dynamic export sectors in course of time.

"Besides, developing countries could not be expected to put all their resources into export industries when protectionism was rampant in the industrial countries and there was no guarantee they would be able to sell the goods abroad. In any case, if the larger LDCs were to reach the per capita export level of Singapore or Hong Kong, there would be no takers in the international market.

"The Bank deals with countries with a broad spectrum of economic regimes in which the role of the State in economic activity varies widely. It was pointed out that the world development report had an in-built bias in favour of reducing the State's role and giving the market mechanism a free rein. In the early stages of development, however, the State had to play a vital, active role in bringing about orderly development, particularly in building up a strong industrial base.

A director also questioned the report's

assumption that public sector enterprises were as a rule overnamed, inefficient and losing concerns. The report refers to the trend in some of the countries to sell public sector plants to private interests and though it stops short of recommending such a course, the message is clear. There was a measure of disappointment among the LDC representatives at the bleak outlook for official development assistance (ODA) which declined as a proportion of the GNP of the development assistance committee countries from 0.35 per cent in 1975 to 0.31 per cent in 1977.

"The bank estimates in this year's world development report that ODA will rise to 0.35 per cent again in 1985, as against its estimate in the first world development report last year of 0.37 per cent in 1985. The downward revision of the aid figures and the acquiescence in lower targets are a cause for concern. The target of 0.7 per cent has been virtually abandoned as unrealistic and aid flows through an unrealistic and aid flows through multilateral institutions such as the International Development Agency are beset with uncertainties."

The *Hindu* Correspondent's report only gives an inkling of the disillusionment that exists inside the IBRD-IMF complex about the validity of the policies itself. In Third World countries (especially LDCs—Less Developed Countries), the disillusionment is even greater. *Tribune* will pay attention to this growing disillusionment in Third World countries in the coming weeks.

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## EATING OUT

### ● Park View ● Zellers

A very popular restaurant situated at Park Street is Park View Lodge which specialises in Chinese fare. When we went there at 1 p.m. we were surprised to see the large number of cars and we were wondering if we would be able to get a table. But the place is very large and we didn't have much difficulty in finding a table. The first thing we noticed was the shortage of menu cards but one can say that the waiter was very helpful and procured one from another table. The place is



clean and the service good. We were surprised at the rates which are more than reasonable. Although we were warned that the portions were large we found that one portion was more than what two people could eat. Despite this the quality of the food is as good as the other Chinese places we have visited so far. This restaurant seems to be patronised mostly by the middle and upper middle class who are assured of good quality food and a reasonable price. The rates are Soups—Rs. 9.05 to 15; Fried rice—A la Canton Rs. 6.50 to 12.50; Chinese noodles 7.50 to 12.50; Chicken Rs. 13/- to 50/-; Sea food Rs. 8.75 to 12.50; Meat Rs. 8.75-12.50; Foo Yung Hai Rs. 7.50 to 15.00; Vegetables Rs. 3.50-15/-; Curries Rs. 4-13; Other dishes (Western type) Rs. 5/- to 17.50; Desserts Rs. 2/90 to 3.75; tea, coffee Rs. 1.75 to 12.50.

This is a good restaurant to have a meal but if the interior decor is improved with lamp shades, wall hangings and the like it will make the place more cheerful.

Zellers Cafeteria situated on Galle Road, Bambalapitiya is perhaps the only place in

**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. 11/7/4/15

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 Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka No. 58 of 12.10.79

**Schedule**

District	: Anuradhapura
D.R.O.'s Division	: Kalagampalatha South
G. A.'s Division	: Tulane No. 48
Name of land	: Irawilliyaya, Puranawela & Meegahawatta
Plan No.	: F.V.P. 1125 (Sup. No' 1, 2 & 3)
Lot No.	: from 45 to 131
Name of Village	: Giranagama

**C. H. J. Fernando**  
Acquiring Officer and

Anuradhapura District Land Officer.

The Kachcheri,  
Anuradhapura.  
20/09/1979

the vicinity where one can have a snack, ice cream or cool drink in comfort. This is also perhaps the only air-conditioned Cafeteria of this type. The place is fairly clean and the service fairly good but there is room for improvement, for example the plastic cups which are used for serving Ice Cream struck us as being a little out of place. We also feel that the wall decoration could have been better chosen. May be it was chosen to create a romantic atmosphere for many couples who seem to use this place as a rendezvous. The prices range from Ice Cream Rs.1.75 to 4.50; Sundaes Rs. 4.25-4.50; Fruit Salad Rs. 2.25; Short eats from -/60 cents to Rs. 1.25 and Cool drinks Rs. 1.50 to Rs. 4/-.

—The Gourmets



**SRI LANKA CHRONICLE**

**Sept. 27 — Oct. 1**

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; SLDP—Sri Lanka-dipa; JD—Janadina; SU—Sun; DV—Davasa; DP—Dinapathi; CM—Chinthamani; WK—Weekend; RR—Riviresa; DK—Dinakara; EN—Eelanadu; IDPR—Information Dept. Press Release.

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27:** Government decided yesterday to appoint a Presidential Commission to investigate allegations of corruption against Members of Parliament; the Minister of State, Mr. Anandatissa de Alwis told a Press briefing that the Commission would hold sittings in camera and present its report as a confidential document to the President Mr. J. R. Jayewardene who would then decide what action he should take. Government decided yesterday to present a mass petition to the OPEC countries from the people of Sri Lanka to influence them to give oil to the developing countries at a specially re-



duced price. The Cabinet decided yesterday to make available a sum of Rs. 30 million to the Minister of Regional Development, Mr. C. Rajadurai for special construction projects not already covered by the decentralised budget expenditure; it was also agreed that a regional fertiliser warehouse be constructed at Kamburugama outside the Weligama electorate, for supplying fertiliser to the non-plantation sector. The JVP politbureau has decided to contest the forthcoming by-election for Galle—CDN. Sri Lanka is assured of Rs. 8,000 million from the 'Aid Sri Lanka Club' group of countries for the financial year 1980. The Cabinet yesterday decided to conduct a poll among public servants to ascertain office hours of their choice; they will be asked to poll for 3 alternative periods of office hours—CDN. Finance Minister Ronnie de Mel addressing the Commonwealth Finance Ministers' meeting which began in Valetta, Malta yesterday said that the existing international economic order had failed to provide adequate and equitable support for the development progress—SU. Trade Unions are taking steps to take legal action against the full-page advertisements of the Government giving the impression that the campaign against the Essential Public Services Act as a campaign against the people—ATH. Government servants who have technical knowledge but doing non-technical jobs will be given promotions and put on to technical jobs—DM. In the Cabinet reshuffle which is imminent in the near future Mr. E. L. Senanayake and Mr. M. D. H. Jayewardene will be those who will be probably demoted. The Ministry of higher education will be temporarily taken over by the President and will be later handed over to a new young Minister—JD.

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28:** Thousands of people have been flocking to the Barnes Place offices of the Food Department for the past ten days to collect their food stamps which they had not been able to get from their co-operative stores; they arrive at the gates of this heart-break office as early as 5 in the morning, stand in the winding queues for almost the whole day and often go away empty handed to return the next day. Thieves get away with almost Rs. 100,000 worth of Railway property every year; the thefts occur mainly in the Railway yard but they often go undetected,

Transport Minister M. H. Mohamed said. The Police highway patrol scheme, the brainchild of Deputy Defence Minister, T. B. Wera-pitiya, has proved successful and it is to be extended to cover a further network of roads, a senior Police official said yesterday—CDN. Due to the severe sea-bed turbulence that occurred during last year's cyclone in the seas off the Eastern Province, there is fear among scientists that the fertile eastern fishing bed belt may become a "desert sea-bed". The Minister of Education and Higher Education, Dr. Nissanka Wijeyeratne, will set up a National Education Council (NEC) to serve the Ministry as a consultative and co-ordinating body on educational matters at general level and to assist the government in evaluating its own policies—CDM. A fee will be levied from all vehicles entering Katunayake Airport from October. Five left wing political parties are to hold a joint anti-government rally, at Hyde Park on October 2—the same day that the Sri Lanka Police have planned to celebrate 113 years of law-enforcement. Inquiries into over two hundred cases of political

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

Reference No. 25/4/188

It is intended to acquire the land described in the schedule below for a public purpose. For further particulars please see the Gazette No. 58 (Part III) of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka of 12-10-1979.

**W. M. T. B. Menikdiwala**  
Assistant Government Agent,  
Kegalle District.

The Kachcheri,  
Kegalle.  
20th September 1979

**Schedule**

*Situation:* Situated in Amitirigala (North) and Gongala villages. Egodapota Pattuwa, Ruwanwella D.R.O.'s Division in Kegalle District.

*Plan No.:* P. Plan No කැ. 1534 (කැ. 1534)

*Lot No.:* 1

*Name of Land:* Cregipark Estate

*Lot No.:* 2

*Name of land:* Cregipark Estate



discrimination during the past regime in the Armed Services have been concluded, and a decision on what compensation should be given them will be made shortly, Deputy Minister of Defence, T. B. Werapitiya said yesterday—*SU*. The Minister of Trade Lalith Athulathmudali has proposed to the government that Plan Implementation units should be set up in every department—*LD*. Rs. 1500 million worth of equipment and vehicles which have been corroding in government department sites have been found; most of this equipment cannot be used; some of these vehicles and equipment owned by the RVDB. will be repaired and some will be sold to the private sector—*DV*.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29:** Everyone who has a ration book will be issued food stamps, this is the order Food Minister, S. B Herath gave his ministry officials yesterday in a move to clear the congestion at the Barnes Place Food Department office where thousands had been flocking in the last eleven days to get their food stamps. The Forest Department will start a special 15-year reforestation program in and around the Mahaweli Development Scheme with the assistance of the US government early next year. A Medical Research Institute is conducting experiments on rats with a chemical extracted from the bark of the suriya tree (*Thespesia populnea*) with a view to developing a male anti-fertility agent contraceptive—*CDN*. The price of kerosene oil should be reduced by one rupee a gallon; this recommendation has been made by the five-member Ministerial Committee headed by Mr. Vincent Perera, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Sports, appointed by the Government to examine the pricing and distribution of kerosene oil with regard to the hardships caused to the people as a result of the recent kerosene price increase; the Committee has also recommended that the present ban on the use of cars between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Sundays be rigorously enforced and extended to all public holidays—*CDM*. Sri Lanka's mass petition to the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) seeking oil for developing countries on concessionary terms will be delivered by a delegation comprising a cross section of the country's citizens; it will include members of the Sangha, religious leaders representing Christians, Hindus, Muslims,

a Government official, a peasant, a student and others, Prime Minister R. Premadasa has announced. The Central Bank is examining measures to hold down the present inflationary trend in the country and hopes to limit price increases next year to about 10 per cent—*SU*. The second broadcasting station of the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation will be installed in Jaffna within six months; this will start functioning in January next year; this was revealed at a press conference at the Information Department by the Chairman of the SLBC Mr. Kariyakaravana yesterday—*EN*. The Asian Development Bank has come forward to supply all the electricity needed for the country. The Bank has agreed to finance a scheme to set up 10 rural electrification schemes in each electorate and supply electricity to each village and house in the country—*DM*.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30:** President J. R. Jayewardene yesterday strongly defended the Essential Public Services Bill proposed by his Government to outlaw wildcat strikes in vital public services and said no Government worthy of its name could allow the people to suffer because of sabotage of work in these services that would lead to the disruption of development programs as well as increases in the cost of living. With international rice prices exceeding US dollars 250 a ton and Sri Lanka's yala crop affected by both drought and unseasonal rain, rice imports for next year will cost the national economy a pretty penny—*SO*. A development plan costing Rs. 1,100 million to modernise the Colombo Airport, Katunayake will be put into operation next year. From October 1 the price of a pound of bread will be increased by 10 cents and a pound of flour by 06 cents, Food Commissioner, P. M. Hassan said yesterday—*WK*. Out of funds allocated for development of electorates over Rs. 28 lakhs have not been utilised; of the sum of Rs. 62 million 50 lakhs, Rs. 28 million 30 lakh have still to be utilised although there is just about three months more for the lapse of the year—*CM*. The government has decided to evict immediately non-nationals who have settled in 42,000 acres of government land in Vavuniya—*RR*.

