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VOL. 14 No. 38 | SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1968 | CTS. 25

MIXED AND UNEXPECTED EVENTS IN A WORLD OF INCREASING TURMOIL

Even the most objective and detached observers of the world scene today cannot but be puzzled by developments in every country in the world. There is much that is *good*, but there is more that is *evil*, but *good* or *bad*, *success* or *failure*, the one thing that is overpoweringly dominant is uncertainty, instability and fluidity in a world of increasing turmoil in which events occur in the most unexpected fashion. There are those who see in the present state of flux and change a "revolutionary situation" in which forces of progress can batter their way at pistol point and guerilla war to a better world of equality and happiness. There are pessimists, on the other hand, who can see nothing but nuclear war, and universal destruction and population explosion staring man in the face. There are also realists who feel that if the bastions of monopoly power and supra-

national finance empires are weakened and eliminated—even without war—then, mankind would be able to fashion a world where life may be worth living. And, finally, there are those who want the *status quo* of privilege, of unlimited private property and boundless profit to continue, expand and dominate—and they are prepared to wage wars, drop bombs (including nuclear ones, if need be) and sacrifice millions of human beings in order to ensure the overlordship of the few who became super-rich through legalized robbery and knavery. Intermingled with these trends, we witness the bitter conflicts of the *haves* and *have-nots*, of the *developing* and the *developed*, of *black* and *white*, and generally the *underprivileged* and the *privileged*. What will come out of the cauldron of human conflicts which is now reaching boiling point, is hard to see, but one can only hope that a

happier man and a happier world will emerge. *Apollo Seven* and *Soyuz Three* may herald a new dawn, but unless the war in Vietnam comes to an end the danger of a global conflagration being triggered is ever present. There must be peace in the Middle East, and Latin America and Africa must be emancipated from the continuing economic bondage. Europe and Asia are on the cross-roads of history and the future will largely depend on what happens in the next five years. To discern a *modus vivendi* in this confusing pattern of conflict and turmoil is difficult, and *Tribune* endeavours to bring information and interpretation from different angles to enable its readers to recognise the *true* from the *false*, and *right* from *wrong*, looked at from the angle of ensuring happiness for the greatest possible number of human beings on this planet.

Headlines Of The Week

THURSDAY, October 24 — A multi-million rupee plan to develop KKS port is being considered by a joint team of the Government and the World Bank. A one-man Commission has been appointed by the Labour Minister, Mr. M. H. Mohamed, to devise methods of clearing the backlog of 15,000 Labour Tribunal cases. The first consignment of Ceylon-made tyres to Pakistan manufactured by Soviet-aided factory at Kelaniya was despatched by sea yesterday. The 23rd anniversary of the United Nations was celebrated today. No agreement has yet been reached in Paris between US and Vietnamese negotiators. The spy scare in West Germany has snowballed into a major issue. Indonesian Foreign Minister Malik announced yesterday that Jakarta would not break diplomatic ties with Singapore.

FRIDAY, October 25 — Minister of State, Mr. J. R. Jayawardene, announced yesterday at the meeting of the Government Parliamentary Group that from next year only Ceylon citizens would be permitted to import foodstuffs. The Colombo-Plan Bureau is to investigate the reasons for the migration of highly talented people, particularly doctors, scientists and engineers, from Ceylon, and from all developing countries to developed countries. A five-member delegation from West Germany is in Ceylon to evaluate proposals to finance the expansion of projects for paper and cement industries. Ceylon today started milling its own flour in the Soviet-aided mill and this will save Ceylon several millions of rupees. Aristotle Onassis interrupted his honeymoon on Skopios to fly to Athens to sign a 400 million (US) dollars agreement with the Greek Government. There were fresh rumours about a "package" peace deal between Johnson and Ho Chi Minh.

SATURDAY, October 26 — The FEECs Committee has decided to exempt remittances of pensions and provident fund monies of Ceylonese emigrants as well as expatriates from FEECs. The Committee however rejected the plea to exempt books. The Consulative Committee of Clerical Technical, Local Government and Allied Services have decided to defy any governmental action to prevent the intended strike on November 28th. Rumours have been set afloat in Rome that Onassis was being groomed to be President of Greece. President de Gaulle arrived Turkey yesterday on in a State visit.

SUNDAY, October 27 — Fifteen state industrial corporations under the Ministry of Industries and Fisheries have contributed a nett foreign exchange saving of Rs. 44.4 millions—a Rs. 12.1 million increase over the previous year. The Government is reported to have decided to cut down by 30 per cent the quantity of rice annually imported from China under the barter agreement. London had fortified itself from seige and

assault from today's anti-Vietnam war march expected to bring out at least 50,000 demonstrators. The Soviet Union sent up its first manned spacecraft in 18 months in Soyuz 3. Humphrey, the Democratic nominee for the US presidential election, is said to have sliced into Nixon's lead. Oil refineries in Suez were left blazing last night after a 3-hour gun duel between Israeli and UAR armed forces. Malaysia rejected Philippines' claim to Sabah in the UN General Assembly.

MONDAY, October 28 — The LSSP and the CP are reported to have settled their differences over the Czech issue at a meeting on Saturday called by Mrs. Bandaranaike to map out strategy for the next general elections, and agreement is said to have been reached on the general distribution of candidates between the three parties as well. Horse-racing is likely to be re-introduced into Ceylon shortly, and horses are to be imported as barter for tea. India is reported to be supporting Malaysia in her dispute with Philippines over Sabah.

TUESDAY, October 29 — The annual session of the UNP, scheduled to be held at Kuliyaipitiya on December 10th and 11th has been indefinitely postponed, but the Working Committee will meet on November 2 to take stock of government record and discuss the question of the coming general elections. The Central Bank will issue a National Housing Debenture for Rs. 13 million at 5½% with a minimum holding of Rs. 100 on November 1. President Ayub Khan has called for a non-aggression pact between India and Pakistan — provided there was another treaty detailing procedure to remove current and future problems. The Czech National Assembly passed a historic law on Sunday creating Czech and Slovak regional states united by a Federal Government—Slovaks thus getting autonomy for the first time in history.

WEDNESDAY, October 30 — Eight Committees have been appointed by Government to formulate the Agricultural Ministry's next six-year Development Plan from 1971 — having in mind a 15-year perspective. A Royal Commission has been appointed by the Governor General to inquire and report on the Co-operative Movement in Ceylon. The National Operations Room, established by the Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs, to show month by month progress of governmental agricultural and industrial projects, was inaugurated today. The Federal Party is reported to be opposed to any constitutional reform to make Ceylon a Republic — unless federalism was accepted. The second contingent on the Japanese goodwill cruise ship *Sakura Maru* arrived in Colombo with 298 students. Soyuz 3 with a Soviet cosmonaut soft landed in USSR territory after four days in space. Premier Kosygin called for an immediate halt of the bombing of North Vietnam and President Thieu declared that a coalition with Reds would be tantamount to suicide.

In Retrospect

- ★ **UNP Annual Sessions**
- ★ **General Elections**
- ★ **Mrs. Bandaranaike & Coalition**
- ★ **General Strike**

ALTHOUGH there is still eighteen months to go before the General Elections are held, there is expectation that the Government will go to the polls much earlier than the due date. There is no doubt that the UNP and the Government have started making preparations for the elections — but, with loud protestations from UNP leaders that the elections will not be held earlier than it is constitutionally due. Political circles contend that the UNP was protesting a little too much (and a little too often) that the election would not be held before April 1970 — whilst at the same time taking near-panic measures as if the General Elections were round the corner.

For reasons not yet disclosed the UNP Annual Sessions, which were scheduled to be held at Kuliyaipitiya on December 10th and 11th, has been postponed. The ostensible reason put out was that this would clash with the local elections for the Kuliyaipitiya Town Council. This is as good a reason as any, but knowledgeable political circles feel that there is more than meets the eye in this unexpected postponement of the sessions. Though the big papers make much of the LSSP-CP differences within the Coalition over the Czech issue, it is known that differences of a serious nature exist not only within the UNP itself but also among the different constituent members of the National Government. The three big newspaper groups have imposed a virtual blackout on the differences inside the ruling coalition and the UNP, but truth will “out” sooner or later.

Reading between the lines in the column entitled POLITICS by

Backbencher in the *Daily Mirror* of October 27, even the most myopic will see that all is not well inside the UNP — apart from persisting cold war between the two giants, Dudley Senanayake and J. R. Jayawardena. Said the columnist: . . . “*In the Government ranks too moves have been made to patch up quarrels among its constituent partners. For instance in the United National Party sharp differences of opinion have arisen among its Municipal Councillors over the suspension of Mr. Harris Wickrematunge. The suspension of this MMC has led to such considerable bitterness that some of the UNPers are not even averse to supplying the Opposition with the most damning information against prominent men of the party. This dispute is not confined to Municipal politics only. It is likely to extend soon to Parliamentary spheres as well. Therefore, these developments are beginning to create anxiety among the hierarchy of the United National Party and it is likely that we shall hear more about it before long. . . .*”

ALREADY, the dirty linen has come out of the soiled linen basket of the UNP. The disclosures about the real estate transactions of Minister Sugathadasa in selling lands he had bought very recently at greatly enhanced prices to the Colombo Municipality and the National Housing Department (at a time when Minister Mohamed — Sugathadasa’s sidekick — was the Minister in charge of Housing) are believed to be mainly due to the major rift which has arisen in the UNP caucus in the Colombo Municipal Council and the UNP.

The *Aththa* and the *Forward* gave a great deal of publicity to these transactions on which a request has been made in Parliament that a Select Committee of the House should probe these transactions. The *Aththa - Forward* published certain photostats of payment vouchers issued by the Municipal Council, and these could not have become available to the Opposition unless some person or persons on the “inside” had decided to spill the beans. More disclosures of this kind in regard to certain other Ministers are also in the air, and unless some kind of miracle intervenes a large number of skeletons in the cupboards of certain UNP Ministers will start stalking the election platforms — apart from the dirty linen that will come up for public washing.

The postponement of the UNP annual sessions, according to some, is to enable the High Command to gain more time to compose these differences and bring a measure of unity. In this connection it is well to remember that there are VIPs in the UNP who think that this kind of blood-letting will strengthen the “honest” wing inside the UNP.

Backbencher in the *Daily Mirror* column also pointed that at the next elections the main tussle will be between the two “giants” — the UNP-led National Government group and the SLFP-led Coalition, and that in so far as the Government was concerned it will have fewer constituent groups attached to it. The SLFSP (C. P. de Silva’s outfit) is now part of the UNP. The FP was out of the Government, but even if it were its major preoccupation would be to battle the TC (and vice-versa), and neither the FP nor the TC was likely to accept the Government Whip so far as the elections were concerned. The feud between the TC and the FP was of such a deep-seated nature that it manifested itself in everything, big and small.

COLUMNIST *Backbencher* contrasted the almost insoluble used among the constituent mem

bers of the *Hath Hawula* (the term used by the Coalition to describe the National Government) to the relative unity prevailing in the Opposition camp. He said: "A Mini General Election campaign is now gathering momentum. With the prospects of the next General Election being held ahead of schedule all political parties are now busy blueprinting plans to woo the voters. In the Coalition circles the ironing out of differences among its supporters both at political and personal levels has been given top priority. The Coalition leader, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike is now playing the role of peace maker and so far, many conflicting issues have been amicably settled. These relate to allocation of seats, selection of candidates and other types of electoral disputes among Coalition supporters. A redeeming feature of Mrs. Bandaranaike's peace moves is that even the Marxist allies of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party have to date agreed to abide by her decision on all controversial matters."

The *Observer*, which has in recent months devoted a very large amount of its columns to promoting the differences in the Coalition camp on the Czech and other issues, in its issue of 28/10, recorded that the differences in the Opposition camp had been composed and that there was general agreement on a large number of controversial questions. The following report speaks for itself: "The Coalition's upper crust sat round a table at Mrs. Bandaranaike's Rosmead Place residence on Saturday night and mapped out the strategy for a general election which the Leader of the Opposition expects to be held "very early." Opposition sources indicated yesterday that both the LSSP and the CP which ran 24 and 9 candidates respectively in March 1965, are pressing for more seats. The SLFP nominated 100 candidates. Present indications are that the LSSP will get 5 more seats (Badulla, Ambalangoda, Avissawella, Galigomuwa and Negombo) and the CP 2 more seats (Ratnapura and Weligama). Ambalangoda and Ratnapura are important for the LSSP and the CP.

"In the event of the SLFP conceding these two seats, Mr. L. C. de Silva the recently unseated LSSP MP for Balapitiya will move to Ambalangoda so that Dr. Colvin R. de Silva may run at Balapitiya. Dr. de Silva's present seat, Agalawatte is considered "unsafe" for him. The CP is keen on getting Ratnapura for their Sabaragamuwa organiser, Mr. Sarath Muttetuwegama who is one of their inner circle men. No date has yet been fixed for the Balapitiya by-election. The LSSP will pick their candidate within the next few days. Mr. L. C. de Silva, the ex-MP though not disqualified from seeking re-election is not too keen on running. He is understood to have suggested that one of Dr. Colvin R. de Silva's children or a member of his family be nominated to contest the seat....

"On the Parliamentary front, the Opposition will press for an early debate on a Private Members' motion of Mr. D. P. R. Weerasekera (LSSP Dehiowita) who wants a probe of certain land transactions of the Colombo Municipal Council.

"Saturday night's meeting of the Coalition's top Committee followed the resolution of differences between the LSSP and CP on the Czechoslovak issue. The Samasamaja Party has now agreed to abide by Mrs. Bandaranaike's decision on this matter. The SLFP's current strategem is to gloss over the matter. Those who attended Saturday's meeting of the Coalition were Mrs. Bandaranaike, Messrs. Maitripala Senanayake, Ilangaratne, Subasinghe, M. S. Alif, Dr. Colvin R. de Silva, Mr. Bernard Soysa, Mr. Leslie Goonewardene, Mr. Pieter Keuneman and Mr. V. A. Samarawickreme, the CP's National Organiser."

The *Times of Ceylon*, which had also carried on a near-hysterical campaign to play up differences in the Coalition camp, had to concede in its issue of 28/10 (*Times Weekender*) that "the Coalitionists" had "come to terms", and that there would be "no more digs at each other." The report which was spotlighted on its front page also speaks for itself: "A truce has now been called in the

ranks of the Coalition. On Saturday night, for the first time after three months, Coalition party leaders met at the Rosmead Place, residence of Mrs. Bandaranaike, and resolved their differences. The Communist Party statement on the Russian invasion of Czechoslovakia was officially accepted by the Coalition's top liners. Mrs. Bandaranaike appealed to both the LSSP and the CP not to fight among themselves and to abstain from having "digs" at each other from public platforms and through their own party papers. "If you have anything against each other please take it up with me and do not resort to mud-slinging", she told them.

"Mrs. Bandaranaike then announced that according to the information she had received there was to be an early election. She appealed for wholehearted co-operation from all sections of the Coalition. Discussions on the seats to be contested by the different parties took place. It is likely that the LSSP will get five seats in addition to what they contested at the last general elections and the CP two additional seats. At the last elections the LSSP contested 25 seats and the CP 10. The five additional seats that are likely to be conceded to the LSSP are Badulla, Ambalangoda, Avissawella, Galigomuwa and Negombo. The CP is likely to get Ratnapura and Weligama. A move by certain prominent citizens to bring about the establishment of a national government in Ceylon with Coalition support was next discussed.

WHILST the election fever is mounting on one side, the strike movement is gathering momentum. Student unrest is also fast spreading. For the first time, students from the four universities in Ceylon have established a joint council for action and although the Science and Medical Faculties of the University of Colombo decided to keep out of the big front rally on Saturday October 26, the demonstration was indicative of the unity in the ranks of the undergraduates of all four universities.

The gist of the student demands may be summarised in this way:

(1) That student union leaders expelled during the last strike be taken back; (2) Punishments imposed on all other students be withdrawn; (3) Better facilities be provided to undergraduates to study English without it being made a compulsory subject for admission to the university; (4) Bursaries granted to students be increased and obstacles in the way of students applying for and obtaining loans be removed; (5) Students who had obtained bank loans be given time to repay them; (6) All existing posts of lecturers and professors be filled forthwith; (7) Better educational facilities be provided; (8) Universities should be provided with residential facilities if they do not have them; (9) The courses in the universities should be drawn up to suit the country's requirements and the latest teaching methods be adopted; (10) Undergraduates who have failed the GAQ examination should not be expelled; (11) Students should be given freedom of expression; (12) A Board of Residents consisting of lecturers and student representatives should be formed; (13) The National Council of Higher Education should appoint a committee to discover foreign spies who are operating in the university and take action to prevent such activity, if any.

Student unrest is growing in the ominous background of the threat of 50,000 public servants to strike on November 28th. Eleven trade unions covering clerical, technical and postal services, with a membership of 50,000 have unanimously decided to launch a General Strike on November 28. A Joint Consultative Committee has been set up to make all necessary arrangements to carry out the strike on this date. **This is indeed the first time that public servants employed in the administration of the country, along with all technical officers of the Government Departments and the whole of the Postal Services have united themselves to launch a strike of this nature.**

The unions have notified the government of their intention to strike and have presented a memorandum, to the Prime Minister in which they have put forward two basic demands, namely: (a) An initial basic salary of Rs. 120 per month at the lowest recruitment grade of all Clerical and allied services in the Public Sector and a Rs. 40 increase in the basic salary for the higher grades; (b) An increase of 25 per cent basic salary or Rs. 75 per month, whichever is more, for middlegrade Technical Officers in the Public Sector as an interim measure of relief; (c) Removal of all unjust victimisation of members for participating in legitimate trade union activities and specially those punishments imposed as a result of the 8 January, 1966, protest strike.

The memorandum further states that there has been no increases of the basic salary of Public Servants. for the last 14 years although there were several such increases in the mercantile and commercial sectors as a result of awards granted by Tribunals or agreements arrived at with employers following conciliation by Government. Both the Ceylon and People's Bank, which are Government controlled have also made such salary increases of their employees. It is also said that the employees of the Central Bank which is a Government institution are paid much higher salaries than both the public and private sectors.

The memorandum points out there have been several direct assaults on the living conditions of the people, viz., reduction of the rice ration to one measure, devaluation of the Rupee, imposition on the rupee of FEECs — all of which "have dealt severe blows and thrown them into further difficulties and debt."

It further charges the Government with having victimised its membership through the administrators for participating in trade union activities. "The Government", says the memorandum, "is seeking to bring the Trade Unions under its heel through the Ramanathan Committee

Report" and it demands that the Trade Unions be saved from these unjust and inhuman treatment.

In the face of these demands, the Government has indicated (vide *Ceylon Daily News*, 31/10) that it would appoint a Salaries Commission to review all salaries etc, paid to government employees. What impact the appointment of such a Commission will have on the unions, which are gearing for a strike, is hard to say.

SERENDIB



COUNTER-PROBE

NEW YORK, Sept. 26

—Millionaire Munroe Spaght was yesterday ordered by a woman Supreme Court judge to pay 5,000 dollars to his wife so that she could investigate his extra-marital activities. Mrs Margaret Mary Mangan, adjudicating in the 58-year-old Shell Oil Company president's divorce proceedings against Mrs. Spaght, announced her finding after Mr Spaght accused his wife of misconduct in London, Rio De Janeiro, Caracas, Puerto Rico and Australia, following an investigation which his financial resources enabled him to carry out.

"It seems no less than fair that the defendant wife should have an opportunity to do likewise", Judge Mangan said, ordering Mr Spaght to pay Mrs Spaght (a young receptionist with Shell until Mr Spaght married her) alleged similar misconduct by her husband in England and South America.

Strange

Czech Embassy Protest About Tribune Article Not Sent To Tribune: Published Below For The Record

THE CZECH EMBASSY IN COLOMBO has regularly sent us its bulletins and press releases, but last week we did not receive one. We did not receive it evidently because we were not sent this particular release, but we are aware that it was sent to all other newspapers in Colombo and also other institutions and personalities.

Why it was not sent to us is a mystery because if we had received it we would have published it, either with our comments or even without any comment at all. Only one weekly in Colombo has so far published this release and we publish the Czech Embassy statement in full as it appeared in the columns of that weekly.

It will be seen that the local Czech Embassy protests about certain statements in an article we had published from a special correspondent in London. Events and history will show whether our correspondent was correct or whether the Czech "official" denials have any validity. What we published also appeared in newspapers in New Delhi — among other places — and as far as we are aware the Czech Embassy in India has not registered a similar protest. So many conflicting reports and speculative stories have appeared about developments in Czechoslovakia in recent weeks, particularly in the rightwing bourgeois papers, that it would have been a futile pastime for any Embassy to keep denying what does not please its local incumbents.

The rightwing papers in Colombo have published so many stories about Czechoslovakia that were obviously

false (and which were proved totally false subsequently), but the local Czech Embassy did not think it necessary to register a protest.

It is also strange that the local rightwing papers did not publish this Czech protest about the *Tribune* article. They probably did not do so for a very good reason... they probably had the same reports about western bankers' hopes and the intrigues of Bonn and had thought that such news was not conducive to the pro-west oriented campaign they had launched against the Warsaw Pact Powers.

Below is the text of the Czech Embassy release:

"THE EMBASSY OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIALIST REPUBLIC IN COLOMBO HAS ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:—

"DISTORTED and slanderous information of the press do not help the process of normalization in Czechoslovakia. The weekly "TRIBUNE" dated 13th October, 1968, brought on page 13 an article headlined "Western Banking Circles Had Planned to Draw Czechoslovakia Into Capitalist Network". The author of it, signed as 'A Special Correspondent' says inter alia:

'...It has also now come to be known on the day following the entry of Warsaw Pact troops into Czechoslovakia, representatives of the West German Government managed to establish contact with the four Czechoslovak leaders—Mr.

Ota Sik, Mr. Jiri Hajek, Mr. F. Vlasak and Mr. S. Gasparik — who were in Yugoslavia at that time'

'...Plans were made for these Czech leaders to meet the American and West Germans to discuss their future activity in connection with the confrontation with the Socialist countries. The question of funds to finance their activities was also to be settled at this meeting'.

"After this statement the article continues:

'...The first remittance to the Czech leaders was understood to have been made through the West German Embassy in Belgrade and it was out of this amount, that the expenses of ex-Foreign Minister Jiri Hajek's trip to New York to appear before the UN Security Council was met.'

"The Embassy has been authorised to state that these 'facts' are completely untrue and false and thus slanderous Of the same nature is the last paragraph of the same article saying:

'...It has, also come to be known, that the statements made on behalf of the Czech Government and the National Assembly between 21-23 August were prepared by a group of persons belonging to Ceteka news agency and the TV headed by.....Jiri Pelikan. These statements were drafted without consultation with Czechoslovak Government officials.'

"The Embassy is authorized to state that on the contrary these documents are true official statements of the Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, and as such were also released to the press by the Embassy.

"The abovementioned article is one of the examples of distorted publicity and speculations about the events in the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic in the foreign press, which does not help the course of normalization of which the people of Czechoslovakia strive hard these days".

Tales Of The Wondering Jew

by Geoffrey Wigoder

JEWISH TRAVELLERS, edited by Elkan Nathan Adler. Hermon Press, 391, pp. \$5.75.

THE LEGEND of the Wandering Jew is of medieval origin and reflected the Jewish historical fate. Expelled from their own land, tolerated or expelled elsewhere according to passing whims, the Jews by necessity became the least rooted of peoples. Apart from mass exoduses imposed by expulsions, there grew up a considerable individual mobility, sometimes expressed in a *wanderlust*. Jews travelled widely for various reasons, apart from political and religious pressure. Their role in commerce, business and finance often called for long and difficult journeys.