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 1:** The Barnes Place offices of the Food Department cleared a large backlog of food stamp applications in the last two days; on Saturday over 1500



persons were given food stamps on production of their rations book; by 12 noon yesterday a further 1000 applications were processed. Wheat flour will cost Rs. 1.36 a pound from today, and increase of 6 cents; consequently the price of a pound of bread will go up from Rs. 1.15 to Rs. 1.25. The Ministry of Education has decided to extend the Services of Sinhala and Tamil Teachers serving in difficult areas beyond their retirement age as a move to arrest the shortage of teachers required to serve in difficult areas—*CDN*. A proposal to establish a Graduate Placement Service, which will find employment for graduates in the public and private sectors, has been submitted to the government by the Minister of Youth Affairs and Employment, Mr. Ranil Wickremasinghe; graduates seeking employment in the government, corporations or local government sector would be asked to register with the Graduate Placement Service—*CDM*. Government is drawing up a series of fiscal and trade measures to curb the rising inflationary pressures; heavy restrictions on credit for imports of non-essential goods are likely to be proposed in the 1980 Budget. The joint leftist parties rally to protest against what they call the "government's repressive actions" will be held tomorrow according to schedules; the parties scheduled to take part in the meeting are the LSSP, the CP, the JVP, the Revolutionary Marxist Party and the LSSP (new) —*SU*. The government is proposing to employ private doctors in Government Hospitals on a part-time basis; in this connection the Health Minister Mr. Gamini Jayasuriya is due to submit a report to the Cabinet—*DP*. The TULF has prepared a Code of Conduct for the members of the Local Government Boards occupied by the TULF; it has been announced that severe disciplinary action amounting even to dismissal from the Council would be taken against any member violating the provisions of the Code—*VK*. The Sri Lanka Trade Union Federation has decided to request the intervention of labour organisations to demand the withdrawal of the Essential Public Services Bill—*ATH*. A survey to ascertain the need in equipment, machinery, building materials and man power for development projects, building projects etc., from next year to 1983 is being held—*DM*.

## LETTER

### Companies Ordinance Why Not Amended?

Sir,

It has been customary in this country with every newly elected government to appoint a Committee to examine as to how our Company Law should be amended. After a few months, when the popularity of the new Government starts fading away, everything is forgotten and for some inconceivable reason the Companies Ordinance is never amended.

Our Companies Ordinance of 1938 which regulates the affairs of the limited liability companies is substantially based on an archaic English Act of 1928. Since then, Company Law in England has undergone several major changes on different occasions, in order to keep pace with the changing economic and social conditions.

The relating to limited liability companies in Sri Lanka is outdated in that: (1) adequate and sufficient provision is not found to safeguard the interests of investors, creditors, employees, government and the public at large, (2) there is no provision to compel the management (of limited companies) to disclose certain vital information in the Annual Accounts, required by the interested parties mentioned in (1) above. Example: (a) Turnover of the company, (b) Total taxable emoluments of the directors, (c) Managing Agency fees paid by the company; (d) Total indebtedness of the directors and managing agents to the company. (3) It does not provide for all the companies to file the Annual Accounts with the Registrar of Companies.

The present government has placed great trust on the private sector (basically, limited companies) in revitalising the economy of this country. We believe that this government will not fail in its duty to amend this Ordinance which is used as cover by unscrupulous characters to exploit the companies managed by them and the employees of such companies.

Reader

Colombo.  
20th August 1979



and

## The Presidential Commission

by Nadesan Satyendra

IT IS SAID, sometimes with the appearance of uttering a profundity, that we live in an age of transition. This is a truism. All ages are transitory and in a changing world, man moulds and shapes institutional frames in order that such frames may, hopefully, provide a suitable base for his further advancement and development. The Presidential Commission that has been recently appointed to inquire into and report on, that which I should like to describe as the question of devolution and that which some others may prefer to categorise as decentralisation, affords yet another opportunity to the people of Sri Lanka to fashion a constitutional frame which can assist in resolving the differences that exist between the two major communities that inhabit this country.

Constitutional frames cannot, however be created *in vacuo*. There is a need to, understand and accept some of the basic facts which relate to the minority problem as it exists today. It is sometimes the case that when confronted with the need to ascertain facts in this area, many are driven by an almost irresistible impulse to engage in an historical study and depending upon the inclination of the particular individual, such a study may extend backwards to the colonial era of the British or to the time of the Portuguese invasion, or to the period covered by the Mahavamsa or for that matter to Prince Vijaya. Perhaps a keen student of history may even extend such a study into the stone age and if he was philosophically or religiously inclined, he may go on to examine the question of first causes or original sin. One may be left with the impression that the whole minority problem in this country can be resolved simply by a determination of the question as to which of the two communities was the first to arrive in Sri Lanka. What does it matter who arrived first? Or is it the position that those who arrived later should be dumped into the sea? Or for that matter are the late arrivals to be discriminated against on the ground that they are

late arrivals? Does it matter that some are regarded as invaders and some others as settlers? Are we to visit the sins of the so called invaders on their descendants born centuries later and on generations yet unborn? Or is it that the descendants of these invaders have inherited a certain propensity towards invasive habits and should therefore be kept in a state of semi-subservience? Is that the path to a united Sri Lanka?

There are others who speak of geopolitical realities and assert knowledgeably that the minority problem in Sri Lanka must be considered in the context of the existence of the State of Tamil Nadu in Southern India. Admittedly, politics is often a function of geography and if Sri Lanka had been situated, say, in the South Pole, its minority problem may have been viewed in another dimension. But does this mean that we are to await changes in the contours of continents, before learning to live together in this land of ours?

Again there are those who when called upon to look at the facts start from the most recent demand for political reform. They point out to the unreasonableness of the demand for a separate State and hearing them one may well be lead to the belief that if the demand was dropped, everything would be alright and there would be no minority problem in this country. There are others who "talk facts" on the basis of emotions that may have arisen in consequence of the most recent instance of communal violence or for that matter the most recent instance of the abuse of State power. It is this which has been described as the politics of the last atrocity. But let us not be naive—matters are not as simplistic as all that. The politics of the last atrocity can only lead to brave speeches and perhaps to further atrocities.

**Is it not time that thinking sections of the people of this country whether they be Sinhala or Tamil, come out and state openly that they have had enough of this nonsense and that such attitudes do not help us to resolve the minority problem as it exists today—a problem that is becoming increasingly difficult to ignore and sweep under the carpet. The Republican Constitutional of 1978 gave a new constitutional status to Tamil as**



**a national language of this country and protected, in so far as constitutional provisions can protect any right or liberty, the fundamental language rights of the Tamils of Sri Lanka. But if man does not live by bread alone, equally he does not live by language alone.**

THE MINORITY PROBLEM in this country is not merely a matter of language rights. The basic problem remains one of employment and development—a problem which admittedly, the Tamil minority shares with the Sinhala majority. It is true that unemployment is something which concerns the Sinhala youth as well—concerned them to the extent that thousands of them were prepared to die and did in fact die in the attempt to change the structure that existed in 1971. But there is this significant difference. In Sri Lanka, State power has at all times been concentrated in and derived from the centre and during the past several years this has meant that such State power has been effectively in the hands of the majority community and it is not surprising that those who enjoy State power in a Parliamentary Democracy, should have tended to extend their patronage to their own electoral areas. At a time when more than 60% of the economy is in State hands, one consequence has been that the public sector has become an almost closed avenue for employment in so far as the Tamils were concerned. It matters not whether such discrimination was justified or whether there was a need to right historical imbalances. The pursuit of historical first causes leads us only to pre-historic man.

Again it is not without significance that Tamil youth neither participated nor died in the insurrection of 1971. They continued to live with their feelings of disaffection. They did not participate not because problems of unemployment and development were less acute in the northern province. They did not participate because national feelings which spring from a common language and culture continue to remain a potent force in the political arena—more potent than that which springs from divisions of class and so on. It is not surprising that *this* should be so. After all, why is it that we speak different languages? Why did we not all speak the same language?

Was all this an accident or was it that different peoples in different environments, in the early dawn of man's history, found certain sounds in resonance with their being and natural to them? But language is not only a matter of sounds. Language communicates the richest thoughts and gives expression to the noblest feelings of man. It is related to the thoughts and feelings of a particular community as that community evolved over a period of hundreds of years. Language is not a matter of cosmetics and the recurrent claims of the French in Canada, of the Catholics in Northern Ireland, of the Scots and the Welsh in Great Britain show the need to recognise that matters of language and religion are deep-seated in the human consciousness and can neither be ignored nor suppressed.

The Tamils of Sri Lanka just as much as the Sinhalese, are a people with the consciousness of a common language, a common culture and a common tradition. Questions of consciousness are finally questions of perception. At the present stage in our history it cannot be denied that the Tamils of this country have that feeling of togetherness—the feeling of belonging to a distinct nationality—feelings which were heightened by the decision of the Government of Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, to standardise admission to the University of Sri Lanka. It was said that rural students should be given the opportunity of entering the University. Whatever may have been the justification for the scheme of standardisation, the undoubted result was that many of the most intelligent and able students amongst the Tamil community in the northern province did not find a place in the University. Many of them found their place in the streets of Jaffna and gave cohesion and leadership to what is now sometimes described as the Terrorist Movement—a movement which has manifested itself by acts of armed robbery and political violence. The fact is that if you have a system which excludes good students from entering the University and it so happens, shall we say, that most of such students who are excluded belong to the minority community, it should not be surprising that the country has a problem on its hands.

There was another consequence. Those who



had the capacity and who were adventurous enough, emigrated abroad and carried with them the scars of discrimination. They lobbied in their host countries and sought press and governmental support and secured the passing of resolutions such as was recently passed by the State legislature of Massachusetts. When such resolutions are passed, there is sometimes an angry response from sections of the majority community here in Sri Lanka and brave speeches are made and one brave speech leads to another brave speech and a sufficient number of brave speeches leads to a communal disturbance.

SO WHAT CAN WE do about all this? Neither the righteous rhetoric of the first cause nor the politics of the last atrocity can give us meaningful answers. It is the perception of the Tamil community that during the past several years State power has been wielded in a manner discriminatory to the Tamil community in the area of education, employment and development. The question at the present time is not whether such discrimination was historically inevitable, practically justified or politically wise. But unless the people of Sri Lanka, even at this point of time, recognise the existence of the problem as perceived by thinking sections of the Tamil community, no institutional frame can ever be established for the effective and peaceful administration of the affairs of this nation. Let us not fool ourselves about this. People have been killing each other in Northern Ireland for the past 200 years and its minority problem remains unsolved. A state exists to protect and serve all its people, irrespective of race, language or religion and it is on this basis alone that the people in turn give their allegiance to the State. It is this allegiance voluntarily given, which cements the constitution of any political State. A State that seeks the continued loyalty of its citizens must be perceived to treat them equally, and any effective constitutional frame must permit and encourage the economic growth of each of the major communities that inhabit this country.

Of course, over the past fifty years or so, there has been no failure to recognise the need to establish a new institutional frame, the need to decentralise administration and the need to devolve a larger measure of power on the districts. It is trite and repetitive wis-

dom that a centralised administration which served the colonial power in a colonial era and which drew its strength from the agent of that power in Colombo, namely the Governor and which linked the Governor with the Government Agent and the Kachcheri system in the districts and further linked the Government Agent with the Village Headman in the villages, had become less and less relevant as more and more power shifted from the Imperial Master to the people of this country.

As early as 1928, the Donoughmore Commission recommended the establishment of Provincial Councils on the ground that it was desirable that a large part of the administrative work of the centre should come into the hands of persons resident in the districts and thus more directly in contact with the needs of the area. Twelve years later the Executive Committee of Local Administration, chaired by the late Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike considered the proposal of the Donoughmore Commission, and in 1940 the State Council approved the establishment of Provincial Councils. The war intervened and nothing was in fact done, but in 1947, on the floor of the House of Representatives, the late Mr. Bandaranaike again declared his support for the establishment of Provincial Councils.

In 1955, the Choksy Commission recommended the establishment of Regional Councils to take over the functions that were exercised by the Kachcheris and in May 1957, the Government of the late Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike presented a draft of the proposed Bill for the establishment of Regional Councils.

Subsequently in July 1957, the Bandaranaike-Chelvanayagam Pact made provision for direct election to Regional Councils and provided inter alia that the subjects covered by the Regional Councils should include agriculture, co-operatives, lands and land development, colonisation and education. The Pact however did not survive the organised opposition of sections of the Sinhala community, an opposition which included the United National Party of that time and in the event, the late Mr. Bandaranaike succumbed to the pressures of the Eksath Peramuna which had brought him into power an year earlier.

In July 1963, the Government of Mrs. Bandaranaike declared that "early considera-



ion" would be given to the question of the establishment of District Councils to replace the Kachcheris and the Government appointed a Committee on District Councils and the report of this Committee contained a draft of the proposed Bill to establish District Councils but again nothing was in fact done.

In 1965, the Government of the late Mr. Dudley Senanayake declared that it would give "earnest consideration" to the establishment of District Councils and in 1968 a draft Bill approved by the Dudley Senanayake Cabinet was presented as a White Paper and this Bill provided for the establishment of District Councils consisting of elected members of Parliament, Mayors of Municipalities and Chairmen of Local Bodies situated within the Districts. There was provision for the establishment of a District Fund and the subjects within the competence of the District Councils included agriculture and food, animal husbandry, cottage industries, rural development, education and social welfare.

The District Councils Bill of 1968 suffered the same fate as that which befell the Regional Councils Bill and the Bandaranaike—Chelvanayagam Pact of 1957. Ironically enough, this time round the opposition to the Bill was spear-headed by the Sri Lanka Freedom Party which professed to follow the policies of the late Mr. Bandaranaike who himself had in 1940, 1947 and again in 1957 supported the establishment of a decentralised administrative structure. Today we have the recent statement of His Excellency the President that given the circumstances prevailing in 1968, he himself would not have withdrawn the District Councils Bill. We also have the declaration of Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike who is once again in the opposition, that the Sri Lanka Freedom Party does not wish to participate in the deliberations of the Presidential Commission.

More than fifty years have passed since 1928 and we have moved from Provincial Councils to Regional Councils and from Regional Councils to District Councils and now we appear to be moving from District Councils to Development Councils. We have had the "early consideration" of Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike and the "earnest consideration" of the late Mr. Dudley Senanayake. There has been no shortage of Committees and Com-

missions, of reports and recommendations, but what appears to have been lacking was the political will to implement that which nobody denies is fair and right. In a Parliamentary Democracy where political parties vie with one another to bid for the support of the people at the broadest common denominator, the highest bidder no doubt wins but often, the long term losers are the people themselves. This is a process which has its own dynamics. It is a learning process for the people of Sri Lanka—effective management and essential fairness are not always the by-products of a public auction. It is for the people of Sri Lanka to recognise and accept that the effective management of resources requires a decentralised administration and that the effective resolution of the minority problem requires a devolution of power to the districts.

**Decentralisation and devolution are not exercises in mere paper work. The basic freedoms of a minority depend more on education and culture than on laws: more on administrative action and political will than on constitutional en-**

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**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. 11/7/4/49

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 Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka No. 58 of 12.10.79

**Schedule**

District	: Anuradhapura
D.R.O.'s Division	: Kekirawa
G.A.'s Division	: Tulana No. 52
Name of land	: Godabaduldama & Ketagahawata
Plan No.	: F.V.P. 1100 (Sup. No. 2)
Lot No.	: from 68 to 249
Name of Village	: Unduruwa

**C. H. J. Fernando**

Acquiring Officer and

Anuradhapura District Land Officer

The Kachcheri,

Anuradhapura.

20/09/1979

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actments. Laws are but frames for action. They can educate and guide but they cannot provide a substitute for action. The Presidential Commission provides a forum which can be utilised to bring our peoples together but in the end, everything depends on what the people of Sri Lanka themselves want to do and—perhaps—time is running out.

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## INTERVIEW

### Dr. Rama Coomaraswamy

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DR. RAMA COOMARASWAMY, Thoracic Surgeon in the United States, and the son of the late Dr. Ananda Coomaraswamy interviewed in Spotlight (SLBC) by Harsha Gunewardene on Sunday, September 16, 1979.

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**Question:** Dr. Coomaraswamy, your statement regarding television appears to have been controversial in some circles, especially in regard to its deleterious effects. Would you like to explain your position?

**Answer:** Yes. I think it would be important. I feel I was quoted somehow out of context. And that some of the points that I made were somewhat distorted, though with the best of intentions, of course. I feel that the introduction of Television to Ceylon is, in fact, a great disaster. That doesn't mean that it has to be such but rather that it most likely will be such.

In America, the average American is said to watch Television 60 hours a week. The level that the television programme is levelled at, is a 12 year old's level. Now, anyone who watches something at the level—at the intellectual level of a 12 year old child for 60 hours a week, will turn into a 12 year old child. But, Television is far worse than this, because it accepts in the many stories and shows the bland and normal nature of such things as adultery and divorce. And if these things are to be accepted as normal by the children of Ceylon, then you can anticipate that their

divorce rate goes up to the level of that which exists in the West.

The main point I have been trying to make is that in copying the West, you must be extremely careful—to copy what is good in the west and not to copy what is bad. By and large the influence of Television is, in my opinion, very deleterious in the West. One of the problems is that children are parked in front of Television sets which fascinate them and they therefore have, as it were, a very inexpensive baby-sitter. The fact that the TV sets turn them into idiots is ignored, until it is far too late to do anything about it. I had stated in my talk that you might as well give the children drugs. You might as well make them into morphine addicts if you are going to make them TV addicts. By the time a man has grown up in America, he has seen something like 3000 murders on TV, he has seen a vast amount of violence and he begins to accept these things as normal behaviour. This can only have a bad effect in your country.

The problem with Television is that the advertisers tend to control what is shown and they are going to try and show the spectacular, things that will glue people to the Television with a certain fascination. It is in this manner that they will try to introduce GLEAM toothpaste into the most remote corners of Sri Lanka. They will try and have your farmers use toilet paper and things of this sort which really they do not need.

**Now, all this is not to say that Television might not, if it were properly controlled, be of benefit to the country. What you would have to do is set up a Commission or a Board of people who would censor what is shown. And I would suggest that such a Board should consist of a buddhist monk, of a catholic priest and of a hindu authority, as well as of a sociologist trained in the West, who has studied the effect of Television on American children. I think that these people should approve, after seeing personally, every programme that is shown.**

**Now they in turn maybe turned into idiots by watching the various programmes that are being offered for your children. But, unless you have**



some sort of censorship like this, you are going to destroy your country's culture by introducing a host of vicious ideas that are accepted as normal. I think I should add that in America, many families, unfortunately not most, refuse to have a TV set in their house. My son, who is now a father, absolutely refuses to have one in the house.

And when he goes into a house where he has to stay for a long time, he not only pulls off the plug of the TV set, he even takes the knobs off and throws them away. Other parents restrict TV to one hour a day and only a supervised programme. Now, they will tell you in America that there are good programmes on TV and I agree. If you wish to get up at four o'clock in the morning, you may take an hour of French—and if you wish to stay up after 11 o'clock at night, you will, occasionally see a programme of some redeeming value. But, *Prime Time* as they call it, that time when the women and the children are likely to be watching Television, is always full of the worst forms of programs. I do not see how this country can avoid copying the programmes and introducing them on the air-waves of Ceylon. They are a far greater pollutant than any form of industrial or chemical pollutant that has been invented.

**Question:** Have comprehensive studies been done on the effects of the Cathode Ray tube?

**Answer:** I am told there are studies. I am unfortunately not familiar with them and do not consider myself an expert on this aspect of Television and Medicine. But I am told that sitting too close to a TV set has deleterious effects upon the eyes. This is again somewhat frightening. Also, there is said to be some radiation emission from TV sets, but again I cannot speak as an expert. While I can comment on the issue of the bad effects of Television, I don't wish to make a serious comment on the scientific bad effects.

**Question:** Dr. Coomaraswamy speaking about culture, you have been quoted as saying that you didn't believe in a notion of Eastern and Western culture, but rather in traditional and modern societies. Would you clarify?

**Answer:** Yes, What I have said is that the concept of a spiritual East versus a materialistic West is essentially false. It is not an infrequent happening that people from Ceylon and India

come to America and tell us about their spiritual values, when, in point of fact, they are themselves totally profane and have no knowledge of any of their own cultural heritage.

Now, the point I have tried to make is that the conflict that exists in the world is not between East and West, between any race or geographical anti-thesis, rather, there is a conflict between those who hold to traditional values as opposed to those who hold to modern values. And this conflict exists unfortunately in every country in the world. Some of the most materialistic people I have met have come from Ceylon and India. Some of the most spiritual people I have met are to be found in the West.

You see, in the West, there are many things that you do not see when you visit. You see colossal buildings, you see great economic success, but you do not see its problems. And therefore you have to divest yourself of this concept that we have Easterners copying the west or that we have great spiritual values but we are going to have the economic values too. You have to pay a price for everything that you get. And the price that you pay may be very far and very much more expensive than you want it to be, after the deal is made.

But you must certainly divest yourself of the idea that you are a spiritual East dealing with a materialistic West—because he corruption is now worldwide and the number of people who hold to absolute values, in both the East and the West are becoming rarer and rarer.

**Question:** In 1947, the late Dr. Ananda Coomaraswamy published a work entitled *AM I MY BROTHER'S KEEPER* wherein he criticised certain western institutions and he advocated the application of eastern philosophy. More recently, Ivan Illich has criticised certain aspects of western medicine—he used the term “clinical introgenesis”. As a medical man yourself, what are your views?

**Answer:** I would like to answer your question in two parts. First of all I would like to refer to the book, “Am I my brother's keeper.” Incidentally this book is going to be republished in England and I think it would have the title “*The Bugbear of Literacy*”. I have spoken to your Minister of Culture who is considering purchasing this book for distribution in Ceylon, and I think it represents one of the



best introductions to my father's ideas. In that book, he also makes the point that the idea of a spiritual East and a materialistic West is a false one. But in other places in that book he tries to point out that many of the great thinkers of the West are extremely critical of modern Western values. And he quotes quite a large number of them and it would do very well for the average person in the East to be familiar with what the thinkers in the West have come to understand.

You see, your contact with western intellectual life is virtually zero. Your contact is almost entirely on the level of scientific or technical teaching. But we have good thinkers in the west. I will give you but one example. I visited one of your larger bookstores and there I found no books by significant thinkers in the west. They did have several of my father's books and I asked the man at the store if they were selling and he said "Oh yes, they sell to the foreigners, but the Sinhalese are not interested in buying them! Now in the West, my father is considered to be one of the greatest thinkers of the last century and his ideas are taken with great seriousness. And yet, it was a sad thing that most of the Sinhalese students who come to the west don't even know his name.

Now the second part of your question regarding medicine—I think that it is inevitably the result of increased specialization that has occurred in scientific areas in the west—that the more you know about less and less, the more you tend to specialize in a small area. I would give as an example the fact that I am a chest surgeon. Now, obviously, I hope that I am a good one. If I have a patient with a skin rash, I would have to face the fact that there are probably 3000 skin rashes that it might be. How am I going to know all these 3000 skin rashes and still be a good chest surgeon?