The scattered nature of the *Diaspora* often drew them from country to country — to collect funds, to learn about fellow-Jews, to visit relations — while the overwhelming magnetism of the *Holy Land* brought them forth from all lands, if not to settle then at least to make a pilgrimage.

With the Jewish penchant for committing to writing, it is not surprising that there grew up a body of travel literature. In the medieval period, these travel books constituted one of the few secular branches of Jewish literature. The travellers recorded, in particular, details of the various Jewish communities with which they came into contact — their backgrounds, traditions and legends, as well as general geographical and, sometimes, historical information. Today accounts of this nature would be called Contemporary Jewry — early attempts to describe and analyse the Jewish Scene.

J. D. EISENSTEIN, the distinguished anthologist, collated many examples of Jewish travel literature

in his *Otzar Massaot* ("A collection of itineraries by Jewish travellers to Palestine, Syria, Egypt and other countries") which appeared in 1926 and ranged from Benjamin of Tudela to Judith, Lady Montefiore. Four years later Elkan Adler put off his English volume (an outcome of his review of Eisenstein's book in the "*Times Literary Supplement*").

Although many accounts are in both the Hebrew and English works, each contains works not incorporated in the other. Elkan's work, long unavailable has now been reissued and its reappearance is most welcome (although the format — a photographic copy of the original — is stolid).

As indicated in the sub-title to Eisenstein's work, the emphasis in this literature is on pilgrimages to Palestine. Most of the travellers emanated from Western Europe and so the most frequently described countries are in the Mediterranean area — and particularly the Near East.

THE EARLIEST account in Adler's book tells of the *Jew Isaac* sent by Charlemagne to the caliph Haroun al-Rashid at the end of the 8th century. After several years of travel, he returned with a full report — and an elephant sent by the caliph to the emperor. Another account describes the Radanites — the 9th century Jewish merchants who travelled between southern France and China.

In the same period, there emerges the fascinating and elusive *Eldad the Danite* who seems to have originated from the Gulf of Aden and whose description of the Lost Ten Tribes in Arabia and Africa combined fiction with fact but cannot be totally rejected in view of corroboratory evidence on many points.

The best-known medieval traveller was, of course, *Benjamin of Tudela* (whose important account is abbreviated in the Adler edition). He travelled for about 14 years, noting details — generally reliable — about many communities, with attention to demographic details such as size of communities, occupations and commercial developments. He also reports data by hearsay from countries he did not visit personally. For many of the travellers quoted in this book, allowance must be made for the credulity and lack of precision which characterized the period, but — with this reservation — the material is of the greatest value.

ALTOGETHER nineteen documents are included in Adler's book. The longest excerpt is from *David Reuveni's* diary which takes us throughout Europe and also to Arabia and Abyssinia. The latest is of *Hayyim Judah David Azulai* who went from Jerusalem to Western Europe at the end of the 18th century and who includes a detailed description of the Tower of London as well as of Paris where he was informed that everything was expensive except the prostitutes.

The information about the Land of Israel is of particular interest, particularly by comparing the different periods. Some of the writers catalogue the Holy Sites and Graves that they visited. Others give lovely details — such as *Isaac ben Joseph ibn Chelo* who describes seven tours all emanating from Jerusalem (e.g. to Arad or to Banias) in a manner worthy of a modern guide-book.

Now that this volume is again available, there is room to go a step further — and produce a modern, well-illustrated book collating accounts of visits to the Holy Land throughout the centuries. The spade work has been done by Eisenstein, Adler, Yaari and Ish-Shalom, and these could provide the basis for the popular and attractive volume which is needed.

— *Jerusalem Post*

Belaunde's Conflict With US Oil Company Led To

Army Coup In Peru

AT DAWN on October 3 Peruvian tanks and troops surrounded the Pizarro Presidential Palace in Lima, got President Fernando Belaunde Terry out of bed and hustled him out of the country to Buenos Aires aboard a special plane. After that Lima radio stations broadcast Decree No. 1. stating that power had been taken over by a military junta and Parliament had been dissolved. Decree No. 2 proclaimed the appointment of General Juan Velasco Alvarado, commander of the Peruvian land forces and leader of the coup, as President. All the posts in his new Cabinet, including those of Minister of Health and Minister of Education, are held by generals and admirals.

The new authorities call themselves a "revolutionary government" and promise to carry out the reforms needed by the people. All this has given Washington an opportunity to pretend that it is waiting to see what course developments take before making known its attitude to the new government.

Such sidelights add nothing to the classic pattern of Latin-American military coups. There have been any number of them in Bolivia, Argentina, Brazil and other countries in the last few years and each time the colonels, generals or marshals called themselves "revolutionaries" and promised "reforms". And each time, too, the White House, waiting for the dust raised by tanks and infantry boots to settle, displayed "caution" in recognizing the self-appointed president.

Later it invariably turned out that the U.S. Intelligence services played the leading role in the "pronunciamiento" and that the promised "reforms" merely increased the flow of dollars into U.S. monopolies' safes.

BUT THERE IS more to the developments in Peru than is revealed by

this analogy with recent events in other Latin American countries.

Belaunde—an architect by profession, a dreamer by nature and a moderate bourgeois reformist by his political views—was never especially popular with Peru's forty oligarchic families closely tied to Standard Oil of New Jersey. And it is these forty families and the U.S. oil barons who make the political weather in Peru.

Although the reforms Belaunde announced five years ago were very far from radical, their approval in Parliament was blocked by the Opposition which enjoyed an overwhelming majority. The Odrista National Union led by the erstwhile Peruvian dictator, General Odría, and the APRA Party led by the renegade Raul Haya de Torre forced the weak-willed President to compromise, manoeuvre and abandon his own plans.

The result was chaos. There were six-Cabinet resignations and several devaluations in the years of the Belaunde administration. Public discontent mounted. At the end of August the country was swept by a transport workers' strike. The President retaliated by introducing a nationwide state of emergency for thirty days.

As Belaunde's prestige steadily declined the influence of the progressive forces grew. With the general election due in 1969, the Peruvian oligarchs and their US backers became increasingly alarmed as they watched the President's inconsistent policy undermining their position and jeopardizing their interests.

THE IMMEDIATE CAUSE of Belaunde's overthrow was his conflict with the International Petroleum Company, a subsidiary of Standard Oil of New Jersey. It started when Belaunde promised during his election campaign that his government would take over control of the

International Petroleum Company which owed Peru more than \$1,000 million in tax arrears. Under public pressure, he proceeded to keep his promise.

But although he went about it timidly, the reactionaries never forgave him. The United States is above all anxious to obtain guarantees for North American property and investments in Latin America, in Washington's opinion, set a "bad example". So the coup machinery was set in motion.

It is noteworthy that one of the first acts of the military junta was to annul the decisions Belaunde took two months ago against the International Petroleum Company. After that the new rulers announced the cancellation of all restrictions on foreign investments and on remittances of profits abroad. So much for the "revolutionary" declarations of the junta.

Mention should also be made of a development that affects the whole of South America and not only Peru. Observers draw attention to the fact that the army coup in Lima was the link missing in the ring of junta-ruled countries surrounding Chile, one of the few countries in Latin America with bourgeois-democratic freedoms, a well-organized working class and influential progressive parties.

It is no secret that Washington and the military rulers of Argentina and Bolivia, to whom one can now add the Peruvian generals, look with disfavour and apprehension upon the growth of democratic trends in Chile. It is also common knowledge that these three neighbouring states had been at war with Chile in the past and have not renounced their claims on its territory.

Is the present army coup in Peru linked with the preceding "pronunciamiento" in Bolivia and Argentina and the creation of a "cordon sanitaire" around Chile? One guess is as good as another. But this hypothesis is not without some logical foundation.

Israel And India

Relations Between Them In Ancient Times: Tamil Words In Hebrew

Summary of lectures by Prof. Chaim Rabin of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem at the Institute of World Culture, Bangalore, and the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Bombay.

by Prof. Chaim Rabin

When you look at a map, you will see that there is a large distance between India and Palestine. They are separated from each other by the large expanse of Arabia and the Arabian Sea, 6 hours flying time even with modern jet planes. When people hear for the first time that there was some connection between ancient Israel and India, they laugh: "Such a large distance — how could there possibly have been any connection!" It is only when we delve into historical records that we see that such connections existed, and that, in fact Palestine and India had close relations in ancient times in a variety of fields, especially economic.

Jews driven out of Palestine and spread over many countries of the world, until the end of the 19th century, since when many Jews have returned to Palestine, created towns, villages, and agricultural communes, revived their language, and in the end, in 1948, established the State of Israel.

But the history of the connections between India and Palestine begins well before 1200 B.C. I want to say a few words about the earliest period because it does concern us as well. The oldest information we have about connections between Western Asia, i.e. Palestine, Syria, and Iraq, on the one hand and between India on the other, goes back to 300 years before the Christian era. In the period about 2500 B.C., until sometime after 2000 B.C., we know about an extensive trade that was carried on between what is today Iraq (*Babylonia*) and a country that goes under the name of *Melukkha*. We have many business documents reporting all kinds of transactions between merchants of *Babylonia* and other ancient lands, and this country, *Melukkha*. It has now been proved conclusively that this *Melukkha* was no other than the country of *Harappa* and *Mohenjodaro* — the Indus civilization, which extended from the North-West Frontier right down into the neighbourhood of Bombay.

THE HISTORY of the Jews begin, as one can read in the Bible, with their return to Palestine after their captivity in Egypt, about 1200 B.C. Centuries before that, their ancestors, the Patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, lived with their families in Palestine. Jacob left Palestine about 1500 B.C. for Egypt, because of a famine (as the story is told in the Bible and also in the Koran) and settled down in Egypt. Only in Egypt the Jews grew into a large nation out of a small family of 70 people. After 1200 B.C. the Jews conquered large parts of Palestine and settled there. They had a very brilliant history in Palestine, extending from 1200 B.C. until the year 70 A.D. with a short interruption of 70 years when part of the people were exiled to *Babylonia* (587-520). Thus, for some 1300 years, Palestine was the home of the Jewish people, and only from 70 A.D. onwards were the

No doubt not only trade went from one place to another, but probably also culture. We know that art went across, because in Iraq we have found seals produced in India, with pictures of Indian animals and the typical script, still undeciphered. Many scholars believe that the people of the Indus civilization were Dravidians. If we

could read the writing, we could tell. But there can be no doubt that many Indians living today are descendants of the citizens of that wonderful civilization.

THIS TRADE stopped around 2000, because at that time the Indus civilization ceased: the great cities of *Mohenjodaro* and *Harappa* were destroyed, we do not know by whom. It may have had something to do with the coming of the Aryans, but it is still a matter of scientific controversy whether the *Aryans* found these cities already destroyed, or whether they are mentioned in the *Vedas*.

When the *Aryans*, around 2000 B.C., came to India and established themselves, they created a new type of civilization, which from the spiritual point of view was a great one, but its material achievements were mainly in the field of husbandry. At the time of the *Vedas*, industry and the arts of living were represented mainly by the original inhabitants of India, while the *Aryans* were the agriculturists and concentrated on religious and spiritual developments.

Only later North India became once more a country of industry and trade. At the same time *Dravidians*, in what is today *Tamil Nad* and *Kerala*, traded across the seas, both with the east (for instance *Java*, *South China*, *Siam*, and as far as the *Philippines*) and with the West. But before we come to this, I want to mention another episode.

The *Aryans* who came to India probably went across southern Europe and the boundary land between Europe and Asia, and entered India across the *Hindukush*. But a small group of these *Aryans* seems to have separated themselves from the main body and to have reached Western Asia. From 2000 until down to 1300, we find in the documents of Western Asia a certain number of people with unmistakably Sanskrit names, names that were also used by the people of India. We know that these people like the Indian *Aryans*, were great warriors. They introduced war chariots both

into India and Western Asia. They introduced the training of horses into Western Asia. We have an interesting treatise in the *Hittite* language on how to train horses, which contains a number of Sanskrit terms, such as *ekavartana* "one turn round the race course".