Inevitably then, I must refer my patient to someone called a dermatologist or a skin specialist. Now, of course, we are quite aware of the fragmentation that this results in and we are trying to overcome it by having what we call a General Family Physician. This has become a speciality in itself. And a family physician tends to supervise the case of the patient, tends to call in the specialist when needed and tends to take care of his

general problems. He will talk with the patient know his financial problems and he will often make in conjunction with the specialist a final decision as to what should or should not be done with a given individual.

**Question:** Speaking once again of your father's writings—it is noteworthy that he had certain modern or liberal ideas about ART, but rather traditional ideas on areas such as caste. How would you explain this?

**Answer:** Well, I don't think it is fair to say that my father had modern ideas about Art. Let me express what modern artists see their role to be. They feel that they must paint their PSYCHE on a piece of canvass—that they must express themselves. Traditional art, however, is essentially sacred art and modern art is essentially profane. Now my father certainly didn't believe in the modern theory of art. He believed in the traditional theory of art. He further pointed out that this traditional theory of art was once the common possession of all mankind. The modern theory of art, as he would have put it, is really a very provincial theory—it has only been around since the time of the Renaissance.

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Reference No. 11/7/4/29

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**Schedule**

District	: Anuradhapura
D.R.O.'s Division	: Kalagampalatha South
G.A.'s Division	: Tulane No. 51
Name of land	: Lokunaidagamawela
Plan No.	: F.V.P. 1111 (Sup. No. 1)
Lot No.	: Lot No. 13
Name of Village	: Loku Naidagama

**C. H. J. Fernando**

Acquiring Officer and

Anuradhapura District Land Officer.

The Kachcheri,  
Anuradhapura.  
20/09/1979



And it is one of the tragedies that the East has copied this modern theory. I have spent some two weeks in Ceylon and I have found no modern production that I want to take home and have put in my house. Your brass work is third rate. It's really tourist material. It is tragic that you no longer produce works of art in the Bazaar. And yet, our western museums are full of items purchased in the Bazaars of Ceylon a hundred and fifty years ago. Your factories will never produce works of art. It is an impossibility. No one in the West thinks that what the factory produces is a work of art. And so, if you wish to industrialize, fine, then industrialize, but don't kid yourself that you are going to preserve your culture and your art. You simply are not.

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#### FOR THE RECORD

### The Civil Rights Movement On The Essential Public Services Bill

The Civil Rights Movement of Sri Lanka has always opposed legislation unjustifiably restricting the democratic and trade union rights of the working people. In December 1971, in a letter to the then Prime Minister Mrs. Sirima R. D. Bandaranaike, CRM urged the lifting of emergency regulations that affected the general civil liberties of citizens, called upon the government to ensure the rights of persons in custody, and also specifically asked for the restoration of trade union rights. On the letter CRM said:—

*"The trade union movement and the Ceylon working class have, over a period of eighty years, been engaged in a long struggle to win certain democratic rights for the working people of this country.....the right to form trade unions, recognition for the unions from employers and government, the right of collective bargaining, the right to strike, to picket and hold meetings in furtherance of an industrial dispute."*

On that occasion, CRM stated that conditions seven months after the insurgency did not warrant the continuance of the essential services order, and pointed to "the dangers of using emergency regulations to restrict

the democratic rights of the organised working class, "The following year, CRM re-iterated this position when bank clerks faced dismissal under the emergency for striking.

**Today, CRM has once again to voice grave concern at measures which threaten the democratic rights of trade unions. We refer to the Essential Public Services Bill now before Parliament. Our observations are as follows:—**

(1) CRM has always contested the concept that economic development can be imposed from above. On the contrary it is a process in which the people must participate and for which their co-operation must be sought. Authoritarian attitudes and undue interference with basic democratic rights of the people—including the hard won trade union rights of the workers—is no solution to society's problems. There already exist laws to contain and control strikes; these include provision for:—

—21 days notice of a strike in an industry declared "essential"

—restriction of trade union activities by police, armed forces, prison officers

—the referring by the Minister of any industrial dispute to compulsory arbitration, whereupon, any strike must cease and employees return to work. By the one act the strike is ended and machinery set in motion to settle the dispute (Industrial Disputes Act) —a service may be declared "essential" even in normal times and attendance at work compelled. But strike in furtherance of industrial dispute is protected, also failure to attend work due to unavoidable cause—these safeguards are only just and fair. (Part III Public Security Ordinance.

—in time of public emergency the most drastic curtailments of trade union action can be made Part II of the Public Security Ordinance.

(2) The Bill contemplates resort under the normal law to what was earlier usual only at times of national emergency. The declaration of certain services as "essential" and consequent outlawing of strikes in them, is a measure hitherto resorted to only when it was claimed that a public emergency existed. The



power has been abused, but the claim of "emergency" has always been there. To use such powers in admittedly ordinary times will be a new departure.

(3) *It is true that by a controversial amendment to the Public Security Ordinance in 1959 provision was made to declare essential services even when there is no state of public emergency. But important safeguards were included. In particular the right to strike in furtherance of an industrial dispute is protected. Significantly, this provision for emergency measures even in "normal" times has—to the best of CRM's knowledge—not been resorted to even once during the whole twenty years it has been in force. As regards restriction of trade union action it has been a dead letter. The present Bill not merely embodies and gives life to this dead letter, but gives it new and alarming teeth.*

(4) *These teeth are so extraordinary that they constitute a change in quality and not just one of degree. They do not merely provide for enhanced fines and jail sentences. They also provide that any person convicted shall forfeit his property to the state. This punishment follows automatically—the Court has no power to refrain from imposing it, however marginal the offender's participation in the crime, whatever other mitigating circumstances exist.*

(5) *An even more extraordinary punishment—which also follows automatically on every conviction—is that if the offender is a professional, for instance a doctor or a lawyer or an accountant—then his name is erased from the register of his profession. This follows on a conviction for any offence under the new law, however trivial, and even if no way connected with the practice of the profession concerned. If a person writes a letter to a newspaper expressing sympathy for a strike in an essential public service, he is liable on conviction to four punishments—he will be fined and/or imprisoned, he will forfeit all his property to the state, and, if he happens to be a chartered accountant, he will be struck off the register and so lose his livelihood. This punishment is as unprecedented as it is bizarre.*

(6) *This is also a direct usurpation of the basic right of a profession to control its own affairs, and to decide who may and who may*

*not practice a given calling. It is the Medical Council which (rightfully) decides what conduct should debar a doctor from practising his profession of healing the sick. Similar provisions exist in other professions. In the case of lawyers the decision is taken by the Supreme Court after hearing the Bar Council. Disbarring a professional is done for the benefit and protection of society; in no democracy is it used as a weapon of vengeance or intimidation by the State. The law will punish not only the offender but also the public who will be further deprived of already scarce professional services. It will increase the brain drain, for few foreign countries will pay much heed to our unique statutory eraser.*

(7) *A Court can normally sentence an accused to detention until the rising of the Court—a nominal punishment often resorted to where there are mitigating circumstances. This possibility (provided by section 15 of the Code of Criminal Procedure) is expressly precluded under the new law. So also the possibility of simple imprisonment—only rigorous imprisonment may be imposed.*

(8) *The Bill makes no provision for reasonable excuse for failure to attend work, such as illness or accident. A whole host of ancillary activities by persons who are not employees in the essential service are made offences, invading the sphere of freedom of speech and publication. For instance, a speech or writing encouraging another person to encourage an employee to stay away from work is an offence with all the dire consequences.*

(9) *On a literal reading of the Bill, a mother who advises her daughter not to go to work one day as she hears there are riots in the city will commit an offence. If convicted she will forfeit all her possessions to the State; if she is, say, a nurse, she will lose her livelihood as well. Once convicted, no mitigating circumstance would avail her—not even that the daughter took no heed of the advice and met her death on the way to work in an Essential Public Service.*

**CRM urges the government not to proceed with this Bill.**

**Desmond Fernando**  
Secretary

25.9.79.

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## Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement

by Devaratnam Danforth

AS A LOVELY BLOOM spread over the morning sky on the 21st of March, 1978, Damsak Mandiraya, the new building complex of the Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement at De Soysa Road, Moratuwa, was declared open by His Excellency Mr. J. R. Jayawardene, President of the Socialist Democratic Republic of Sri Lanka. In the course of his address His Excellency declared: "*The construction of culverts, bridges, drains etc. is a business that almost all governments do. Such construction work can be done by anyone. Mr. J. R. Jayawardene is not necessary to do that type of work. My ambition, on the other hand, is to build human beings according to the teachings of Lord Buddha.*"

All present were deeply moved, as in fact I was. A country that provides nourishment for the growth of the greatest number of noble and happy human beings is most blessed. There can also be no greater happiness for a human being who, having perfected the functions of his own life, than to have also the widest and helpful influence over the lives of others.

The rich womb of history is replete with the histories of governments and of individuals whose philosophies and lives have transformed the lives of others over whom they have power and influence. We are now witness to the spectacle of a historic and dramatic change taking place in our blessed land. In this process it is our good fortune to have Voluntary Organisations also taking part. Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement is one of them.

IT WAS in 1969 when Mr. A. T. Ariyaratne, President of the Sarvodaya Shramadana Sangamaya, was awarded the Ramon Magsaysay Award for community leadership that his name became very familiar to many in Sri Lanka. Few however had known of how 'Ari' (as he is affectionately called by his friends) had toiled in his own inimitable way for 10 years prior to that to make this dream come true. He was not prepared to allow it to become a graveyard of lost illusions and hopes. Ari and his co-workers have succeeded to a most remarkable degree

I was keen to meet him in order that I may myself study what potential there was in this movement. I had read of the Sarvodaya movement in our great neighbouring land of India, of its great disciple Acharya Vinobha Bhave and of the Bhoodan Movement. "Ari" came to Mannar in 1970 and participated in our programmes during Local Government Week which was observed that year. I met him later in Vavuniya where he had come with his co-workers for a Shramadana Camp. I spent a few days and nights with him in the Camp which was pitched by the bank of a tank that fed a few acres of paddy land under its command. Those days and nights with only a bottle lamp to lighten the darkness, Ari explained to me his philosophy, his hopes his dreams.

He spoke of young men and women standing at the cross-roads of their lives. To them, the nights (and even the days) are dark. They find that the storm of life in its fury has blown down the sign post: they do not seem to remember which way they came; whither they should proceed seemed unclear to them. Ari held me captive and proceeded to explain further. We see young men and women in the prime of their lives, brimming with ideas and charged with the soul force of that generation. They are looking for the Way.

TO THE EXTENT that a voluntary association can help, I felt that the Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement could also point to this Way. This is the reason why I have attempted to write this brief article. No country can afford to permit the mighty force that youth represents, to go unharnessed and the harvests ungarned. If the youth is not given the opportunity, their individuality will be stifled and they will become pallid phantoms of their former ebullient selves. When that happens it is no use setting back in our chairs in the comfort of palatial homes saying "we told you so." The next moment to retrieve will never come again.

This thought is enshrined in the beautiful lines which I quote: "*I (opportunity) shall pass this World but once. Any good thing therefore I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any human being, let me do it now, let me not defer it, for I shall not pass this way again.*" Every man has within himself a continent of undiscovered character. Let each one of us



act as Columbus to our own souls.

**The Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement** is a non-governmental people's movement. It is a well organised development effort that is basically a people's movement. There are over 3000 locations in the country, spread far and wide, under the name Sarvodaya. For each of the 24 districts a Co-ordinator is appointed by the Movement. The Co-ordinator is responsible for all the activities under the Sarvodaya umbrella. There is also governmental co-operation in her activities. According to a Sarvodaya report. "The cabinet paper presented by the Hon. R. Premadasa, Prime Minister (also the Minister of Local Government, Housing and Construction) seeking approval for working with the Sarvodaya Movement in development and welfare activities coming within the purview of the Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Construction was approved by the Cabinet."

Like any other voluntary association dedicated to the building of a whole personality, an integrated human being, so too the Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement is similarly dedicated. In every developing country there is much to be done to improve the texture of life of the hungry and the desolate. A large section of the people know only the sadness of unlit homes. In the primate City of Colombo, nearly 50% of the permanent population live in slums and shanties and experience the torment of life in the sludge and slime that poverty offers them. Basically, the development of the community is "a composite of two inter-related aspects; it is at once a programme and a social process." Without social upliftment there can be no development and even if there is the beneficiaries will be few. The social process should be geared "to elevate man and bring him in harmony with his environment and the ethics and ideals of the society in which he lives" as our Minister of Education observed some time back at a meeting.

THE SARVODAYA MOVEMENT has as its fundamental objective the building of a self-reliant and happy human being who is at peace with himself and with God. It is sought to achieve this through the provision of the Ten Basic Needs identified by it. These are: A clean and beautiful environment; Adequate clean supply of water; basic clothing; Balanced

diet; Basic housing; Basic health services; Communication; Energy; Education; Cultural and spiritual needs.

In the course of his address referred to earlier, His Excellency the President declared further "Therefore I see no great difference between the programme of the Sarvodaya Movement and our programme. The only difference I can see is that while we propose to fulfil our aims through political power, with the express wish of the people while the Sarvodaya Movement aims at fulfilling its objectives by participating with the people and working with the people in their midst" It was Mahatma Gandhi who once said "Service is the highest form of religion."

THE PROBLEMS OF A COMMUNITY are formidable, because groups of persons are characterised by their heterogeneity. A major problem encountered by all voluntary associations centres around the integration of the different groups and classes of people. Quite often there are widely divergent sociological aspects. In the history of human conflict, however, forces of good fortunately have overcome the forces of evil. Therefore however hard and formidable these problems may at first appear to be when the objective is the good of all these problems can be resolved. In the violent cacophony of conflict we dare not fail to listen to the gentle whisper of the future which fall upon our ears like cool fresh rain drops. Duplicities will always give way to the certitudes that men of courage and vision are ready to fight for.

The activities at Meth Medura, headquarters of the Movement are far too many to discuss in this brief article. Readers will find it a most rewarding experience if they visit the place and spend some time there. But I would like to refer briefly to the heart warming endeavour undertaken by the Movement. I refer to the Sarvodaya Suwa SETHA which is a home for looking after malnourished, sick and orphan children, physically handicapped girls and the children of working mothers. The first two categories are resident while the last group is taken by the parents in the evenings to the respective homes. I am told that the Department of Probation and Child Care Services assists in the selection of the children. There is a staff of around 15 in charge of this



programme. This home is also helped by well wishers, donors and by the Inter Country Families Association of Australia.

IN THIS HOME the child is made to realise that he is loved and that he is the concern of all. A child cannot choose the quality of living available to him. Children who come through their early years with little damage to their personality rarely become delinquents. Suwa Setha does much to prevent this and provides a home to the unloved and unwanted. They are given food, clothing and shelter as well. There is sincerity. Any deviation from this norm will be detected immediately by the child and whatever bonds exist will dissolve. Where the handicapped girls are concerned, they spend their time profitably by helping the staff. They themselves care for the kids. In addition to this, these girls are taught sewing and other handicrafts.

As I said earlier, it is not possible to record here all that takes place at Meth Medura. All that I have learnt is that all the workers in this institution have been brought together by their concern for the well-being of man, and to provide opportunities to develop

**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. 11/7/4/28

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 Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka No. 58 of 12.10.79

**Schedule**

District : Anuradhapura  
D.R.O.'s Division : Kalagam Palatha South  
G.A.'s Division : No. 51  
Name of land : Panuwakapuyaya,  
Gambiriyagoddayaya etc.  
Plan No. : F.V.P. 1099  
Lot No. : From No. 13 to 51  
Name of Village : Wattedgama

**C. H. J. Fernando**

Acquiring Officer and

Anuradhapura District Land Officer.

The Kachcheri,  
Anuradhapura.  
19/19/1979

himself and to live with dignity. The demand for an improved quality of life is being heard in all regions of the world. Opportunities for human existence are at differing stages of development. It is not possible for any single organisation to remove economic imbalances or social differences and other inequities. It can help to spread the axiom that everyone may as of right claim an improved quality of life and a basic life style. Whether we succeed or not is not quite as important as our admission that they are entitled to their rightful claim.

(To be Concluded)

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LETTERS

**Sterling Pensioners**

Sir,

You have with Sherlock Holmes alacrity unravelled the mysteries and ramifications of what goes on behind closed doors in the public and private sectors. Any injustice meted out to whatever section of the Public too has had your commiseration. A few pensioners, almost near their journeys end are being paid about one third of what they justifiably deserve. It is hoped that a little notice taken by you may straighten out matters.

The sterling pound is now around Rs. 33/- and it really seems anomalous that it should continue to be evaluated at Rs. 13/-. That was the value prevailing several decades ago. It is said that there are around 200 drawing such pensions. Most of them are well over three score and ten and almost at the expiry of their lease of life.

The previous Government turned a deaf ear to their implorations. The pensioners are quite conscious that the present ruling party is giving full consideration to the cost of living of every individual and the general public at large. If the Government says "No", they will accept it in good spirit. These pensioners of colonial vintage were a well disciplined lot—seldom or never late at office or field. The delay in adjudicating their appeal is what worries them.



In the meantime, the likely beneficiaries are building castles in the air—unable to resolve what should be done with the extra rupees they may get, based on the current sterling rate. Whether it is an electrically manufactured toy for a great grandchild with a flair for mechanism, a wheel chair for the bedridden spouse, or a second hand red numbered car for the family, of low tare, with hardly any wear and tear, to enable them to go to the Sunday Fair, are their problems.

Let us hope that the authorities will give very early consideration to this appeal, bearing in mind that "Shadows of the evening, are stealing across the sky."

**Richard Wickremeratne**

5, 28th Lane A,  
Colombo 3.  
24th September, 1979

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## National Unity

Sir,

The reprint of Mr. N. Satyendra's prize day speech at the Hindu College in the *Tribune*, is most appropriate and welcome at a time when there is so much rethinking on national unity.

When the *Ceylon Daily News* carried a major part of Mr. N. Satyendra's address, I wrote a brief note to the letter to the editor column but it was not published. For the benefit of your readers I attach a text of that letter.

"Mr. N. Satyendra, the distinguished Attorney & Secretary to the Minister of Labour, needs be congratulated for his forceful speech at the Hindu College prize giving last Friday, as reported in your journal of the 10th instant. He has stated the case of the Tamil speaking people with restraint and dignity. It is true that there is a growing recognition amongst thinking sections of people in this country that there is an urgency more than ever, to live together in peace with self respect. I underline and emphasis the word 'self respect'. Mr. Satyendra has hit the nail on the head when he says that the economic advancement of the nation preface is linked with peace. It is not the peace that one finds in the grave yard but a peace that springs from

the practice of justice and fairness. The Sinhala community, as Mr. Satyendra rightly says, by virtue of the very fact that it is the majority community, carries the responsibility of creating a climate for the minorities to live without fear and be assured a place of honour in nation building. The new constitution has no doubt provided certain concessions to the Tamil speaking people. To make it a reality it has to be activated through the length and breadth of the administrative framework. The late Jayakar and Sapru played an important role in India's freedom movement. It is hoped that men of Mr. Satyendra's calibre will contribute to the strengthening of justice and fairplay in our every day life."

*Bold, clear and through views on burning problems are essential to shape public opinion and when it is expressed by men who are not attached to any political party or group, such views compel respect. Mr. Satyendra and his ilk have a definite role to play in our troubled times.*

**C. V. Velupillai**

National Union of Workers,  
618-3/3, Galle Road,  
Colombo 3.  
27-08-1979

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## Copy Of Letter On Kandy Perahera

Dear Diyawadane Nilame,

Several persons of eminence in Kandy have brought to my notice that the day Perahera held on 9th August 1979 was in complete disarray and was unbecoming of a great traditional pageant that has existed from the time of the Sinhala kings. I have been briefed by two Basnayake Nilames that the time for the commencement of the day Perahera, as found in the official programme, was 12.50 p.m. You had informed some Basnayake Nilames that a very important person had wanted the time advanced and the Perahera completed early so that this person could attend the wedding of the daughter of a Minister and as such you had requested the Basnayake Nilames to commence their Peraheras at 11.50 a.m. According to these two Basnayake



Nilames the Devale Peraheras had reached the Pulliyar Kovil at Katukelle and had left the Kovil at 1.15 p.m. The Devale Peraheras by tradition, proceeds down Castle Hill street and joins the main Maligawa Perahera, at the Hill Street Junction. On the 9th of August, the Kandy Police had blocked the entrance to Castle Hill Street at the Dalada Veediya end and as a result the Devala Peraheras were requested to proceed up Dalada Veediya. You in the meantime, I am informed, had taken the casket from the Adahana Maluwa and proceeded along Trincomalee Street and up Pavilion Street without the Devale perahera. Finally you had joined the Devale Peraheras, circled the Temple Square three times and left for the Kings Pavilion without replacing the casket in the upper chamber of the Maligawa. I am told that the casket was replaced at 3.45 p.m. by persons other than yourself. As a Sinhalese and as a Buddhist I am greatly perturbed over what has happened especially as His Excellency, the President, has at all times called for the continuation of Buddhist practices according to time honoured tradition. I am also very sorry to inform you that there has been a gradual deterioration of the administration of the Dalada Maligawa ever since you assumed duties as Minister of Education in 1977. When Sinhala Buddhist girls, wearing skirts upto the knee, come to worship at the Maligawa they are requested to wear a piece of cloth over the skirt and below the knee whilst white women tourists are allowed into the relic chamber wearing hot pants and half exposed breasts.

I go at least once a week to the Dalada Maligawa and find that the white tourists have taken over completely. Everything is done to satisfy the curiosity of white tourists whilst our devoted Sinhala Buddhists are subject to harassment and insults. The Dalada Maligawa, in the evening, has become a haven for pick-pockets, pimps and prostitutes. The tourists and their guides are normally in a high state of alcohol-imbibed intoxication. I have often heard guides completely distorting Sinhala history and giving information which makes the Sasana a laughing stock of the world.

During full moon days there is near pandemonium, disorder and chaos at the Maligawa. The Officials who are present at the upper

chamber have outstretched hands and demand money from tourists. I have also noticed an unrestricted procession of white photographers and it would indeed be worth your while to see how many of them have made payment and received official receipts for this. Many people have witnessed drummers with outstretched hands and officials pocketing money from tourists on the pretext that they are charging for photography.

I am only sorry that I have to place the blame entirely on you. By custom it is necessary for you to consult the Mahanayakes of the Malwatte and Asgiriya Chapters weekly. I do not know how often you do meet them. The administration of the Maligawa, the most dear shrine to us Buddhists, is in shambles with corrupt officials. As Diyawadane Nilame it is your bounden duty to visit the Maligawa daily but now I am given to understand that you visit the Maligawa on just one day of the week. I am one of those who actively supported your candidature for the post of Diyawadane Nilame in the belief that you would indeed serve this historic institution with intelligence and dedication. You were one who spearheaded the cause of the Buddhists and the Sasana in earlier days. I am only sorry that politics have made you neglect the Maligawa. In the name of the Sinhala Buddhists I earnestly request you to resign from the post of Diyawadane Nilame so that someone with less official work could devote all this time for the welfare and progress of the most hallowed shrine in this country. I am sending copies of this letter to the two Mahanayakes, His Excellency the President and to the Press.

**Professor A. D. P. Jayatilaka**  
Patron

Kandy Branch Sinhala Mahajana Peramuna  
47/17, Louis Peiris Mawatha,  
Kandy.  
24.08.79

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Sir,

### **Peradeniya Incident: Our View**

I refer to the Vice Chancellor's letter which appeared in your issue of 11th August, 1979 and I, as the President of the Peradeniya



Student Assembly, shall be very thankful if You could kindly publish our view on the incident which occurred in the Campus in June, 1979. The Vice Chancellor, in his letter to your esteemed weekly, has made a very bold attempt to distort the facts of the case and I am therefore compelled to submit our version for the information of the readers. Though the Vice Chancellor states that the incident occurred as a result of a tussle between two groups of students, our view is that it was an incident in which two individuals were involved.