These *Aryans* allied themselves with a non-Aryan race called the *Hurrians*. Together with them they founded the empire of *Mitanni*, which lasted for 300 years, and only came to an end about 1250, scarcely two generations before the *Israelites* came back from Egypt and began their conquest of Palestine. All the rulers of *Mitanni* had *Aryan* names. Through their names, we can also establish that *Aryans* founded small kingdoms in various parts of Syria and Palestine. Although so far not a single document in this *Aryan* language has been found in Western Asia, it stands to reason that those warriors had a culture and religion very similar to that of the *Aryans* who came to India, and that the local population, as in India, gradually took over some features of *Aryan* thought and manner of life.

SOME such *Aryan* warriors, who remained in the country after the main period of *Aryan* power had ceased, may be even mentioned in the Bible. Thus, about 1100 B.C., the *Israelites* fought victoriously against a group of rulers including one *Sisera*, depicted as a great warrior and probably as a leader of chariot troops. This name has never been satisfactorily explained: it may well be *Sisirah* ('coolness'), a name borne by some persons in early Sanskrit literature. Even as late as the eighth century, we find at the royal court of Jerusalem a high official of non-Israelite origin, *Shebna*, who according to the Greek translation, *Shubna*, who possessed fine chariots; his name is perhaps Sanskrit *Subhanu* or *Subandhu*, the latter name having been that of an important ruler in South Palestine in the 14th century (but it is equally possible that the name is *Sem'itic*, and abbreviated

from *Shubnayahu*, found on seals of that period.)

The activities of the *Aryan* in Western Asia thus lasted until and beyond the time when the Jews established their state in Palestine. Indeed, the connection may even be more intimate than this. Almost those towns which were ruled by *Aryan* aristocrats, by so-called *Maryannu* (the *Hurrian* from the Sanskrit *marya*, meaning "young men"), there was also *Urusalim*, the present *Jerusalem*. It is probable that during part of the time that the *Israelites* were in Egypt, the city was in the hands of a group of *Aryan* warriors.

More than that, the Temple of Solomon (today the Sanctuary of the Moslems, with the Omar Mosque and the Masjid al-Aqsa) stood on a spot bought by King David, the father of Solomon, from a man who in the Bible is called *Arauna*. It is probable that the name of this man was none other than *Varuna*, i.e. it was an Indian name. The ancient Indian God *Varuna* is mentioned in West-Asian documents. It is even possible that *Aryan* sanctuary stood on this spot before it was sold to King David, and the Temple of Solomon built on it. By then the *Aryans*, diminished in numbers, had been absorbed by the local population.

Until the present day, the Hebrew language contains about 10 or 12 words which go back to *Aryan* origin. One example: the scabbard into which a sword is placed is called in Hebrew *Nedan*, Sanskrit *Nidhana*. The modern word for arms is *Neshek*, Sanskrit *Nishanga* "the arms one wears tied to one's body". Hebrew *rikma* 'embroidery' seems to represent Sanskrit *rukma* "gold" and "golden sequins", which were sewn on to clothing. We still use the word *adir* "mighty, great", which may be nothing but Sanskrit *adrita* "honourable" perhaps the name by which these *Aryans* referred to themselves.

THUS the most ancient connection of the people of Palestine with India came in an indirect way, by

an *Aryan* group of the same stock as those who came to India, that somehow reached Palestine. When the *Israelites* entered the country, they adopted from the local population these words, and so preserved a number of Sanskrit words in their language from the most ancient times.

I said that the trade between West Asia and India has stopped round about 2000 with the cessation of the *Indus* civilization. For a long time, for about 1000 years, we hear nothing of trade connections with India. We read in the documents nothing about typical Indian products. We should not wonder about this. Probably through the disappearance of the ships of *Indus* civilization merchants from the Persian Gulf, those waters became infested by pirates drawn from the impoverished populations on its shore. As late as the 4th century B.C., the fleet of *Alexander the Great* found it extremely difficult and perilous to sail from the mouth of the *Indus* to the shores of *Babylonia*. Moreover, *Aryan* India was at first a mainly agricultural community. Indian scholars have been discussing the question whether at the time of the *Rig Veda* there was any overseas trade. I think they have found that the ocean is referred to, but there is nothing about ships on the sea. On the other hand, in the same period *Babylonia* was invaded and ruled by *Semi ic* tribes from the West: the most famous amongst those rulers being *Hammurabi*. Politically and economically, *Babylonia* began at that time to turn westwards, and continued to do so throughout its subsequent history.

But after the year 1000, i.e. in the time when the *Israelite* kingdom was established, and most specifically, in the time of King Solomon who built the Temple and who ruled about 950 B.C., we begin to hear again about Indian products appearing in the markets of Western Asia. In fact, Solomon himself may well have traded with India. In the Bible, in the *First Book of Kings* (10:22)

we find the following account of Solomon's joint enterprises with the Phoenicians: "The King has at sea Tarshish ships with the ships of Hiram (King of Phoenicia); once in three years came the Tarshish ships, bringing gold and silver, ivory, and monkeys and peacocks".

Ivory and monkeys you could get from East Africa, but there is only one country in the world where you could at that time get peacocks, and that is South India, which is the home of the peacock. Therefore if it is correct that he brought peacocks, his ship must have touched South India.

The word for "peacock" which is used in the text is in Hebrew *tukki*, and it resembles the Tamil word *tokai*, also found in other Dravidian languages. Therefore, even the word seems to have been taken from the people who sold the peacocks to him. Why should Solomon want to buy peacocks? In one of the Buddhist stories of the *Jatakas*, people went to Babylonia (*Beveru*) and sold there first a crow and on their next journey a peacock. Apparently, people were wealthy enough to buy exotic animals, as did the Romans later.

SOLOMON'S expedition was in the 10th century B.C. After that, the *Kingdom of Judea* came to be an active participant in the trade with *India*. Trade with India was generally carried out in the following way; Ships came from India to the south end of Arabia, because you can come across with the monsoon. On the other hand, it was very hard to sail up to the Red Sea, because of the adverse wind and also because of the pirates. Goods were therefore brought overland by camel caravans from South Arabia. One of the points where they touched civilization was Judaea. The Judaeans kingdom was one of the mediators in the trade that came from India.

We know that they traded in rice, which of course came from India. In Hebrew there are two words

for "rice", both of South-Indian origin. One is *orez*, from Tamil *arici*. It is true that in Hebrew sources this word occurs after the Bible, but it must go back to at least the 4th century B.C., as by then it begins to appear in Greek as *oryza*. It is often claimed that Greek *oryza* is derived from an older form of Sanskrit *virhi*, when it still sounded something like *vrizhi*, but this is quite unlikely, as such a form would have been used only before the Aryans entered India, when they still formed one people with the later Persians: at that period they would hardly have known of rice.

The other word is attested only in Ezekiel 27:17 (7th century), and was properly understood only by the Syriac Peshitta translators. It is *munnit*, from Tamil *unti*, pronounced *winti*, and with *m* for *w* according to Babylonian fashion (Ezekiel lived in Babylonia). Until today rice is called *timman* in Iraq, the same word with metathesis.

Hebrew texts also mention other aromatic substances by their Indian names, such as eagle-wood (Tamil *akil*, Sanskrit *aguru*), *Curcuma*, and especially *Nard* or *Spikenard* (Sanskrit *nalada*). Possibly the Hebrew sources also mention cotton, in the form *butz*, which is a material from which expensive clothes were made, and with it is usually translated "fine linen", but may be Sanskrit *picu*, Tamil *panci* "cotton". We learn from Assyrian sources that one of their kings in the 8th century planted in his park "trees bearing wool like sheep", which he had "shorn" and from the wool of which he made clothes, i.e. Indian cotton trees. There was, however, an important difference between the 9th-5th centuries, when the Indian trade was at its height. At the time of Solomon, when it has just begun. Solomon, in conjunction with the Phoenicians, ran ships down the Red Sea, and perhaps all the way to South Indian ports. This was not done afterwards, until in the first century B.C. the admiral Hippalus of the navy of the Ptolemaic kings of

Egypt "discovered" the monsoon winds.

The ships from India went only as far as the ports of South Arabia, where a high civilization developed among the *Sabaeans*, *Minaeans*, *Qatabanians*, and other nations inhabiting what is now the Republic of South Arabia and the north eastern parts of the Republic of Yemen. From there the caravans went out on their long trek along the west coast of the Arabian Peninsula. Both *Minaeans* and *Sabaeans* established colonies in North-West Arabia, almost touching the southern boundaries of Palestine. The Jews of Palestine functioned as intermediaries, buying from the South-Arabians, and selling to the Phoenicians, Greeks, and other nations north and west of them. Hence their contacts with India were mainly of an indirect nature, except during the brief period of Solomon's reign, and as they received the goods through South-Arabian hands, so they received the Indian words largely through South-Arabian mouths.

We can prove this in one more case at least: the word *orez* "rice" which we mentioned before, is to the present day pronounced in South Arabia something like *irez*, thus in a form much more similar to Tamil *arici*; it thus took its changed form somehow while wandering northwards. Similarly we find in an ancient South-Arabian inscription, put up by a merchant visiting Egypt, the form *bautz* for "cotton" which resembles Tamil *panci*, still a little more than the Hebrew *butz* or Greek *byssos*. If south Arabian inscriptions were a little more concerned with trade and less with war and buildings, we would probably find in them more of the Indian words we can trace in Hebrew.

IT IS EVEN not certain whether the Jews of Palestine before 587 knew that the goods they brought came from India. The South Arabians were most secretive about the origin of their goods. Thus they managed during the entire ancient

period to keep secret the place from which *cinnamon* came, and pretended it was found by them in birds' nests on high mountains in Arabia; of course the home of cinnamon is Ceylon and the Malabar coast. May be the South-Arabians did not want to repeat the experience of Solomon's expeditions, cutting them out of their trade, and to send the Queen of Sheba to charm a new king into a commercial treaty (Kings 10:1-10). The name of India is not mentioned in the Bible, except for the late Book of Esther, where it appears in a Persian form (*Hoddu* for Old Persian *Hindu*).

Nevertheless we must not exclude the possibility of cultural influence. Travelling to India with the monsoon winds was not the same as sailing to other countries: it was not possible to return at once after having completed buying and loading but one had to wait for months for the monsoon to change direction, and thus the merchants willy-nilly became temporary residents of Indian ports and established some contacts with their hosts. Thus they learnt how to use substance like *Eagle-wood* for perfuming their hair and clothes with its fragrant smoke (as mentioned three times in the Bible), or how the cotton was harvested from the cotton trees. Perhaps they also were invited to hear the poetry of the bards recited, and brought home new ideas of literature.

It may thus not be purely accidental that the relation between lovers as depicted in the Song of Songs resembles somewhat that which characterizes the Tamil Sangam poetry, both being quite unlike what we find in other ancient literatures, just as it may be an echo of the Sangam poetry that we find in early Arabic poetry (from the 5th century A.D. onwards) such pre-occupation with love and the woes of lovers parted. It has been claimed by some scholars that the introduction of the theme of faithful and painful love into European poetry in the

Middle Ages was due to the influence of Arab poetry in Spain.

THE DESCRIPTION we have given to trade with South India in the 10th to 6th centuries B.C. raises an interesting point of some importance for the history of India. Archaeologists and anthropologists have in recent years generally been of the opinion that the *Dravidians* only came to South India with the advent of the Iron Age, after 500 B.C. — some even date it as late as 300 B.C. If our reconstruction is right, or rather if we take the Bible seriously when it gives us in texts preceding the 6th century B.C. Tamil names for Indian goods, then the conclusion is that Tamil speakers must have occupied those southern sea-ports before 500; and if we accept the story about Solomon's peacocks as true, then Tamils were there about 950 B.C.

After the Persian conquest of Babylonia in 539 and the re-establishment of a Jewish community in Palestine under King Cyrus, a new link with India was opened. Parts of north-western India belonged to the Persian Empire. This contact was thus with Aryan populations, and we can note in the latest books of the Bible, written during the Persian period and after, Aryan (Sanskrit or Prakrit) words coming into use in Palestine. The old Hebrew name for carmesine-dyed stuff fell out of use, and the colour was now called *karmil*, from Buddhist Sanskrit *krimilika* (Hindi *krinjia*); cotton came to be known under the name *karpas*, from Sanskrit *karpasa* (Hindi *kapas*).