The student, who stabbed the fellow student, has acted according to a predetermined plan. According to accepted University rules and regulations, the injured person should be taken to the University Health centre in the University Ambulance, and this has been the practice in the past. In this particular case, it was not the injured who enjoyed this privilege but the person who was responsible for the injury. We, as responsible student leaders, requested the Health Centre for this facility but it was not extended to the injured student. Another violation of a University rule was the failure on the part of the University Security to go immediately to the scene of the incident and record statements for the preliminary investigations.

The failure to act according to rules proved beyond all doubt that the University administration took a partisan view of the incident because the student, who used the knife to stab the fellow student, was an active member of the UNP student organisation in the Peradeniya Campus. Normally an incident of this nature should have been brought to the notice of the Police by the University Security and the deliberate delay in attending to this prompted a fellow student in the second year to report the matter to the Police. It needs to be mentioned that Peradeniya Police took prompt action by taking the person into Police custody, and later both students were admitted to Kandy hospital; the culprit student had a minor injury.

University's newly appointed Public Relations Officer went to see this person in hospital and University transport was given for the said student to come back to the Campus whereas the injured student sought the assistance of his student friends to find his way

back to the Campus. In this instance too, the administration of the University showed its partiality. The most distressing thing is that no action was taken against the student concerned and by such inaction they deviated from the accepted University procedure relating to matters of student indiscipline. I am surprised to find in the Vice Chancellor's letter that this student was prohibited from attending lectures and enjoying library facilities.

The total membership of our Student Assembly—4000 students—know well that this decision to impose such conditions was never implemented by the present Vice Chancellor who glibly speaks of justice and fairplay. Both lecturers and members of the library staff were aware that the particular student enjoyed all the facilities which were available to a student in the Campus. Even the letter with the order consisting of these penal measures, was issued by the Vice Chancellor after the Student Council threatened to stage a protest strike and by this time the Arts Faculty Second Year Students had already staged a two day protest strike demanding some action against the particular student.

The Vice Chancellor's statement in the letter appearing in your paper states that students were trying to postpone the final examinations and this is false; the students wanted justice and fairplay which in this particular case, was not displayed by the learned Vice Chancellor. We know that the incident was amicably settled under pressure from the UNP student union and our charge is that an incident, which was a case of attempted murder, has been settled in this way without it being referred to a Court of law.

**Hemantha Jayasundera**  
President, Student Assembly

Peradeniya.  
26.09.79

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## NEXT WEEK

- RAPE OF OUR FORESTS  
—Continue
  - WATER RESOURCES BOARD  
—What's Wrong?
-



## BACKGROUND TO HOSTILITY

by S. P. Amarasingam

Before discussing the Final Declaration and the work in the Political and Economic Committees, it would be useful to examine some aspects of the background to the Havana Summit.

A careful and detailed study of the hostility shown by certain countries to the Havana Summit will show that the pointed attack on Cuba was only a cover to carry on a campaign to prevent, disrupt or obliterate the growing radicalisation of an increasing number of non-aligned countries especially in the demand for a New International Economic Order.

At the beginning even conservative Western countries did not take the Non-aligned Movement seriously. They regarded it as a noise-making forum which enabled some demagogic leaders of the Third World to let off steam. From 1961 to 1973 the Non-aligned Movement was mainly concerned with political independence and the fight against colonialism. The old colonial powers, however, had by this time decided that the shadow of political independence could be granted as long as the substance of economic power and control was retained.

But the economic crises of the 1970s had compelled the Non-aligned countries to take upon themselves the responsibility of solving the problems of poverty, unemployment and inflation. This was reflected in the Algeria and Colombo Summit resolutions on the world economic situation and the demand for a New International Economic Order. The failure of the North-South dialogue, the collapse of the much-boasted UNCTAD package, and the inability of the World Bank—IMF basic needs strategy to get any under-developed country off the ground, had made it increasingly clear that, at Havana, radical alternatives and strategies would be sought.

Moreover, the geo-political situation had also changed drastically since the first Belgrade Summit in 1961. The powerful and rich nations like the USA, UK, France, West Germany, Japan and their allies have now realised that the Non-aligned Movement is a

force to contend with and that it cannot be ignored, ridiculed or laughed away. The West has a vested interest in preserving, protecting and making sure that the old order was not even tampered with. It is only a defence mechanism on the part of world capitalism to resist the present demands of the Non-aligned countries. Their basic strategy of the West is to ensure the maintenance of the status quo.

There is also another factor which has an important bearing on the attitude of rich western countries towards the non-aligned nations. Four areas, economically vital to the West, in the 1970s, and more especially after the Colombo Summit of 1976, have become virtual war zones: Southeast Asia, the Middle East, South America and to a lesser extent Central America.

In South-East Asia geopolitics have developed in the most bizarre and unevenly zig-zag fashion. The USA lost the war in Vietnam, but has won the friendship of China. And China has the distinction of militarily attacking two non-aligned countries, India in 1962 and Vietnam in 1979. The recent developments in Indo-China have made the whole Southeast Asian region an area of war and tension.

In the Middle East, Israel has in this period dismembered a number of Arab states. Lebanon is fast ceasing to be a state. Syria and Jordan are being systematically demolished as states. Non-aligned countries in the area are seeing their states gradually disappearing. This is a new phenomenon in history.

In South Africa, it is not only the dismembering of the frontline states but also the institutionalisation of racism by the world capitalist system that has disturbed peace. Apartheid is undoubtedly part of the global capitalist system. The consolidation of a racist state is the most dangerous manifestation of the era. The South African attack is on two fronts: one is a military attack on the frontline states, and second, more importantly, is an attempt to penetrate economically the remaining African states and thus make them clients of the world capitalist system. The continent of Africa is under siege, is being attacked. That is how nearly all non-aligned African countries see it. In Central America, the revolution in Nicaragua is only the first sign of the vast upheaval going on in the region.



In El Salvador, Costa Rica, Panama and all countries in the region (including the Caribbean and South America) capitalism is making a desperate effort to maintain the status quo.

*The non-aligned countries are thus under attack in Asia, Africa and America. Their attempts to liberate themselves politically and emancipate themselves economically is being fiercely resisted by the rich nations of the West which continue to exploit them.*

It would be useful to examine some of the fundamental principles of non-alignment in the context of current historical developments. *First*, the entry of China as an independent political force in world politics and her willingness to align herself with some of the leading capitalist powers has produced a new situation. It is no longer possible to talk of equidistance. Now, there are four or five points of power in global geopolitics: the USA, China, the Soviet Union and the junior partners of the capitalist system France, UK, Japan, Australia, South Africa etc. It is today impossible to be equidistant, because if one tries to be equidistant between four or five points, one is bound to take a position. *Second*, the right to independence and self-determination has lost its old meaning. We see many independent states disappearing because they are unable to exist economically as states. They are therefore becoming client states of the world capitalist system. The *third*, principle of non-alignment is anti-racism. Racism is now more rampant than ever on a global scale. Racism is winning in South Africa, in Israel and even in Western Europe. The ideology of racism is fast becoming internationalised. Racial violence has erupted in many non-aligned countries. The *fourth*, principle of non-alignment is the restructuring of the old economic order and the establishing of a New International Economic Order. As we have seen, the old order is not crumbling but is in fact strengthening and regrouping.

The campaign against Cuba, Vietnam and the Havana Summit is really part of a massive assault on the right of non-aligned countries and peoples to exist and to refashion the world in the way they desire. If one does not see the status and position of the Non-aligned Movement in this perspective, one will tend to talk of unity under the miasma of romanticism or worry about disunity as a distraught psycho-

path. The real position is that the whole non-aligned movement is under attack on all fronts—because of its determination to implement its objectives.

The attack on the Havana Summit was really to weaken the non-aligned movement as a whole. The attack on Cuba was to ensure that the unity of the movement fell into disarray as this would help the major capitalist countries to pick up the pieces and create client states of the fallen nations. This, to many observers, is the major problem confronting the non-aligned movement in this period. It reached a high water mark in Havana, but the attack continues right down the line even now.

The second significant feature of the attack on Havana is that the attempts at division centred around attempts to use geographic units to divide the non-aligned into continental blocs—Asia, Africa, Latin America. Even if geography may have produced some similarities between countries there are great dissimilarities at different levels within each geographic area. For example, Jamaica has much more in common with Sri Lanka than with the massive economy of Brazil. And the same is true of Sri Lanka compared with India.

Thirdly, an attack was mounted on the national liberation movements with a view to isolating them and countries representing and supporting liberation movements from the rest. They were branded as the tools of designing radicals and reds. The Havana Summit was history in the raw at the cross roads of contemporary events. To those able to discern the trends and issues at stake Havana was an experience worth a lifetime.

Concretely, the first issue in the attempt to break up the Sixth Summit was the Kampuchean question. The second was Egypt. The third was that Cuba was seeking to re-orientate the movement to make it an appendage of the Soviet Union. But none of these issues either broke up the Summit or even held up its work.

So convinced were the majority of western journalists at Havana that they were even willing to lay bets that the squabble over Kampuchea would prevent the Summit from getting off the ground: and that with the sharp division over the Egyptian question they were



certain that the Summit would be split at all levels horizontally as well as vertically. Assertions from Third World journalists like myself that in spite of these differences the Summit would be a success were regarded as wishful thinking.

At the Ambassadorial level Preparatory Committee, Kampuchea took a day before it was referred to the Foreign Ministers—after twenty four countries had wanted the status quo with Pol Pot seated to be continued whilst fourteen countries had backed the Heng Samrin government. The rest of nearly fifty countries had abstained from the discussion, their view obviously being that the seat should be kept vacant.

At the Foreign Ministers' meeting a little over one day was spent on going over the same arguments, but here the tide had begun to turn against Pol Pot. Of the forty four countries that spoke on the question, only 20 wanted the status quo to continue and 24 were against seating Pol Pot, but many of them preferred to keep the seat vacant. Significantly, many countries had begun to complain about the time being wasted by some countries on the Kampuchean issue whilst there were other more urgent and pressing issues before the Conference. When such complaints began to mount, the Cuban Chairman had ruled that the consensus was to refer the Kampuchean issue to the Summit of the Heads of State and Governments.

Nobody had protested against this ruling at that time (on August 31), but a few days later 15 or 16 countries had sent a "petition" to the Summit that the Cuban Foreign Minister had wrongly ruled that there was "consensus" to refer the matter to the Summit of the Heads of States when many Foreign Ministers (including those who had already spoken more than once) wanted the discussion on Kampuchea to continue. This was obviously a further attempt to hold up the work of the Conference. The Heads of State, in spite of this petition, referred the matter to the Summit Board which decided that the Kampuchean seat should be vacant and that an ad hoc committee from 36 member Co-ordination Bureau should submit a report to the next Ministerial Meeting in 1981 on this question and that until the decision was made neither side should be invited. Before this decision was arrived at, the Fore-

ign Ministers had met at a special session on September 5, to consider the petition. Here it transpired that of the 16 who had signed the petition, only four countries were willing to stick their necks out for the Pol Pot regime—on the ground of armed Vietnamese intervention, viz., Singapore, Malaysia, Yugoslavia and North Korea. It is believed that among the large number of reservations later entered one submitted by 21 countries was about the "consensus" on keeping the Kampuchean seat vacant—that it was "arbitrary"—but reliable official information is not available.

The attempt to break up the Sixth Summit on the Kampuchean issue did not meet with the success some countries had hoped for. When the matter had gone up to the Summit ardent supporters of Pol Pot were anxious to have the matter frozen on a no-seat basis because there were fears that the Summit might decide in favour of the Heng Samrin government. These countries wanted to keep the matter open because they felt that the Western Powers had more pull in the UN to keep Pol Pot going (like Chiang Kai Shek earlier) for a little while longer. This calculation on their part has turned out to be correct. But so far as the Non-aligned Movement is concerned, it is my view, that the days of Pol Pot are numbered whatever manipulative jugglery is conjured up to keep this regime artificially alive at the UN.