Towards the end of the period we are dealing with i.e. towards the end of the independent Jewish State in Palestine, trade with India was taken up on a large scale by *Greeks* and *Romans*.

Alexander the Great conquered Asia, in the year 333, when he destroyed the Persian Empire. The

Greeks took over the Indian trade of the South Arabians, and began to trade directly with India, and after this, when the Greeks were conquered by the Romans, the Romans took up the trade with India. Trade with India became an important affair. The Roman author Pliny complained about 70 A.D. that trade with India ruined the Romans. Every year, millions were spent on importing goods from India, "but"—he adds—"what can we do? Our wives want them".

They bought silks, cotton, condiments, and especially one condiment, *pepper*, which only grew at that time in South India. So much pepper was bought that it got the name *Yavana-Priya* "the substance beloved by the Greeks and Romans". They built specially large ships, so they could fill them with pepper. Their food must have tasted as hot as the South Indian food! The Greek and Roman merchants also had to stay for a certain time in India and we hear, for instance, of the beautiful houses the *Yavana* built at Puhar, in the *Silappadik-karam*. The ancient Dravidian Kings even had *Yavana* guards. Greek mercenaries were much sought after also in the West.

In this period, no doubt, Jews and other non-Greeks took a very important part in the trade. India has just been celebrating the 2000 years which passed since Jews first settled in Cochin, as part of this movement of traders.

ONCE MORE the commercial relations resulted in the penetration of Indian words into Hebrew, into the Aramic language spoken by the Jews and into some other languages of Western Asia, including again Greek. On the festival of Tabernacles, Jews take to the synagogue a special kind of citron, called *Ethrog* since early post-Biblical times: this via Persian *turung* is derived from Sanskrit *matuhunga*., Other words that the Jews adopted at this time are

zangwil "ginger", from Tamil *inci-ver*, earlier *zinic-ver*, Sanskrit *sringavera*; *margalit* "pearl" from Sanskrit *manjari*, or perhaps from Tamil *manjali* "a small unit of weight". These two words so passed into Greek as *zigibeir* and *margarite*. A remarkable borrowing is *tarved* "stirring spoon, ladel", from Telugu *treddu*.

The harbours where western traders came were *Muciri* (Cranganore) in the west, and in the East the town called in Greek *Poduke*, probably nothing but a Greek pronunciation of the word *Puducceri* (Pondicherry). In fact, near Pondicherry, at a harbour called *Arikamedu*, there were found Roman coins, and a huge hoard of Roman jars freshly imported. There must have been a big trade going on in these products. The Jews, in the last period of their independence, took part in it, and went on after they ceased to be independent. In fact, they continued even after the Western Roman Empire ceased to exist in the 6th century, and Europe became a country of lower culture when the Middle Ages began and barbarianism heralded the "Dark Age." In that general decline, the Jews, scattered all over Europe, held an important position. They were orientals, who carried with them the higher culture of their Eastern homeland, and did not take part in the barbarization. Jews were 100% literate at a time when even kings could not read and write.

In the 7th and 8th century, we have records preserved of a Jewish family called the Radanites who carried on trade from Germany and France, across Italy, Palestine, Egypt and down the Red Sea to India. They imported to Europe pepper, silk, Indian condiments, spices, perfumes etc. The Radanites thus were early international traders.

Until the 12th century we know Jews played an important role, especially in the trade between

Egypt and South India. At a time when Jews were excluded from many economic activities, people could not do without them in the trade with India.

One important contribution which India made to the culture of Jews is the perfection of their system of writing. The ancient Indian scripts were similar to Semitic, and it is generally believed that they were taken over from Semitic traders who brought the alphabet to India.

However, there is a very important difference between Semitic and Indian writing. In older Semitic writing, consonants alone are to be found, and no vowels are indicated. This is a shortcoming in the writing of the Semites which they did not succeed in overcoming by themselves. The Greeks solved it by using some Semitic consonants to indicate vowels.

THE INDIANS, on the other hand, invented special letters for the vowels, and originated the idea of two written forms for each vowel, one at the beginning, and one for the middle of the word, which is attached to the consonant, as in modern Indian writings. This happened in India quite early. In about 300 A.D. we find in Ethiopia, a country also influenced by India in other respects, the same system of adding vowels as little circles and strokes to the consonant letters, as the Ethiopians do till today. They were the first Semitic people to turn consonant writing into a system expressing both vowels and consonants. They must have learnt this from India, as it also proved by the fact that they recite the vowels in approximately the same order as is customary in Sanskrit ((a, u, i, a, e, viram, o). From Ethiopia, this idea came to the Arabs. In the early Koran manuscript *a, u, and i* were expressed by big red dots placed above the line, and below it.

Only later, the system of indicating vowels was introduced as used in *Arabic, Persian* and *Urdu* today. Apparently inspired by the older Arabic system, which was originally Indian, as we have seen, the Jews in the 7th and 8th centuries adopted their own methods by dots and lines put above and below the consonants. This idea of indicating vowels is important. It had helped preserve the language. If this was originally brought from India, it is one import for which we have to be grateful to India. When we print books, we dispense with the vowels. But in prayer books for children and poetry, we keep the vowels. Thus, *India has indirectly helped to keep the grammatical tradition and correct pronunciation of Hebrew alive during the many centuries it was not spoken.*

We have to thank the Indians for many other things. There is no doubt that ideas of Indian religion reached Western Asia and exercised a very deep influence on the religious ideas of the West. Some people believe early Christianity was influenced by Indian thought. Jewish mysticism was deeply influenced by ideas of Indian mysticism. We have theosophic at mysticism in which certain Indian ideas can be traced. The contact in this case probably was through the Arabs.

The *Panchatantra* collection of stories was taken over by most western peoples, and we have a Hebrew version of it made from an Arabic text which in turn was probably based on a Persian one. Also another book was taken over in Hebrew literature in the Middle Ages. There is a very interesting 11th-century book called "The Prince and the Beggar" which became most popular among Jews as a treatise on ethics. It was proved recently that this is nothing but a version of one of the books on the life of the *Buddha*, which somehow got into Western Asia and was adapted into Hebrew.

In summing up, we may say that the contacts between India and

distant Palestine have often been close and fruitful. These contacts have no doubt helped both peoples to advance. They have been useful in the spiritual and economic sense and we can only express the hope that also in the future our respective cultures will be able to fertilize each other, as they have so frequently done in the past.

Scapegoat

Bonn—CIA Subversion Chief Shoots Himself After Failure In Czech Adventure

by **Kunhanandan Nair**

(BLITZ Correspondent in Europe)

Berlin

A sensational news item was flashed on the teleprinter: "*Deputy Chief of West German Intelligence Agency, Lt-Gen. Horst Wendtlandt has committed suicide*".

He locked himself in his headquarters, at Pullach, near Munich, and shot himself on October 9. Bonn, in panic, first delayed the announcement of his death for 24 hours. West German sources would simply say: "*Lt-Gen. Wendtlandt was suffering from an incurable depressive illness*". His body was not even handed over to the Munich police to register a suicide case. **Why all this nervousness and hush-hush about a simple suicide?**

Blitz's intelligence in Bonn has the story. The 56-year-old, robust, brutish and healthy-looking Wendtlandt, a former General Staff Colonel of the Nazi Wehrmacht, was responsible for personnel, training and financial questions of the West German Intelligence agency known as "**Bundesnachrichtendienst**" (BND).

A few months ago, he was put in full charge of infiltration, subversion and softening up in East European Socialist countries. Under the pseudonym "*Obermaier*" he lived in a large villa near Munich. He had another villa near Bonn. His headquarters was situated in a sealed off area in Pullach. He had a huge staff, secret telephone lines, and squadrons of helicopters, planes and motorcars. He often held secret talks with Chancellor Kiesinger.

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CZECHOSLOVAKIA had high priority on his list of operations, and red arrows marked the strategic posts his men were to occupy in Czechoslovakia. Most of his subordinates had worked for Hitler's intelligence like himself. The former chief of the BND, General Reinhard Gehlen, was a Nazi master spy decorated by Hitler. Gehlen was the kingpin in the CIA-BND clique. The present chief of BND is the retired General Gerhard Wessel, also a former Nazi intelligence officer.

After the defeat of the counter-revolution in Czechoslovakia, BND chief Wessel had reproached his deputy for a number of intelligence disasters, leakages, inefficiency and premature blowing off of high priority secret operations in Prague. The situation in the BND for the last one month was worse than the situation in the CIA after the defeat of the Bay of Pigs invasion in Cuba. The only difference was that Kennedy sacked Alan Dulles for the disaster. Here, Wendtlandt killed himself after being rebuked by his chief. Lt-Gen. Wendtlandt was operating some 8,000 West German agents in Czechoslovakia. A secret intelligence report, now in the hands of a Socialist State, said: "Every CIA operator in the USA and West Germany who spoke Czech or German, especially those with a liberal Socialist or Communist background, has left for Prague during July and August".

ON SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS from Wendtlandt, the Deputy Commander of the 12th Tank Division of West Germany, Col.

HOW SIBERIANS LEARN ENGLISH

A new method of learning foreign languages called the method of "complete submersion" is being used lately in several countries. For a period of 10-15 days the student is completely isolated from his native tongue. Replacing one another, teachers converse with him only in the foreign language, and the student has the sensation of being submerged in an ocean of foreign words and expressions. The results are amazing: within a short period of time the student masters such an amount of material that would have ordinarily taken him several years.

The "Interling" laboratory founded at the Novosibirsk science city has already conducted several sessions of teaching English by the complete submersion method. It has now been decided to conduct a new original experiment. It has now been decided to conduct a new original experiment. As many as 50 staff members of Siberian research institutes and of the "Sibelmash" plant have left on board the ship for a cruise along the river Ob. For ten days they will live in an "English atmosphere" - even the service personal consists of language students. Lessons will be conducted by twelve experienced teachers.

Fechner, who was stationed near the Czech border, travelled to Prague several times in those fateful weeks. Col. Fechner had a special intelligence assignment and travelled under the cover name and false passport of "Auton Speck", a journalist. He was a key figure in fixing the timing of the armed action in Prague.

responsible to Chancellor Kiesinger, who alone knew all about BND in the Bonn Cabinet.

Kiesinger and Gen. Wessel made him the scapegoat of the European Bay of Pigs. This is the full story of the "incurable depressive illness" of Wendtlandt.

The fiasco of the counter-revolution in Czechoslovakia is a bad omen for Bonn Intelligence. The suicide of Wendtlandt is the direct consequences of the shifting of blame inside the West German CIA.

BLITZ

The dismissed Czech Minister of Interior, General Pavel, was told of this major subversive element by intelligence of a fraternal state; but he reported: "not true" to the Czech Cabinet. Now, the whole story is proved true.

Hongkong—2

British Colony By China's Consent: Sweated Labour, Bloated Profits—Rich Man's Paradise

by P. Unnikrishnan
(Patriot, New Delhi)

This was leak No. 1, for which Wendtlandt became a scapegoat. *The arms seized from the basement of the Press Club, in Prague, on August 21 and USA dollars and West German marks and some papers now in the possession of the Soviets, show that they were brought by the West German BND agents, first by helicopters and then moved on to Prague by truck.*

IF the Hongkong administration is sensitive and responsive to Mao's moods, it has good reason for being so. It is acutely conscious that Hongkong (total area of colony 397 square miles, pop: 4 million) will remain a British colony only as long as China wants it as such.

The administration was thrown into confusion. Within a matter of days it reached the point of collapse. The Governor had decided to give up but at the last minute suddenly and inexplicably the "cultural" activities were called off.