The Egyptian issue was an even greater flop so far as those who wanted to break up the Sixth Summit were concerned. It was not brought up either in the Ambassadorial level Committee Meeting or the Foreign Ministers' meeting by those who had branded Egypt a traitor to the Arab cause. The Arab League countries cleverly tabled a resolution condemning the Camp David Accords (including the Egypt-Israeli Treaty) and demanded the suspension of Egypt. This resolution was taken up at the Political Committee which was presided over by Iraq.

The Egyptian Foreign Minister had intervened on a point of order on the first day of the Summit to reply to critical remarks made by Fidel Castro on the Camp David Agreement. He made a case in defence of Egypt but his premature and untimely intervention proved a *faux pas*. It did not evoke the response



the Western press had hoped for. On the other hand eight or nine countries, mostly from Africa, unmercifully criticised Egypt and the Treaty with Israel, before the new Chairman called on President of Sri Lanka to make his statement. These tactics intended to denigrate Castro and Cuba by frequent plenary interventions boomeranged on Egypt. In the end, only four countries stood up for the Camp David agreements—Senegal, Zaire, Ivory Coast and Gabon. All others followed the OAU line of opposition to a treaty they described as a "separate" one because Palestine and other Arab States had been left out in the cold.

The Summit adopted a declaration which roundly condemned the Camp David Agreements mentioning the USA and Egypt by name. The question of suspending Egypt proved more difficult as some Asian and African countries were not in favour of it. The Arab League States in order to expose Egypt more fully wanted the matter discussed at an open plenary session of the Summit. Finally, consensus was arrived on the basis of a compromise that the question of suspension should be referred to another ad hoc committee of the Co-ordination Bureau to present a report to the 1981 Ministerial Meeting.

It was a sad spectacle to see Egypt, one of the founder members of the Movement, so singularly isolated at the Sixth Summit. Unless Sadat retraces some of his steps in his collaboration with Begin, he will lose, in my view the sympathy of even the African States which saved Egypt from suspension at Havana. Israel is backing the racist state of South Africa so heavily that black African countries are daily becoming more and more hostile to all those collaborating with Israel.

Finally, the hopes placed on causing a split in the Movement because of Cuba's communism and its "alignment" with the Soviet Union vanished into thin air in spite of the hullabaloo raised in Washington about the 3000 Russian "combat troops". Only Singapore's Rajaratnam peddled the old cold war line against the "commies" and "fellow travellers" brought up to date by Brezezinski's theory of "proxy wars" to indict the USSR, Cuba and Vietnam. His speech was published with banner headlines in the USA, but most of the Western European papers paid little attention to this lonely Dullesian voice in the

resurgent non-aligned movement that was demanding with great insistence the establishment of a New International Economic Order.

Cuba did not press the "natural allies" proposition about the socialist bloc vis a vis the Non-aligned Movement. In the amended Cuban draft of the Final Declaration, Cuba had suggested that the non-aligned movement should seek the co-operation of peace-loving and progressive forces, but in the final document the Summit approved, this was watered down to read that the Movement was grateful to all progressive forces that helped liberation movements. Cuba's strategic retreat on this question with a great deal of pragmatic flexibility took the wind out of the sails of those who had hoped to rock the Summit by tales of a red take over.

This red menace bogey proved to be a damper squib than the Kampuchean and Egyptian issues. The political and Economic committees drew up acceptable reports which were incorporated in the Final Declaration. There is no doubt that it is most radical a document that has come from any Summit.

Undoubtedly, Havana marks a watershed between the first and second generation of the non-aligned. There is not the slightest doubt that a new generation of the non-aligned have come into being—like Michael Manley of Jamaica and Samora Machel of Mozambique to mention only two—and Marshal Tito can no longer play godfather to the Movement.

Even cynics have had to admit that though the possibilities of divisions and quarrels exploding and shattering the nonaligned movement still existed in theory, in actual practice a common set of interests prevailed to hold the movement together—interests which made all members to close their ranks on the basis of compromises against a common enemy, namely imperialism which stood in the way of a new order, especially a New International Economic Order.

In the Final Declaration there was no tilt towards the socialist bloc but neither was their discernible emphasis on the earlier Yugoslav position of "equidistance" or the newer theory of "big powers, blocs and power politics." There was no overt reference to the Kampuchean dispute in the final document,



but as a concession to the moderates the term "foreign occupation" was added to the list of "antis"—imperialism, colonialism, racism, zionism, hegemonism etc.—which constituted the essence and the substance of non-alignment. Most of the delegates who did not have a knife into Cuba were satisfied with the way Cuba had conducted the conference and said that Castro had been careful not to indulge in excessive manipulative interference that would upset the delegates.

The Conference reaffirmed that the essence of the policy of the non-aligned was the struggle imperialism, colonialism, neocolonialism, racism, apartheid and Zionism; opposition to all forms of foreign occupation and domination, and hegemony; the struggle for peaceful co-existence among states and non-interference and non-intervention in the affairs of other countries; for the establishment of a new international economic order on the basis of quality, respect for the inviolability of frontiers, opposition to the use of force and for the peaceful resolution of controversies.

The paragraph on the controversial "natural allies" proposition had been refined to read: "The Conference stated that the policy

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

Reference No. 25/4/189

It is intended to acquire the land described in the schedule below for a public purpose. For further particulars please see the Gazette No. 58 (Part III) of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka of 12-10-1979.

**W. M. T. B. Menikdiwela**  
Assistant Government Agent  
Kegalle District.

The Kachcheri,  
Kegalle.  
20th September 1979

**Schedule**

*Situation*:— Situated in Parawalatenna vil-  
lage, Kitulgal Palata, Yatiyantota D.R.O.'s  
Division in Kegalle District.

*Plan No.*: F.V.P. 783—Supplement No. 1

*Lot No.*: 261

*Name of land*: Horatenne watta

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of non-alignment constitutes an important and indispensable factor in the struggle for the freedom and independence of all the peoples and countries of the world, and expressed its thanks to the peace-loving forces for their support, declaring its wish to continue collaborating with these forces."

Many had expected that the attempt by Cuba to include the "natural allies" theory in any form into the Declaration would bring disaster to the Summit. It did not.



**WINDOW ON INDIA—16**

**"Bring Indira Back....."**

by R. Varadachari

Press Trust of India Correspondent in Colombo

Battle lines are being drawn up by various political parties for the Indian general elections, now scheduled for January next year. While the election manifestoes are on the anvil for the showdown, each political group has hopefully coined simple slogans to attract the 350 million voters who have to elect 542 members to the Lok Sabha in the forthcoming poll, which is the seventh since the country's Independence and the second before term.

The Janata Party, now led by Mr. Jagjivan Ram which came to power on the crest of a wave of popular anger against Mrs. Indira Gandhi's 21-month emergency rule, is attempting to recapture the spirit of March 1977 with the call "Defeat dictators and defectors", as it has chosen to describe the followers of Mrs. Gandhi and the Caretaker Prime Minister, Mr. Charan Singh.

The Janata (Secular) of Mr. Charan Singh which broke away from the Janata Party sees the general elections as a struggle against "Authoritarianism and Communalism" as they brand the Indira Congress and the Janata Party.

But the Indira Congress, hoping to cash in on its leader's charisma and do a "1971" again when the then undivided Congress secured more than two third majority, has made the most direct and personalised appeal: "Bring Back Indira And Save India".



The Janata (Secular), which brought down the Government of Mr. Morarji Desai by walking out of the Janata Party, has made a major move to counter the latter's accusation that Mr. Charan Singh's coalition is a "Government of defectors". It has converted itself into a single party under the label "Lok Dal" (Peoples Party) and has named Mr. Charan Singh as its President and Mr. Raj Narain, who had hitherto led the Janata (secular) as its working president.

The Lok Dal will henceforth be the political platform of those who had left the Janata party, namely the erstwhile Bharatiya Lok Dal (Indian Peoples Party), the Socialists owing allegiance to Mr. George Fernandez and the former Janata elements of Orissa led by the Steel Minister, Mr. Biju Patnaik. The notable exception is finance minister Mr. H. N. Bahaguna's faction of the Congress for Democracy which was led by Mr. Jagjivan Ram at the time of the last general elections.

The absence of Mr. Bahaguna and his supporters at the Lok Dal convention is a set-back to the new party. Persuasion by the top leaders of the ruling coalition is still on to bring them back to the Lok Dal fold. Mr. Bahaguna wants to be sure that the election manifesto of the new party includes the essence of the 31 point programme evolved by him and his followers. He also wants to be satisfied that adequate representation would be given to his group in the new party's hierarchy and in the distribution of seats for the forthcoming polls. Mr. Bahaguna expects the Lok Dal to take a more positive posture and work assiduously for the welfare of the minorities and for a rightful place for Urdu, the mother tongue of North Indian Muslims.

Mr. Charan Singh has taken a major step in assuaging the hurt feelings of Mr. Bahaguna by expressing regret for the pain and embarrassment caused to the finance minister by his repetition of the charge that he was regarded as a KGB agent in some circles. In a letter to Mr. Bahaguna, Mr. Charan Singh has tried to mollify him and put an end to this odious controversy which has embarrassed Mr. Bahaguna considerably. According to a report in the Indian national daily, the *Hindu*, Mr. Charan Singh has clarified that he himself did not level the charge but only made a reference to what some others had been saying about him. Mr. Charan Singh has admitted that it was a grave

error on his part to have repeated the allegation in a private communication to Mr. Morarji Desai when the latter was Prime Minister without recalling that it was Mr. Desai who had told him about it. However it looks as if much more remains to be done to clear the deck for Mr. Bahaguna to become an integral part of the Lok Dal.

Meanwhile the Working Committee of the Urs Congress has decided to fight the polls on its own symbol and have only a common manifesto with the Lok Dal. Mr. Devaraj Urs has explained to pressmen that if his party had a common symbol with the Lok Dal it ran the legal risk of losing its identity before the Election Commission. He has also drawn the attention of the pressmen that the Lok Dal had already adopted a symbol without consulting his party. The decision of the Urs Congress not to have a common symbol with its election partner, the Lok Dal, has accentuated the amorphous nature of the ruling coalition and has upset the latter's election strategy.

In Tamil Nadu, Chief Minister, Mr. M. G. Ramachandran is attempting to have the cake and eat it too. Even as he deputed Mr. Bala Palanur, one of the two representatives of his All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam in the central cabinet, to sit in the rostrum as paternal delegate when the Lok Dal of Mr. Charan Singh was launched, he has chosen to forge an alliance with the Janata Party. Both the parties have now agreed in principle to work together in the mid-term poll. This is an unprincipled move to counter the Indira Congress-DMK combination which was equally opportunistic.

Asked whether the present "governmental relationship" at the centre between his party and the Lok Dal would be upset by his understanding with the Janata Party, Mr. Ramachandran told pressmen he did not think so. This is a strange reply, to say the least, as it is difficult to reconcile the ADMK's association at one and the same time with the Janata and the Lok Dal.

Political circles in Tamil Nadu feel that with the understanding with the Janata Party, Mr. Ramachandran has warded off any possible immediate threat to his ministry. With the Indira Congress-DMK alliance, the threat to the ADMK Government has become a reality. Now, Janata Party's 8 members in the Tamil



Nadu State Assembly provide Mr. Ramachandran a comfortable cushion. The opposition has to wean away now 16 members from the ruling party if it wants to topple the government by a no-confidence vote in the 235 member house. With the understanding with the Janata Party, Mr. Ramachandran has built a protective shield against any possible opposition bid to topple him.