Powerful mobile, radio broadcasting stations, made in West Germany, never bought by the Czechoslovakian Government, were supplied by Wendtlandt agents. It was on the advice of Wendtlandt that the "Black Lion" military manoeuvres, (in which 16,000 troops, 1,600 tanks and 200 aircrafts took part), was fixed on the Czech border and twice postponed. He reported that the "situation will ripen in Czechoslovakia by September" and the "black lions" will spring as a rear cover to back the counter-revolution in Czechoslovakia.

I have seen Hongkong's security forces going through the motions of self-defence exercises. But they are for maintenance of physical fitness and morale. If there is a threat from across the artificial border nothing can check it. The security forces know this as does the administration. No more than a telephone call from Peking is required to get the colonial authority vacated from Hongkong.

APPARENTLY, Maoists knew the administration was packing up and they did not want it to do so. They decided to keep the British and threw cultural revolutionists to the wolves. Factories dismissed workers wholesale and took 'blacklegs' in their place. To this day, those who got the sack have not got their jobs back. They are supposed to be living on doles given out by left-wing unions.

The socialist armed intervention, on August 21, underscored his calculations and, hence, Bonn hurriedly shifted the venue of the "Black Lion" exercises from the Czech border to North Bavaria. Lt.-Gen. Wendtlandt was directly

The experience of last year's riots in Hongkong has only fortified this conviction. The riots were an overflow of the Cultural Revolution. Frightened businessmen flew out overnight shifting their liquid assets to Swiss banks, (Incidentally, businessmen prefer to keep their assets in easily transferable forms and no investments are undertaken which do not return the capital within two or three

This singular inability of trade unions to stand up for those who became martyrs in the cause of Mao's thoughts is explained in two sharply contradictory ways: One explanation is the obvious one, namely the absence of unity of political purpose and action among the Chinese working class groups which, with a handful of Chinese businessmen, make up 98% of the population.

The other is a more reasonable of subtle explanation: the iron

discipline and unity of Chinese workmen when it comes to carrying out Peking's dictates.

Hongkong does not lay claims to cultural life. No one is attached to Hongkong as one is to one's home; there are thus no Hongkongites or Hongkongese. The feeling there is like in a transit lounge. Everyone wants to make money by means fair or foul and regardless of race or colour.

The big noises in Hongkong business are all those who made money in the opium trade. They are not ashamed of their past any more than they are modest about the power they enjoy today. The class division is sharp as seen in the contrast between the posh white skyscrapers which house the rich and the hundreds and thousands of tin shacks that discolour the otherwise green grey hillsides.

THE RICH are the blessed for the laws are weighted in their favour. There are inevitably no labour laws because the attraction of Hongkong's as the quickest producer of profit is owing to its sweated labour. Workmen can be hired as easily as they can be fired at will.

There is not a single theatre, opera house or orchestra worth description in the whole of Hongkong, Kowloon and the "new territories". One has to comb the place for bookshops and the pricing of books is an eye-opener. An average 300-page hard-cover book on any subject costs about fifty Hongkong dollars which is the value of a dozen high-quality nylon shirts.

There is no quick money in book trade and so businessmen are not interested. The authorities are afraid of consequences of widespread interest in books and so they charge

duty on their import. The residents really cannot afford to buy and read books at the rates at which they are sold.

INDIANS are well represented among the wealthiest; there is one businessman who has built a house with marble mined in Italy. He is believed to have gone round the world in a chartered plane looking for a suitable stone to decorate the facade of his mansion. But for all this, India's interests in Hongkong are at a discount.

The entire blame cannot be laid on the businessmen whose loyalty to an/ country, including their own, is profit-oriented. The Government of India and its trading organisations like the State Trading Corporation cannot shirk part of the responsibility. They have failed to use, even explore, Hongkong's potentialities as a clearing house for Indian manufacturers.

India's trade through Hongkong is insignificant. An India salescum-showroom is an attractive proposition that the Indian Mission in Hongkong has made. In the hands of individual businessmen, not merely the business interests but even the image of India, suffer. There are heaps of complaints about delay in supplies and disparity between samples and goods supplied.

THEREFORE, Government initiative will be in the national interest. The setting up of an active organisation for trade will be the least the Government could do to justify its mission there which is otherwise an anachronism among the professional China-watching 'diplomatic' establishments in Hongkong.

There is, of course, the risk of Indian goods being smuggled into China. But then with Government involvement there will be a check on the kind of goods that

may get in. When the United States has no qualms about carrying on trade in items ranging from heavy machinery, electronics and shirts to shoe-polish and fruits, Indian fears are groundless. In anycase, Hongkong is not the shopping centre for China. It is an outlet for China yielding money and a point of useful, "secret" contacts.

How long China will keep the British on its soil is a matter of speculation. Estimates range from five to thirty years the time when lease on the ceded areas like Kowloon and the "new territories" which make the island of Hongkong viable lapses. The British will remain in Hongkong as long as China has use for Hongkong as a colony.



LURING THEM TO DOOM

London

A non-stop orgy at a 14th century English country church is delighting the vicar. Sex-crazed beetles tumbling to their doom from the rafters is a novel method of insect control. The reverend Hugh Cartwright, Vicar of Dalham, 50 miles northeast of here, was at his wit's end as the beetle gnawed steadily through the woodwork. Then 56-year-old entomologist Dr. Harry Hurst discovered that the beetles became stimulated by recordings of their own mating sounds, a rapid series of tapping noises. He recorded the sound and played it back into the church through loudspeakers. The beetles cannot resist the call of nature, and keep tapping their heads on the rafters until they knock themselves out and fall to the floor.

Trends In Tanzania

Nyerere Seeks A New Society: China's Positive Role

by Anirudha Gupta

Tanzania was in the news recently when agencies reported that it had banned the publications of one of its biggest newspaper groups. This article provides background understanding of recent developments in that country.

AT the opening ceremony of the Chinese Friendship Textile mill in Tanzania a crowd of over 600 guests watched the proceedings with quiet apprehension. The mill was constructed by the Chinese two months ahead of schedule and it was claimed that it would produce 90 million sq. yards of cloth every year.

This would go a long way to make Tanzania self-sufficient in textiles, but this was not what the crowd was apprehensive about. It wondered what diplomatic use would the Chinese make of it. Would they claim the mill to be another product of Mao Tse-tung's thoughts and exhort the Tanzanians to learn them by rote? What would be its propaganda value. Surprisingly, the Chinese Charge d'Affaires, Mr. Po Ping, avoided any reference to Mao's thoughts. Instead, he underlined the value of self-reliance for the progress of all under-developed countries.

The speech was a great success; many times I heard in official and non-official circles how shrewdly the Chinese have understood the aspiration of Africans to stand on their own and refuse to be brow-beaten by outside powers. Gone are the crudities of China's earlier diplomatic offensive in Africa. The approach has become more sophis-

cated and, therefore, perhaps more effective.

Off and on, one hears of the supply of Chinese arms and the military training they are imparting to the freedom-fighters from South Africa, Rhodesia and the two Portuguese territories of Angola and Mozambique.

This type of assistance perhaps helps in preserving China's revolutionary anti-colonial image but what would be more lasting is China's offer to build the Tanzania-Zambia railway.

From the point of view of diplomacy, it was a great achievement; after failing to get help from advanced European countries, or USA, or the World Bank, the two African Governments turned to anyone who could help in building the railways which alone could save Zambia from living at the mercy of Rhodesia's rebel regime.

"We are grateful to the Chinese", said a Tanzanian officer. But will the Chinese be able to build the railway which others have described as an uneconomic proposition. Interestingly, there seemed to be no doubt about it even among foreign diplomats. A Hungarian diplomat said: "They will even send labourers in thousands if the need arises."

THE NUMBER of Chinese experts, technicians, doctors, etc. has greatly increased in Tanzania though they can hardly be seen in the public places or the night-clubs in Dar-es-Salaam. Whatever the Chinese are doing, they are doing unobtrusively and this has led to much speculation in diplomatic circles. Very often

one hears the naive comment that Tanzania is going the Chinese way.

It seems few have cared to analyse the reasons which have led the Tanzanian leaders to take increasingly socialist measures in their domestic policy and to diversify their foreign relations. Few have cared to read the various speeches of President Julius Nyerere during his recent tour to China.

At the farewell banquet in Peking on 21 June, Nyerere described his country's relations with China in these words: "The friendship between Tanzania and the People's Republic of China is a friendship between most unequal equals. Perhaps for that reason some other nations of the world find it hard to understand: they are always trying to suggest that Tanzania is a satellite of China or — alternatively — that our friendship is about to break up. This is probably an expression of wishful thinking, or else it is a misunderstanding of the nature of friendship and an assumption that friendship is exclusive — that you cannot be friends with many nations if these are not themselves close friends."

To Tanzania's Government and party leaders the task of building a nation "free from any external control, free from exploitation, from petty tyranny and from the threat of hunger, or the lethargy of debilitating disease" is the most important. Obviously this cannot be done merely by slogan-mongering or sentimentalizing about the achievement of Uhuru.

Africans in 1965-66 appeared to be still in a state of a honeymoon with independence. When Nyerere propounded his "Ujamaa" or socialism through extended family system he was still living in that phase. But the declaration at Arusha in January 1967 showed that he was the first among African leaders to outgrow that stage.

FROM all that I saw and learned in Tanzania, I feel that Tanzania today is in the grip of a "cultural

revolution" of its own. The Arusha Declaration was not so much aimed against foreign investors, capitalists, etc. (even though it led to nationalization) of all banks and key industries as against the party and Government leadership.

What kind of leaders should Tanzanians have? It is this vital question which the Declaration tried to answer. It said that leaders should serve and not lord it over the people. They could not misuse their positions for personal benefit. In Tanzania that had already happened and in order to check it, decisions were taken to cut down salaries of ministers; to compel leaders of Government and TANU to declare their personal assets and to debar anyone in official positions from having more than one source of income.

These decisions gave an altogether different complexion to Tanzania's politics. They also helped in preventing TANU's one-party system from degenerating into a group-dictatorship of irresponsible men. Both in party and Government, I found a new consciousness among the ranks to scrutinize the integrity of their leaders and in Parliament agitated members demanded complete observance of all the Arusha resolutions.

Tanzania's economic programme has shifted course: Planning will depend not on outside aid but on the total domestic resources of the Republic: the emphasis will shift from industry to land where the bulk of the population lives. "For me" said Tanzania's Minister of Land, Sh. Muhammad Babu, "Arusha means going back to the villages and seeing whether or not it is possible for them to work harder."

The vision of rebuilding a new society on the basis of self-reliance has caught the imagination of the nation. Even ordinary people have started participating in the general debate. "What kind of education do we want?" — this was a theme of discussion for

over six months among university students and teachers. "Should ideology form a compulsory part of education? If so, what ideology? Again, can one party system become truly democratic?" There is great confusion on these questions: nevertheless the people have started re-examining and remodelling old values and ideas.

"Our party journal is a commercial paper but it also serves the interest of the party", said one TANU official, but he agreed with me that commercial and party interests might not always be complementary. "That is why we want to change the whole set-up", he said.

USA

DEFEATED WARRIORS

Defeated warriors don't fare too badly in this country. Gen. Maxwell Taylor, whose "strategic hamlet" plan (drawn up with Prof. Staley of Stanford University) failed so miserably in South Vietnam, is drawing down \$49,200 a year as president of the Institute for Defense Analyses, in addition to his Pentagon retirement pay of over \$20,000. On another level, CIA flyboy Francis Gary Powers is a test pilot for Lockheed aircraft (builders of the U-2) and lives in a \$40,000 home in the Verdugo Mountains near Los Angeles. He was secretly decorated by the CIA and married a CIA psychologist. Incidentally, the U.S. spy center (electronic surveillance of both the USSR and China) at Peshawar, Pakistan, from which Powers flew his U-2 in 1960, is being closed by the Pakistan government. The Pakistanis, who signed a ten-year agreement for the base in 1959 when they were allies of the US, have reason to believe the base's facilities are now being used to monitor their own military communications.

In Sri Lanka Today

Minister Sugathadasa's Property Deals

REAL ESTATE DEALS —

PROBE SOUGHT ON MINISTER

"Was it proper for Mr. V. A. Sugathadasa, while being a Minister of the 'National Government' to sell to government departments and to the Colombo Municipal Council properties belonging to him at prices several times more than what he paid for them? This talking point in political circles may soon be canvassed publicly in Parliament if the Government permits a debate on a motion demanding a probe by a Select Committee into certain real estate transactions of Mr. Sugathadasa while he was a Minister. Among the many matters about which a probe has been asked for are:

"The sale in 1967 to the Colombo Municipal Council for a sum of Rs. 725,000 of a property in Barber Street, Colombo, that had been purchased for Rs. 145,000 barely a month earlier in the same year.

"The sale in 1966 to the Department of National Housing for Rs. 251,217/50 of a property in Jampettah Street, Colombo, which Mr. Sugathadasa had purchased for Rs. 90,000.

"The way in which shanty dwellers and tenants of tenement houses in another premises in Jampettah Street Colombo, were, suddenly and apparently outside the normal waiting list, given accommodation at government housing schemes at Bloemendhal Road and Armour Street, Colombo, thus giving the Minister the vacant possession that other landlords seek but cannot always find, and also enabling him to

build stores to be let out to a private company and a government sponsored corporation.

"RS. 580,000 PROFIT. The first transaction, which netted Minister Sugathadasa a cool profit of Rs. 580,000, concerns the purchase and re-sale within a month of premises No. 36, Barber Street, Colombo 13. These premises, in extent one acre and 4.73 perches, were purchased by Minister Sugathadasa on 25.4.1967 upon Deed No. 1847 for Rs. 145,000 from the previous owners, Dr. J. A. Perera and Mr. A. C. D. Bandaranaike.

"Less than one month later, on 25.5.1967, Minister Sugathadasa sold the same premises to the Colombo Municipal Council for Rs. 725,000 making a profit of Rs. 580,000 on the transaction. It will be recalled that before he became a Minister, Mr. Sugathadasa was the UNP Mayor for the Colombo Municipal Council.

"Political circles want to know whether it was gross imprudence or a desire to help one of their own that made the present UNP administration of the Colombo Municipal Council agree to pay over half a million rupees more than it was worth for a property that belongs to their late chief and one of their party stalwarts.

"RS. 151,217 PROFIT. The second transaction concerns Premises 151 and 155 Jampettah Street, Colombo, 13, which is in the Minister's Parliamentary Constituency. On 1st January 1959 Mr. Sugathadasa bought these premises upon Deed No. 1819 from the Ceylon Wharfage Company Ltd., for Rs. 90,000. On 23.4.1966 these premises were sold (vide Land Registry reference No. 388/93) to the Department of National Housing for Rs. 251,217/50, or nearly twice again what it cost originally.

"What political circles want to know is why the Department of National Housing should have chosen these premises, among the many available in Colombo North

for purchase for a housing scheme, and why they agreed to pay so much more than the land was worth. They also want to know why, two and a half years after the transaction was completed, this property is still registered in Mr. Sugathadasa's name although the Government has paid for it and now even collects rent from the tenement houses that still remain despite talk of a housing scheme.

"STORES. A third transaction which needs scrutiny concerns premises 79 and 79/1, Jampettah Street, Colombo 13, which is also in Minister Sugathadasa's constituency. These premises, which were bought by Mr. Sugathadasa some time back, consisted of tenement houses and shanties.

"Landlords who acquire tenement property usually find that they cannot get rid of tenants who were there before the new purchase. Since the Rent Restriction Act was amended to prevent a landlord seeking the eviction of a tenant on the grounds that he needs the house for his own or his family's occupation, most new purchasers of tenement property insist on vacant possession before they decide to buy. Minister Sugathadasa, however, had no such problems. Soon after he acquired premises 79 and 79/1, Jampettah Street, the occupants of the tenement houses and shanties on these premises were sent off to alternate accommodation in the government and municipal housing schemes elsewhere. Once the inconvenient tenants had been got rid of the tenements and shanties were demolished and stores constructed.

"These stores have been rented to the Ceylon Beedi Manufacturers' Association and the Eastern Paper Mills Corporation at monthly rents of Rs. 3,500/50 and Rs. 960. Although plans to build these stores were only submitted to the Colombo Municipal Council on 22.7.67 and approved on 13.10.67, in fact the stores had been built earlier and let to the Beedi Manufacturers' Association on 12.8.67 and to the

Eastern Paper Mills Corporation on 7.12.67. The rates paid on these premises, from which a monthly income of nearly Rs. 4,500 was derived, were Rs. 6,400 a year until February 1968 when the assessment was raised.

"OTHER BUYS. Minister Sugathadasa and his wife Mrs. Daisy Hemalatha Sugathadasa, and his brother-in-law, Mr. A. Senadi-Simon Silva, also own many tenement and other properties in Colombo. Among them are:

"(1) Premises 600/2,4,5, and 9 Bloemendhal Road, Colombo 15, in the Minister's constituency. Stores built on these premises are rented to the Eastern Paper Mills Corporation for Rs. 2,322, Rs. 2,880, Rs. 1,620 and Rs. 877/50 a month respectively.

"(2) Premises 89 Jampettah Street Colombo 13, purchased on 3.8.1967 on deed No. 694 by the Minister's brother-in-law for a sum of Rs. 220,000. The balance portion of this land was purchased on the same date by Mr. Sugathadasa for Rs. 50,000 on a separate deed No. 695, attested by Mr. N. M. Thaha N.P. This deed has not yet been filed in the Land Registry, but the Notary's protocol has been filed.

"(3) Premises No. 93, Modera Street, Colombo 15, also in the Minister's constituency, which is in extent 4 acres, 2 roods, and 39 perches. It has been purchased by the Minister's wife for Rs. 12,537/50 - vide Land Registry No. A. 345/15.

"(4) Premises No. 651 Bloemendhal Road, Colombo 15, in extent 5 acres, 2 roods and 1.23 perches. Three-quarters of this Land was bought by the Minister's brother-in-law upon Deed No. 715 dated 7.9.1967 for Rs. 439,600, and the remaining quarter share was bought by the same gentleman for Rs. 143,199/88 on 23.5.67 upon Deed No. 682.

"Thus since Mr. V. A. Sugathasa became a Minister in Mr. Dudley Senanayake's Government, he, his wife and his brother-in-law have been able to acquire nearly two million rupees' worth of real estate, most of which is situated in his constituency of Colombo North. This is an addition to the houses and flats that Mr. Sugathadasa owned prior to becoming a Minister, when he was Mayor of Colombo."

Forward



LIFE / DEATH

How many lives can a scientist create? If he is a believer in family planning, not more than two or three. And how many lives can he destroy — if he produces and explodes a single hydrogen bomb (a museum piece in terms of modern nuclear warfare?) One 10 megaton explosion, it has been calculated, would leave people trapped in ruins seven miles away and badly injured 11 miles away. Up to five miles all streets would be blocked, and partly blocked up to 13 miles. Big fires would range 12 miles from the blast centre.

A British estimate for casualties from two 10 megaton bomb on London is 1,000,000 people killed outright, 6,000,000 hurt, half of them badly. Another 1,000,000 would be trapped. Most people trapped and injured would die before rescue reached them, if ever. Total death in London as an immediate result of the explosion would be 2,000,000. One can imagine what will happen with a 50-megaton bomb or one of greater strength.

Should we drop the Bomb?

Economic Notes

India's Finance Minister Moans Against United States And World Bank

New Delhi

Wonders will never cease. In London, while attending the Commonwealth Finance Ministers' Conference Morarji Desai did some public moaning against the US imperialists and the World Bank. It was quite a performance and has its own significance.

In the first place he expressed the hope that his "Commonwealth partners" would see that the problem of world commodity prices and supplementary finance for underdeveloped countries would be studied properly by the World Bank and the IMF. He wanted that the studies on hand would be "conducted so as to find a solution to problems and not to discover new problems in every solution".

He went on to complain about the manner in which the World Bank was conducting the affairs of its affiliate, the International Development Association (IDA). This organisation provides project loans on comparatively easier terms than the World Bank itself.

It has not been functioning for the past two years since the various imperialist countries, especially the USA, have not paid their quotas. As a matter of fact, the US imperialists can and have been holding up the whole show, since the contributions to the IDA from the other imperialists come in the form of so-called matching grants. So when the USA does not pay the others also withhold their quotas.

MORARJI deplored this state of affairs. He wanted the IDA to go ahead with whatever funds that had already been pledged. He des-

cribed the situation as an emergency one where "we cannot allow passing domestic difficulties in one country to paralyse not only an international institution but also a large number of developing countries" (*Economic Times, September 28*).

He spoke against the "World Bank's orthodoxy which refused the kind of non-project assistance it gave to some developed countries for their reconstruction to less developed countries for their development. He said non-project aid could help the exports of developing countries whereas project assistance helped the export of developed countries only.

Finally, he wanted refinance credit to be provided to developing countries because credit difficulties were a barrier to the development of exports from India even at internationally competitive prices.

One can appreciate this grumbling since the policies of Morarji, his advisors and his colleagues have landed the national economy in an absolute impasse, making it dependent on imperialist aid for development. This produces dependent development soon enough leading on to dependence without development. The whole process came to a head with devaluation and the sharp deterioration since then.

Official circles are now putting out figures which prove the contention made many months ago in these columns, namely, India is now paying out more for previous loans than what she is receiving in the form of fresh aid.

The *Indian Express* (September 24) reports that while the debt

repayment in the current year will come to 58 million dollars, the fresh aid will not be more than 500 million dollars. The situation is going to deteriorate further since in 1969-70 debt repayment will rise to 724 million dollars and in 1970-71 to 835 million dollars.

It goes on to point out that in 1965 the aid in the pipeline came to 2,000 million dollars which has now come down to 1,400 million dollars, half of which is in the form of project assistance. The new aid "pledged" (not yet available by any means) by the Western and other imperialists come to only 297 million dollars as against the estimated Indian need of 900 million dollars as non-project aid.

SIMULTANEOUSLY, the balance of payments deficit this year is likely to be 1,000 million dollars, that is, the same amount as the remaining aid in the pipeline as well as the fresh "pledged" aid.

What about the "generous" debt repayment rescheduling to the tune of 100 million dollars a year for three years? It merely means that India can repay such debts out of foreign aid instead of free foreign exchange. It does in any way alter the net foreign aid position.

What is the purport of this grumbling on the part of the Finance Minister? It is obviously meant to put some pressure on the imperialists so that they will give sufficient aid to enable the continuance of the discredited policy of development with dependence. It is meant to cajole the imperialists to give some aid which would provide the material base for continuation of the collaborationist policies.

This means that, even if the imperialists are "persuaded" to be a little less mean to their faithful allies in India, self-reliance is still taboo as far as Morarji Desai is concerned. He still pins his hopes on the US and the other imperialists.

These hopes are going to be dashed again not because of the

"illwill" of the imperialists towards the Finance Minister but because of the developing crisis of the imperialist system with its epicentre in the USA.

What a patriotic Indian Finance Minister should do is not to grumble about the USA and appeal for Commonwealth assistance. He must begin by taking some concrete action against the imperialists.

And the very first act should be to declare a moratorium on India's debt repayments which involve the expenditure of foreign exchange. As long back as in July 1963 the CPI urged that this step be taken. This is really nothing more than unilateral debt rescheduling. Repayment can be resumed as soon as our foreign exchange difficulties begin to ease.

The next step should be to forge an united front of the developing countries. Instead of wasting time at Commonwealth conclaves and sending highpower delegations to the World Bank annual gatherings, it would be far wiser and much more in the national interest to develop closer and closer ties with the "77" club formed on the basis of the Algiers Charter and cemented through co-ordinated activity at the UNCTAD.

The imperialists have to be made to face the fact that their so-called "aid" is nothing more than a small repayment for the colonial ravage, which is the basic cause for the plight of the underdeveloped world.

The imperialists have to be plainly told that even in the heyday of their "aid" programmes they were pumping out much larger amounts through unequal trade and repatriation of profits and dividends. It was actually a case of aid in reverse.