But Mr. Charan Singh may demand the resignation of the two ADMK ministers from his cabinet in the wake of Mr. Ramachandran's understanding with the Janata Party. Thus difficult tight rope walking is ahead of Mr. Ramachandran. In an hour-long meeting with Mr. Charan Singh, Mr. Ramachandran has sought to justify his understanding with the Janata Party as a principled effort on his part to serve the common purpose of fighting the Indira Congress more effectively in his home state. The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister has also sought to make out that he struck the deal with the Janata Party to forestall the DMK's attempts to enter into a parallel alliance with the Janata side by side with the agreement already reached with the Indira Congress in the name of putting up a combined fight against the ADMK, the Lok Dal and the Urs Congress in the state. However the Lok Dal leaders are worried that Mr. Devaraj Urs in Karnataka and Mr. Sharada Pawar, Chief Minister of Maharashtra, might attempt to retain their links with the Janata in some form or the other, following the pattern set by Mr. Ramachandran. In this context it is not clear how long Mr. Ramachandran will be able to play the game of hunting with the hound and running with the hare.

Mr. Urs has come on the top in his prestige battle with the Indira Congress in the Karnataka State Assembly and has established his pre-eminent position in his home state. Mrs. Gandhi's relentless effort to deflate him by engineering defection from his camp has at last failed miserably, with the no-confidence moved by her party in the assembly lost by 133 votes to nil. Once it was clear that their motion had no chance of adoption by the house, the Indira Congress members walked out just before the voting, contending that Mr. Urs, reply was not satisfactory. The other opposition party, the Janata, had walked out earlier in protest against the silence of

the Government over the follow-up action on the Grover Commission report which had indicated Mr. Urs on many counts of corruption and favouritism. Mr. Urs gleefully remarked after the Indira Congress walk-out that "they have bolted from the house in sheer panic." No comment could be more appropriate in view of the fact that it was the Indira Congress which had moved the no-confidence motion and, buoyant with hope of success, had even staked its claim for forming an alternate Government. With his image in the home state thus considerably enhanced, Mr. Urs, as the new leader of the official Congress will be able to extend his battle against the Indira Congress more effectively on an all-India plane.

Indian space effort received a major setback with the failure of the satellite launch vehicle, SLV-3, to put into orbit its 40 Kilograms payload. The project had been undertaken with the aim of gaining experience in the design, construction and launching of vehicles capable of placing scientific and experimental application satellites in near-earth orbits. If the experiment had been successful India would have become the sixth country in the world with its own launch vehicles. The other satellite launch vehicle manufacturing countries at present are the United States, the Soviet Union, France, China and Japan.

When the four-stage rocket took off, the flight lasted just five minutes and the payload plunged into the Bay of Bengal some 500 kilometers away from the launching site. Actually it should have gone into an elliptical orbit round the earth at a maximum distance of 800 kilometers and a minimum of 270 kilometres..

Professor Satish Dhawan, Chief of the Indian Space Research Organisation of India, has pointed out that other countries too had their failures. He said: "We stumbled but we have not fallen flat on our face." While not disagreeing with Professor Dhawan, the Indian Press has pointed out that he should also be ready to answer the criticism that over Rs. 200 million had been so far spent on Indian space ventures, including the launching earlier of two satellite, Aryabhata and Bhaskara, with Soviet assistance, without any appreciable success.



While stressing that India's space programme had no military significance and had been planned entirely with a view to studying the natural resources of the country, establishing communications with the remotest villages and such other beneficial spin-off, the Indian press has added that the present set-back should spur Indian scientists to greater efforts to make possible the achievements of objectives for which the Indian space programme has been designed. While there is no doubt in the minds of the Indian public about the capabilities of Indian scientists in this sophisticated field, recurring failure in Indian space experiments here caused deep disappointment in them.

SLBC Talk, 5-10-79.

#### SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

### DRESS SENSE

by Nimal Sarathchandra

A few days back, I was accompanying a foreign visitor to Katunayake Air Port to bid him good-bye and see him off. The visitor an expert on Transportation was on an assignment here and during his short stay he has travelled extensively in the country-side and most of our provincial towns and has met the villagers and the townfolk. As such he was quite competent and qualified to comment on certain aspect of our society.

Peering through the car window, the visitor was taken up with the changing scenery. Silently he watched for some-time took out a cigarette, lighted it and relaxing spoke to me.

"Your people are well clad, gorgeous may be in keeping with the tropical environment but most of them seem to be idling, just doing nothing. I have noticed it in the towns, less in the villages!"

How far this comment, which is complementary as well as critical, is justifiable could be judged only if we could watch the crowds ourselves.

From a vantage point close to the Pettah Bus Stand, I watched the crowds moving. There were no pattern in their movements. It was just a muddle. Streams of human beings radiated in all directions; majority of them were well dressed, whether they were going to their work places or social events or whe-

ther they were on a pleasure jaunt was hard to find. Some were in holiday mood though a working day. Some dressed in clothes suitable for a wedding, hurried to their offices.

Something remarkable has happened in the dress sense of our people in recent times. The plain, inexpensive, simple clothing which our national leaders, advocated have been forgotten overnight. The charm and simplicity of our President, our Prime Minister and some of our Members of Parliament are not found with the common man. It appears that there is a concerted effort by many to hide a certain complex which they inherit and show off something which they haven't and that mainly through their dress.

Unlike in the past, a good portion of our earnings is spent on clothes with the result that we are compelled to forego certain things in life more essential than the dress, or neglect some of our duties towards our parents, our brethren and society—all because of false standards.

The simple, inexpensive yet suitable clothes for the tropics have been replaced by more costly, synthetic clothes, non-suited for tropical wear. Old discarded clothes imported from abroad are sold on the pavements and eagerly brought.

The complicated diseases prevalent in most of us may be some day attributed to the indiscriminate use of this type of clothing as much as some of the western drugs which were extensively used a few years back have now been found injurious, causing irreparable harm to the internal organs of the body.

So much about the dress.

The foreign visitor's comment regarding idleness of our people, you have to once again, watch the crowds for some time.

In the city and in the major towns apart from the people waiting impatiently for transport there are the pimps, touts and prostitutes, the brokers, the theravkarayas, the pick-pocketers who would just roam about the streets adding colour to the picture of idleness. How far the foreign visitor's comment is justifiable, could be judged if you would only visit public places, Public Offices and the Commercial Centres where speed, agility and promptness should be the rule, yes it is the only thing that is missing.



# Confidentially

## • Survey Equipment

IS IT NOT STRANGE that a front-page banner headline story in the *Sunday Observer* of August 12, 1979 should have had a shattering comeback? That this August 12 story had the startling headlines: "Rs. 2.7m. EQUIPMENT FOR SURVEY MISSING—PORT MYSTERY, FOUL PLAY NOT RULED OUT"? That this column had cited this report on September 15, 1979 to illustrate the point that inefficiency, negligence, malpractices and corruption was riding high in Sri Lanka? That the *Sunday Observer* report was used by us only to provide a further example of the continued deterioration of standards of conduct in Sri Lanka? That in using this hair-raising story we had unfortunately overlooked a "correction" that had appeared in the *Sunday Observer* of 19th August 1979—also on the first page but in a bottom corner? The correction, with a moist heading, SEC. CLEARS: ONLY ONE PACKAGE MISSING, read as follows: "Mr. Nanda Abeywickrema Secretary to the Ministry of Lands and Land Development has drawn our attention to last Sunday's news story titled "Rs. 2.7m. Equipment for Survey Missing". He points out that the consignment of theodolites, tripods and accessories valued at approximately £ 85,000 (Rs. 2.7 million) arrived in five packages. The local agents had cleared four of these containing the theodolites and most of the tripods and handed them over to the Survey Department. What is missing is the fifth package containing 32 tripods valued at approximately Rs. 100,000 which has not been cleared. The Port (Cargo) Corporation has been asked to trace this and clear it. Mr. Abeywickrema states that the value of the missing package was a fraction of the total value of the cargo. The Surveyor-General was not in a position to be responsible for this package as it is still in the custody of the Port (Cargo) Corporation and has not yet been handed over either to the local agent or the Surveyor-General. He adds: 'while I do not underestimate the value of the missing package, I emphasise there has been no neglect on the part of the Surveyor-

General's office in this regard as they have been in constant contact with the Port Cargo Corporation and the local agents in their attempt to trace the missing package?" That *Tribune* has now investigated the matter and we find that that the Secretary Nanda Abeywickrema's statement is correct and that the *Sunday Observer* story was not consistent with the facts? That at the time the Secretary made his statement only one package (valued at Rs. 100,000 or thereabouts) was missing? That subsequent investigations have revealed that even this missing package has been found intact in one of the warehouses of the Port (Cargo) Corporation? That the *Sunday Observer* has not yet reported (or we have not yet seen the item) that the missing package has been traced?

That whilst it's true that all's well that ends well, this story like many other stories that are fed to the press (including even *Tribune*) often have a "catch?" That in spite of the best efforts of newspapers to avoid using such tendentious, false and slanted stories planted on them, it is not always possible to escape the cunning of designing individuals who attempt to make use of newspapers to grind their private (and public) axes? That in this case the original story in the *Sunday Observer* of August 12 was obviously an attempt to cast the blame on the Survey Department or the Ministry in charge? That it is also obvious that the story was initiated by the Port (Cargo) Corporation? That it is not clear why this story was started in any case? That some suggest that it was some kind of anticipatory defence mechanism on the part of the Port (Cargo) Corporation? That, in any case, so much is lost and stolen in the Port that the public is ready to lap up any story of default of this kind?

### 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. 1564.50	Rs. 1567.50
Sterling Pound	Rs. 3385.00	Rs. 3391.00
Deutsche Mark	Rs. 875.10	Rs. 876.70
French Franc	Rs. 373.30	Rs. 374.00
Japanese Yen	Rs. 6.9260	Rs. 6.9410
Indian Rupees	Rs. 189.10	Rs. 189.50



## THE INSURANCE INSTITUTE OF CEYLON

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

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

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

P. O. Box 1342,  
Colombo I.

Third Floor, Y.M.B.A. Bldg.  
Fort, Colombo I.

Tel; 29118.



# SAPUMAL FOUNDATION

## APPROVED CHARITY

(See Govt. Gazette No. 10 of 10-11-1978)

### OBJECTS

**(a) The Advancement of Education Educational Scientific, and Cultural Activities.**

- (i) The grant of assistance in the form of scholarships, bursaries, loans, allowances, payment for or in reimbursement of the cost of books, equipment, fees and other expenses incurred in the prosecution of studies or artistic and cultural activities in research conducted thereon.
- (ii) The grant of assistance to deserving local artists, musicians, writers, dramatic artists, scientists and the like towards the publication or promotion of their work: and by way of assisting in or undertaking the sale or performance of such works.
- (iii) The establishment, maintenance and management of a permanent gallery for the fine arts and a library of books and musical scores of oriental and western classical and operatic music for the use of the public of Sri Lanka.
- (iv) The carrying on and maintaining of any undertaking, by itself or in association with any other organisation, Government or private, and whether affiliated to any foreign or international organisation or not, to promote development of and encourage interest in dancing (other than ballroom dancing), music, dramatic works, sculpture and other fine arts.

**(b) The Relief of Poverty** by providing financial or other assistance to needy persons and to institutions engaged in caring for and looking after such persons and to service clubs or organisations (whether affiliated to any foreign or international organisation or not) engaged in the promotion of activities involving the relief of poverty and/or other charitable purposes for the benefit of poor and needy or handicapped persons in Sri Lanka.

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1. Mr. Harry Pieris, Artist, 32/4, Barnes place, Colombo 7.
2. Mr. L. S. D. Pieris, Manager, Hatton National Bank, City Office, Colombo 1.
3. Professor A. C. J. Weerakoon, Scientist and Actor, Dept. of Biological Science, University of Sri Lanka, Vidyodaya Campus.

**Hony. Secretary:** Mrs. Melodie de Silva, 5/5, Police Park Terrace, Colombo 5.

**Hony. Treasurer:** Mr. Edmond don Gabriel, 16, Waidya Road, Dehiwala.

**Bank:** Grindlays Bank Ltd., Colombo 1.

**Lawyers:** Julius & Creasy, P. O. Box 154, Colombo 1.

The Trustees will appreciate donations from the public to help them achieve the objectives of the Foundation.

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