India and the other underdeveloped, newly independent states have not only their own unity and courage on their side. They have the most powerful ally in the Soviet Union and other friendly socialist states.

Nothing of all this will, of course, make any sense to Morarji Desai and his ilk. But it is perfectly practical politics and economics for the Left and the democratic movement in India.

MOHIT SEN

IMF STATEMENT ON EXPORT RISE

Washington, Oct. 2

Exports of less-developed countries increased more than 6 per cent from the first half of 1967 to the first half of 1968, reports the International Monetary fund. The IMF said in a statement issued in conjunction with its annual meeting here that this growth rate is more than double that of the same period in the preceding year. The 6 per cent gain was in contrast to the export total of the more developed primary producing countries, which "failed to show any marked rise for the first half of this year despite sizable gains by South Africa and Spain," the IMF statement said.

Other monetary statistics cited in the statement were: world trade in the second quarter of 1968 rose by more than seven per cent from the levels of a year earlier, to 207 billion dollars. Total world monetary reserves—comprising gold, foreign exchange, and reserve positions with the International Monetary Fund—rose somewhat less than four per cent in the second quarter to 73,065 million dollars. World reserves held in gold stood at 38,605 million dollars in the second quarter, a decline of 4.7 per cent from the above figure.

FILM PAGE

● **THE SPY WITH A COLD NOSE**, the next attraction at the *LIBERTY CINEMA*, is a satire on modern spy films. The movie in colour, an Associated London Films production, is produced by Leonard Lightstone, directed by Daniel Petrie, and released through Paramount Pictures.

Stanley Farquhar (**LIONEL JEFFRIES**) a bumbling member of British counter-Intelligence Service is everything that James Bond is not. He is the perfect antithesis of James Bond and his family mocks him for his dissimilarity to Bond.

But Farquhar, in a flash of unaccustomed brilliance, has come up with "Operation Bandylegs".

All Farquhar needs to put Bandylegs in an operative state is an outstanding veterinarian and he

and his nitwit assistant, Wrigley (**ERIC SYKES**), have been keeping a likely prospect under surveillance for several weeks.

The unknowing accomplice in Operation Bandylegs is Dr. Francis Trevellyan (**LAURENCE HARVEY**).

Farquhar calls on Francis and explains his plan. In brief, the British Prime Minister (**ERIC PORTMAN**) is about to present an English bulldog named Disraeli to the Soviet Prime Minister (**COLIN BLAKELY**) as a gesture of amity.

Farquhar has conceived the idea of bugging Disraeli with a miniature microphone-transmitter, which he wants Francis to implant in the dog's body, close to the surface of his skin. With a receiver adjusted to the proper wave length, the British agents will be able to listen to everything that they say in secret at the other and whenever Disraeli is present.

Francis is appalled, objects strongly, but Farquhar reminds him of his duty to the Empire and his Queen. As a clincher, he promises him knighthood. The offer is irresistible. Francis performs the operation before Disraeli is presented to the high dignitary.

Enter Princess Natasha Romanova (**DALLIAH LAVI**) now in Secret Service. She is contacted while skillfully extracting military secrets from an American General (**PAUL FORD**) in Berlin and sent to London. Her mission is to discover from whom the British are getting all the inside information.

Natasha quickly discovers what has happened and arranges a meeting with Farquhar and Francis.

She admits that she is a Secret agent and has completed a report on the bugging of Disraeli - then drops a bombshell. For one hundred thousand pounds, she will sell out, report that she was unable to attain her objective and then flee to Switzerland with her loot.

But complications develop. Disraeli becomes ill.

Francis is called in. He listens carefully and by long distance diagnosis decides Disraeli is suffering from a respiratory blockage.



4th Week

KINGSLEY PLAZA

10 A.M. 2, 6 & 9.30 P.M.

M. G. R. Saroja Devi
Nambiar Asokan
Thangavelu in

PARAKKUM PAAVAI

COLOUR

15th Week

LIDO

9-00 a.m. 1-30, 6-00
& 9-45 p.m.

RAJ—Negombo

9 a.m. 5 & 9 p.m.

- **RAJ KAPOOR**
- **VYJANTHIMALA**
- **RAJENDRAKUMAR**

in
Raj Kapoor's

SANGAM

Technicolor

Music: Shankar, Jaikishan

GAMINI

10 a.m. 2, 6, & 9.30 p.m.

VANAMOHINI

CAPITOL

10 a.m. 2, 6, & 9.30 p.m.

Sivaji - Saroja Devi
in

Palum Palamum

★ ★ ★

FINAL WEEK

Air Conditioned LIBERTY

in

Cecil B. De Mille's

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Technicolor

NEXT CHANGE

CENTRAL

M. G. R. — Jayalalita
Nagesh — Manorama

THER THIRUVILA

Calamity ! If they decide to aid the suffering dog and X-ray him in Moscow they will find the transmitter. Anglo-Soviet relations will go smash and the whole world might plunge into war !

What to do ? Farquhar decides that Francis and he will secure a female bulldog and take her to Moscow with them. There, disguised as gardeners at the British Embassy, they will try to lure Disraeli away long enough for Francis to operate and remove the bug.

Francis borrows Priscilla, a comely female bulldog pet of a friend (NAI BONET), and the conspirators fly to Moscow.

The next night Farquhar and Francis are outside the Kremlin apartment of the Prime Minister. Also outside and unknown to the conspirators, are Secret Servicemen, keeping them under surveillance from a street-watering truck.

Disraeli finally wanders outside where Francis grabs the beast and runs to his hotel to perform the operation. Farquhar, carrying Priscilla, runs the other way, followed by dozens of dogs and watering truck. During the chase, the Secret Service Chief inadvertently tunes into the wave length on which Disraeli transmits and he instantly becomes aware of the British plot.

The truck picks up speed and crashes into Farquhar, who is then brought to a Moscow hospital. Meanwhile, Francis has extracted the bug from Disraeli and the dog is ceremoniously returned to the Prime Minister by the British Ambassador.

Weeks later, Farquhar, released from the Moscow hospital, visits Francis. Smugly, he tells the vet that he has been promoted to Chief of Security and Adviser to the British Prime Minister. After complaining of his tender and sore stomach, where he was operated in Moscow with fourteen stitches, he says goodbye to Francis and rushes to the meeting.

The scene shifts to the Kremlin and this utterly improbable story comes to a hilarious conclusion when the Russians return their compliments to the British. At a Russian monitoring station, the Chief of Russian Intelligence is listening intently. Over the loud-speaker from London comes Farquhar's voice, directly from the bug implanted in his stomach during his stay in the Moscow hospital to become a living listening post.

The Russian Secret Service Chief smiles as the British voice from the other end says briskly, "Complete appraisal of our defence plans, mixed manned nuclear force, Polaris missile station, NATO defences, early warning systems, all that guff, you know."



Vijitha Mallika and Gamin Fonseka in an intimate scene in R. T. Studios Production **DEHADAKA DUKA**, Produced and Directed by Robin Tampoe, Ceylon Theatres Ltd. release.

<p>3rd Week EMPIRE Air-Conditioned <i>Colombia's</i> The Bridge On The River Kwai in CINEMASCOPE AND TECHNICOLOR Last 4 Days MAJESTIC Air-Conditioned MGM's THE KARATE KILLERS From Thurs: George Hamilton in MGM's THE POWER</p>
<p>Entering 3rd Week Air-Conditioned REGAL Dean Martin as Matt Helm in THE SILENCERS</p>
<p>Extending 3rd Week ELPHINSTONE—ROXY & 14 other centres R. T. Studio's DEHADAKA DUKA with Gamin—Vijitha</p>
<p>3rd Week SELLAMAHAL-EROS & 7 other centres Sivaji - Padmini - Vijaya in IRU MALARGAL</p>
<p>GAJETY M. G. Ramachandran Padmini in ARASILAN KUMARI</p>
<p>Entending 7th Week SAVOY Air-Conditioned Sean Connery as James Bond in THUNDERBALL</p>
<p>Last Few Days CROWN AYEE MILAN KI BELA Next: Asha Parekh-Dharminder in AAYE DIN BAHAR KE</p>

Spain Wants More?

Madrid-Washington Talks On U.S. Bases: Haggling Over Price

THE TEN-DAY talks between U.S. Secretary of State Dean Rusk and Spanish Foreign Minister Fernando Maria de Castiella on the prolongation of the agreement on American bases in Spain ended in Washington on September 26 without results—an incident practically without precedent in the history of the postwar relations between the Western superpower and its Iberian satellite.

The agreement on the bases is part of a twenty-year defence pact Washington and Madrid signed fifteen years ago on September 26, 1953. The agreement was initially to operate for ten years and was to be automatically prolonged for two five-year terms unless one of the parties raised objections. Under this agreement the United States was given four bases in Spain: one for Polaris submarines at Rota near Cadiz and three for its Air Force at Torrejon, Moron de la Frontera and Saragossa.

There are some 15,000 U.S. servicemen at these bases which, specialists affirm, play an important role in the Pentagon's military-strategic plans. Their significance increased considerably after the withdrawal of France from the Nato military organization.

The agreement was prolonged for five years in 1963 and the White House did not expect any hitch in getting it prolonged again this year. In July, Castiella paid a one-day visit to Washington and after his meeting with Rusk the American press took it for granted that the question of the bases would be settled, especially since on the eve of the September talks Spanish newspapers wrote that "Spain will

prolong its military bases agreement with the United States".

And suddenly the talks broke down. Why?

THE TALKS were held behind closed doors. American newspapers were most uncommunicative on the subject and so was the Spanish press. But the little information that did leak through points to conclusions shedding light on the real reasons for the dispute between Madrid and Washington.

On his return home on September 28, Castiella told reporters at Madrid Airport: "We have been guided by no other consideration than to guarantee the security of Spaniards, to remove to a greater distance all unnecessary danger to our population". What he had in mind was Spain's demand that the large U.S. air base at Torrejon, near Madrid, be removed farther away.

It can hardly be assumed that the memory of the Palomares catastrophe, when an American plane with nuclear bombs fell into the sea off the Spanish coast, was the stumbling block in this case. The Franco authorities showed very little concern for the safety of the population at the time.

Far more credible is the version, widely discussed in the press, that the Franco government, aware of the Pentagon's eagerness to preserve its bases in Spain after the loss of its bases in Morocco, has decided to get as much aid as possible from its senior partner to strengthen its military potential in return for the consent to prolong the agreement.

CASTIELLA demanded an exorbitant price—about \$1,000 million

worth of F-4 Phantom fighter-bombers, Hawk anti-aircraft missiles and warships. Rusk offered \$200 million. The Spanish Foreign Minister came down to \$700 million and insisted on this sum. But U.S. Secretary of State proved to be no less astute a bargainer. Invoking Article 5 of the agreement which provides for six-month consultations, he proposed resuming the talks on March 26, 1969. The purpose of the move was evidently to gain time: Washington believes half a year should be enough to bring Madrid back to its senses.

But, judging by everything, money is not the main thing in this particular deal. Madrid has also advanced political demands — two at any rate. First, Franco wants the White House to help him make Britain give up Gibraltar. Secondly, he wants Spain to be admitted to NATO. Washington knows that to agree to these demands would jeopardize its relations with the other NATO partners, notably Britain.

And today, when the NATO facade has developed cracks, it is believed in Washington that this will create more difficulties for the United States in Western Europe.

It is logical to assume that Madrid's intractability is inspired behind the scenes by a third party. West Germany. For Bonn stands to gain from the admission of the natural ally, Franco Spain, to NATO. The West-Germans strategists hope that this will help them acquire the key posts in the North Atlantic alliance all the sooner.

Of course, Washington and Madrid will eventually reach agreement. The Spanish rulers know that the U.S. bases on their territory are a bulwark on which they can rely in combating the democratic movement. They nevertheless heed the advice of their West-German friends. Like Bonn, Madrid hopes to fish something out of the muddy waters.

V. CHERNYAVSKY